

## Unfamous Beautiful Bonetambu Island In Makassar: Political, Economic, and Educational Perspectives

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### Abstract

*This research discusses the beauty of Bonetambu Island, which is less popular among local, national, and international communities from a political, economic, and educational perspective. This article is an initial introduction to this island, which has natural resource potential that can be managed well to improve community human resources. This paper uses qualitative research with data collection techniques through observation, interviews, and documentation. Secondary data was obtained through scientific journals, books, and the internet. The collected data was processed using Miles and Haberman's analytical techniques, starting with data verification, data display, and drawing conclusions. Results obtained from this article: 1) The people of Bonetambu Island do not yet have reliable political figures who can be launched as legislative candidates, they are only at the stage of supporting figures from outside the island. 2) Bonetambu Island has unique natural resource potential, especially the beauty of seabed coral reefs and the sunset to the west. The people of Bonetambu Island have a good work ethic but need to improve their skills in the field of fisheries with their main livelihood. 3) The educational facilities available on Bonetambu Island are only at the elementary and junior high levels, so very few people continue their education at the junior high school level or at Makassar College.*

**Keywords:** Bonetambu, politics, economy, and education

### Introduction

Bonetambu Island is one of the very beautiful small islands in the city of Makassar. According to Hamzah, Head of Barang Caddi Village, Bonetambu Island is not well known by the local, national, and international community, because the government named the island Barang Caddi 2. Meanwhile, the community does not agree with the name because of its historical value. As a consequence, this island is rarely visited by tourists, which can change the standard of living of the people.

The population is quite dense, with a very small island population of almost 700, the number of heads of families is 200 and political voters is around 400. The area of the island is around 700 square meters. The population density, and the distance from Makassar of more than 1 hour by boat, make this island seem isolated, and development is rather slow. Residents' houses are close to each other, only separated by small alleys, making it impossible for motorbikes, let alone four-wheeled vehicles, to pass through. Apart from that, the lack of facilities makes this island somewhat underdeveloped compared to other islands, for example, education facilities only up to junior high school level, no electricity, a lack of fresh water for consumption or other purposes, and difficulty in sea and less transportation. In general, men work as fishermen and women work as housewives, although there are some who open small businesses such as mixed-ingredient shops and food stalls.

In fact, this island has natural resource potential in the form of very beautiful coral reefs, which can attract local, national, and even international tourists. This increase in living standards can influence the improvement in the quality of education, even in the political aspect, which until now has only been about supporting legislative candidates from outside the island or from the city.

There is not much literature discussing Bonetambu Island. Nurlia Ali and Ahdan Sinelele (2019) discussed the importance of local wisdom in preserving the islands and sea in Bonetambu. The local wisdom referred to by the author is maintaining coral reefs, protecting the authenticity of the island, and the ritual tradition of using boats in order to continue to receive grace from the Creator. Benny Audy Jaya Gosary and Abdul Haris (2012) review a type of flowering plant that grows in the sea called "seagrass" in the Spermonde Islands. One type of seagrass plant is *Syringodium isoetifolium*. The function of seagrass is to stabilize seawater sediment so that it does not become cloudy. Karina Arfany Arfah (2017) discusses the market potential for brittle fish on Bonetambu Island. The fish produced by fishermen on Bonetambu Island is very fresh and cheaper than the fish sold at Makassar auctions.

From some of the articles, it appears that these articles generally review aspects of science or the environment, although they are very useful in this article. Therefore, this article tries to discuss Bonetambu Island from a political, economic, and educational perspective.

### **Theory and Research Methods**

The theory that will be used in this paper is capital or habitus theory. Capital theory covers several aspects, such as political, economic, and educational capital, including other resource capital. Ritzer and Goodman (2012) state that habitus is a skill possessed by a person or society that becomes a practical action as a reflection of natural abilities. Meanwhile, Bourdeau's thinking about capital is an aspect that allows people to find a more decent life in this world. There are various forms of capital, including intellectual ability or educational capital, economic capital or money, and cultural capital or networks. This capital can be obtained if someone has the right habitus in their life (Ritzer Dqan Goodman, 2012). This theory is used in this article to dissect the problems on Bonetambu Island.

The method used is a qualitative research method that collects data through observation, interviews, and documentation (Irawan Soehartono, 2011). Qualitative research is research that explains phenomena, both written and unwritten, related to the behavior of objects experienced and obtained by researchers (Bogdan Taylor, 1996). In-depth interviews are very necessary to explore the problems and potential of Bonetambu Island and to obtain accurate and comprehensive information regarding the politics, economy, and education of the people living on the island. Apart from primary data, secondary data is also needed to complete this written data, such as scientific journals, text books, and the internet. This article will be analyzed using the Miles and Haberman analysis technique, with the steps of data display, data verification, and conclusion drawing.

## Discussion

### A. History of Bonetambu Island

Bonetambu Island is better known as Parang Caddi 2 Island, but the people do not agree with this name, because the island has very unique historical value. They still maintain the name Bonetambu Island, even though the risk is that it is not on the map, or is not well known by the wider community. So, it is rarely visited by tourists, researchers, or those who want to provide community service.

H. Hassing is the third generation on Bonetambu Island. According to him, at the end of the 1930s, the first generation to inhabit this island was Hama daeng Taring (Mustafa daeng Taring). The island was filled with coral and sand, and had as many as 41 people, including his newlywed wife. They did not want to be ruled by the Dutch, so they fled from Kajua, Mare, and Tonra Bone. The island has many rocks and coral reefs, as well as trees. In order to make the island habitable, they filled it up this island, so it was called Bonetambu Island (interview with H. Hassing, 2023). The three regions mentioned above were once kingdoms in the South Bone region, which are now sub-districts in Bone Regency.

According to Ismayanti, this island used to be small and covered with trees. Due to the presence of the South Bone community, especially from Mare, Kajua, and Tonra, as many as 41 people (including Ismayanti's grandparents) filled the island using coral reefs and oasis around the island so that the island became bigger and more livable. After occupying the island in the early 1940s, the Japanese and Dutch armies went to war. However, they could not reach the island, because it was considered uninhabited. This is different from the surrounding islands, which were affected by the war (Interview with Ismayanti, 2023).



The picture above is the situation of Bonetambu Island when it was first inhabited by people. The trees appear to be growing well, while currently it is very difficult for trees to grow except coconut trees. Even mangrove trees, which are useful for resisting abrasion, cannot grow. Meanwhile, the other picture written is a silsila (family tree) written by the second generation, who is still alive, which confirms that they came from South Bone. The community has tried to plant various types of trees, but the results are still to no avail. The only trees that can grow are coconut trees.

To the west of the beach, there is a public cemetery, where the founders of the island are buried along with their descendants. Beside the grave, there is a picture of the beach experiencing erosion, which destroyed eight houses and one quite large public toilet.

The historical capital (*habitus*) possessed by this community can motivate them because their parents and grandparents pioneered this island with extraordinary enthusiasm. With only 40 people, they worked together to juggle the unfit hoard (*tambu*) to make it livable.

## B. Politics on Bone Tambu Island

It seems that the island community does not have a high level of understanding of political education, even though the island has potential if there are legislative or executive candidates from Bonetambu Island with 400 voters. Political education is very beneficial for people to have political knowledge and awareness to achieve prosperity. According to Diah and Aat (2023), political education is beneficial for society, especially the younger generation, in order to give birth to attitudes of patriotism, love of the country, being tolerant, and having a nationalist spirit.

There are no legislative candidates from the island, and they generally come from outside. Those selected were those who frequently visited Bonetambu Island to carry out social activities, and some of them promised that if elected, they would build embankments. However, if there is a legislative candidate who directly makes a donation, then that legislative candidate is chosen by the community. This island is underdeveloped compared to other islands around Bonetambu Island. Many people are not familiar with Bonetambu Island, so if there is community service, it is well received because it is very beneficial for the wider community. One activist named Lina once carried out an assessment and directed her community to carry out community service, including social service currently being carried out by Patompo University (Interview with Ismayanti, 2023).

What the community currently needs is a kind of political education workshop to provide enlightenment about the importance of political education. Listhaug (2021) states that it is very important to implement political education among coastal communities through political education training so that they have awareness and maturity in politics. Apart from that, it is hoped that there will be a younger generation who will have an interest in continuing their education at a higher level in the political science study program. The potential population size and the number of people required to vote make it possible if there are citizens who get involved in practical politics, especially legislative candidates. If there are residents who are elected as members of the council, then there will be residents who will fight for the aspirations of the community to manage Bonetambu Island well.

## **B. Economy and Future of Bonetambu Island**

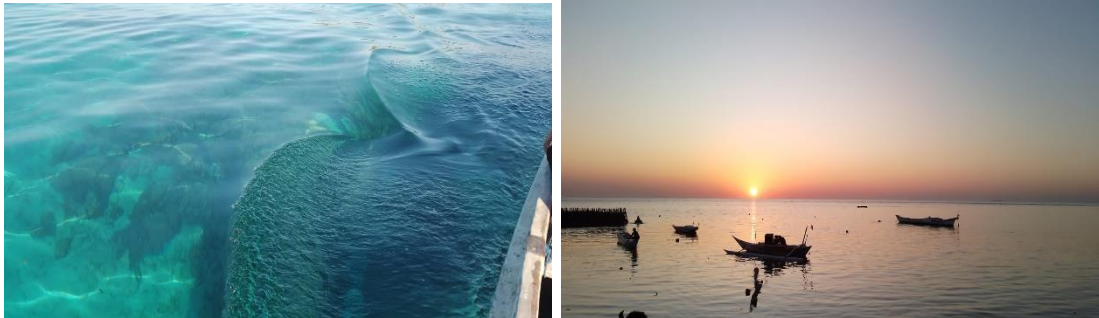
Based on the author's survey, this island has several weaknesses, including that the island is small with a diameter of 700 square meters, densely populated, low education level, often experiences abrasion, minimal clean water, less transportation, no electricity, and difficulty growing trees, except coconut trees. Apart from that, the lack of public facilities such as accommodation, restaurants, or representative stalls for tourists makes this island less attractive. According to Idris, the island was only visited a few times by Germans who were attracted by its natural beauty, which was promoted by a professor from Hasanuddin University, Makassar. Other visitors are students and lecturers who carry out social service or community service activities. Other visitors are politicians who are legislative or executive candidates (interview with M. Idris, 2023).

The occupation of the people of Bonetambu Island in general is fishing. There is no need to doubt their skills in the field of fishing, there are even some people who have the skills to make their own boats out of fiber. Maybe some of them have attended a workshop on making boats from fiber. People's skills in catching fish are directly proportional to the availability of various types of fish around the island. One way to improve the standard of living in fishing is to form fishermen groups as a vehicle for exchanging ideas and helping each other. Ratih Rahmawati et al (2023) state that the community's active participation in fishing group activities was very influential in increasing the fishermen's income. Through the activities carried out, fishermen can improve the quality of their catch, collaborate with the government, and the private sector, including distributing aid, exchanging experiences, and helping each other if someone experiences difficulties.

However, the island has quite large potential, including the natural beauty of coral reefs, the production of various fish, fresh squid, and hardworking people. This island is busy with sellers, but most of the sellers are from outside the island. Ismayanti sells small clothes and headscarves at her house.

Muh. Idrus, Ismayanti's father's fisherman, states that one of the big problems on the island is abrasion, namely large waves from the west, which often cause flooding. In 2017, a disaster occurred that caused eight houses to be damaged and large public toilets to be destroyed. So, the only sport spaces in the center of the island became increasingly narrow, because it used for building houses. In the last year of 2022, sea tides rose to knee level and entered people's homes due to abrasion (interview, 2023).

The natural beauty of Bonetambu Island lies in the coral reefs on the seabed and the sunset, which can be seen to the west where the abrasion occurred. These two potentials can attract local, national, and international tourists.



Unfortunately, this natural beauty is starting to be damaged due to two factors, namely, first, rubbish both from local residents and rubbish from Makassar City. According to Ismayanti (interview, 2023), the waste sourced from Makassar City is far more than the waste sourced from the community. A lot of water pollution is certainly caused by industrial waste in the Makassar industrial area. Second, damage to coral reefs is caused by residents who use coral reefs as building materials, especially by building dams to prevent abrasion. The difficulty of obtaining bricks or mountain foundation stones has made coral reefs an alternative building material.



Attention from the government and the private sector is needed to help the community overcome the problem, so that coral reefs are not used as building materials to replace stone. The use of beautiful coral reefs will have an impact on environmental destruction, which in turn will reduce the level of beauty on the island. Local, national, and foreign tourists will come to visit if its natural beauty is maintained. The large number of tourists coming to Bonetambu Island will have an impact on improving the people's standard of living.

#### **D. Education**

Education is the most important aspect of improving human resources, which in turn greatly influences the level of economic welfare in society among other aspects. The aim of education is basically to educate society, which can benefit the nation, state, and religion.

According to Atli Hardarson (2012), one of the goals of education is to create independent intellectuals. The aim of education stated in paragraph four of the Preamble to the 1945 Constitution is "to create the life of the nation intelligent." In the 2003 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, the function of education is to develop the abilities and character as well as a dignified national civilization in order to make the nation's life more intelligent (Pinton Setya Mustafa, 2022).

Bonetambu Island is an island whose people are relatively low in education, which is caused by several factors, such as the availability of school facilities, the low economic level of the community, and the community's skills in the field of entrepreneurship, which are also minimal. Matthieu Yangambi (2023) states that people who have a low level of education have a significant impact on economic aspects, especially in the field of entrepreneurship, especially in developing countries.

According to Ismayanti (interview, 2023), a final year engineering student at the Indonesian Muslim University in Makassar, school building facilities on Bonetambu Island are only available for elementary and middle schools. If people are interested in continuing their education at the senior high school level, then they have to go to Makassar City. Another factor is economic reasons, so many do not continue their education. Recently, 12 people graduated from Bonetambu Middle School, but only 3 people continued to high school in the city of Makassar. Apart from that, the availability of Package C on Langkai Island next to Bonetambu Island makes some people prefer Package C rather than continuing formal education in Makassar City at a very expensive cost. Package C is a government program to provide teenagers with a diploma equivalent to high school without going through the learning process at school. Another factor is the lack of families or free boarding facilities that can be occupied by island children to continue their education at the high school or university level in Makassar City. Some island children who do not continue their education work as household assistants or shopkeepers who provide accommodation facilities for employees. Recently, only one person has continued their education at higher education, namely his son, Mr. Imam Hamsah, his name is Muh Fajar (Semester one Tahfids 30 juz), who is studying at the Faculty of Sharia and Law at UIN Alauddin Makassar. Ismayanti's younger sister, Indri, is studying at Madrasah Aliyah Negeri 3, third grade, while Ismayanti is continuing her bachelor at Indonesia Muslim University, Makassar after completing her Diploma (D 3) at the same university.

There are only a few scholars on Bonetambu Island and they have careers in Makassar City. Meanwhile, there are two people who want to graduate from higher education who are currently studying at Bosowa University and Alauddin State Islamic University, Makassar. There are eight junior high school teachers on Bonetambu Island, all of whom come from outside the island, five are civil servants, and three are honorary staff. There are seven elementary school teachers, and five grade teachers, including Ismayanti. The lack of facilities and the level of education of the residents of Bonetambu Island cause human resources to be less competitive in various fields of life.

The three aspects of politics, economics, and education are interrelated and mutually support each other in improving the performance of the people of Bonetambu Island. Through history, people can understand the struggle of the founders, who were very tenacious in pioneering this island to make it suitable for living on, so that it can improve

the community's work ethic, learning, and politics. Through political awareness, especially with residents becoming members of the council, attention to the development of natural resources and human resources on Bonetambu Island can be accelerated quickly. In the economic aspect, if people have a good income, then they will overcome all the problems they face. Likewise with education, good human resources will have a huge influence on other aspects such as politics, economics, and education.

## **Conclusion**

Bonetambu Island is an island that is part of Makassar and has a distance of 1 hour and 20 minutes. This island was opened by 41 South Bone, Mare, Tonra, and Kajuara nobles who did not want to surrender to the Dutch in the late 1930s. They filled (tambu) the island with coral reefs, and sand around the beach so that the island became wider. The people of Bonetambu Island do not yet have a political figure who could be launched as a legislative candidate. They are just at the stage of supporting figures from outside the island or from the city of Makassar, both legislative and executive candidates, such as the candidate for Mayor of Makassar.

Bonetambu Island has unique natural resource potential, especially the beauty of seabed coral reefs and the sunset to the west. However, coral reefs suffer from water pollution and are used as building materials for embankments due to abrasion. The people of Bonetambu Island have a good work ethic but need to improve their skills in the field of fisheries, which is their main livelihood. Apart from that, the people of this island need entrepreneurial skills in order to improve their standard of living.

The educational facilities available on Bonetambu Island are only at the elementary school and junior high school levels, so very few people continue their education at the senior high school level at Makassar College. Some teenagers work in the city of Makassar as shop employees.

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