

## Efforts to Increase the Benefits of Spatial Planning in the Planning Mechanism of Development Programs in Batu Bara Regency


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### ABSTRACT

This study aims to examine Efforts to Increase the Benefits of Spatial Planning in the Development Program Planning Mechanism in Batu Bara Regency This research is a qualitative research with a descriptive approach that seeks to present the concept of implementation in development planning in connection with the quality of regional development planning. Data collection techniques are the means used to obtain the data and information needed to achieve research objectives. Data analysis is a process or effort to process data obtained from the results of interviews, field notes and documentation, into new information so that the characteristics of the data are good. The results of the research on efforts to increase the benefits of the Spatial Plan (RTR) in the planning mechanism of development programs in Batu Bara Regency must prioritize synchronization between spatial planning and integrated and sustainable development policies. The main steps that need to be taken include aligning the RTR with the RPJMD, developing infrastructure according to zoning, and strengthening regulations and spatial supervision. In addition, the use of GIS technology for monitoring and involvement of the community and the private sector in planning is also very important. Through the implementation of a targeted RTR, Batu Bara Regency can optimally maximize the potential of its area, including industrial, tourism, and agricultural areas. Thus, the benefits of RTR can be realized in the form of more inclusive, environmentally friendly development, and support the economic welfare of the community and regional sustainability.

**Keywords:** Increasing the Benefits of Spatial Planning, Development Program Planning Mechanism and Batu Bara Regency

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

Spatial planning is a process of spatial planning, space utilization and control of space use which is a unit of systems that cannot be separated from each other. To create a harmonious spatial arrangement, it must require a harmonious legislation between regulations at the high level to regulations at the lower level so that there is a coordination in spatial planning, (Juniorso Ridwan and Achmad Sodik, 2016). Spatial planning is a process to determine the structure and pattern of space which includes the preparation and determination of spatial plans. The spatial plan is prepared with a perspective towards the expected future, starting from data, information, science and technology that can be used and paying attention to the diversity of activity insights in each sector. The implementation of spatial planning is to harmonize various development sector activities, so that the use of land and space can be carried out optimally, efficiently, and harmoniously. Meanwhile, the purpose of holding a spatial planning is to direct the structure and location along with their functional relationships that are harmonious and balanced in the context of the utilization of human resources, so as to create optimal and efficient development results for the improvement of human quality and environmental quality in a sustainable manner, (Muhammad Akib, et al., 2013).

Spatial planning activities are also related to development planning so that the documents produced from spatial planning and development planning activities are both aimed at predicting activities that will be carried out in the future. In addition, spatial planning as a result of spatial planning activities is part of the development planning process that affects each other. As mentioned earlier, space

utilization is a series of implementation programs along with their financing during the planning period. Space utilization activities include counseling and correctional plans, program preparation, preparation of implementation regulations and incentive and disincentive devices, preparation and proposal of projects and implementation of programs and projects (Oetomo, 1998). Spatial plans must be operationalized so that they can become regional strategies and policies to achieve the development goals and objectives that have been set. In addition, spatial plans must function as coordination instruments for programs/projects to be implemented in the region that come from various sources of funds, as a form of utilization of spatial plans in the regions. Economic growth has led to the need to develop land intensively. In addition, the implementation of spatial plans through development promotion needs to be carried out in order to prevent unwanted development and encourage development (Cadman and Crowe, 1991).

This is followed by the interest of developers (including the government), to participate in development, preparation of plan proposals, possible changes to owned land, provision of funds, physical preparation and construction work. In discussing spatial plans and regional development plans at the same time, it will also be inseparable from the financial aspect. Currently, the challenge that must be faced is how to utilize spatial planning as a medium for regional development management. In this case, spatial planning is faced not only with the problem of how to implement it in the context of development, but also the plan can be used as a tool that can estimate the amount of investment needed and how much revenue can be generated. Therefore, development will require the role of these various actors so that space can be used optimally in accordance with the spatial plan in order to increase regional income and achieve development goals. A spatial plan will be used to be realized if the planning is in accordance with and does not contradict the will of all its users, as well as the characteristics and conditions of the planning area, so that it can be used as a reference in the use of space for its users. Equipped with awareness of financing and time considerations, in other words, a spatial plan must be prepared in a complete and integrated and operational insight, which of course the operational level is adjusted to the level of hierarchy and function of the spatial plan.

Based on Law Number 26 of 2007 concerning Spatial Planning, it is stated that the implementation of development, both at the central and regional levels, must be in accordance with the spatial plan that has been determined. The condition of the Indonesian territory consists of national, provincial, regency and city areas, each of which is a spatial subsystem according to administrative limitations, and in the subsystem there are human resources and various kinds of activities for the use of natural and artificial resources with different levels of space utilization. Spatial planning in an area will affect other areas, which in turn will affect the overall spatial system in spatial planning requires the development of an integrated system as its main characteristic, therefore the arrangement of the Regional Spatial Plan is regulated in accordance with the laws and regulations, namely Law Number 26 of 2007 concerning Spatial Planning, Article 1 number (5) states that Spatial Planning is a system of planning process space, space utilization and space utilization control. The establishment of a spatial planning aims to harmonize various development activities between sectors in regional development, so that the use of space and land can be carried out as optimally and efficiently as possible. Then the purpose of the implementation of a spatial planning is to direct a harmonious and balanced development structure and location in the use of natural resources and human resources, so that an optimal development can be achieved. In addition to this, spatial planning can prevent development activities that will damage the environment.

The implementation of development carried out by the Government, the Regional Government of Batu Bara Regency and the community both at the central and regional levels must be carried out in accordance with the spatial plan that has been set. Thus, the use of space by anyone should not contradict the spatial plan. The implementation of spatial planning in Batu Bara Regency is not in line with the use of space, it should be free from various trading business activities or other types of businesses as well as buildings that are not in accordance with the provisions of the spatial planning of Batu Bara Regency. The government and the community face several problems in regional development planning so that many parts of the region that have been built are not in accordance with the land allocation set out in the Batu Bara Regency plan. The development of Batu Bara Regency space based on the function of each development area continues to be carried out by the Government, including the development of the use of Batu Bara Regency space. Referring to these conditions, of course, it is necessary to carry out studies and planning so that development plans can be realized in the spatial planning of the Regional

Government in collaboration with other Regional Governments and also participate in community elements.

As is known, Batu Bara Regency has an environment in the form of a city park that is protected by the central government and local governments. The sustainability of the environment has a very significant impact on the people in Batu Bara Regency. Damaged living environments can cause flooding, but also have an impact on other surrounding areas. For this reason, environmental management needs to pay attention to spatial functions. The problem that has always arisen in the last two years is the overlap of space over one interest against another. There is a sharp difference in perception between the government and the public in looking at one region. The existing spatial plan focuses more on the tendency to allocate areas to very large capital owners. This also confirms the state's control, especially the Batu Bara Regency government, over land while eliminating the existence of the local community itself. Such a situation cannot by itself be expected to achieve efficient and effective urban development. But on the other hand, if a development is planned and programmed according to needs optimally, it can be expected to provide better profits or be able to achieve the expected goals and objectives.

## **2. LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **Benefits of Spatial Plans**

National spatial planning has been regulated in Government Regulation of the Republic of Indonesia Number 26 of 2008 concerning National Spatial Planning. Policy directions and strategies for the use of space in the country's territory that are used as a reference for long-term planning. The period of national spatial planning is 20 years. Every five years, a review will be carried out. Spatial planning is a very important process in the development of a region. Spatial planning functions to regulate the use of space to suit the needs and goals of development. The benefits of spatial planning are numerous, including: The benefits of spatial planning for economic development can increase investment, encourage economic growth, and create jobs, among others. The benefits of spatial planning for social development can improve the quality of life of the community, reduce social disparities, and create a healthy environment. The benefits of spatial planning for environmental development include protecting natural resources, preventing environmental pollution, and creating a sustainable environment.

### **Development Program Planning**

Development planning is a thorough process of thinking and determination to achieve development goals effectively, efficiently, and sustainably. This planning is carried out by directing the use of limited development resources to achieve certain goals. Tjokroamidjojo (2014), defines development planning as a direction for the use of limited development resources (including economic resources) to achieve certain goals based on better socio-economic conditions effectively and efficiently. Regional development planning can focus on increasing economic diversification by identifying and supporting new industries, sectors, and business opportunities. By diversifying regional economies, planning initiatives can reduce dependence on a single industry or sector, making regions more resilient to economic shocks and downturns. In addition, poor regional development planning can affect the economy of an area (Ferdian, 2021)

## **METHOD APPROACH**

This research is a qualitative research with a descriptive approach that seeks to present the concept of implementation in development planning in relation to the quality of regional development planning. Basic methodology is a tool to produce theories and a means to conduct qualitative research (Lawrence and Tar, 2013).

Data collection techniques are methods used to obtain the data and information needed to achieve research objectives, (Sugiono, 2017) The data collection techniques carried out in this study are as follows: Namely by making direct observations at the research site to find out the objectivity of the reality in the field. Interviews are intended to obtain information that cannot be obtained through observation. This is because researchers cannot observe the whole thing. Not all data can be obtained by observation, therefore researchers should ask questions to informants.

Data analysis is a process or effort to process data obtained from the results of interviews, field notes and documentation, into new information so that the characteristics of the data become easier to understand and useful for solving a problem, especially related to research. And make conclusions so that they are easily understood by yourself and others, (Sutrisno Hadi, 2018). In this case, the researcher conducted several data analysis techniques, which are as follows:

1. Data reduction can be interpreted as the process of summarizing, focusing on simplification, abstraction, selecting the main things and discarding unnecessary data that arises from written records in the field.
2. The presentation of this data can be done in the form of tables, graphs, and the like. And in this writing, the researcher focuses more on presenting data using narrative text.

The initial conclusions presented at this stage are still provisional, and will change if no strong evidence is found to support them at the next stage of data collection.

### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### **Implementation of the Function of Spatial Plan Benefits in the Development Program Planning Mechanism in Batu Bara Regency**

As one of the scale spatial plans, the Regional Spatial Plan (RTRW) of Batu Bara Regency is an important stage in an overall spatial planning process, because at this stage a development concept and policy are formulated, as well as coordination between various related agencies in a spatial planning process. The Batu Bara Regency Regional Spatial Plan in terms is an elaboration of the strategy and direction of the policy for the use of national regional space and the regional space of Batu Bara Regency. For this reason, in compiling the regional structure of Batu Bara Regency, it is carried out through a functional approach that views the region in a certain similarity of characteristics both physically, economically, and socio-culturally with complementary principles.

By referring to Law Number 26 of 2007, the spatial layout of Batu Bara Regency should be based on the following:

1. Openness, which is paying attention to the unity of space utilization activities carried out by the government (central, provincial and city), the private sector/business world and the community based on comprehensive considerations.
2. The principle of Usability and Usability Results, which is to pay attention to all the potential and utilization of existing Natural Resources and Human Resources, in order to produce optimal benefits and quality of space for the region.
3. The principle of Harmony, Balance and Harmony, which is to pay attention to the distribution of population, growth and inter-sector and inter-regional linkages, in order to achieve harmony, harmony and balance of the structure and pattern of regional space utilization.
4. The principle of Sustainability, which is to pay attention to the carrying capacity of natural resources, the environment and the interests of the next generation in order to achieve sustainable carrying capacity sustainability.
5. The principle of openness, which is to pay attention to the existence of the same right in every community to enjoy the benefits and/or added value of space, as well as the right to get appropriate compensation for the conditions they experience due to development activities in accordance with the plan.
6. The principle of Legal Protection, which is to pay attention to the need for legal protection guarantees to provide certainty and a sense of security in striving for every right to use the space provided.

Basically, the function of the Batu Bara Regency Regional Spatial Plan is to maintain the consistency of urban area development with the national urban strategy and the direction of the Batu Bara Regency Regional Spatial Plan in the long term, create harmony in the development of Batu Bara Regency with the surrounding area, and create the integration of sectoral and regional development. The content of the General Spatial Plan for the Batu Bara Regency Area includes the objectives, structural plans and patterns of space utilization of urban areas, and efforts to manage protected areas, residential areas, agricultural areas, industrial areas, urban functional areas, and certain areas, as well as guidelines for controlling the development of urban areas. In its implementation, the Batu Bara Regency Regional Spatial Plan, which should produce an ideal condition in general, is still difficult to realize. One of the causes is related to the legal basis or legislation in the form of Regional Regulations that regulate Spatial Planning which until now has not been regulated.

In order to realize the decision or policy direction of the Batu Bara Regency Government regarding the allocation of space and natural resources in the spatial plan can provide benefits in the long term and ensure sustainability, it is necessary to pay attention to the provisions in Law Number 32 of 2009 concerning Environmental Protection and Management. This provision shows that there is a very close relationship between spatial planning and environmental protection and management efforts

which is the key to the success of sustainable development efforts in Batu Bara Regency. Environmental considerations in the spatial plan of Batu Bara Regency are absolute to be considered because if environmental aspects are not integrated, it will have a huge impact, especially on people's lives in the future. Because basically the environment has limited carrying capacity and tamping capacity in supporting the lives of both humans and other creatures, so if the carrying capacity is exceeded, it is certain that the sustainability of environmental functions will be disturbed.

The current reality is that the problems of spatial and environmental utilization in Batu Bara Regency are not getting less, in fact they are increasing both in quality and quantity, which turns out to be not only in the legal dimension, but also in broad dimensions such as economic, political/policy, social, and cultural. In the context of the development of regional autonomy in Batu Bara Regency, the use of spatial planning for environmental sustainability is not spared from the demand for justice that is not only sectoral, but includes all related components. Only then will the regional goals in the future be fulfilled to create a just and prosperous society which means just in prosperity and prosperous in justice. Referring to the principles as above, good faith is also needed from all components to properly implement the use of spatial planning functions for the sake of environmental sustainability in Batu Bara Regency. This needs to be emphasized because basically all of these components, both the government, people/society, and related agencies have certain interests, so there is a tendency to always fight for the interests of each party. The use of spatial planning functions must be restricted and controlled.

Discussions on efforts to increase the benefits of spatial planning in Batu Bara Regency must consider several important aspects, including strategic planning, economic development, environmental conservation, and community welfare. Here are some points that can be the focus of the discussion:

1. **Land Use Optimization, Zoning Evaluation:** It is necessary to evaluate existing zoning to ensure that land allocation is in accordance with the needs of regional development. Residential, industrial, agricultural, and protected area zones must be reconsidered to optimize economic and social benefits.
2. **Revitalization of unproductive land:** Land that was previously not used optimally can be identified and allocated to projects that support economic growth, such as industrial estates, agro-tourism, or planned settlements.
3. **Strengthening Infrastructure and Connectivity, Road and transportation construction:** Strengthening the road network connecting rural areas with urban centers and industrial areas can improve accessibility and encourage economic activity. Utilization of ports and sea routes: Batu Bara as a coastal district can take advantage of access to sea routes for the development of logistics, tourism, and trade sectors.
4. **Sustainable Development, Land Use Control:** Controlling excessive land conversion from agriculture or forests to residential or industrial land must be avoided so as not to disturb the balance of the ecosystem.
5. **Environmental conservation:** Ensuring that spatial plans consider environmental aspects, including water management, carbon emission reduction, and waste management. Green and environmentally friendly development can be a priority.
6. **Human Resource Development (HR), Community Training and Education:** Providing training to local communities on skills relevant to the potential of local industry and agriculture can help them take advantage of existing economic opportunities.
7. **Increased spatial awareness:** Providing understanding to the public about the importance of spatial planning for common welfare will encourage them to be more involved in the planning and supervision process.
8. **Community and Stakeholder Involvement, Public Participation:** Community involvement in the preparation and supervision of spatial plans is very important. This can be done through public discussion forums, consultations with community leaders, and hearings with various groups.
9. **Collaboration with the private sector:** Increasing collaboration with the private sector in infrastructure development, energy, and industrial estate development can accelerate economic growth and job creation.
10. **Increased Supervision and Enforcement of Regulations, Implementation of Strict Spatial Rules:** There needs to be an effective monitoring system against spatial planning violations to prevent illegal development or land abuse.
11. **Inter-agency collaboration:** Cooperation between government agencies, both at the district and provincial levels, as well as with the central government, must be improved so that the policies taken can be implemented properly.

### **Efforts Made in Implementing Spatial Plans in the Development Program Planning Mechanism in Batu Bara Regency**

Efforts to increase the benefits of Spatial Planning (RTR) in the planning mechanism of development programs in Batu Bara Regency are an important step to create integration between spatial planning and regional development programs. Here are some efforts that can be made:

1. **Integration of Spatial Planning with Regional Medium-Term Development Plans (RPJMD).** Synchronization of RTR with RPJMD: The Spatial Plan must be in line with the RPJMD so that every development program planned by the district government can be supported by the spatial plan that has been determined. This will ensure sustainable development and in accordance with the vision of regional development.
2. **Prioritize strategic areas:** In the RPJMD, focus on areas that are considered strategic based on the RTR, such as industrial, tourism, or agricultural estates, so that development can be more directed.
3. **Spatial Planning-Based Infrastructure Development,** Infrastructure development in accordance with zoning: Infrastructure such as roads, bridges, and other public facilities must be built in accordance with the zoning in the RTR, thus supporting the development of certain areas. This ensures that infrastructure development not only follows short-term needs but also supports long-term growth.
4. **Provision of supporting facilities for industrial and commercial estates:** For example, in industrial zones that have been planned, it is necessary to provide electricity, water, and other supporting facilities so that the area can develop according to the plan.
5. **Adjustment of Development Programs to Regional Characteristics, Mapping of regional potential:** Utilizing RTR to identify the potential and characteristics of each region. For example, coastal areas in Batu Bara have potential for port development or coastal tourism, while inland areas are more suitable for agriculture and forestry.
6. **Region-based program development:** The proposed development program must be tailored to the physical, social, and economic conditions of the region, so that the results can be optimal and relevant to the needs of the local community.
7. **Utilization of Information Technology in Spatial Planning, Geographic Information System (GIS):** Using GIS to monitor and analyze land use according to RTR. This technology helps visualize data in real-time and predict the impact of development on spatial planning. That way, the decisions taken are more accurate and in accordance with the existing spatial plan.
8. **Digital planning platform:** Using an online platform to integrate RTR data and development programs, so that transparency and accountability in planning can be improved.
9. **Strengthening Regulations and Law Enforcement in Spatial Management, Preparation of Complementary Regulations:** To support the implementation of RTR in development programs, it is necessary to prepare complementary regulations that emphasize the role of RTR in the regional development planning process. This can be in the form of regional regulations (Perda) or district government policies related to land use and infrastructure development.
10. **Supervision and enforcement:** There needs to be strict supervision of spatial planning violations such as unlicensed construction or construction in protected areas. Strict law enforcement will prevent land abuse that can damage spatial planning and interfere with development programs.
11. **Community and Stakeholder Collaboration and Participation, Private Sector and Community Involvement:** Involving the community and the private sector in the spatial planning process and development programs will increase a sense of ownership and support for development projects. It also ensures that the planning is relevant to the needs of the community.
12. **Public discussion and consultation forum:** Provide a dialogue forum between the government, the community, and stakeholders to discuss the planning and utilization of RTR in development. Through public participation, the decisions taken will be more democratic and inclusive.
13. **Integrated Evaluation and Monitoring, Routine evaluation mechanism:** Conduct periodic evaluations of the implementation of RTR in development planning to assess whether the development carried out is in accordance with the established spatial plan. Corrections and adjustments can be made if discrepancies are found.
14. **Development performance dashboard:** Create a dashboard that monitors the realization of RTR-based development programs, so that all relevant parties can access the latest information on project status and its impact on spatial planning.

15. Utilization of Natural Potential and Tourism, Development of Tourism Potential based on RTR: Tourism areas that have been planned in the RTR must be prioritized in development planning, by building supporting facilities and infrastructure such as access roads, accommodation facilities, and tourism information centers.
16. Sustainable natural resources: In development programs, the potential of natural resources such as mines, forests, and fisheries must be used wisely in accordance with the RTR so as not to damage the balance of the ecosystem.
17. Spatial Planning-Based Regional Economic Development, Special Economic Zone Development (SEZ): Utilizing RTR to develop special economic zones or industrial estates that are integrated with transportation systems and other infrastructure. SEZs can be the main driver of economic growth in Batu Bara Regency.
18. Industrial and trade **clusters**: Identify industrial clusters that have the potential to be developed in certain areas that are in accordance with the RTR, so that economic development can be more directed and efficient.

By making these various efforts, it is hoped that Benefits of Spatial Plans in the development planning mechanism in Batu Bara Regency can increase significantly, which ultimately supports regional economic growth, environmental sustainability, and overall community welfare.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the research and discussion in the previous chapter, it can be concluded as follows:

In conclusion, efforts to increase the benefits of the Spatial Plan (RTR) in the planning mechanism of development programs in Batu Bara Regency must prioritize synchronization between spatial planning and integrated and sustainable development policies. The main steps that need to be taken include aligning the RTR with the RPJMD, developing infrastructure according to zoning, and strengthening regulations and spatial supervision. In addition, the use of GIS technology for monitoring and involvement of the community and the private sector in planning is also very important. Through the implementation of a targeted RTR, Batu Bara Regency can optimally maximize the potential of its area, including industrial, tourism, and agricultural areas. Thus, the benefits of RTR can be realized in the form of more inclusive, environmentally friendly development, and support the economic welfare of the community and regional sustainability.

Spatial Planning (RTR) has significant benefits for planning development programs in Batu Bara Regency. The RTR serves as the main guide to ensure that development takes place in a planned, directed, and sustainable manner. Through the proper use of RTR, development can be adjusted to the characteristics and potential of the region, both in the industrial, tourism, agricultural, and residential sectors, so as to increase the effectiveness of development programs. In addition, RTR also plays a role in ensuring environmental sustainability by regulating zoning for protected and conservation areas, as well as minimizing potential conflicts in land use. With a good RTR, infrastructure connectivity and economic growth can be spurred, while maintaining ecological and social balance. Overall, RTR is an important instrument to create sustainable, inclusive, and positive development for the welfare of the people of Batu Bara Regency.

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