

# Potential Development of Historical Religious Tourism Site as a Buffer Zone of Rantau Panjang Truly Port in Mebidangro Layout

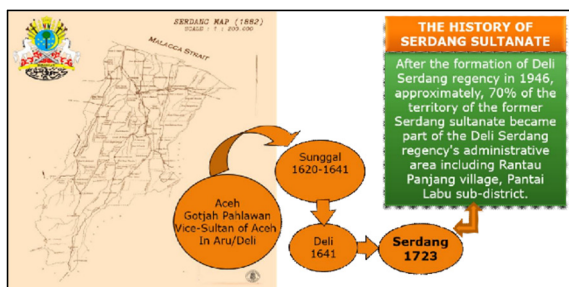
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**Keywords:** Rantau Panjang, Serdang Sultanate, Historical Religion, Mebidangro.

**Abstract:** This is a development study that aims to seek the likelihood of historical site revitalization in Deli Serdang regency, Sumatera Utara. This study is carried out with a multidisciplinary approach; history, economics, law, and social anthropology. The micro study conducted in the former capital of Serdang Sultanate in Rantau Panjang village is analyzed anthropologically by drawing it back to the previous religious historical situation. Furthermore, the micro study is linked with the macro level with the development plan of Kuala Namu as a gateway and new satellite town in Deli Serdang inside Mebidangro. The government's lack of concern for sites with economic potential such as Rantau Panjang has resulted in human and natural resources declining quality. It is necessary to design layout and landscape plans for historical sites containing cultural heritage. Thus, the development of the historical religious site of Rantau Panjang does not lose its origin and encourages tourism for the community's welfare. This study is conducted by applying a qualitative approach and literature study. The analysis is carried out using development theories based on cultural values, regional development, tourism, and public policy.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

One of the Islamic kingdoms in Indonesia that still exists today is the Serdang sultanate located in Sumatera Utara province. Rantau Panjang village in Pantai Labu sub-district, Deli Serdang regency, is considered special as it was once the central government of the Melayu Serdang Sultanate founded in 1723 AD.



Although the sultanate has been abolished, the Serdang Sultanate institution still has a role in the cultural field such as maintaining the customs, the harmony of the indigenous community, the sultanate's heirlooms, and Serdang originality. The

sultanate institution functions as the bond of the indigenous community in their social life. For example, the heritage of Masjid Raya Sultan Basyaruddin in Rantau Panjang which was built in 1854 is still operated by the community. This mosque has been designated as a cultural heritage through Undang-Undang Cagar Budaya no. 11 Tahun 2010.

Rantau Panjang is the oldest village in Pantai Labu sub-district. Unfortunately, since it was established in the 1960s, there are no design and layout planning official guidelines for Rantau Panjang. In fact, the guidelines have at least three objectives; preventing land-use change, improving the economy, and improving the welfare. For years, the government left it alone.

The initial observation finds that the Rantau Panjang apparatuses desired to build its village for resurrecting the economy of the community. However, they had not found the ideas and methods to exploit the village's potential. Currently, tourism is one of the strategic sectors that can improve the community's economy. As written in Rencana Kerja Dinas Kebudayaan, Pemuda Olahraga, dan Pariwisata Kabupaten Deli Serdang, it has accommodated proposals from the community and actualized them by coaching, partnership

development, increasing community participation in tourism partnership development, and developing tourism awareness groups and other tourism communities<sup>1</sup>.

Since Kuala Namu was chosen as an airport in 1992 until it became operational in 2013, Rantau Panjang is still not developing. The development gap between villages in Kuala Namu buffer zone is obvious, especially in education and communication facilities. Based on Peraturan Presiden Republik Indonesia No. 62 Tahun 2011 concerning Tata Ruang Kawasan Perkotaan Medan, Binjai, Deli Serdang, dan Karo (Mebidangro), and based on Penyusunan Rencana Tata Ruang Wilayah Kabupaten Deli Serdang, Kuala Namu as a regional transportation center and part of economic corridor will develop into Sumatera Aerocity site. The legal basis for Metropolitan Mebidangro as a national strategic site is UU No. 26 Tahun 2007 concerning Penataan Ruang and PP No. 26 Tahun 2007 concerning Rencana Tata Ruang Wilayah Nasional.

Based on the issues, the researcher applies a qualitative descriptive approach through in-depth interviews with village apparatuses and the community to find the appropriate tourism concept and the implementation of the Mebidangro policy. The potential that supports tourism can be initiated from Masjid Raya Sultan Basyaruddin's cultural heritage site. Therefore, it is necessary to design the layout and landscape of Masjid Raya Sultan Basyaruddin cultural heritage site, which aims to develop historical religious tourism in Rantau Panjang. The existence of the river on the east side of the mosque can also be a new tourist attraction similar to the Melaka river tour in Malaysia. The rehabilitation of the Serdang watershed is vital to create a healthy environment and preserve its ecosystem.

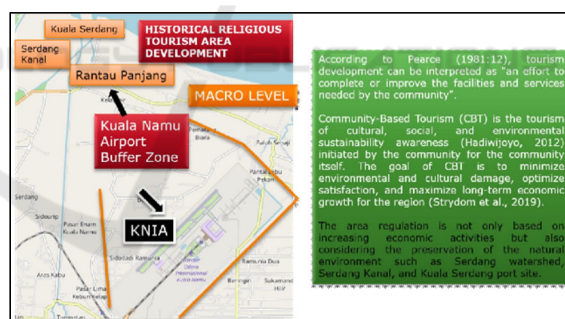
## 2 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Rantau Panjang village is surrounded by four villages; the northern part of Bagan Serdang, the southern part of Kelambir, the western part of Sei Tuan, and the eastern part of Pematang Biara. The data shows that the majority of 3089 inhabitants of Rantau Panjang are Muslim. A total of 662 householders work as fishermen, while the other 157 work as farmers, laborers, traders, and others.

Based on its location, the cultural heritage site of Masjid Raya Sultan Basyaruddin is in the center of Rantau Panjang which has a river crossing the city with potential and economic value. However, the

slums raise serious problems in utilizing the river, including unpleasant scenery and household waste. Sustainable development is a structural concept of physical intervention in the context of design-build and can be said to be a solution that is able to associate various development interests in river areas<sup>2</sup>.

According to the national urban hierarchy of Mebidangro, the main service center in Deli Serdang is Pusat Kegiatan Lokal (PKL) as Hierarchy I. Moreover, Pusat Pelayanan Kawasan (PPK) as Hierarchy II and Pusat Pelayanan Lingkungan (PPL) as Hierarchy III which is designated as sub-district city center determined based on the function and potential of each sub-district. Based on the concept of Mebidangro development, Pantai Labu sub-district is included in hierarchy III. Then, Rantau Panjang port in Pantai Labu sub-district will be developed as a Pelabuhan Pengumpul (Truly Port) Regional (between regency within the province). Furthermore, the development of tourism sites is based on sites that contain tourist objects and attractions. Types of tourism objects that are developed in the tourism site can be nature tourism, historical tourism, cultural conservation, and man-made tourist attractions<sup>3</sup>. The policies contained in Rencana Tata Ruang Wilayah Kabupaten Deli Serdang are the implementation of achieving development goals (Van Meter and Van Horn).



### 2.1 History

Sultan Basyaruddin Syaiful Alamsyah became the fourth sultan of Serdang Sultanate after his father died in 1850 AD. Sultan Basyaruddin built Darul Arif Bogak palace and Masjid Raya Sultan Basyaruddin which was officially operated in 1854 AD. Since then, the central government that previously in Tanjung Puteri Kampung Besar palace, moved to Darul Arif Bogak Rantau Panjang Palace. Sultan Basyaruddin was known to be warak (pious) and spread Islam to the rural area of Serdang Hulu (Sinar; 2007).

Even though Darul Arif Bogak palace was damaged by a flood in 1895, Masjid Raya Sultan Basyaruddin stands strong. This mosque was once the headquarters of Serdang people against the Dutch from 1 to 6 October 1865 (Sinar; 2007). The residents who live around the mosque are not immigrants but descendants of the people of the sultanate who have been handed down as administrators of the mosque on the mandate given by the heirs of Sultan Basyaruddin.

The part of the mosque visible from the road currently is the backside of the mosque, not the main front gate. It is due to the Japanese invasion in 1942. A new road behind the mosque was constructed and the main road in front of the mosque was closed. However, this mosque was once built facing a creek from Belumei and Serdang rivers which flows toward the sea. At the time of the sultanate, this river was a spice route, the only access to the mosque, and the central government by using a canoe or wooden ship.

the potential of the surrounding environment. It is necessary to develop water tourism facilities connecting Rantau Panjang and Bagan Serdang village. The concept of structuring the historical religious tourism site of Rantau Panjang also refers to UU No. 5 Tahun 2017 Tentang Pemajuan Kebudayaan as an action to improve cultural resilience and the contribution of Indonesian culture globally through Pelindungan (Protection), Pengembangan (Development), Pemanfaatan (Utilization), and Pembinaan Kebudayaan (Cultural Construction).

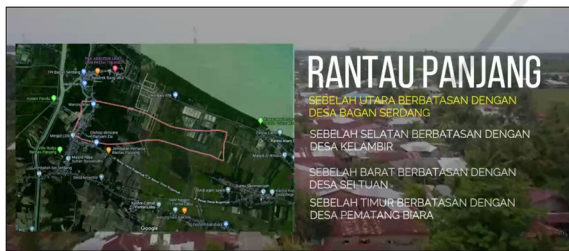


Figure 1: Rantau Panjang border.



Figure 3: The river's condition.



Figure 2: The cultural heritage of Masjid Raya Sultan Basyaruddin site plan.



Figure 4: River tourism site development concept.

## 2.2 The Concept of Structuring Historical Religious Tourism Site

For maintaining local architecture and caring for the existing environment, the Malay Architecture can be applied to the supporting building design in the cultural heritage site of Masjid Raya Sultan Basyaruddin. The availability of tourist facilities can introduce historical aspects that are harmonious with



Figure 5: The development concept of Masjid Raya Sultan Basyaruddin cultural heritage site.



Figure 6: The Landscape of Rantau Panjang historical religious tourism site development.

### 3 CONCLUSIONS

The corridor of the Mebidangro northern area has developed according to the main flow of trade, logistics distribution, and industry on land, sea, and air (Kuala Namu airport). Rantau Panjang as part of the Mebidangro industrial site development should organize its site through the concept of developing historical religious tourism. Referring to Peraturan Presiden Republik Indonesia No. 26 Tahun 2011 concerning Tata Ruang Kawasan Mebidangro, the plan for Rantau Panjang as Pelabuhan Pengumpul (Truly Port) Regional Mebidangro has been stated in the RTRW Kabupaten Deli Serdang Tahun 2010-2030, Keterpaduan Strategi Dan Rencana Pembangunan Bidang Cipta Karya 2007- 2017. The success of tourism can encourage the development of the other sectors. The existence of the river can be utilized as a tourist facility. The Riverfront concept is part of the maintenance and preservation of the river.

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