

Feature :

An Important Rural Local Organisation In The Central Maluku

(A case of the Lease Islands *)

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Rural Local Organization plays an important role in the Central Maluku society especially in the Lease islands.

People in the Lease Islands gets money from agriculture and fisheriea. They have a local organization in each village called Raja, Saniri Negeri, Kewangs and Marinyo.

The Leader village and the staff preserve rules especially to de-velop agriculture and to prevent the environment from destruction or erosion. One of the rules is called the sasi, : traditionally applied and relevant in all villages until now.

There fore the sasi is an important traditional / local culture consisting of :

- A. Aids :**
- to protect environment against erosion.
 - to prevent the manipulation of agricultural products (crops, fruits).
 - to prevent an early harvest : cloves, coconut, canaries, pine-apple
 - to prevent early catching fishes or pearl shell.
 - to prevent catching wild chicken eggs.

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B. Application of the sasi.

It is applied in certain periods for certain vegetation, crops , fishes, pear-shells. All people should be involved and obey the rules. It has a consequence for people who did not obey the rules. Until now people still use these rules.

C. Announcement of the sasi

The sasi is announced by the staff of the leaders through the marinyo. The Marinyo announces the information on regulation witnessed by the staff leaders.

D. Time of announcement

The sasi is usually informed at night because the surrounding is calm, so the people can hear the informations clearly pronounced by the marinyo (village messenger).

E. Language uses in the sasi.

It is announced in the local dialect. Using a specific rhythime and announced by the marinyo. Two special words indicates the beginning of the sasi periods:

One is sillo meaning key and messe meaning death; and the two words for ending the sasi :

- pua meaning end and sillo meaning key.

F. Signs in the sasi .

The sasi uses a sign and which people will know. Generally a stick of a plant or wood is planted at the crossing road in certain village , and it will be tied up with coconut leaves. a leaf of the plant will undergoing the sasi periods will be hung or tied to the stick as well.

So all people know that these particular plant sort is undergoing sasi, so the people have to wait until the end period for the harvest.

G. Implementation of the sasi.

The sasi is managed and controlled by the villge leaders through the kewangs The kewang and staff has an important job responsibility on most of agricultural, forestry and fisherry efforts around the village.

Sometimes people also controlled the sasi procession as a social function.

AGRO EKONOMI

The kewangs have a lot of functions in the rural community, especially in the a lot Lease Islands such as :

- to prevent some one overrule the sasi.
- to control the lands bordering the village.
- to manage the sasi process in certain periods.
- to protect the environment against destruction.

The kewangs are not paid. They receive no money for their responsibilities. For them, it is satisfaction which makes them happy. In fact, the kewangs are responsible for the leader and staff.

The future of the sasi.

Through Pattimura University, the sasi has become more important nowadays because through the Center for Environmental Science, Prof. Dr. Emil Salim is proposing to preserve the sasi and if possible to make it popular, nationally.

The present Governor of The Mollucas is also very much in favour of the sasi. In relation to the National Greening of the Environment, in December the President is going to Ambon to launch the Greening Project at Gunung Nona, and then the sasi will also be of recognition, because there will be : An "Apel kewang" from all over the Mollucas.

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