



Shifting Government Policies Toward Foreign Workers in an Effort to Boost Economic Growth

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Abstract. A steam power plant (PLTU) is a system that relies on the kinetic energy of steam to produce electrical energy. The main power source of the PLTU is coal used in the combustion process in the furnace or boiler to produce water vapor. The type of research used is a literature study. The literature study method is a series of activities related to collecting library data, reading and recording, and processing research materials. Data collection techniques are carried out by recording existing literature sources. The relevant and current theoretical foundations in this study include: Policy Shift Theory The shift in government policy towards foreign workers (TKA) in the Steam Power Plant (PLTU) project has had impacts such as changes in global economic conditions, changing market demands, and social considerations. This means that the government has responded by changing regulations related to the use of foreign workers in the energy industry, including quota restrictions and local training requirements. The shift in government policy towards local communities in the PLTU project can also be seen in the increasing economic growth seen from the increase in direct investment, local job creation, and the development of the energy sector.

Keywords: Policy Shift, Foreign Workers, Economic Growth

1 Introduction

Electrical energy is a very important supporting factor for the overall development of a nation. In Indonesia, with the increasing industrial activities and population, the need for electrical energy has also increased. Then there are several factors that affect the availability of electricity in Indonesia, among others: the availability of primary energy, fuel prices, technology, and community culture. Some of the efforts that can be taken by the State Electricity Company to overcome the increasing demand for electricity include the construction of new power plants, the purchase of private electricity, and the power plant lease system with local governments or entrepreneurs.

The construction of power plants is an important method of generating large amounts of electricity, and many countries rely on this technology to meet their needs, including Indonesia. Not only does it produce stable and usable electricity, but it also has an impact on local economic growth, meaning that the power plant industry creates employment opportunities in the construction, operation, maintenance, and operation of power plants. The PLTU industry creates employment opportunities in construction, operation, maintenance, and waste management. Furthermore, the availability of stable and affordable electricity is an important factor in attracting investment, facilitating trade, and improving people's quality of life.

The background of this research refers to the context of government policy shifts at the PLTU located in Punagaya Village, Bangkala District, Jeneponto Regency. During the first period of Radjamillo's administration, there was no permission or access for Chinese people to reside and carry out economic activities because this was considered to hamper the economic income and social aspects of the Jeneponto community. Not only that, the people of Jeneponto strictly forbade Chinese entry because it was considered to

interfere with social life, especially in the cultural aspects of Jeneponto society. But in the second period of Radjamilo's reign, access or permission in the economic field for the Chinese was seen in the establishment of a steam power plant (PLTU) in Punagaya Village, Bangkala District, in May 2015. In the era of the current government led by Mr. Ikhsan Iskandar, economic activities carried out by foreign nationals (WNA) as experts at the PLTU who come from China are still ongoing.

This paper will describe what caused the government to open access for China to carry out economic activities, especially in the Jeneponto PLTU, and how the form of local economic growth that occurred with the construction of the Jeneponto PLTU.

2 Research Methods

This research was conducted at PLTU Punagaya Village, Bangkala District, Jeneponto Regency. The type of research used is a literature study. The literature study method is a series of activities related to collecting library data, reading and recording, and processing research materials. Data collection techniques are carried out by recording existing literature sources. Data analysis techniques use narrative qualitative analysis by organizing and analyzing data in the form of stories or narratives. The theoretical basis used by Policy Shift Theory is to pay attention to factors that influence policy changes, such as group interests, political power, economic conditions, and so on.

3 Results & Discussion

A policy shift is a gradual and evolutionary change in government rather than a drastic or revolutionary change. The shift in government policy related to the use of foreign workers (TKA), especially in China, has become a hot topic of discussion. The purpose of using foreign workers (TKA) includes efforts to meet the needs of skilled and professional labor in certain fields that cannot be occupied by local workers. As is the case with the PLTU Industry located in Punagaya Village, Bangkala District, Jeneponto Regency, there is a phenomenon of shifting government policies towards foreign workers in an effort to encourage economic growth. In many ways, the Chinese have become an internal part of Indonesia's cultural and economic diversity. One form of success for the Chinese people can be seen in terms of economics (trade), which in this case has led them to high economic progress while the economic system or livelihood of the indigenous people is at its lowest point.

The impact of the shift in government policy towards foreign workers in the Steam Power Plant (PLTU) project has brought impacts such as changes in global economic conditions, changing market demands, and social considerations. This means that the government has responded by changing regulations related to the use of foreign workers in the energy industry, including quota restrictions and local training requirements. On the other hand, there are several factors driving the shift in government policy.

Increased economic growth refers to an increase in the economic growth of a country or region within a certain period of time. This increase can be achieved through licensing the development of PLTU energy infrastructure in an area. Increased economic development can have a positive impact on society, such as increased welfare, increased employment, and increased access to electrical energy.

In short, education is a product of society. Education is nothing but a process of transmitting knowledge, attitudes, beliefs, skills, and other aspects of behavior to generations. For society, the nature of education is expected to be able to function in supporting the continuity of the progress of its life so that the community can continue its existence. The low level of community education can be a challenge in the development of PLTU. People who are less educated about PLTU development may not understand its benefits and impacts thoroughly. Therefore, the government and PLTU developers need to conduct more effective education and socialization in the community, including providing information about the benefits and impacts of PLTU development and

providing training and education to improve community skills and knowledge in terms of energy and the environment.

Building cooperation contracts between countries is a natural thing for the continuity of infrastructure development. As Indonesia and China build technology contracts, especially in Jeneponto Regency, one of the reasons is that China is ready to supply steam power plant equipment with the provision of Chinese people as experts in the field of PLTU; on the other hand, local people are also needed according to their abilities and skills.

Rapidly developing information and communication technology is inevitable. Humans are required to move quickly, be agile and able to adapt to technology, and support quality in various aspects of life, not least for business people. Businesspeople are required to master technology in order to innovate in order to maintain the sustainability of the company.

The impact of shifting government policies on local communities in the PLTU project can also be seen in the increasing economic growth seen from the increase in direct investment, the creation of local jobs, and the development of the energy sector. This means that the PLTU development policy in Jeneponto, especially in Punagaya Village, Bangkala District, is the first step in advancing and improving infrastructure development in the regency itself. Then the establishment of the PLTU opened up great opportunities for local people to reduce the unemployment rate in Jeneponto.

Punagaya village, which is the place where the PLTU company was founded, was previously economically underdeveloped, but since the establishment of the PLTU company, the improvement and development of infrastructure in Punagaya village have seen a change. So that the majority of the Punagaya community is very supportive. Long before the establishment of the company, the unemployment and poverty rates were very high, but during the establishment of the PLTU, the unemployment and poverty rates decreased.

PLTU now has a positive impact on Punagaya Village, seen with the many road improvements, of course, inseparable from those of the ethnic Chinese, who are experts in PLTU, so that PLTU develops and Punagaya Village also advances because of the many assistances provided by the PLTU company, especially in terms of infrastructure.

Punagaya Village is a village that used to have a high unemployment rate, but the PLTU company has had a positive impact because the unemployment rate has decreased. The unemployment rate in Punagaya Village is decreasing because the PLTU company is a job for the Punagaya community. On the other hand, so that the community and local government support the presence of ethnic Chinese as expert labor in PLTU because the level of education in the Punagaya community is very low, no one is employed in their field as a technician, so that the government and the community support.

4 Conclusion

In the context of policy shifts, it is important to develop policies that are sustainable and consistent in the long term. The government's policy shift in the context of allowing foreign workers is based on changes in global economic conditions, changing market demands, and social considerations. This means that the government has responded by changing regulations related to the use of foreign workers in the energy industry, including quota restrictions and local training requirements.

There are several factors that cause a shift in government policy, namely: increasing regional economic development, low levels of community education, and cooperation contracts. Then, the impact of government policy shifts on local communities can also be seen from: Increased regional economic infrastructure, Less unemployment rate.

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