



## Regional Boundary Conflict of Malaka Regency Versus South Central Timor (TTS) Regency in Lotas Segment

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### Abstract:

**Purpose:** This study discusses the territorial boundary conflict between Malaka Regency and South Central Timor Regency.

**Research Methodology:** This study uses a qualitative method with a case study approach. The dominant forms of analysis carried out in case study research are pattern matching, making explanations and time series analysis.

**Results:** The Boundary Conflict of Malaka Regency and South Central Timor Regency in the Lotas Segment was driven by three factors, namely communication, structure, and personal interests. This conflict causes delays in public services, the dissolution of group unity and damages the relationship and communication between the parties involved in the conflict.

**Limitations:** The limitation of this study is the lack of historical investigation of boundary conflicts between the two conflicting areas.

**Contribution:** This research provides a solution for the relevant local governments to negotiate and mediate so that the conflict does not prolong.

**Keywords:** Conflict, Autonomy and Territorial Boundaries.

### 1. Introduction

Territory is one of the vital elements in the formation of a country. In relation to territorial control, it is not uncommon for regional boundary issues to occur between regencies within a province. The problem of regional boundaries is a problem that occurs because of the unclear boundaries of the autonomous region between the two boundary areas. This is based on Law Number 23 of 2014 concerning Regional Government, which is the pillar of Regional Autonomy.

However, the determination of physical and definite regional boundaries in the field is not an easy matter, even though the administration of regional government has been running and developing since the birth of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia (NKRI) and juridical boundaries have been established by the Law on the establishment of the region itself often causes problems between the regions concerned because each party does not easily agree on the location of the boundary points.

The issue of boundaries between districts also occurs in the Malaka and South Central Timor districts. This territorial boundary issue is a hereditary issue since the Malaka Regency was still part of the Belu District.

Malaka Regency is an expansion district of Belu Regency, which was formed by Law Number 3 of 2013 concerning the Establishment of Malaka Regency in East Nusa Tenggara Province. With the blooming of Malaka Regency, the issue of territorial boundaries that used to be between Belu Regency and South Central Timor Regency, automatically turned into a boundary issue between Malaka Regency and South Central Timor Regency, because the disputed area is exactly at the administrative boundary point between the two Regencies.

The territorial boundary issue that occurs between Malaka Regency and South Central Timor Regency (TTS) in the Lotas segment, occurs in the western part of Malaka Regency, precisely between the Muke Village, Lotas Malaka Village and Naiusu Village, Rinhat District, Malaka Regency with the Obaki Village area, Benahe Village and Lotas Village TTS Kokbaun District, South Central Timor Regency. This territorial boundary issue is a legacy issue from the Belu Regency, long before the Malaka Regency was formed.

In Law Number 3 of 2013 concerning the Establishment of Malaka Regency in East Nusa Tenggara Province, Part Three concerning Regional Boundaries, Article 5 paragraph (1) states that Malaka Regency has clear territorial boundaries as follows:

a. The northern part is bordered by Lawalutulus Village and Nanaenoe Village, Nanaet Duabesi District; Faturika Village, Renrua Village, Teun Village, Mandeu Raimanus Village, and Tasain Village, Raimanuk District, Belu Regency (the northern border area is not problematic).

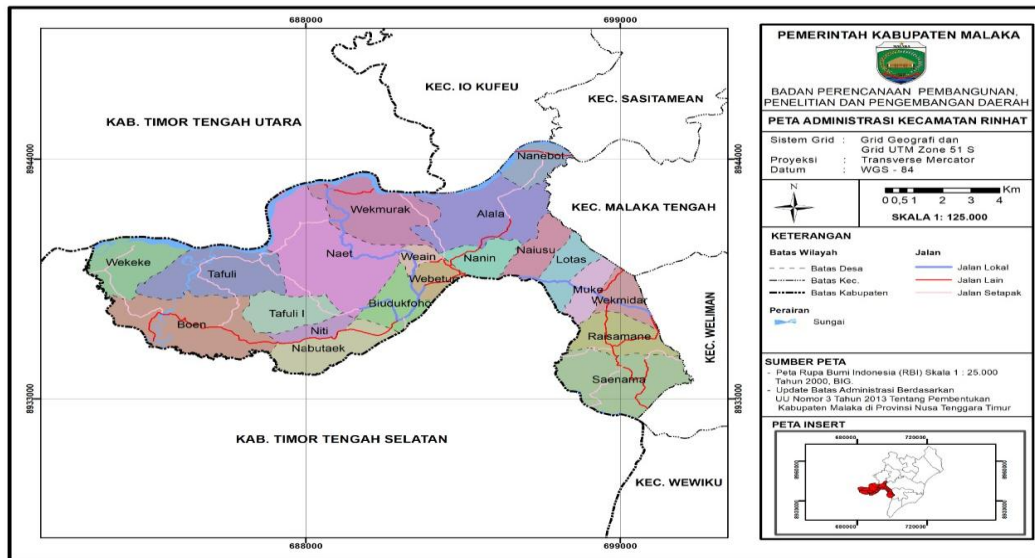
b. The eastern part is bordered by the Democratic Republic of Timor Leste (the eastern border area is not problematic).

c. The southern part is bordered by the Timor Sea (the southern border area is not problematic).

d. The western part is bordered by East Teba Village, Oerinbesi Village, Oekopa Village, and Teba Village, Biboki Tan Pah District; Nansean Village, Susulaku B Village, Loeram Village, Oenbit Village, and Ainiut Village, Insana Subdistrict; South Maurisu Village, South Bikomi District, North Central Timor (TTU) Regency, (the western border area bordering TTU Regency had problems regarding the placement of the coordinates of the regional boundaries, but it was resolved in 2018 with the intervention of the NTT Provincial Government and the Central Government, so it's not a problem at the moment);

e. Koloto Village, Lotas Village, Benahe Village, Obaki Village, Sapnala Village, and Niti Village, Kokbaun District; Besnam Village and Nunfutu Village, Fatukopa District; Buttocks Village, Tuataum Village, Toianas Village, Skinu Village, and Lobus Village Toianas District; Meusin Village, Boking District, South Central Timor (TTS) District, (the western border area bordering the TTS Regency is still problematic, especially in the area boundaries that intersect directly in Lotas Village, TTS Village, Benahe Village and Obaki Village, Kokbaun District, TTS Regency with the Village Lotas Malaka, Muke Village and Nai Usu Village, Rinhat District, Malaka Regency, for more details, see the map of Rinhat District, Malaka Regency, below).

**Picture 1**  
**Map of Rinhat District, Malaka Regency**



Based on the map above, it can be seen that Muke Village, Lotas Malaka Village and Naiusu Village, Rinhat District, Malaka Regency, are directly adjacent to South Central Timor Regency, Kokbaun District in Lotas Village TTS, Obaki Village and Benahe Village and until now the division of the boundary area administrative divisions between these regencies, often lead to frictions of interest between community members in the border areas between these regencies.

Public understanding is also still minimal regarding the control of individual land assets. If the community is a resident of the Malaka Regency, he assumes that all of his land assets must also be included in the Malaka Regency area, even though according to the administrative map the boundaries between the regencies are located in the South Central Timor Regency area. Vice versa, if the community is a citizen of South Central Timor, he assumes that all of his land assets must also be included in the territory of the South Central Timor Regency, even though according to the administrative map of the boundaries between districts there is land in the Malaka District.

This is an irony where the Malaka Regency was inaugurated on April 22, 2013 but until now, in 2021, 7 (seven) years, 10 (ten) months, after the inauguration of the Malaka Regency, the Minister of Home Affairs Regulation concerning the determination of the boundaries of the Malaka Regency definitely in the field, has not been established. In other words, the determination of the boundaries of the Malaka Regency area has not yet been established and has not been official until now, because there has been no stipulation of the Minister of Home Affairs Regulation.

Though the agreement was made as a determined way to regulate their relationship (Chirozva and Damba, 2021), the blurring of regional boundaries can cause a wider negative impact than just the potential for conflict between regions because of the strategic and economic potential of a part of the region, such as the impact on social life and the implementation of government administration, and can even have a political impact, especially in border areas. Therefore, in the implementation of government administration, the affirmation of regional boundaries is important to implement.

However, the determination of regional boundaries physically and definitely in the field is not an easy matter even though the administration of regional government has been running and developing since the birth of the Republic of Indonesia and juridical boundaries have been determined by the law for the formation of each region. In fact, determining the physical boundary points by referring to the

law on the formation of the region itself often creates problems between the regions concerned because each party does not easily agree on the physical boundaries that are determined.

The things mentioned above are interesting for the author to research further regarding the border conflict between Malaka Regency and South Central Timor (TTS) in the Lotas segment (Lotas Malaka Village, Muke Village and Naiusu Village, Rinhat District, Malaka Regency with Lotas Village TTS, Obaki Village and Benahe Village, Kokbaun District, TTS Regency) which have not been resolved until now.

## 2. Literature Review

### 2.1 Conflict

Etymologically, conflict comes from the Latin configure which means hitting each other. According to Antonius (2002) conflict is an action of one party that has the effect of blocking, inhibiting, or disturbing other parties where this can occur between groups in society or in interpersonal relationships of each individual. This is in line with the opinion of Deutsch, a figure who studies the field of conflict resolution (in Maftuh, 2005) which states that in conflict, social interaction between individuals or groups is more influenced by differences than by similarities, therefore resulting in a clash due to the existence of inconsistent things conflict. Meanwhile, according to Scannell (2010) conflict is a natural and normal thing that arises due to differences in the perception of each goal or value in a group of individuals and is common in social life.

Webster in (Pruitt & Jeffery, 2009) asserts that the term "conflict" according to the original language means a fight, war, or struggle. Conflict is a perception or point of view regarding a perceived divergence of interest, or a belief and belief that the aspirations of the conflicting parties cannot be achieved simultaneously because of differences. According to Watkins cited by (Chandra, 1992), conflict occurs if there is two parties whom potentially and practically / operationally hinder each other's interests. Potentially, it means that one party or both parties have the ability to hinder. Practically / operationally, it means that the inhibiting ability can be realized and is in a state that allows its realization to be easily carried out.

Conflict is an intrinsic and unavoidable aspect of social change in people's lives. Conflict is an expression of heterogeneity of interests, values, and beliefs that emerge as new formations brought about by social changes that appear contrary to barriers inherited by previous or previous societies (Miall, 2002). According to Pruitt & Jeffery (2009) conflict is a perception of a perceived divergence of interest, or a belief, which assumes that the aspirations of the conflicting parties cannot find a common ground that is in line. The interest in question is how people feel about what they really want in life, where these feelings tend to be central in people's thoughts and actions that form the core of many attitudes and their goals and intentions.

Ritzer (2005) states that conflict theory is actually still in the same paradigm as structural functional theory, but both have different points of view. Structural functional theory assesses conflict as a functional thing. Meanwhile, conflict theory highlights social facts in the form of authority and position, which are the sources of conflict in social life. These differences in turn can trigger conflicts in society.

Based on the various definitions of conflict that have been conveyed by the experts above, the authors can conclude that the definition of conflict in this case is a dispute that occurs either between individuals and other individuals, groups with other groups or between individuals and groups for several reasons and disputes shows that there are differences between two or more individuals that are expressed, remembered, and experienced in the form of disputes, tensions or the emergence of other

difficulties between two or more parties and to the stage where the parties involved view each other as barriers and obstacles to the achievement of the needs and goals of each party (Razimi, 2018).

Francis (2006) says that there are three things that cause conflict, including the following:

- a. Communication, sometimes what is conveyed by the informant can be perceived differently by the recipient of the information (miscommunication), misinterpreting a sentence, inappropriate language and delivery can lead to different perceptions
- b. Structure, power struggles between conflicting stakeholders or systems, competition for limited resources, or the interdependence of two or more groups of work activities to achieve their different goals
- c. Personal, perceptions of each individual are different and have different interests as well as changes in perceptual values following the times

The impact of the conflict is as follows:

- a. The dissolution of the group unit. If the conflict is not successfully resolved in a good way and eventually leads to violence, it is certain that the unity of the group experiencing conflict will experience setbacks and even destruction.
- b. There is a change in the individual's personality. That is, in a group experiencing conflict, an individual or group of people who originally had a quiet, patient personality may turn violent, aggressive and irritable, especially if the conflict leads to violence because it is carried away by emotions. This is because of the emergence of trauma and anger in someone who experiences conflict (Setiadi & Kolip, 2011).
- c. The fading of existing social values and norms. Between values and social norms with conflict there is a correlational or interconnected relationship, meaning that the occurrence of conflict can have an impact on the destruction of social values and norms that have been built and live in society, this is caused by the disobedience of community members as a result of the conflict. Then the occurrence of impartial law so that norms are considered ineffective and many community members do not comply (Suyanto & Narwoko, 2005).
- d. Damaging the relationship and communication between the parties to the conflict. Conflict, especially destructive conflict, reduces the quality and intensity of the relationship between the parties involved in the conflict. Conflict can cause feelings of displeasure, anger and hatred towards the opponent of the conflict. Even the fatal consequences can lead to violence. This situation undermines the relationship between the parties to the conflict and the communication between them. If before the conflict the relationship is harmonious, then after the conflict there will be tension and hostility.
- e. Reducing the quality of decision making. Constructive or healthy conflict assists in decision making by providing necessary alternatives. Discussions about differences of opinion, arguments, and conflicts of thought are alternative sources needed in decision making. However, if the conflict develops into a destructive and unhealthy conflict, it will result in a deadlock in the discussion and lead to mutual distrust. Situations like this will result in poor quality decision making due to haste and under pressure and anger.
- f. Negative attitudes and behavior in a conflict will eliminate mutual trust between the two or more parties involved in the conflict. Usually, after a conflict there will be a feeling of distrust of the opponent's conflict and there will always be bad prejudice.

Furthermore, Mitchell in (Ginting, 2013) suggests that to overcome a conflict through alternative conflict resolution can be done through four efforts, namely:

- a. Public consultation to share information with each other, express the views of each conflicting party, so that the settlement can take place efficiently and fairly. Everything is done to ensure that all parties get the same satisfaction in resolving conflicts (Adenuga, 2022).
- b. Negotiation involves a situation in which two or more groups meet voluntarily in an effort to find issues that cause conflict between them, to reach an agreement that is acceptable to all parties.
- c. Mediation with the characteristics of negotiation, which is coupled with the involvement of a neutral third party
- d. Arbitration, where a third party is involved in the settlement and acts as an arbitrator who has the authority to make binding or non-binding decisions on the disputing parties (Xu et al, 2018).

If the decision is binding, then the disputing parties must implement the decision taken by the arbitrator, especially in matters of conflict in the affirmation of regional boundaries between Rinhat District, Malaka Regency and Kokbaun District, South Central Timor Regency.

## 2.2 Local Government

The government is the most general member unit that has certain responsibilities to maintain the system that covers it and a practical monopoly concerning its coercive power (Syafie, 2010) while the Regional Government is the administration of government affairs by the Regional Government and the Regional People's Representative Council according to the principle of autonomy and co-administration with the principle of the widest possible autonomy in the system and principles of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia as referred to in the Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia (Ilmar, 2012).

The establishment of Regional Government in accordance with the mandate of Article 18 of the Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia has given birth to various products of laws and other laws governing regional government, including Law Number 1 of 1945, Law Number 22 of 1948, Law Number 1 of 1957, Law Number 18 of 1965, Law Number 5 of 1974, Law Number 32 of 2004, and finally Law Number 23 of 2014 concerning Regional Government. Substantially, the Law regulates the form of the organizational structure of Regional Government (Sunarno, 2016).

Based on Article 18 Paragraph (1) of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia is divided into provinces and provinces are divided into districts and cities. Provinces, districts and cities have local governments, which are regulated by Law no. 23 of 2014 concerning Regional Government.

Then in Article 1 Number 2 of Law Number 23 of 2014 concerning Regional Government, it is stated that regional government is the administration of government affairs by the Regional Government and the Regional People's Representative Council according to the principle of autonomy as wide as possible in the system and principles of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia as referred to in 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia.

## 2.3 Autonomous Region

An Autonomous Region is a legal community unit that has territorial boundaries, which is authorized to regulate and manage government affairs and the interests of the local community according to their own initiative, based on the aspirations of the people in the Unitary State System of the Republic of Indonesia (Sunarno, 2006).

In an autonomous region there are the following elements:

- a. The element of territorial boundaries as a legal community unit, the boundaries of an area are very decisive for legal certainty for the government and its people in carrying out legal

interactions. On the other hand, territorial boundaries are very important if there is a legal dispute concerning border areas between regions.

b. The government element of the existence of government in the region, is based on the legitimacy of the Act that gives the authority to the Regional Government to carry out government affairs which are authorized to regulate based on their own creativity

c. The community element, the community as an element of regional government is a legal community unit, both *gemeinschaft* and *gesselschaft* clearly have traditions, habits, and customs that also color the regional government system, ranging from forms, ways of thinking, acting and certain habits in people's lives.

## 2.4 Borderline

The definition of a border in general is a demarcation line between two sovereign regions. At first the border of a region was formed with the birth of the state (Hadiwijoyo, 2011). The National Mapping and Survey Coordinate Agency of the Ministry of Home Affairs has defined regional boundaries, namely: "the separation between one region and another, where within the scope of regional boundaries the implementation of the authority of each region is carried out". (Ministry of Home Affairs, 2006). This means that the authority of a region basically should not be carried out beyond the regional boundaries stipulated in the legislation.

Furthermore, the area aspect becomes very important because the territory of an area reflects the extent to which the regional authority can be implemented. According to the aspect that can show the ability to implement regional autonomy because from the region it can generate regional taxes and levies, and also share the results of national resources. Even the area is a variable in determining the weights that affect the amount of general allocation funds received by the regions (Tarasari, et al, 2021)

Thus the determination and control of regional boundaries is useful to support the implementation of Law Number 23 of 2014 concerning Regional Government, in the context of improving the order and responsibility for the implementation of government functions that require regional border capacity in the implementation of the real implementation of regional authority in the field (Directorate of Borders, 2002).

Therefore, regional boundaries have an important and strategic meaning when compared to the previous era. However, in reality, the strategic and importance of regional boundaries has not been balanced with the clarity of boundaries between regions so that in the end, it creates problems that can lead to conflicts between regions such as conflicts in the affirmation of regional boundaries between Rinhat District, Malaka Regency and Kokbaun District, South Central Timor Regency.

Regional boundaries are also regulated in the Regulation of the Minister of Home Affairs Number 76 of 2012 concerning Guidelines for Affirmation of Regional Boundaries and Minister of Home Affairs Regulation Number 27 of 2006 concerning the Determination and Affirmation of Village Boundaries which explains that the Village is a legal community unit that has boundaries area that is authorized to regulate and manage the interests of the local community, based on origins and customs that are recognized and respected in the system of government of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia.

## 3. Research Methodology

This study uses a qualitative method with a case study approach. The location of the research was carried out in the location of the border conflict that occurred between Malaka Regency and South Central Timor Regency (TTS) in the Lotas segment, namely:

- a. The western boundary area of Malaka Regency, precisely between Muke Village, Lotas Malaka Village and Naiusu Village, Rinhat District, Malaka Regency with
- b. The TTS Regency area is in Obaki Village, Benahe Village and Lotas Village, Kokbaun District, South Central Timor Regency.

Informants in this study were determined purposively in order to find informants who really understand the research. The data used in this study consisted of primary data and secondary data. In qualitative research with the case study tradition, there are a number of techniques for collecting data, including literature studies and field studies. The dominant forms of analysis carried out in case study research are (Yin, 2009); pattern matching, explanation generation and time series analysis.

#### 4. Results and Discussions

##### 4.1 Factors Causing The Boundary Conflict of Malaka and South Central Timor (TTS) Districts in the Lotas segment Segmen

The area that is still in dispute in the Lotas Segment, in the demarcation of the boundaries of Malaka Regency and TTS Regency, covers an area of  $\pm 24.3$  Km<sup>2</sup>. The area is in the form of agricultural areas, plantations and residential and office areas.

**Picture 2**  
**Conflict Area Map in Lotas Segment**



As an illustration of the conflict area based on the picture above, it is known that the shaded area at the top is the area of Lotas Malaka Village, Muke Village and Naiusu Village, Rinhat District, Malaka Regency, while the shaded area at the bottom is a picture of Lotas Village TTS, O'baki Village and Benahe Village, Kokbaun District, TTS Regency.

According to historical records, the shading area of the Lotas Segment is being contested by the two regencies and until now the determination of the boundaries of the Malaka Regency and the TTS Regency is definite and official with an official agreement approved by the Malaka Regency Government and the TTS Regency Government regarding the determination of territorial boundaries in the Lotas and TTS Segments based on historical records and empirical findings in the field, to find out the factors causing the conflict between the Malaka and South Central Timor (TTS) districts in the Lotas Segment, the author uses the opinion of Francis (2006) which states that there are three causes of conflict, including the following:

##### a. Communication



The determination of the Territorial Boundary Between TTS Regency and Belu Regency is marked with Pal Batu, which was made by the Dutch and understood well, so that the people of the Kingdom of Amanatun and Malaka obeyed these boundary points.

However, there was a miscommunication in 1929 where the public did not understand the boundary points, instead the public understood and submitted to the boundary points according to the 1917 boundary. All community activities were still carried out based on these points and genealogical relationships. People only know that the actual boundary points are in accordance with Pillars I–II–III–Motadelek–Has Marak

On September 16, 1952 with a statement letter from 4 Temukung and 3 Fukun, which stated that Temukung Lotas, Temukung Muke, Temukung Obaki, Temukung Benahe and the Village Heads and the Women's People, Men confessed in front of APPS Malaka, with humbly likes to enter Aanslag, taxes enter the Umalor District, Malaka Belu.

In terms of communication, Swapraja Belu agreed to this, because it was the desire of the community itself, while Swapraja Amanatun did not agree with this and disagreements about the people of Swapraja Amanatun had to submit taxes to Swapraja Belu reported to the Governor of Sunda Kecil in Kupang.

From December 1 to 12, 1956, the Chairperson of the Belu DPS tried to resolve the boundary issue with Soe's DPS but was not attended by Soe's DPS, so a meeting was held with Temukung Besar Lotas, Tonas Talelu, several Small Temukung, Customary Elders and 322 people of Lotas.

There was further communication through the Oelolok Meeting between the PS Head of the Level II Belu Region and the PS Head of the Level II Region TTS on October 19 1959 Number 91, the contents of which reaffirmed the agreed limit on December 20, 1929. This caused the position of the Lotas Belu people to be difficult because did not get a place to farm, even a place to live was very difficult, so that various criminal acts arose at that time while the TTS area agreed, because according to the agreement in 1929 the Lotas area was a TTS area.

Further communication was carried out with the results of the Joint Decree of the Regent of the Head of the Level II Region of Belu and the Regent of the Head of the Level II Region of TTS, Number: 1/PERDJ/1971, dated June 10, 1971 regarding the Settlement of Boundary Issues/Cultivation of Land in the North Amanatun Border Area, East Amanuban, TTS Regency and West Malaka District, Belu Regency. Communications related to this decision were approved by the Regent of the Head of the Level II Belu Region, but were not approved by the community. As a result of communication only at the top level, it caused chaos in Lotas among the people at the lower levels, civil war broke out so that ABRI was placed in Lotas to secure the situation, so that Benahe Hamlet became a security post while the Regent of Head of Level II TTS agreed, because this decision canceled the approval of Oelolok (Insana) on May 10, 1957 and again using the Deed/Letter of Concern for the Head of the Amanatun Kingdom and the Head of the Belu Kingdom on December 20, 1929 as a reference for regional boundaries and 1972 with the construction of the Lotas TTS Village Office, sparked fights between residents on the border of the two districts .

So it can be stated that since 1979, 1987, 1989, 1996, 2007 to 2013 there are still territorial disputes between Belu Regency and TTS Regency such as inappropriate pillar positions/the presence of certain elements that destroys/moves the pillars of the unilateral boundary, conflicts regarding the triangular area (fatuniti) between pillars V, VI and VII, the occurrence of crime between pillars I to pillar IX. Various ways of communication are also sought, both customary and governmental by involving the NTT Provincial Government as a mediator but have not been able to completely resolve this territorial boundary issue.

In 2020 there was communication on efforts to accelerate regional boundaries through a regional boundary confirmation meeting between the South Central Timor Regency and the Malaka Regency which was held in Jakarta on 2-2-2021 with the minutes of the meeting number 02/BAD III/II/2020 and followed up with there is a search for the regional boundary points of the Malaka Regency and South Central Timor Regency on 21-3-2020 with the official report number BU.314/20/BPP/2020 and it was agreed with the coordinate point of the Joint Decree of the Regent of the Head of the Level II Belu Region and the Regent of the Regional Head Level II TTS, Number: 1/PERDJ/1971, dated June 10, 1971 concerning the Settlement of Boundary Issues/Cultivation of Land in the North Amanatun Border Area, East Amanuban, TTS Regency and West Malaka Sub-district, Belu Regency, so that they still intersect the Malaka and TTS regions so that the mixed area will return to its original position but until now the communication pattern has only been approved by the region, namely Regent of TTS, Regent of Malaka but communication is hampered at the lower level where the community insists on maintaining the status quo in Lotas this is because communication only occurs at the elite level while at the lower level and customary level, this communication is interrupted because the community is not involved in making boundary policy this.

#### **b. Structure**

There was a power struggle between the stakeholders in each area where several traditional leaders of TTS Lotas stated that the 1971 agreement was absolute because Lotas was part of TTS while the Malaka side stated that Lotas was not part of TTS in accordance with the acknowledgment letter dated 16 September in 1952 which stated that Temukung Lotas, Temukung Muke, Temukung Obaki, Temukung Benahe and the Chairperson of the Village Chair and the women and men admitted that in front of the Malaka APPS they humbly liked to join the tax administration for the Umalor District, Malaka Belu. Tax Auditor Belu D. Fangidae and Police Patrol Commander A. Salan and Ahmad witnessed the incident.

From the data and information collected regarding the administrative boundaries of the government between TTS and Malaka Regencies, it is suspected that the issue of boundary issues was raised by certain groups of people with the intention of getting a position and position both in the executive and legislative institutions, so that the problem of territorial boundaries in Lotas is also can be said to be a problem engineered by a particular group.

Efforts to define boundaries in the Lotas segment have been carried out since 1979, facilitated by the Provincial Government (Assistant Governor of the Southern Region with staff) based on the Letter of Concern dated December 20, 1929 concerning the Boundary between the Kingdom of Amanatun and the Kingdom of Belu with the result that nine boundary pillars have been installed. In 1989, the measurement and installation of pillars was carried out again based on the Topographic Map of 1912 and 21 additional pillars were installed.

It should also be explained that the affirmation of regional boundaries is based on past documents in the form of agreements and maps, while for the problems that occurred in Lotas in 1979 at the beginning of the affirmation of boundaries facilitated by the East Nusa Tenggara Provincial Government, there was a basic dualism used by the TTS and the East Nusa Tenggara. Belu, the TTS party used the basis of the Letter of Concern dated December 20, 1929 concerning the Boundary between the Kingdom of Amanatun and the Kingdom of Belu, while the Belu used the basis of the Letter of Concern dated June 25, 1917 concerning the Boundary between Landschap-Landschap Amanatun and Malaka (Beslit Gouvernement dated December 3, 1918 Number 18). As a result, the boundary pillars that have been installed since 1979 have not received full acknowledgment from various parties, resulting in the problem being unresolved to date.

However, the determination of physical and definite regional boundaries in the Lotas segment is not an easy matter, even though the structure of regional government administration has been running and developing since the birth of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia (NKRI) and juridical boundaries have been established by the Law on the establishment the area itself often causes problems between the regions concerned because each party does not easily agree on the location of the boundary points, especially in this problem between Lotas TTS and Malaka involving a cultural structure that the government should not step over.

Structural problems in determining the boundaries of the Lotas area are also in line with the opinion (Kartiko, 2014) which states that empirically the emergence of Bapas disputes is caused by juridical factors due to the unclear boundaries of an area (the determination of regional boundaries is attached to the law on the formation of an area). The rapid expansion of regions is due to the desire to become an autonomous region.

Ritzer (2005) states that conflict theory is actually still in the same paradigm as structural functional theory, but both have different points of view. Structural functional theory assesses conflict as a functional thing. Meanwhile, conflict theory highlights social facts in the form of authority and position, which are the sources of conflict in social life. These differences in turn can trigger conflicts in society.

The blurring of regional boundaries due to these structural factors can cause a wider negative impact than just the potential for conflict between regions because of the strategic and economic potential of a part of the region, such as the impact on social life and the administration of government administration, and can even cause political impacts, especially in border areas. Therefore, in carrying out government administration structurally, it is important to define regional boundaries in the Lotas segment. The existing mechanism is actually sufficient as long as it is actually implemented (Sandy, 2016).

### **c. Personal**

There are different perceptions from each individual in Lotas TTS and Lotas Malaka and have different interests and changes in perception values following the times regarding the territorial boundary dispute between Belu District and TTS District in the Lotas segment.

It is known that there are benefits to the Lotas community in these two districts where they in one house have 2 family cards from 2 different districts, namely TTS and Malaka and when there is assistance from the Malaka District Government, the Lotas community will receive the assistance while the interests of TTS Lotas side is that they can be given assistance by the TTS Regency Government and can be used as village officials in TTS Lotas so that this is the community's choice and is not contested by the Lotas Malaka and TTS Lotas village governments.

This personal interest has accumulated in each of the Lotas TTS and Lotas Malaka groups where each of them wants to defend their *ulayat* rights on the basis of their respective history and this is proven by the protest from Lotas Malaka which on January 8, 2020 asked for help The Regional Leader of Leadham International, North Central Timor Regency, who protested that there had been an illegal installation of pillars by the TTS and that the construction of the Kokbaun village sub-district office in TTS Regency was illegal because it took the land of the Malaka Regency so that the community asked to remove pillars IV, V, VI and VII and cancel it. 4 TTS villages located in the Lotas Village area, Malaka Regency, namely Kol Oto, Benahe, Lotas TTS and Obaki villages because they do not have administrative areas and are against the law while each individual from the TTS party states that they are the owners of the land according to the agreement 1971 so that it can be concluded and that each individual in the group accumulates in each region with their respective interests being the cause of this regional boundary conflict so that it will become an influence that has negative

consequences at the regional boundary. Therefore, there needs to be control from competent parties so that regional expansion is not only aimed at the interests of certain parties or groups at the central or regional level. In addition, the neutrality of an independent team that provides an assessment of regional expansion is needed; this is done to avoid the possibility of a conflict of views between certain parties in the region (Rahmad, 2020).

This is important because territorial boundary disputes between regions have existed since the implementation of broad, real and responsible regional autonomy based on Law no. 22 of 1999 concerning Regional Government, which was later, replaced by Law no. 32 of 2004 and most recently Law no. 23 of 2014, boundaries between regions must be a concern. In the era of regional autonomy, there have been a lot of regional developments, villages, districts/cities and provinces that have been divided. The result of the expansion is the existence of land grabbing or land disputes (Yuwono et al, 2019).

## **4.2 The Impact of the Boundary Conflict of Malaka and South Central Timor (TTS) in the Lotas Segment**

### **a. Public Service Barriers**

Based on the results of the author's observations and interviews, it is known that one of the impacts that occur on the boundary between Lotas Malaka Village and Lotas TTS is the obstruction of public services where there are people who have 2 KK namely Malaka and TTS in one house as a result of which administrative services are hampered while the main goal of establishing The new autonomous regions are directed at accelerating the realization of public welfare through public services so that the implementation of regional autonomy through decentralization of public services can be considered a failure in realizing slick public services for the community so that it requires a new format for governance but the pressure to form new autonomous regions (regional expansion) continues and the next is the inhibition of public services in land administration services. This is manifested in the problem of juridical data on land in the process of obtaining proof of ownership of land rights (certificates), especially in Lotas Malaka Village, Muke Village and Naiusu Village, Rinhat District, Malaka Regency with Lotas Village TTS, Benahe Village and O'baki Village, Kokbaun District, TTS Regency, Whose territorial boundaries are not clear due to the unfinished confirmation of regional boundaries between districts.

While the main objective of the establishment of new autonomous regions is directed at accelerating the realization of public welfare through public services so that the implementation of regional autonomy through decentralization of public services can be considered a failure in realizing slick public services for the community so that it requires a new format for governance, but the pressure to form new autonomous regions (regional expansion) continues and even increases from year to year (Rahmad, 2020).

### **b. The Disbandment of the Unity of the Group**

In Lotas, the settlement of boundary problems often experienced deadlocks because the plan to install boundary pillars was stopped by the angry Lotas Malaka residents. As a result, the installation of boundary pillars between districts always fails and if the conflict is not successfully resolved in a good way and eventually leads to violence, it is certain that the unity of the groups experiencing conflict will experience setbacks and even destruction.

Azar (1990) notes that in countries experiencing prolonged social conflict, political power tends to be dominated by one identity group that uses resources to maintain its power over others. To

establish this power, the ruling group will try to reduce the participation of minority groups to a minimum. Based on his notes, Azar then concluded that, such a crisis would exacerbate pre-existing competitive or conflict situations by dissolving group unity and reducing the ability of the State to meet basic needs and lead to further development of the crisis. In other words, the typology of the regime and the level of legitimacy are very important connecting variables between needs and prolonged social conflict (Yuliansyah, 2016).

Therefore, regional boundaries have strategic and important meaning. However, in reality, the strategic importance of regional boundaries has not been balanced with the clarity of boundaries between the Lotas Malaka and Lotas TTS areas, so that eventually it causes problems that result in conflicts between regions and has an impact on the dissolution of unity between groups within one tribe, such as conflicts in boundary assertion. The area is between Rinhat District, Malaka District and Kokbaun District, South Central Timor Regency.

### **c. Damaging Relationships and Communications Between the Parties to the Conflict**

Conflict, especially destructive conflict, reduces the quality and intensity of the relationship between the parties involved in the conflict. Based on the results of interviews and the author's observations, it is known that the boundary conflict between Malaka and South Central Timor (TTS) in the Lotas Segment has damaged the relationship and communication between the parties involved in the conflict. This territorial boundary conflict creates feelings of displeasure, anger and hatred towards each region in these two regencies and often leads to acts of violence. This situation damaged the relationship between the parties to the conflict and communication between the Malaka District Lotas and the South Central Timor District Lotas (TTS).

In this case, the conflict is a perception or point of view regarding the perceived divergence of interest or a belief and belief that the aspirations of the conflicting parties cannot be achieved simultaneously because of differences. According to Watkins cited by (Chandra, 1992), conflict occurs when there is two parties whom potentially and practically / operationally hinder each other's interests. Potentially, it means that one party or both parties have the ability to hinder. Practically / operationally, it means that the inhibiting ability can be realized and is in a state that allows its realization to be easily carried out.

The potential for conflict in society occurs when contact is made between the government and citizens or between citizens. As individuals who are organized in groups, every citizen wants to find a way according to their respective views to fulfill their respective life goals. The opportunity to fulfill that goal is only through the choice of getting what is needed or being forced to engage in conflict with other parties if interests become conflicting and this is what happened to Lotas Malaka Village and Lotas Village TTS.

### **4.3 Steps that have been taken by the Malaka Regency Government and the South Central Timor Regency Government to Overcome the Boundary Problems of the Malaka Regency and South Central Timor Regency (TTS) in the Lotas Segment**

To overcome the problem of territorial boundaries between Malaka Regency and South Central Timor Regency (TTS) in the Lotas Segment, the author uses Mitchell's opinion in (Ginting, 2013) suggests that to resolve a conflict through alternative conflict resolution can be done through efforts:

#### **a. Negotiation**

The government as a mediator in the negotiations did not involve traditional leaders from both sides because they took their customary lands, which in their belief, if the boundaries of the land were wrongly determined, they would die, while for the governments of the two districts and provinces, they wanted to immediately resolve the issue of this territorial boundary so that There are no more conflicts between the two camps, so it can be stated that the steps that have been taken by the Malaka Regency Government and the South Central Timor Regency Government to overcome the problem of the boundaries of the Malaka Regency and South Central Timor Regency (TTS) in the Lotas Segment through negotiations have not met an agreed middle way. and mutually beneficial for both parties because negotiations are only agreed upon at the macro level, namely the Government of the two regions and the Provincial Government as mediators, while at the micro level these negotiations are hampered by historical beliefs passed down from generation to generation by both parties. ng declares Lotas is his territory. The rapid rate of regional expansion has created a new dispute between the regional government and other regional governments, in this case the TTS Regional Government and the Malaka Regional Government. Disputes that occur in the expansion of regions do not only occur during the expansion process, even after the division raises problems. Regional expansion will not be separated from the problem of drawing a line between the two autonomous regions so that it requires negotiations with consideration of various aspects so that the goals of decentralization and regional autonomy can be achieved (Djoko, 2007).

However, negotiations in the Lotas segment have always been deadlocked even though the government claims that an agreement has been reached. This happened because the people of Lotas Malaka (Belu at that time) wanted to bring traditional leaders from these 2 districts, namely leaders from the Tiumlafu Tribe and Naiusu Tribe, to negotiate sitting together and just show the boundary point between Belu and TTS at that time but at that time the traditional leaders have not sat down together so that in 2013 yesterday there was a meeting between the Naiusu Tribe and the Tiumlafu Tribe witnessed by Kaberan Rai Namako and the boundaries of the area were agreed based on custom that the boundary point started from Noteluan leading to the Motabele river but the result of this tough negotiation collapsed due to the decision of the parties. the government set the coordinates based on their own agreement without involving the results of negotiations from the community, especially through severe negotiations with traditional leaders who better understand the condition of their territorial boundaries.

#### **b. Mediation**

As a response to the potential for border disputes between the Malaka Lotas and the TTS Lotas, Law Number 23 of 2014 regulates the settlement mechanism through the Governor and the Minister of Home Affairs. Based on article 370 paragraph (1), if there is a border dispute between autonomous regions in one province, the settlement will be facilitated by the governor. Meanwhile, if there is a dispute between the provincial government and the province, and the province and the region, the Minister of Home Affairs carries out the resolution and the decision is final.

However, all negotiations until the mediation stage was carried out, there were still obstacles at the micro level where until 2021 the community and traditional leaders of the two villages had the same motive, namely that when they delegated this Lotas boundary problem to the Provincial Government, the determination of regional boundaries would be determined based on their respective beliefs and historical history where the motive of the TTS Lotas delegate this problem to the mediator so that the boundaries of the territory remain in their beliefs while the TTS Lotas also wants that and if the boundary is changed it will cause conflict between the two disputed areas so that the resolution of

the conflict by means of mediation, namely the involvement of a neutral third party, in this case the Governor of NTT, has not yet met a middle way of the boundary conflict between the two regions.

If the people of both parties want their customary land not to be contested, then this has actually been stated in Minister of Home Affairs Regulation Number 141/2017 concerning the Determination of Regional Boundaries Article 2 paragraph 1 it is stated that the Affirmation of Regional Boundaries aims to create an orderly government administration, provide clarity and legal certainty to the territorial boundaries of an area that fulfills technical and juridical aspects while Article 2 paragraph (2) states that the Affirmation of Regional Boundaries does not abolish land rights, asset ownership, *ulayat* rights, and customary rights to the community point of agreement between the two parties.

This is further exacerbated by the role of the Governor of TT in the settlement of boundary disputes between the TTS Lotas and the Malaka Lotas as only a mediator. The authority to settle border disputes granted by Law 23 of 2014 (Article 1 paragraph 6) does not give the Governor of NTT full authority in deciding the settlement of border disputes. This becomes ineffective, considering that the governor as the representative of the central government in the region should be given the authority to decide border disputes in his territory. Because the spirit of regional autonomy is the right, authority, and obligation of the autonomous region to regulate and manage its own government affairs and public interests in the system of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia. This is also in line with the opinion of Hoessin (1993) that one of the criteria for an Autonomous Region is a legal entity, so that it has the power to take actions regarding wealth, legal power, and can act.

## 5. Conclusion

Factors Causing Boundary Conflict between Malaka and Timor Tengah Selatan (TTS) Districts. In the Lotas Segment, Francis (2006:29) stated that there were three causes of conflict, including the following; (a) Communication, but until now the communication pattern has only been approved by the regions, namely the Regent of TTS, the Regent of Malaka, but it is constrained at the lower levels where the community insists on maintaining the status quo in Lotas, (b) The structure where there is a power struggle between stakeholders in each area where several TTS Lotas traditional leaders and (c) Individuals where This personal interest accumulates in each TTS Lotas and Malaka Lotas groups where each of them wants to defend their *ulayat* rights on the basis of their respective history arising from the occurrence of border conflicts between Malaka and Timor Tengah Selatan (TTS) in the Lotas Segment, namely (a) delays in public services, (b) the dissolution of group unity and (c) damaging relations and communication between the parties involved in the conflict further steps that have been taken by the Malaka Regency Government and the Ka South Central Timor District to Overcome the Problems of the Boundaries of Malaka and South Central Timor (TTS) in the Lotas Segment the author uses Mitchell's opinion in (Ginting, 2013) argues that to overcome a conflict through alternative conflict resolution can be done through efforts (a) negotiations, but only agreed at the macro level, namely the Government of the two regions and the Provincial Government as mediators, while at the micro level these negotiations were hampered by the historical beliefs passed down from generation to generation by both parties that each stated that Lotas was their territory, (b) Mediation in which the Governor NTT becomes a mediator or a neutral third party whose implementation is a regional boundary confirmation team chaired by the Governor of NTT. However, all negotiations until the mediation stage was carried out, there were still obstacles at the micro level where until 2021 the community and traditional leaders of the two villages had the same motive, namely that when they delegated this Lotas boundary problem to the Provincial Government, the determination of regional boundaries would be determined based on their respective beliefs and historical history where the motive of Lotas TTS delegates this problem to the mediator so that the boundaries of the territory

remain in their beliefs while Lotas TTS also wants that and if the boundary is changed it will cause conflict between the two disputed areas so that the resolution of the conflict by means of mediation, namely the involvement of a neutral third party, in this case the Governor of NTT, has not yet met a middle way of the boundary conflict between the two regions.

### **Limitation and study forward**

The weakness of this research is that historical conflict tracing is quite difficult to do so that not much information can be conveyed in this research. Future researchers are expected to develop this research in order to provide more complete information.

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