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Navigating Economic Growth: An Analysis of Indonesia's Maritime Axis Policy Implementation

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Abstract: This study aims to analyze maritime axis policies from the perspective of defense economics and policy implementation in order to grow Indonesia's economy. Utilizing qualitative research approach, data was collected from a variety of sources, including academic journals, policy documents, and credible reports. The findings indicate that Indonesia's Position as a maritime country, Indonesia has opportunities for economic growth and security as a national pillar. Indonesia's maritime future is realized through synergy between communication, resources, and bureaucracy. economic development in enhancing economic growth is realized through the "Maritime Silk Road" and efforts to create harmony between the three aspects of policy implementation theory. However, challenges such as unsustainable practices, stakeholder conflicts, and inadequate policy coordination hinder effective implementation. The success of the maritime axis policy in Indonesia necessitates comprehensive implementation that integrate sustainability principles across all sectors, as well as collaboration among stakeholders. This finding provides valuable insights for policymakers in formulating policy implementation that promote sustainable development in maritime axis policy, ensuring that economic growth benefits can be enjoyed by both current and future generations. Thus, the maritime axis policy not only has potential to drive economic growth but also safeguard in marine ecosystems that are essential for the livehood of coastal communities. From that we may know maritime policy can drive economic development by focusing on infrastructure development, natural resource and human resource management, maritime improvement, and international cooperation.

Keywords: Defense Economy; Economic Growth; Maritime Axis Policy; Policy Implementation

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A. Introduction

Current developments in governance show increasingly complex dynamics, especially in the management of the maritime sector. The acceleration of globalization has opened up strategic opportunities for countries with maritime characteristics to optimize the potential of their marine resources. In this context, Indonesia is required to reorient its development from a *land-based operation* paradigm to an *ocean-based orientation* paradigm (Febiyansah, 2018). This transformation of orientation is crucial in efforts to strengthen the maritime and fisheries sector as the main driver of the national economy. Thus, policies to strengthen the maritime sector need to be designed with a solid conceptual and institutional foundation so that they can contribute sustainably to increasing the nation's independence and economic welfare (Ginting, 2020). Awareness of the importance of the maritime sector for Indonesia has existed since long ago, long before the establishment of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia. At a time when the archipelago still consisted of independent kingdoms with their own interests, maritime potential was a determining factor in political and economic power. The glory of a number of influential maritime kingdoms throughout Southeast Asia and even as far as the African Peninsula shows that control and development of the maritime sector has been a major foundation in building their power and sovereignty for centuries (Nainggolan, 2015).

Georgraphically, the Indo-Pacific region can be understood as a strategic area that forms a maritime triangle between the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean, with India occupying a central position that has high geostrategic value. Some of the major powers in this region include Australia in the southeast, Japan in the north, and India in the southwest. Meanwhile, from a geostrategic perpective, the Indo-Pacific is a increasingly showing its character as a region that is interconnected through a complex network of security and economic ties, reflecting the intensity of geopolitical relations between countries within it. The increasingly close ties between countries in the region indicate that any significant change in one part of the Indo-Pacific will have an impact on other elements in the region as a whole. With this increasing level of interdependence, the Indo-Pacific is increasingly asserting its position as a region of strategic relevance, both in contemporary global political and economic dynamics (Zulham & Saragih, 2021).

Indonesia's strategic geopolitical location, between two continents and two oceans and traversed by thousands of foreign ships through the Indonesian Archipelagic Sea Lanes (ALKI) and various strategic straits, confirms Indonesia's important position in global trade and shipping routes (Rustam, 2017). However, this condition also presents serious challenges in the field of defense and security, particularly in terms of maritime security. A number of problems faced include a low level of understanding of the concept of the Archipelagic Concept, limited infrastructure and defense equipment, and weak regulatory supremacy in the maritime sector. This situation has led to an increase in illegal activities in Indonesian waters, both by domestic and international actors (Indra, 2021). In addition, issues such as unclear maritime boundaries, weak law enforcement, and limited maritime facilities and

infrastructure further exacerbate the complexity of national maritime governance (Hidayat & Ridwan, 2017).

In an effort to address maritime security challenges, the government under the leadership of President Joko Widodo has not only focused on strengthening maritime security cooperation, but also emphasized the improvement of defense diplomacy and the development of the Indonesian Navy (TNI AL). These efforts are aimed at enabling the TNI AL to play a strategic role as an influential and respected actor in the Indo-Pacific region. However, Indonesia's geographical condition, which is dominated by vast waters with thousands of small islands, has not been matched by the TNI AL's capacity to secure and project its fleet throughout Indonesia (Fathun, 2024). Faced with these challenges, the Joko Widodo administration intends to expand the development of the Indonesian navy by reaffirming its commitment to increasing the role of the domestic defense industry. This step is also accompanied by efforts to deepen cooperation between defense industry sectors as part of a strategy to boost national economic growth. However, most of Indonesia's defense industry in the maritime sector still lacks funding and has outdated production technology, with nearly 70 percent of its components imported from foreign manufacturers. As a result, the implementation of the vision for developing Indonesia's navy based on domestic production has been limited, and the production of high-tech naval equipment has not yet been realized (Wardhana, 2016).

From the opportunities and challenges above, this journal seeks to explain the maritime axis policy from the perspective of defense economics and policy implementation in order to grow Indonesia's economy. The defense economics perspective explains the idea of the maritime axis policy process and its relationship with power politics, international relations, and maritime trade. Meanwhile, the policy implementation perspective proposed by George Edwardss III explains how the synergy between three aspects, namely communication, resources, and bureaucracy, can support the maritime axis policy in growing Indonesia's economy. The main research questions to be answered in this study are: what is the significance of Indonesia's maritime axis policy, and how does the implementation of George Edwardss III's policy on the maritime axis support Indonesia's economic growth?).

B. Methods

The research research method used is a qualitative method with a literature study approach. This approach aims to explore the role of the maritime axis policy in increasing economic growth in Indonesia, as well as to identify how policy implementation can support the maritime axis policy. The research data was obtained through the collection of relevant literature, including research journals and other literature sources related to this topic (Safrudin et al., 2023). The main instrument for data collection was a structured literature review checklist, which ensured comprehensive and systematic information gathering. This checklist facilitated the identification of themes and concepts related to Maritime Policy, enabling a literature-

focused analysis. The checklist focused on identifying literature that discussed key indicators, namely economic growth and policy implementation.

The research was conducted using various online databases, libraries, and institutional repositories. Key digital tools and databases utlized included Google Scholar, and publications from governmental and non-governmental organizations. This platforms provided access to a wide range of scholarly articles and reports that are essential for understanding the Maritime Axis Policy in Improving Indonesia's Economic Growth. The collected data was synthesized to understand the current conditions, challenges, and opportunities in Indonesia's Maritime Policy, with a particular focus on its role in strengthening economic growth. Qualitative content analysis was used to interpret the collected data. This involved grouping the data into thematic categories that reflect the core aspects of Maritime Policy. Patterns, relationships, and gaps in the data were identified to draw meaningful insights. In addition, the findings of this study are compared with existing studies to validate the conclusions and strengthen the reliability of the analysis.

C. Results and Discussion

The Importance of Indonesia's Maritime Axis Policy

The concept of the World Maritime Axis covers various aspects of development, including strengthening sea toll infrastructure, developing the shipping industry, enhancing the maritime tourism sector, and implementing effective diplomacy. This diplomacy is not only directed at expanding regional and international cooperation, but also at addressing various maritime security issues such as fish theft, sovereignty violations, territorial disputes, and piracy in strategic waters (Keliat, 2009). At the East Asia Summit, President Joko Widodo's presentation of the national maritime strategy emphasized Indonesia's important role in the regional order. Through his statement, President Jokowi conveyed a political and economic message that the East Asia and Asia-Pacific regions are strategically important for Indonesia, both in maintaining security stability and supporting global economic growth (Al Syahrin, 2018).

In a realist interpretation, the sea is a field of competition between superpowers or regional powers. Current discussions include China's rise as a naval power, the United States' pivot to Asia policy, investment in the naval capabilities of developing countries, and competition for resources in the Arctic. This field has long studied international interactions, influence, and maritime order, with an emphasis on historical analysis, the distribution of naval power, and military competition (Bueger & Edmunds, 2017). The importance of security cooperation in the Indo-pacific region is one of the main factors considered by Indonesia and various regional actors in projecting regional stability and maintaining ASEAN's centrality. China's presence in the region has a significant influence, particulary in the process of forming Indo-Pacific norms and in facilitating intra-regional security and military dialogue involving ASEAN member states and their dialogue partners. China's foreign policy and its economic-political also play an important role in regional dynamics,

particulary through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which is often a central issue in Indo-Pacific geopolitical debates. In addition to security dimensions, there are other factors that influence regional dynamics, such as Indo-Pacific connectivity issues, inter-country trade competition, China's increasingly prominent role, and the involvement of major powers in regional political and economic processes. In this context, Indonesia holds a strategic position as both the initiator and main driver of The ASEAN Outlook on the Indo Pacific (AOIP). This role places Indonesia at the center of attention for both major and medium powers in the Indo-pacific region, given the close link between the geopolitcal reality of the region and the visionary narrative contained in the AOIP framework (Wahyu Hutomo et al., 2023).

Discourse on the Indo-Pacific region has expanded widely, covering discussions on the need to strengthen bilateral relations, substantially increase regional political contributions, and build multilateral mechanisms capable of shaping norms to influence regional processes in determining the balance of power. In this context, China is utilizing the Indo-Pacific region as a strategic route to expand its connectivity with partners in Africa, develop economic through Pakistan, and ensrue the security trade routes that are the backbone of most of its important activities. Efforts to strengthen comprehensive security in the Indo-Pacific region are being carried out through the establishment of regional norms and the development of institutions that serve as instruments for shaping the regional security regime. The main objecitve of these measures is to provide clearer direction in responding to external intervention, while strengthening interactions betweem countries and creating a peaceful environment through confidence building. In addition, the role of small countries and middle powers in the Indo-Pacific regional architecture is also an important concern in various academic literature. Strengthening the position of small countries is seen as a strategic step to create a more inclusive and cooperative regional order, which can ultimately contribute to the maintenance of peace and regional stability in the Indo-Pacific (Zulham & Saragih, 2021).

The Asia-Pacific region has now transformed into one of the strategic centers in global political dynamics. This region has become an arena of competition between world powers seeking to expand their influence through various forms of cooperation, both in the economic and security fields. China's increasingly intense activities in forging strategic partnerships with ASEAN over the past few years, as well as the implementation of the *One Belt One Road* policy connecting the Eurasian region, reflect significant changes in the regional geopolitical order (Pangemanan, 2020). Meanwhile, the United States has also continued to strengthen its presence and influence in the Asia Pacific through the *Pacific Pivot* policy, which began during Barack Obama's administration and continued during Donald Trump's era and beyond. This presence is demonstrated through various diplomatic visits and strategic cooperation with countries in the region, as part of efforts to maintain its dominance and stability in the Asia Pacific (Ryan, 2019).

President Joko Widodo's understanding of Indonesia's geostrategic and geoeconomic position is reflected in the Global Maritime Axis policy, which is a strategic step in

integrating efforts to improve the national economy with the strengthening of maritime defense and security. The shift in the center of global geoeconomic and geopolitical attraction from the West to the East requires Indonesia to assert its role as a sovereign, prosperous, and influential maritime power at the international level. (Peni Susetyorini, 2019). Through this vision, President Jokowi has positioned Indonesia as the center of world activity while demonstrating his commitment to optimizing the potential of the maritime sector as the basis for national development. The maritime region is projected to become a vital element for global economic sustainability as well as an arena for projecting national power in the future. Therefore, the presence and centrality of the state's role are crucial in maintaining stability and the direction of Indonesia's maritime policy (Wahyu Hutomo et al., 2023).

President Joko Widodo's statement on the Global Maritime Axis policy represents the birth of a new doctrine in Indonesia's foreign policy direction. This doctrine marks a significant expansion of foreign defense ambitions, particularly in the context of strengthening Indonesia's maritime role in the regional and global contexts. The policy focuses on expanding Indonesia's strategic reach to the Indian Ocean and Asia-Pacific regions, affirming maritime orientation as a key instrument in diplomacy and national defense, and the idea of a Global Maritime Axis as an integral part of Indonesia's national security doctrine. Through this initiative, President Jokowi seeks to refocus foreign policy and strengthen Indonesia's strategic position as a maritime nation, while expanding its influence beyond the ASEAN region (Ardiyanti, 2018). Through the Global Maritime Axis strategy, President Joko Widodo emphasizes two main aspects.

First, strengthening national economic development through infrastructure development that supports the advancement of Indonesia's maritime sector. One of the strategic programs that is a priority is the construction of a sea toll road, which aims to facilitate logistics distribution and strengthen connectivity between regions (Deanto & Marzaman, 2024). Given that Indonesia has 17,504 islands, economic integration between these island regions will certainly require a long process and sustainable planned policies. Second, President Jokowi emphasized that Indonesia's national identity is rooted in its maritime character. This view was then manifested in the form of a maritime security doctrine, which emphasizes the principle of maritime sovereignty with strict law enforcement against violations, including actions against foreign vessels that enter Indonesian waters illegally through a policy of sinking such vessels. These two aspects illustrate the synergy between economic and national security strategies in the implementation of the Global Maritime Axis policy (Ariputro et al., 2024).

George Edwards Implementation Policy in Boosting Indonesia's Economic Growth

Public policy can be understood as a series of decisions made by the government in response to various issues that arise in society. In this context, public policy reflects the reciprocal relationship between the rights and obligations of citizens and the government's responsibility to realizr the public interest. In the other words, public

policy is a form of government activity in resolving social, economic, and political issues faced by society, either directly or through authorized government institutions. The implementation of public policy falls within the realm of state administration, which is carried out by the government bureaucracy as the main executor. Through this bureaucratic structure, public policy is translated into various programs, regulations, and administrative actions aimed ar achieving results in line with objectives of the policy that has been formulated (Kamoru, 2016).

Policy implementation is the most crucial stage in the entire public policy process. Without effective implelementation, all policy planning will remain merely conceptual designs and will not have a real impact on solving existing problems in society. Therefore, in order for policies to be implemented optimally, an implementation model is needed that can encourage the achievement of success in accordacne with the objectives that have been set. Complex policies require cross-sector cooperation and coordination among various stakeholders involved. In suh circumtances, bureaucratic inefficiency or waste of resources can have an instant impact to the achievement of fulfillment results. Moreover, any changes made in the policy process will have implications not only for the individuals impelementing them, but also for bureaucratic system as a whole. Thus, the success of policy implementation is greatly influenced by the ability of the bureaucratic structure to adapt on the dynamics of change and maintain effective coordination between its various parts (Sormin, 2021).

George Edwards III emphasizes a certain the fundamental issue in civil service lies in the carelessness to the fulfillment of policies. According on him, without effective policy implementation, policymakers' decisions will not be able to achieve the expected results. To ensure optimal policy implementation, Edwards III identifies three main elements that must be considered, namely communication, resources, and bureaucratic structure. Referring to Edwards III's views, researchers examine, analyze, and describe the government's readiness to enhance Indonesia's economic growth (Ahamd, 2024).

Effective Communication

The implementation of public policy is one of the important stages in the *public policy process* and is a crucial aspect in determining the success of a policy. This is because no matter how well a policy is formulated, without careful planning and implementation, the objectives of the policy will not be achieved effectively (Puriningsih, 2022). In practice, the implementation of public policy requires harmonious and coordinated relationships between relevant agencies, supported by good communication mechanisms. Therefore, the success of a policy program's implementation greatly depends on the level of coordination, synergy, and effective cooperation between institutions and implementing agencies (Setyawan & Srihardjono, 2016). Communication witihin an organization is a complex process and often faces a various obstacle. Information can be withheld duet o certain interest or dissemintaed with different interpretation among implementers.

For policy implementation to be effective, those responsible for executing decisions must understand with certainty whether they are capable of carrying them out. Basically, successful implementation requires clear acceptance and understanding of intent and objectives of the policy by all personnel. If policymakers do not provide specific and detailed explanations, implementers will be confused about the course of action to take. As a result, the forced implementation of policies without adequate communication will not produce the optimal preformance. Deficiencies in the communication process to implementers can have a serious impact on the success of policy implementation (Ahamd, 2024).

More effective communication is one of the main factors in policy implementation. In the context of the Maritime Axis Policy, it is important for the government to ensure that all parties involved, from government officials to maritime industry players, understand the objectives and steps of this policy (Setyawan & Srihardjono, 2016). Information disclosure: the government must provide clear and easily accessible information about this policy. For example, through seminars, *workshops*, and mass media, as well as socialization about the construction of new ports, which must be carried out with the involvement of the local community so that they can understand the potential economic and social benefits of the project. In addition, transparent communication regarding the budget and project implementation will increase trust and support from all parties. Inter-agency coordination is important to ensure that the various government agencies involved in this policy work well together. Poor coordination can hinder policy implementation (Barton, 2021).

Adequate Resources

The level of clarity and consistency in program implementation, as well as the accuracy of communcation, will not yield optimal results if the implementing apparatus lacks the resource to carry out its responsibilities. The resource components in question include sufficient personnel, the level of competence and expertise of the implementers, the availability of relevant and adequate information to support the policy implementation process, and the fulfillment of to the resource needs related to program implementation. In addition, clear and measurable authority is necessary so that program implementation can be directed in accordance with the objectives that have been set. Supporting facilities, such as the availability of funds and adequate facilities and infrastrucuture, are also important factors in supporting successful impelementation (Setyawan et al., 2023).

Policy implementation requires sufficient resources, whether in the form of financial, human, or technological resources. Without sufficient resources, it is impossible for policies to be effective. In this case, financial resources include budget allocations for maritime infrastructure development, naval capability enhancement, and fisheries industry development (Deanto & Marzaman, 2024). The government must allocate sufficient financial resources to support maritime infrastructure development, improve naval capabilities, and develop the fishing industry. In addition, investment

in education and training to improve the skills of the workforce in the maritime sector is also very important. Limitation in the capabilities of program impelementers may also be duet o the fact that the policies are still new to them. In context of maritime axis policy, impelementers are required to have specific technical competencies, particulary the appartus and military, in order to implement programs efficiently and effectively (Indra, 2021).

Information is one of the resources that plays a crucial in the policy implementation process. In general, there are two main types information needed implementation such as information related to the procedures or mechanism for implementing policies and programs, so that implementers understand the operational steps that must be taken, and information related to supporting data to ensure compliance with applicable government regulation and legislation (Lathifah & Noorman, 2017). Limited human resources, both in terms of numbers and capabilities, will have a direct impact on the imperfect implementation programs, especially due to weak supervision and control functions in the field or in office. Under these constraints, efforts to improve the capacity and skills of the impelementers are a strategic step to ensure the effectiveness of program impelementation. Therefore, the application of professional human resource managament oriented towards competency improvement is an important prerequisite for achieving optimal program performance.

Human resources include skilled workers in the maritime sector, ranging from technical to managerial personnel. The government needs to provide adequate training and education to improve human resource capacity in the maritime sector. Furthermore, advanced technology is also needed to support port operations, maritime surveillance, and fisheries production. If the quality and quantity of human resources are insufficient, program implementation will not be optimal due to weak supervision and coordination in the field. Given the limited number of implementing personnel, improving technical capabilities or skills is an important step to ensure the successful implementation of policies. Therefore, effective human resource management is essential to improve overall program performance.

Efficient Bureaucratic Structure

The discussion of the implementing body of a policy cannot be separated form the aspect of bureaucratic structure, the bureaucratuc structure itself reflects a set of characteristics, norms, and patter of relationship that are formed and occur repeatdely in executive institutions. Tthese patterns reflect internal dan external intraction mechanisms that potentially and factually influence the ability of institutions of implement public policies effectively. An effective and efficient bureaucratic structure is crucial for policy implementation. The organizational structure must be clear and not overly complicated, so that tasks and responsibilities can be carried out properly. Simple and transparent bureaucratic procedures will accelerate the policy implementation process. The government needs to create a bureaucratic structure that supports coordination between various agencies and institutions involved in the

implementation of the Maritime Axis Policy (Setyawan et al., 2023). A clear organizational structure and simple bureaucratic procedures will accelerate the policy implementation process. For the Maritime Axis Policy, the government needs to create a bureaucratic structure that supports coordination between various institutions and agencies involved, including the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, the Ministry of Transportation, and the Indonesian Navy. In addition, local governments must also be actively involved in the implementation of this policy (Fathun, 2024).

For example, the government can form a special task force responsible for coordinating the implementation of this policy. This task force consists of representatives from various ministries and related agencies, as well as representatives from local governments and the private sector (Adikara & Munandar, 2021). Even though the available resources are adequate and the implementers understand their duties and responsibilites, policy implementation still has the potential to fail if the existing bureaucratic structure does not support effective coordination. A rigid and multi layered bureaucratic strucutre often hinders the creation of synergy between work units, which is necessary to achieve policy objecrives. Complex policies require cross-sector cooperation and coordination among the various stakeholders involved. Under these condition, bureaucratic inefficiency or waste of resources can have an instant impact to the achievement of fulfillment results. In addition, any changes made in the policy process will have implications not only for individual implementers, but also for the bureaucratic system as a whole. Thus, the success of policy implementation is greatly influenced by the ability of the bureaucratic structure to adapt to the dynamics of change and maintain effective coordination between its various parts (Astuti et al., 2025).

D. Conclusions

In conclusion, the Maritime Axis Policy is a strategic step in utilizing Indonesia's maritime potential to boost economic growth. Using George Edwardss III's Policy Implementation theory, we can see that effective communication, adequate resources, and an efficient bureaucratic structure are key factors in successful implementation. With a focus on infrastructure development, natural resource management, maritime improvement, and international cooperation, the Maritime Axis Policy has succeeded in promoting sustainable economic development. However, to achieve optimal results, a strong commitment from all relevant parties is needed to overcome various challenges and obstacles. Thus, Indonesia can realize its vision as a global maritime axis and strengthen its position in the global economy. This policy not only provides economic benefits, but also improves the welfare of coastal communities and maintains Indonesia's territorial sovereignty amid regional and global geopolitical dynamics. The finding highlight the need for comprehensive policies, effecitve and efficient stakeholder collaboration, and better resource management and minimizing waste and budget expenditure to realize the full potential of the Maritime Axis Policy. By prioritizing sustainability, Indonesia can achieve long-term welfare and significant economic growth.

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