



CHALLENGES FOR RIAU PROVINCE TOWARDS ASYMMETRIC DECENTRALIZATION

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Abstract

Riau Province is one of the areas rich in oil and other agricultural products. Therefore, Riau deserves to demand asymmetric decentralization as other places that have granted this decentralization right. The purpose of this paper is to explore the potential or things that are considered appropriate to be used as reasons why Riau Province has the right to be made special autonomy or asymmetric decentralization because specific areas that are rich in natural resources. This study uses a qualitative approach using a theory-based system where theory functions as a framework for understanding problems critically. The data collection tool used is the document method that the author collects. From the results of the study, it can be concluded that if viewed from the theory of UGM PLOD Research, Riau deserves asymmetric decentralization when viewed from historical and conflict factors, social and cultural factors, potential and economic growth factors, accelerated development factors, and government capacity. This was due to the joining of Siak Indrapura's work through Sultan Syarif Kasim II to the State of Indonesia and the abundant wealth of Riau. Meanwhile, the factors that do not support the above theory are geographical factors due to the separation of the Riau Islands from Riau itself. To support asymmetrical decentralization, quality resources from the people of Riau are needed so that the mentality of corruption can be removed. In addition, of course, the ability of the Riau people's representatives at the center to lobby the government so that asymmetric decentralization can be realized.

Keywords: *Riau, Autonomy, Asymmetric Desentralization.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Indonesia has implemented a decentralization system after the collapse of Suharto's authoritarian regime. Since then, power and authority have shifted significantly from the central government to local governments (Talitha, Firman, and Hudalah 2020). Since Law Number 22 of 1999 was enacted, Law Number 32 of 2004, and later revised into Law Number 23 of 2014 concerning Regional Government (Ningrat, Buana, and Rudianto 2021), the regions have been given the freedom to manage and regulate the affairs of their respective regional governments (Moonti 2019), regional autonomy policies can provide very broad autonomy to regions (Guritno, Samudro, and Soesilo 2019). The purpose of regional autonomy is to determine how much authority the regions have in initiating skills, practicing them, and mobilizing resources for implementation. Regions will use their creativity and strength to generate benefits and incentives for regional economic activity and growth (Fauzi 2019). It can be concluded that regional autonomy is the power given by the central government to autonomous regions to manage certain government affairs, which are classified as regional household affairs based on laws and regulations. (Sufianto 2020).

One form of regional autonomy is the granting of special autonomy to certain regions, which is called asymmetric decentralization. Asymmetric decentralization is a special transfer of authority

that is only given to certain regions within the country, which is then considered an option for solving the problem of the relationship between the central government and regional governments in the context of Indonesia in order to maintain the existence of regions within the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia. (Tauda 2018). The implementation of asymmetric decentralization (asymmetric decentralization) is more than just the transfer of power to certain regions in the form of a typical delegation of authority. The Central Government has implemented an asymmetric decentralization and centralization program as part of a plan to gain support and recapture the regions that wish to separate from the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia. (Susila Wibawa 2019). Asymmetrical decentralization is provided in two ways, namely in a soft way and in a hard way. Using the soft method are the regions consisting of the Special Region of Yogyakarta and DKI Jakarta while using the hard method, namely the areas consisting of Aceh and Papua where the two areas have indications of conflict and separatism. (Pratama 2015).

There are several reasons why a region or province in Indonesia has the right to become a special autonomous region or asymmetric decentralization, namely:

1. Jakarta is designated as the Capital City of the Republic of Indonesia based on Presidential Decree No. 02 of 1961. This is because Jakarta is the capital city of the Republic of Indonesia. Therefore it must be given a special position. (Sari 2022).
2. Granting of Special Autonomy (Otsus) for Papua and West Papua regulated in Law no. 21 of 2001, the granting of this special autonomy departs from the facts to dampen various separatist movements and development inequality in various regions in Papua. (Warami 2021).
3. Granting special autonomy to the Special Region of Yogyakarta through Law Number 18 of 1945, granting autonomy because Yogyakarta was a region that was once the Temporary Capital of Indonesia during the independence period and Yogyakarta was an area of the Sultanate or occupation as well as historical aspects (Dwiyanany and Wardhani 2019).
4. Giving the Aceh region the privileges regulated through Law Number 8 of 2001. The cause is because Aceh is known as a separatist movement such as the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) and so on (Suharyo 2018).

Apart from relating to regulations that provide instructions and reasons for granting special autonomy, there are several provinces that have proposed to be approved as special autonomy regions, including Bali, Riau, Tidore, Surakarta, Batam, Parahyangan, East Kalimantan and North Sumatra (jogja.tribunenews). The rejection of the eight Provinces was due to several reasons, one of which was for the good of their respective regions. Riau Province is one of the Provinces that was rejected by the central government when it applied for asymmetric decentralization rights. Riau has the right to demand special autonomy because of its regional wealth in the form of petroleum. (Novianty et al. 2020), dan Riau merupakan Provinsi penyumbang minyak terbesar di Indonesia (Raflah et al. 2016), because in 2021, Riau will be a province that contributes almost 24 percent of crude oil to Indonesia (kompas.com).

The purpose of this paper is to explore the potential or things that are considered appropriate to be used as reasons why Riau Province has the right to be made a special autonomy or asymmetric decentralization because particular areas rich in natural resources, such as Riau, are unable to accommodate the welfare of their people. (M. Habibi and Zuhriyanti 2019). Apart from that, this article will also discuss the obstacles that have become obstacles for Riau to obtain its rights to fight for asymmetric decentralization. Asymmetric decentralization in Indonesia must not



stop at the five provinces mentioned above. If political and government effectiveness and efficiency are considered, asymmetric decentralization becomes a necessary option for many other regions in Indonesia. (Rahmatunnisa, Hindersah, and Achmad 2018).

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Discussion in this literature review, there is some literature the author uses to answer a research concept consisting of the notion of regional autonomy and asymmetric decentralization itself.

2.1 Regional autonomy

Regional autonomy has actually been implemented in many countries other than Indonesia. This regional autonomy is intended to give authority to the regions to manage their own regions because local governments are considered to know and know their respective regions so that they are considered capable of developing their regions through regional autonomy. (Ristanti and Handoyo 2017). The implementation of regional autonomy is in line with the issuance of all regulations, both Law Number 22 of 1999 concerning the Regional Government, then Law Number 32 of 2004 concerning the Regional Government, to Law Number 23 of 2014 concerning the Regional Government. With the enactment of the autonomy law, the authority to administer regional government is wider, real, and more responsible. (Safitri 2016). On the other hand, it is said that regional autonomy is a process of realizing the implementation of decentralization, where decentralization is a follow-up to democratization in Indonesia (Zainul 2019). Therefore the implementation of regional autonomy must be based on the principles of democracy, community participation, equity, and justice, as well as attention to the diversity of each region. (Asnawi, Simamora, and Andrizal 2021).

The definition of regional autonomy is the right and authority of the region to regulate and manage its own government affairs (household) in accordance with the interests of the local community. Therefore, the perspective that forms the basis for the implementation of regional autonomy is 1). Democracy, 2). Government Quality and Efficiency, 3). Encouraging stability and national unity, 4). Progress in regional development (Christia and Ispriyarso 2019). Regional autonomy is the granting of rights to regions to manage their area. Regions have the freedom to take the initiative in administering local government (Darmanto 2016). Regional autonomy can be interpreted as restricted rights, authorities, and obligations to regulate and manage regional households on the initiative or initiative of the region. (Sommaliagustina 2019). The implementation of regional autonomy includes the following matters:

1. The DPRD mostly determines politics and power as the representative of the people
2. Autonomous regional authority is in the hands of the regional head
3. Autonomous regions are given the authority to manage community interests
4. Autonomous regional policies are regulated jointly between the DPRD and the executive government
5. Matters that can regulate are economic, political, social, and cultural aspects, as well as development
6. Authority over resources (human and natural) is determined by the autonomous regions
7. Regional autonomy is inseparable from the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia
8. The smaller the dependence between the center and the autonomous regions
9. Implementation of Education is regulated under one roof management (Rifa'i 2017).

2.2 Asymmetric Decentralization

Decentralization is generally seen as a reference for achieving values in society because decentralization can be applied to lower government units within the framework of a unitary state, where such decentralization can also be followed by deconcentration, devolution, or delegation. (Susanto 2019). Recent research suggests that variations in policy implementation and the extent to which political accountability rests with local governments may account for the unequal consequences of decentralization (Tan and Avshalom-Uster 2021). The implementation of decentralization is adjusted to the regional features that are applied to all regions within a country (Istanti, Febriani, and Ariani 2021).

In the dynamics of implementing decentralization at this time it gave birth to a new color, namely in the form of an asymmetric decentralization policy (Pratama 2015). The direction of the restriction policy that is determined as a special or special area shows the implementation of regional autonomy, indicating a plurality of society based on the interests of the state in the unity of the nation (Alivia 2019). Asymmetric decentralization is the implementation of an asymmetric decentralization policy which is a manifestation of efforts to enforce privileges (Johan 2021). Asymmetrical autonomy, or another name for asymmetrical decentralization, is a special authority granted by the central government to the regions because it has specificities, so this asymmetrical decentralization is often also referred to as autonomy, which is used by countries experiencing conflict or separatism. (Nurfurqon 2020). Asymmetrical decentralization is the achievement of authority and special policies on certain regions in a country, which is considered as an option to solve various problems between the central and regional governments (Anggraeni and Maulana 2019). Asymmetric decentralization differs from the federal form in that parts of a federal state essentially state that they merge into a single state (Ismail and Rusfiana 2020).

The definition of decentralization can be divided into two, namely, symmetric decentralization and asymmetric decentralization. Asymmetric decentralization is a form of decentralization that was developed from the concept of decentralization itself to distinguish it from symmetrical decentralization that has been in effect in various countries. The difference between symmetrical decentralization and asymmetrical decentralization lies in the level of compatibility and generality in the relationship between the levels of state, state, regional government, and the political system, with the central government system as well as between countries, states, and regions. (Hayati et al. 2019). However a review of the literature on the decentralization of many countries leads to the conclusion that asymmetric decentralization is more effective than symmetric decentralization (Madubun et al., 2017). To understand asymmetric decentralization, it is necessary to pay attention to the three dimensions of asymmetric decentralization. Asymmetric decentralization occurs because there are differences in the amount of autonomy and division of powers among local governments. This can arise for political reasons to defuse tensions. (Lele 2019), or economic/fiscal reasons (Li 2020), or reasons of administrative asymmetry (Cahyaningsih and Fitriady 2019). The purpose of carrying out asymmetric decentralization is to realize the authority of the division of powers so that each region has the opportunity to develop existing potential and carry out government independently and is able to realize social justice and equitable welfare for all Indonesian people. (Imam, Hafis, and Riau 2019). Another goal, namely to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of state administration, can be strengthened by asymmetric decentralization, which does not deviate from the basic principles of decentralization (Susanto 2019).



3. RESEARCH METHODS

The author uses a qualitative approach method which is considered suitable as an approach to obtain relevant data and information. In addition, this study uses a theory-based approach in which theory functions as a framework for understanding problems critically. The data collection tool used is the document method which the author collects from various literature such as journal articles, papers, research reports, regulations, web pages, and newspapers.

4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In this discussion, the author compares with the writings expressed by PLOD UGM Research, where in the research, it is said that the asymmetrical decentralization practiced in Indonesia can be defined into five models, namely: first, an asymmetrical model based on regional peculiarities due to political factors and historical conflicts, regional these are Aceh and Papua. Second, the asymmetrical model is based on the uniqueness of the socio-cultural-based area, and this area is the Special Region of Yogyakarta. Third, the asymmetrical model is based on geographical-strategic specificities of the area, namely specifically related to the area as a border area where the regions that represent this are West Kalimantan, Papua, and the Riau Archipelago. Fourth, an asymmetrical model based on regional characteristics based on potential and economic growth where the regions that represent this are Papua, Aceh, West Kalimantan, Batam, and Jakarta. Fifth, regional characteristics are based on the level of accelerated development and governance capacity where the region that represents this model is Papua. (Fatmawati 2018), (Tauda 2018), (Istanti, Febriani, and Ariani 2021), (Umasangaji, Mufti, and Umra 2020).

4.1 Political Factors and Conflict History

In the last few decades, to be precise, in 1956, the Riau Congress I emerged, which gave birth to the struggle to separate from the Province of Central Sumatra, which consisted of West Sumatra, Riau, Riau Islands, and Jambi. From this struggle, a sovereign province emerged, namely the Riau Province. (Wati and Samry 2020). Then on February 1, 2000, the Second Riau Congress gave birth to three options, namely Riau Merdeka, Special Autonomy, or a Federated State. (Marianto 2017).

In addition to the political problems above, long before this had happened where, during the New Order era led by the Second President, namely Mr. Suharto, who implemented a centralized government. Everything is completely centralized, be it development, economy, or even regional head elections. For the determination of the regional head, precisely on September 2, 1985, Ismail Suko was elected as the first Governor of Riau by the Riau DPRD. The election of Ismail Suko as a native of the Riau region outperformed the champion from the central government, namely Maj. Gen. Imam Munandar. However, Ismail Suko victory was not approved by the central government, which at that time was led by President Soeharto, and instead continued to appoint TNI Maj. Gen. Imam Munandar as Governor of Riau. (Wati and Samry 2020).

From the two political situations above, it is clear that Riau's demands for independence, special autonomy, and a federated state have long been echoed, did this because of the injustice of the central government towards Riau itself. However, the people of Riau are reluctant to do this because they still respect the sovereignty of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia, as has been stated by previous people because the people of Riau are people who were not born as traitorous people, Riau culture is friendship, brotherhood, simplicity, and loyalty. However, it needs to be underlined that Riau has never put up a fight by taking up arms as was done by Aceh

and Papua because the people of Riau are known for being wise and upholding the friendly Malay tribe. Apart from that, the movement for the independence of Riau that is being echoed is a movement that is full of peace without having to shed blood. Therefore, this matter needs to be appreciated by the central government so that what Riau demands is immediately accommodated.

4.2 Socio-Cultural Factors

History reveals that the province of Riau declared joining the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia on November 28, 1945. Previously, Riau consisted of several jobs; one of the significant jobs of Bumi Melayu Riau was the Siak Indrapura Work led by Sultan Syarif Kasim II. Apart from leaving his position as a Sultan/King, he also handed over the Siak Kingdom to merge into the State of Indonesia. The Siak Palace, where he lived, was used as the headquarters for the struggle of the Indonesian army (Wahyuni, Agustono, and Warjio 2020). Sultan Syarif Kasim also donated all of his wealth to the State of 13 Million Gulden at that time which is now equivalent to IDR 1.47 Trillion Rupiah (Meiselina et al. 2019), When compared with one of the special regions or special autonomous regions, namely Yogyakarta, which at that time only contributed 6 million Gulden through Sultan Hamengku Buono IX (Iswantoro 2020). However, it cannot be denied that Yogyakarta is the pre-eminent area because it is located on the island of Java and the Government of the National Capital City was temporarily located in the Province of Yogyakarta (Yahya 2018).

Siak Indra Pura, which was last led by Sultan Syarif Kasim II, was a kingdom built by Raja Kecik who came from Johor, Raja Kecik whose real name was Sultan Abdul Jalil where he was the successor to the Sultanate of Malacca in 1723 (Khairiah 2011). Based on this history, Indonesia and Malaysia come from the same family, namely the Malay family, where Malaysia and Indonesia are allied nations because they both share history and similarities. (Zed 2015). It is not impossible because of Malay ethnic ties, namely originating from Johor (Malaysia), there are several claims that Riau and the Riau Archipelago are part of Malaysia, such as the claim made by the former Prime Minister of Malaysia, Mahathir Muhammad (tempo.com). In fact, there are many Malaysian claims to one of the islands in the Riau Archipelago (formerly Riau), namely Natuna Island, which is rich in marine resources. However, Malaysia's claim never really became a hot issue, which led to a conflict over territory between Indonesia and Malaysia. (Setiawan 2019).

From the historical facts above, if indeed socio-cultural factors form the basis for a region or province to be given special autonomy rights in an asymmetrical decentralization, then there is no reason for Riau to be rejected how history tells that Sultan Syarif Kasim II was willing to leave his position as a King for the sake of a sovereign Indonesian State and free from Dutch colonialism.

4.3 Geographical-Strategic Factors

The issuance of Law Number 22 of 1999 concerning Regional Government gave effect to Riau Province. To be precise, on September 24, 2022, the Riau Archipelago Province separated or split from the Riau Province. After so long joining the Riau province, the Riau Archipelago decided to expand its territory by separating from the Riau Province. (Purwati 2020).

There are several reasons why an area splits itself from its main area, including:

1. Reasons for providing services to the community. At the time when it was still part of the Riau Province, it was very difficult for the Riau Islands to carry out provincial services because the distance between the Riau Islands and Riau Province was very far, and it took a lot of time and money to reach the provincial capital at that time.



2. Historical Reasons. This historical factor is not a reason for division because history says that Riau and the Riau Archipelago were both colonized by the Dutch and Japanese and were both in the same occupation, namely the Nusantara occupation (Malay occupation).
3. Cultural reasons (cultural/ethnic). It is undeniable that Riau and the Riau Archipelago are both inhabited by ethnic Malays.
4. Economic reasons. It is undeniable that Riau and the Riau Archipelago both have abundant natural resource wealth from agricultural products, be it from oil and gas, agriculture, forestry, and marine products.
5. Budget reasons. As is known, regions that are divided will receive a budget from the central government to manage their administration.
6. Reason for Justice. This is in line with the reasons for the budget earlier. It could be that so far, the administration carried out by the Riau Province has been unfair in managing its regional finances (Sutojo 2015).

The Riau Archipelago is a coastal area that is rich in natural resources. Marine and fisheries resources owned by the Riau Islands Province can be great potential to be the main driver of natural resource-based economic development..(Rahmatunnisa, Hindersah, and Achmad 2018). This province has a strategic geographical position because it is located at the entrance to the Malacca Strait (Malaysia) from the east and the State of Singapore. The Riau Archipelago also has and is supported by potential national marine resources so that it becomes a center of economic growth for Indonesia in the future. (Mirza, Angraini, and Soetijono 2017).

From the several reasons above, the authors can conclude that if Riau Islands does not separate from Riau Province, then obtaining asymmetric decentralization will be even stronger because one of the factors that are strong reasons for obtaining special autonomy is geographical-strategic factors because the area has borders with other countries. Special attention must be paid so that it is not easy for it to separate itself from its parent country and even join with other countries. This special attention can be implemented by giving special autonomy to the blood of the border. However, this has become difficult to materialize because, at this time, the Province of Riau was separated from the Riau Archipelago due to the issuance of the Law on regional government above.

4.4 Potential Factors and Economic Growth

Riau Province is an area rich in agricultural products both from mining and plantation and forestry products (Saparman, Syapsan 2022). One of the main factors of Riau Province's natural resources is gas and oil. There are several oil and gas blocks found in the Riau region, including Mina's block, Siak block, Duri block, and Rokan block (Sayuti et al. 2018). As quoted from Antara.com, until June 2022, oil production reached 616.6 thousand barrels per day, or 88 percent of the state budget target. Furthermore, Riau is the second largest oil well producer after the oil well in Cepu, East Java. The following is a picture of a crude oil-producing well:

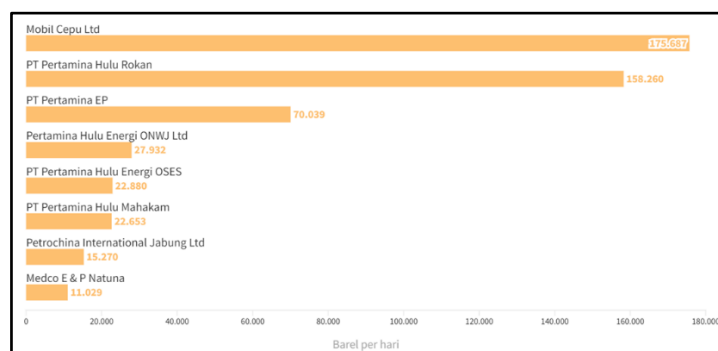


Figure 1 Crude Oil Producer in Indonesia
Source: SKK Migas

From the picture above, it can be explained that Riau has several wells where one of the oil wells occupies the number two position after the Cepu block or Mobil Cepu Ltd. But in Riau, only one well is shown in the picture above, and there are many more wells, as the author has explained in the previous paragraph.

Based on sources cited by the authors from chanel.com and tugu.com, in 2022, the most oil-producing regions in Indonesia will consist of:

Table 1 Oil Producing Regions in Indonesia

Number	Province	Barrel/Day	Owner
1	Riau	365.827	Chevron, Petroselat, Bumi Siak Pusako, Pertamina, Kondur Petroleum dan Pembangunan Riau
2	East Java	305.000	Pertamina, Hess, Petrochina, Kodeco Energy, Kangean Energy, dan Total
3	East Kalimantan	260.000	Pertamina
4	Java Sea	65.000	PT. SPHC
5	Riau islands	65.000	Pertamina
6	South Sumatra	30.718	Pertamina, Medco, Talisman, dan Golden Spike
7	West Papua	14.811	Pertamina, Petrochina dan Petroleum

Source: chanel.com and tugu.com

From the table above, it is clear that Riau's contribution to the center is very large from oil and gas sources. Still, the division from the central government to Riau for development costs for the Riau region is minimal. Based on data from databoks.co.id quoted from data from the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Indonesia, the oil revenue sharing fund (DBH) transferred by the central government to Riau Province is Rp. 1.08 trillion or equivalent to 37.71% of the total DBH to Provincial Governments in 2022 (databoks.co.id). However, for 2023 the DBH from petroleum products has decreased to Rp. 613 billion due to ratifying the 2023 State Revenue and Expenditure Budget Law (raiupos.com).

The author considers that the profit-sharing funds are not balanced because the poverty rate in Riau is still relatively high compared to the results obtained by Riau for donating to the central government. Based on data that the authors obtained from the Central Statistics Agency, in the last three years, the number of poor people in Riau Province has not been resolved. For example, in



2020, the number of poor people in Riau will be 483,390 people. In 2021 there will be 500,8100 people, and in 2022 there will be 485,030 people (Riau.bps.go.id). However, this condition does not necessarily define all the areas in Riau Province, which consist of 12 regencies and cities, because several areas are still not covered by the government due to insufficient data management. (Nengsih 2017).

4.5 Development Acceleration Factors and Governability Capacity

Indonesia is a developing country and really needs development in all fields, physical development, economic development, education, health, agriculture, and so on, where the aim of this development is to prosper the people. (Herman and Rosmita 2020). The Riau Provincial Government is currently committed to carrying out a development agenda by involving all actors to jointly eradicate poverty, maintain economic stability, and maintain environmental sustainability, all of which are realized by supporting sustainable development goals (SDGs).(Handrian and Andry 2020).

At present the main priority of Indonesia's national or state development still relies on physical development, defeating other fields that have meaning and are strategic in improving the life of the Indonesian state (Prihastuti 2018). From the above, it can be explained that Indonesia, which is a developing country, still needs development in all fields. However, to carry out the development, of course, requires a lot of money, which comes from transfers from the central government. Transfer funds or balancing funds are a source of regional income originating from the State Revenue and Expenditure Budget (APBN) to support the implementation of regional government authority in achieving the goal of granting autonomy to the regions. (Elim, Inggriani dan Mamuka 2014).

As an area rich in oil and natural gas and contributes almost 24% to the country (migas.esdm.go.id), it is only right for Riau to get the appropriate amount of transfers for development in the region. Based on the data the author obtained from the Central Statistics Agency (bps.go.id), Profit Sharing Funds, General Allocation Funds, and Special Allocation Funds transferred by the central government to the Regions, especially Sumatra Island in 2021-2022, can be seen in the table below:

Table captions are placed above the table. The title of the table is written in the middle of the space 1. The table should not be an image. An example can be seen in Table 1. If after the illustration is continued with the writing of the next section, then the distance is 2 spaces.

Table 2 Transfer Fund on Sumatra Island

No	Provincial Regional Name	Profit Sharing Funds	The Amount of General Allocation Fund	Total Special Allocation Funds	Amount
1	Aceh Province	162.572.926	2.010.367.360	1.777.891.260	3.950.831.546
2	North Sumatra	449.398.195	2.545.202.693	4.449.135.664	7.443.736.552
3	West Sumatra	127.202.047	1.949.470.283	2.023.529.811	4.100.202.141
4	Riau	1.205.183.684	1.503.538.311	2.080.321.584	4.789.043.579
5	Jambi	277.341.310	1.327.397.167	1.130.374.763	2.735.113.240
6	South Sumatra	1.191.372.209	1.614.757.701	2.302.225.260	5.108.355.170

No	Provincial Regional Name	Profit Sharing Funds	The Amount of General Allocation Fund	Total Special Allocation Funds	Amount
7	Bengkulu	61.617.044	1.253.924.758	778.139.075	2.032.063.833
8	Lampung	135.366.665	1.783.414.286	2.276.873.176	4.195.654.127
9	Riau islands	238.251.189	1.129.091.346	843.892.741	2.211.235.276
10	Bangka Belitung	152.890.551	970.363.972	554.344.695	1.667.599.218

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics

From the table above it is clear that as a whole the Province of North Sumatra is in the first rank, but in terms of wealth the Province of Aceh is in the first place because Aceh is one of the five Provinces that has received special autonomy with a total special autonomy fund of Rp. 7,805,827,805 which is then added to the total transfer funds from the center of Rp. 3,950,831,546 then it becomes Rp. 11,756,659,351. This feels unfair because Aceh has received asymmetrical decentralization rights due to conflict and separatist movements. The question that arises is whether Riau should do this so that the demand for asymmetric decentralization can be granted by the central government after the results of Riau's wealth from oil and gas have been extracted by the central government.

Obstacles in Realizing Asymmetric Decentralization

Riau Province is one of the eight Provinces whose demands for asymmetric decentralization were annulled by the central government, as the author has explained above. According to the author's observations there are several things that cause obstacles in the implementation of special autonomy or asymmetric decentralization in Riau Province. The first is the human resource constraint, where Riau is one of the most corrupt regions in Indonesia, with cases of three governors caught in corruption. The first governor was Saleh Djasit, who led Riau for the 1998-2003 period in the case of procuring fire trucks. Then Rusli Zainal led Riau from 2003-2013 with the XVIII Riau Sports Week (PON) corruption case in 2012. And the last one was Anas Maamun for the 19 February-25 September 2014 period (7 months), who stumbled on a bribery corruption case (Yesicha 2016). From this, it is feared that the special autonomy given is only to provide opportunities for corruption, as happened in Papua. (Imam, Hafis, and Riau 2019). The second is the need for more lobbying by regional representatives from Riau against the central government, so the struggle for asymmetric decentralization rights does not receive support from people's representatives, and only a few community leaders are fighting to demand asymmetric decentralization.

5. CONCLUSION

Asymmetrical decentralization in Riau Province can be realized if there is concern and attention from the central government towards Riau due to the wealth factor from oil and natural gas, which contributes 24% to Indonesia. Asymmetric decentralization must also have the support of Riau representatives at the center so that the struggle is not just from a handful of community leaders. Apart from that, the historical factor of Riau must also be remembered because of the battle of Sultan Syarif Kasim II, who was willing to leave his position as a Sultan to claim the Republic of Indonesia.



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