



The Government of Dutch Colonial in Archipelago of Ambon and Surroundings (Ambon-Lease)

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Abstract. The development of the government structure in the Ambon-Lease Islands since the colonial era has also influenced the existence of the Ambon-Lease Island recently, which is currently known as Ambon City, which is the administrative area of Maluku Province. The purpose of this research is to describe the presence of the Dutch colonial government in the late and early 20th century in Ambon-Lease. The method used in this research is the historical method, namely through heuristic, critic, interpretation and historiography stages. The results obtained indicate that the people in the Ambon-Lease Archipelago were completely under the power and regulation of the Dutch colonial government as a colony. The three governor called governments formed by the previous VOC were merged into one with its headquarters in Amboina. It is from the city of Ambon that the center of government is run. All government positions are held by the Dutch who are hierarchically starting from the Governor-Resident-Assistant Resident-Controleur. Controleur has a direct relationship (Direct Rule) with the leaders of state/regent.

Keywords: Ducth · Colonialism · Government · Ambon-Lease

1 Introduction

At the beginning of the 20th century colonial society consisted of various groups that could be distinguished by color-line or skin color line. The group that politically and economically occupies the top place in the composition of society is the Dutch. Politically, power was centered on a Governor-General based in Batavia (Jakarta) assisted by an Indies Council which acted as its cabinet, which supervised various departments. Then the Governors in the areas controlled by the Dutch with various administrative and officials in the area ranging from Resident, Assistant Resident, Controleur. That is the colonial bureaucratic elite called Binnenlands Bestuur (Leirissa, 1985).

In the period 1870–1900 the Dutch East Indies territory expanded to include the area we know today (Sabang to Merauke). The expansion of this territory has to do with

the demands of the private sector to expand its exploitation network, as well as security demands, as well as rivals from other Western countries. That does not mean that in the period 1870–1920 the entire territory was controlled by the Dutch East Indies down to the villages.

Indeed, history records that one of the areas that since the 17th century has been included in the Dutch East Indies rule is the Ambon Archipelago. Therefore, towards the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, it can be said that the Maluku area in general and especially the Ambon Lease archipelago was completely under the Dutch East Indies government as a colonial area.

The important position in government such as Resident, Assistant Resident, Controleur are all held by white people (Dutch). Employment opportunities for local residents are almost non-existent, while education is mostly still at a low level (primary school).

The relationship between the Dutch East Indies government and the indigenous population was always limited and indirect. The communication system between the rulers and the local population was feudal. In the countries (villages) the role of the head of state who was given the position of Regent by the government was very large and was an extension of the Dutch East Indies government. Relations between the natives of the lands are conveyed through the Regents.

The status of the head of state as the ruler of the autonomous sovereign people of the country since ancient times, was abolished after experiencing defeat in armed resistance since the 17th century and reaching its peak in the Pattimura war at the beginning of the 19th century (Leirissa, 1985a; Leirissa, 1999). The position of customary government institution towards the government also has no meaning at all. Its influence and role are only limited within the country, especially those related to adat issues. The role of the *Negeri* Saniri Council has in many ways been dominated by the head of state as a Regent.

Based on the explanation above, the purposes of this study aim to address one objective is to describe the Development of the Dutch Colonial Government System in the Ambon-Lease Archipelago.

2 Research Methodology

Initially stage in running the research based on procedures and rules which is apply in historical research there are heuristics, criticism, interpretation and ultimately historiography stages (Gottschalk, 1985). Based in these stages, the first step is data collection. For secondary data collection is done through literature study. Moreover, for the primary data by conducting the archival research which was published by the can Nedherlandse Institute in The Hague in 1997 (van Fraassen, 1997).

The second step is to held data selection and test for both validity and reliability of data through external and internal source criticism. Then followed the interpretation and lastly carried out a logical and systematic description of the data that had been processed in the form of historiography.

3 Result and Discussion

Based on the research that has been carried out, it is known that before the 17th century government arrangements, the originally group of the Ambon-Lease Archipelago community was Lumatau or Matarumah which consisted of people who considered themselves descendants. Some Lumatau form a group into one as Uku, while the unity of several Uku is called Uli.

Traditionally, the composition of the community consists of: (a) The house is the parents (husband and wife) in addition with their children (b) Mata Rumah (householders), which is a household that considered having the same descended according to the father's line; (c) Soa is a group of Mata Rumah who are considered to have kinship relations; (d) Family is a relatives counted from both father's and mother's line; (e) Hena (village/negeri) is a combination of several Soa (Kutoyo, 1977).

Mansyur (2014) through descriptive and analogies research revealed that archeological remains in the form of official Dutch houses, Government Offices, Forts and even former Church Building were found as a part of Dutch colonialism in Buru Island which was the initial area of colonial occupation related to the monopoly of spicy like clove in the Ambon-Lease Archipelago. At the beginning of the 20th century due to various considerations for the right location to development the government sectors with good environmental conditions, the Dutch moved the center of government from Buru Island to Namlea Island where chronology of this displacement took place in a short period of about 40 years. After that the government center was moved to city of Ambon, Ambon Island.

In early of 20th century where city of Ambon during the Dutch rule was a refinement of the city that had previously been built by the Portuguese. Even the VOC governors who had been in power in Ambon have 17 systematically led based on the work of their predecessors (Ririmase, 2006). It is known that during his reign the Dutch government had three *Gouvernements* formed by the VOC at the beginning of the 17th century, namely *Gouvernement* van Amboina based in Ambon, *Gouvernement* de Molluken with its headquarters in Ternate and *Gouvernement* van Banda based in Banda, united into *Gouvernement* der Molluken based in Ambon. From the city of Ambon, the center of government is run with a governor as the leader of government. The *Gouvernement* der Molluken is divided into two residencies, called the Ambon residency and the Ternate residency. Meanwhile, *Gouvernement* van Banda did not form a separate residency because it had been included in the Ambon residency administration. Each residency is governed by a resident who is assisted by several resident assistants and a number of controleurs.

Along with that, in the early 17th century, people living on Ambon Island and the Surrounding Island (called *Lease*) began to experience changes in the local government structure and people who were originally livelihood in mountains were forcibly directed to displacement to coastal areas to be under the VOC supervision easily (Leirissa, 1982; Pusparani, et. al., 2017).

In addition to administrative divisions, there is also called *Saatsgemente* Amboina which is governed by a *Burgemeester* (City Mayor) domiciled in the city of Ambon. All of these positions were held by the Dutch, who were hierarchically starting from

Governor-Resident-Assistant Resident-Controleur. Controleur is the one who has a direct relationship (Direct Rule) with the leaders of their respective village (*negeri*).

The head of *Negeri* as the supreme leader has enormous power over the people. The Dutch East Indies government was well aware of this, thus making good use of the head of *Negeri* in carrying out the politics of his government. Thus, it is not surprising that the Dutch East Indies government involved the leader of *Negeri* in colonial government structure with the position of Regent (Irawan, 1976).

Since 1824 Regent became the spearhead in carrying out the affairs of the Dutch East Indies government. This is clearly contained in the Governor-Generals' Decree dater April 15th, 1824 Number 1 which written that a Regent is the first person from every *Negeri* who directly receives various orders from the Dutch East Indies government and is responsible for its implementation in his own *Negeri* (Staatblad 1824).

In historical records, Grimes (2006) quoted that on October 2nd 1658 the Governor of the VOC made an agreement between the Dutch leaders and local leaders which stated that 13 local leaders (Kings called in Bahasa "Raja") would be formed and there is one new Village/*Negeri* would be established namely Kayeli Village. This success was followed up with the construction of a fort guarded by a garrison (24 soldiers) which was equipped with weapons like four cannons.

This is evidence that the head of *Negeri* has become an important part of the Dutch East Indies government system. The regents appointed by the Dutch East Indies government directly with the title: King (*Raja*), *Patih* or *Orangkaya*. The title itself obtained by a regent may change depending on his work performance and loyalty shown to his superiors, the higher the chance of obtaining a higher degree status. On the other hand, the lower the achievement and loyalty, the lower the degree of status obtained. For the example, the Hitu *Negeri* on the island of Ambon, which has been famous since the 16th century, turned out to be the Regent in Hitu Messing who only got the title as *Patih*, this is because Hitu in its history has always opposed the Dutch.

In their positions as regents, both King (*Raja*), *Patih* and *Orangkaya* they were given the status of government officials and received salaries from the Dutch East Indies government. At first, their salary was only as a living support called *Steun* salary which was paid in the form of money and textiles. After 1920, *Steun* salary was replaced with *Toelage* or benefits. The size of the allowance obtained by a Regent depends on the size of the *Negeri's* income. That is why in order to get the benefits that many regents continue to work hard to extort their people to collect the annual tax. The amount of every person's taxes was calculated by Regent together with Assitant (Kutoyo, 1977).

Dutch East Indies government system, not only placed the Regents as part of the Dutch colonial government structure, but also sought to establish a feudal order in the social life of the Ambon-Lease (surrounding) community. This can be seen from the two types of work that are burneded to the people as part of their dedication to the regent, namely Kwarto work and Herrendienst. Kwarto work is regulated in Articles 99 and 153 of the Staatblad 1824 Numner 19a, while Herrendienst work is regulated in articles 154 and 158 of the same Staatblad. Both types of work by Resident Ambon were revoked by the issuance of a decree dated June 12th, 1870 Number 410, but the decree was not enforced because its legal status was lower than the Reglement contained in the Staatblad od 1928 Number 19a (Effendi, 1987).

The obligations of a Regent or Leader of *Negeri* appointed by the Dutch East Indies government are:

1. Investigate and handle disputes between residents.
2. Observing the establishment and maintenance of the house of the *Negeri* and the house of the *Negeri* and the of *Raja* (Leader of *Negeri*) by the local residents.
3. Pay attention to the establishment and taking a good care of Baileo and Cemetery.
4. Observe and taking a good care the *Negeri* Arumbai (boats) and including the warehouse.
5. Observe and maintain roads and bridges.
6. Pay attention to the cleaning of roads, rivers, water connections and electricity connections, for the sake of people's health needs.
7. The Examination contained in the Staatblad of 1824 Number 19a is the submission of the defendant to the competent judge.
8. Collecting taxes.
9. Pay attention to the injection of children and residents.
10. Pay attention to the security and order of the population.
11. Make a cash book and save the money earned from the sale of domestic products.
12. Keep a list of births and deaths.
13. Responding to Controleur's letter (van Fraassen, 1997a).

The regents, although the highest position among the indigenous population in their *Negeri*, but live a poor life, compared to other indigenous officials such as school principals, religious teachers and so on. In addition, basen on a Decree from the government dated on March 26th, 1920 Number 34, starting from July 1st, 1920 Kwarto work was abolished. Kwarto work includes various types of work, such as service work in the regent's household, maintaining family security, preparing food needs for the regent's family and etc.

Each Soa or *Wijk* is obliged to send four workers to serve for one week (Quart). So, if in one *Negeri* there are four Soa's then every week there must be one Soa (four workers) who specifically work for the benefit of Regent and his family.

4 Conclusion

Thus, it can be concluded that the colonial government since 17th century has been build the government structure in Ambon-Lease Archipelago community. Henceforth, in the late 19th and early 20th centuries made good use of the regents in their respective *Negeri* as extensions of the government in carrying out their mission to fully control the Ambon-Lease (surrounding) Archipelago community.

5 Contrubution of Researcher

H.T. as team leader responsible for the main idea and methodology in running the research. SLM as a team member aim to support literacy source and also contributing as translator. LRP as supporting team member to review and running the final editing of script.

Acknowledgement. Praise and Gratitude to God Almighty because of His blessing this paper done well. We would like to appreciate the huge supports from Rektor of Manado State University and Committee of Indonesia Education Nasional Conference (Konferensi Nasional Pendidikan Indonesia/Konaspi) 2022, through the opportunity had been given to us in order to publish our research. Furthermore, thank you to the Dean of Social Science Faculty for believing in us since in the beginning of the research until the completion of this paper.

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