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The Concept of Multi-track Diplomacy in Indonesian Coast Guard to Strengthen the International Maritime Relationship

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ABSTRAK

Abstract Indonesia is one of the largest archipelagic countries in the world with vast stretches of ocean. The pillars in the effort to defend Indonesia's seas are not only found in the TNI, but also in the coast guard. Bakamla as Indonesia's coast guard is tasked with protecting the country's oceans, however Bakamla faces many problems. This problem is in the form of a shortage of personnel, and is also Bakamla's main step in becoming part of Indonesia's maritime defense strategy. This research was created using a qualitative approach and literature review methods to reach the right solution to solve this problem. The results of this research include that Bakamla has a crucial role in law enforcement in Indonesia's maritime areas and also has a major responsibility for the security of the nation and state from the maritime sector. Bakamla also has the rights and opportunities to implement the precise trinity roles that is implemented in the navy since both of them serve the similar roles. As an advancement of this those roles, Bakamla also has the rights to implement the use of Multi-track Diplomacy concept to strengthen its function in international diplomacy with other country in order to reduce or even avoid the tension that has been the main issues of current era. Therefore, it is hoped that Bakamla can apply the concept of multi-track diplomacy within the naval trinity concept further, so that Indonesia's maritime defense can increase.

Abstrak Indonesia merupakan salah satu negara kepulauan terbesar di dunia dengan hamparan lautan yang sangat luas. Pilar dalam upaya mempertahankan laut Indonesia tidak hanya terdapat pada TNI saja, namun juga pada penjaga pantai. Bakamla sebagai penjaga pantai Indonesia bertugas melindungi lautan negara, namun Bakamla menghadapi banyak permasalahan. Permasalahan tersebut berupa kekurangan personel dan juga menjadi langkah utama Bakamla untuk menjadi bagian dari strategi pertahanan maritim Indonesia. Penelitian ini dibuat dengan menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif dan metode tinjauan pustaka untuk mencapai solusi yang tepat dalam menyelesaikan permasalahan tersebut. Hasil penelitian tersebut antara lain Bakamla mempunyai peranan penting dalam penegakan hukum di wilayah maritim Indonesia dan juga mempunyai tanggung jawab besar terhadap keamanan bangsa dan negara dari sektor maritim. Bakamla juga mempunyai hak dan kesempatan untuk menjalankan peran trinitas yang sama persis seperti yang diterapkan di TNI Angkatan Laut karena keduanya menjalankan peran yang sama. Sebagai peningkatan peran tersebut, Bakamla juga berhak menerapkan konsep Multi-track Diplomacy untuk memperkuat fungsinya dalam diplomasi internasional dengan negara lain guna mengurangi atau bahkan menghindari ketegangan yang selama ini menjadi isu utama di era saat ini. Oleh karena itu, Bakamla diharapkan dapat menerapkan lebih jauh konsep diplomasi multi jalur dalam konsep trinitas angkatan laut, sehingga pertahanan maritim Indonesia dapat meningkat.

TENTANG PENULIS:

Sean Narahara, the author is a graduate student pursuing a master's degree in Maritime Defense Strategy at Universitas Pertahanan Indonesia. As a author, Narahara demonstrates a deep dedication to the field of maritime defense, combining theory and practice to enhance his strategic understanding.

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INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is a famous country for its beautiful sceneries. One of those so-called famous sceneries is its ocean. Ocean in Indonesia is veins connecting all the islands all over the country. Indonesia is also in between of two big ocean that are Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean. Because of this country characteristic to be one of the most islandic countries in the world or even the biggest islandic country throughout the world which consist of 17.504 islands, ocean becomes the key part in linking all those islands. With the total of 5,8 million km² in terms of size, normal ships, cargo ships, or even trading ships can travel across each island with ease. By the size of ocean it has, this becomes authentic evidence that Indonesia become the biggest and prosperous maritime country. Other than that, Indonesia also has a unique ocean characteristic where its ocean is used as a lane for international transportation supported by its geostrategic position (Bakamla, 2020). This becomes an advantage for Indonesia to become the central trading country. As the central market, Indonesia become full of foreign country. This has become not only an issue, but also an opportunity for Indonesia to create an unbreakable bond of relationship with the other countries. This effort about forging a bond can be achieved not only with trading, but also with diplomacy.

Diplomacy itself is an exclusive duty of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; however, Booth (2012) states that diplomacy can also be performed by the navy. This statement is indeed describing the other roles of the navy other than for war or for combat, in this term is diplomatic purposes between nations. Described in the trinity roles of navy, diplomacy can be performed. Trinity roles of navy is a concept put forward by Ken Booth, an international security strategist to refers to the three main roles played by navies in the context of international security, namely the military role, the diplomatic role and the policy role. The diplomatic role involves the use of sea power to establish diplomatic relations with other countries and promote peace and stability in international waters. This role includes participation in joint military exercises, ship visits, and cooperation in peacekeeping operations. This means every navy can put on an effort creating peace through a diplomacy act to one another.

The roles of navy diplomacy are also evolving and advancing further throughout the years. The changing diplomacy from a simple concept of relation between multiple variables keep happening for years. This evolvement of it is described by Diamond and McDonald (1996). Through their books, diplomacy evolve to a term known as multi-track diplomacy. Multi-track Diplomacy is a system approach focusing in peacebuilding and conflict resolution. It identifies nine different "tracks" or channels through peacemaking and peacebuilding activities occur. These tracks are interlinked and work together to create a "synergy" that enables the development of peace. The concept of Multi-Track Diplomacy itself is an extension of the notion of "track two diplomacy" or "citizens' diplomacy," which was first introduced previously by foreign service officer Joe Montville in 1981. Montville made the distinction between "Track One", which he defined as official governmental action, and "Track Two", which included unofficial, non-governmental actors involved in peacebuilding activities. Then, Diamond and McDonald further expanded this concept by dividing "Track Two" into multiple tracks, recognizing the diverse range of actors and activities involved in peacebuilding.

The Multi-Track Diplomacy framework emphasizes the importance of engaging a wide array of actors and activities in the pursuit of peace, going beyond traditional state-centric diplomacy. It highlights the interconnectedness of these different tracks and the need for coordinated, collaborative efforts to address complex conflicts and promote sustainable peace.

Furthermore, multi-track diplomacy approach allows the involvement of non-state actors in conflict resolution and diplomacy efforts, so that it can be an effective tool in the context of international relations. In practice, multi-track diplomacy can help in resolving international conflicts by expanding the network of actors involved in the diplomatic process, thereby increasing opportunities to achieve peace and resolve conflicts. Apart from that, multi-track diplomacy can also help in building trust and strengthening relations between countries, thereby reducing the possibility of conflict in the future. With a multi-track diplomacy approach, all sectors of society are considered important and need to be involved, supported, listened to, and trained in a common language regarding dialogue, conflict resolution, and peace building to prevent or end violent conflicts. Therefore, multi-track diplomacy is an important concept in the context of international conflict resolution, because it allows the involvement of all parties involved in efforts to achieve global peace and stability.

The explanation above is intriguing for the author to analyze the gap of the role of Badan Keamanan Laut Republik Indonesia, also famously known as Bakamla RI that is formed through Peraturan Presiden Nomor 178 (2014), in implementing and carrying out the concept of multi-track diplomacy proposed by Diamond and McDonald. Bakamla RI itself is an instance that serves similar roles as the navy (TNI). Its roles essentially protecting, guarding, and patrolling around the nation across the sea lines from outside threats. Within their similarities in their roles, the trinity function of the navy, which functions to form a relation within other countries with Indonesia, can also be applied not only to navy but also to Bakamla RI (Rasiddin et al, 2021).

METHODS

This research focuses on the theory of trinity function of navy which specified in the multi-track diplomacy. In practice, these theories can also be implemented in Bakamla RI since they serve a similar duty to the navy. Therefore, this research uses a qualitative approach to find out the results. Moreover, qualitative descriptive research design, in this case literature study, is utilized to describe each argumentation and generate useful new ideas as a result of this research. As stated by Sugiyono (2010); Cohen (2007), qualitative design is a research design that utilizes the researcher's empirical experience. Qualitative research can also be described as a research that focuses on describing and analyzing a certain phenomenon through the opinion of some people or organizations about that phenomenon (Moleong, 2019), (Machi, 2016), (Onwuegbuzie, 2016); Petersen (2015). Apart from that, this research also uses researchers as the main instrument and data collection tool in this research to elaborate the primary and secondary data from various preliminary research to reduce the subjectivity. It also has the aims to be the tool to examine each conclusion from these books and articles and create new ideas and theories regarding the issues that are currently being discussed in this research (Rob et al, 2022); (Booth, 2012).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

With the aim of strengthening and improving the results of this research, previous research is used as a reference and reference material so that the research results obtained will not be far from the proper connotation. The research results state that Bakamla is present in monitoring, supervising, preventing and combating illegal acts in Indonesian waters and Indonesian jurisdiction. Bakamla carries out various functions in carrying out security and safety patrol duties in Indonesian waters and Indonesian jurisdiction. Then, Bakamla also implemented and prepared a strategic plan to further maintain and optimize the security and safety of Indonesia's territorial waters, as explained in Peraturan Presiden Nomor 178 (2014) which states that the Strategic Plan for Maritime Security in the Territory of the Republic of Indonesia for the 2020-2024 period, hereinafter referred to as the Bakamla RI Strategic Plan (2020) is a guideline for

planning and implementing as well as evaluating programs and activities carried out to achieve the vision and mission of the Republic of Indonesia Maritime Security Agency in securing Indonesian waters. Apart from that, the benefit of the establishment of Bakamla that can be felt by the Indonesian state is that in the provisions of Bakamla an early warning system or early detection system (Early Warning System) has been established which is really needed by the Indonesian state. In terms of geology and climate, this area is classified as an area prone to natural disasters. Therefore, Bakamla's role as a part of Indonesia's defense in the transition period with various international threats is very necessary, so that Bakamla becomes the main focus in the country's defense against every threat. So, Bakamla must continue to receive support in terms of procurement of defense equipment, fleet and personnel.

Bakamla must also be able to become one of the main strategies for national defense in the dynamic maritime sector as it is today. As the current issue that become a serious matter, tension between countries will always be the main case. There have been several tensions between countries showed in international scene diplomacy in the past few decades, such as the United States and the Soviet Union in the Cold War. Furthermore, there are People's Republic of China and Taiwan, Russia and Ukraine, China and India, and ultimately the long-taken tension between the arch enemies of Palestine and Israel. Reflecting on these matters, diplomacy will always be the selling point. Through this theory of multi-track diplomacy, Bakamla can reduce or even avoid the risk of tension between Indonesia with other country. The description above also shows that Bakamla RI has implemented the 4th (fourth) and 5th (five) concept of multi-track diplomacy where each point is: 4) Research, Training and Education, and also 5) Special communities. According to this, Bakamla has demonstrated by a part of multi-track diplomacy through a policy by implementing training activities for each of its personnel. This action is conducted not only to increase the quantity of the personnels, but also the quality simultaneously. Apart from that, actions such as research related to strategy, tactics and other instruments are also been implemented and developed by Bakamla. Therefore, these two things are a sign that Bakamla RI has implemented 2 (two) points of multi-track diplomacy.

As the main point, multi-track diplomacy is a concept that can be implemented not only in the navy, but also Bakamla. This concept, can be applied by Bakamla through different ways. As stated in the previous passage, Bakamla actually has implemented some of the main parts of multi-track diplomacy. As for the other parts of it, it can be applied through a new policy or regulation by increasing its relationship and communication with the government, raising its funding to improve the organization itself, and also increasing its activism in terms of protecting and creating a relation with several business sectors to support Bakamla's every actions. These ideas and concepts, in theory, will work out and not only increasing Bakamla's supremacy, but also strengthening its applied concept of multi-track diplomacy since it will implement every point of multi-track diplomacy respectively.

CONCLUSION

Bakamla, as one of the agencies newly formed by the Indonesian government, actually has a greater role than what has been carried out so far. Bakamla has a role as the main defense apart from the TNI which has the task of defending the nation and state from threats that are present at this time or in the future. As the navy has trinity roles, Bakamla that has purpose to the navy, can also has that trinity roles. One of those roles is diplomacy. Through the theory of multi-track diplomacy developed throughout the years, Bakamla can also perform every single point in that theory. Prior to that, Bakamla has several issues regarding the development of the organization, diplomating with other nations, and it also has problems on the overlapping duty with other instances (Fernando, 2020); (Wardhani, 2022). These series of issues that Bakamla faced all occurred before multi-track diplomacy was implemented. The implementation can

present in a form strengthening the relation between Bakamla with the government, handling conflict with a resolution, and involving and coordinating the business sectors to support the action of Bakamla to a certain degree. Furthermore, other actions such as personnel enrolment and training can also be applied to increase the quantity and quality of themselves. Other than that, better funding management can also be seen as one of the main factors in Bakamla's maritime defense by providing space to develop the fleet, defense equipment and personnel who will become the main pillars of protection for the Indonesian nation. Apart from that, Bakamla can also continue to develop by implementing the naval trinity concept which was then developed with the multi-track diplomacy concept. With this concept, it is believed that Bakamla can strengthen Indonesia's maritime defense by implementing these concepts.

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