

Women in Politics of Tin Resources: Multiple Problems of Human Rights under the Curse Shadows of Natural Resources - Tin Mining in Bangka Belitung Islands

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Abstract

The economic practice of tin mining in Bangka-Belitung (Babel) Islands Province surely is not separated from direct or indirect of women involvement. The demography of mining society in Babel precisely displays of women are massively in mining arena. The rule of law and practice of mining tends to uncontrollable, liar, destructive and exploitative so far has shown surely the negative impacts which overburden the women position. On the other hand, they should be smarter in managing of domestic needs, nurturing their children; meanwhile, the others have to go down to the river, to 'camui-camui' (holes) as an ex of tin mining areas until evening. Moreover, they face several of complexities whether internal nor external threats; like domestic violence, divorce, gambling, HIV AIDS, a dangerous accident of mining, and etc. These reflect how dangerous, weak, and heavy of multiple burdens. Those are also relevant to the disease of tin mining which always shows some evidence; gambling, prostitution, alcohol, narcotics. However; women dominantly suffer social burden among capitalism war where tin has become an important material to support their industries. This article aims at exploring how far a critical feminist & human right perspective could influence to bear on women's human right circumstance and complex burden faced in Babel. This project analyzed women's presence and also its burden in tin mining issues whether in private or public sphere. I addressed emerging issues and questions about the status of human rights in tin mining issues.

Keywords: women, politics, tin resources, human rights, & curse of natural resources, Babel Islands.

Introduction

Besides the commodity of muntoc white pepper which is so famous in the world, Babel is also popular as an island territory having the richest tin orbit in the world¹.

¹ In relation to the tin history in Babel, there were some studies which confirmed the importance of the position of this island as one of the rich territories with its tin resources where many parties wanted to take away because of its strategic value. In addition, the tin deposit in Indonesia had been concentrated in the small islands such a Bangka, Belitung, Singkep, Karimun, and Kundur. Raffles (1811) eves was impressed by Babel Islands because he believed that this island would be the biggest tin mining area in the world. According to Westerfeld, Bangka Island was one of the Malay Orogenese orbits which were

Until now, even exploitation of tin resources still ongoing happen so that being the only one region as the production of tin in Indonesia, and in Southeast Asia.² Surely, the circumstances on one hand is the beneficial of economic profit, but on the other hand, precisely caused several of problems sociologically and ecologically which surely leaving a long term burden and dangerous which should be faced by local people.³

The context of tin history in Babel⁴, put the political economic of tin as the power issues. It cannot be separated to the setting as a tactics of political power. Starting from the Dutch colonial era or more than 300 years already Babel Islands were exploited its tin resources through different regimes. Whether legal or illegal where all of them surely same as a overburden, or at least as dilemma phenomenon for a long run on the context of social and political demography of local community.

The basic question is how about the implication of tin political resources in Babel to the aspect of democracy, especially to the dimension of strengthening or weakening to values of feminism and human rights? Besides, how about the status quo to the daily politics of tin resources today; is it better in relation to human rights issues?

spread out from Birma, Malaysia, Singkep, Bangka, and Belitung Island. (see Ibrahim, 2011:46; 2002:15, 2013:8, 2013: ; Sujitno, 2007:35; 2011:xxx; Erman, 2009:46

² See Erman (2007), and Sujitno dan Erman (in Ibrahim, 2013:35).

³ Based on the 2014 LKPD Report, the records relating to the Critical Land Provision of Prov.Babel in 2013 contained 987,739 Ha in a rather critical category of land. This amount means 3 times compared to the conditions in 2010. Then, for critical land the amount is 155.389 Ha. That is almost 2 times compared in 2010.

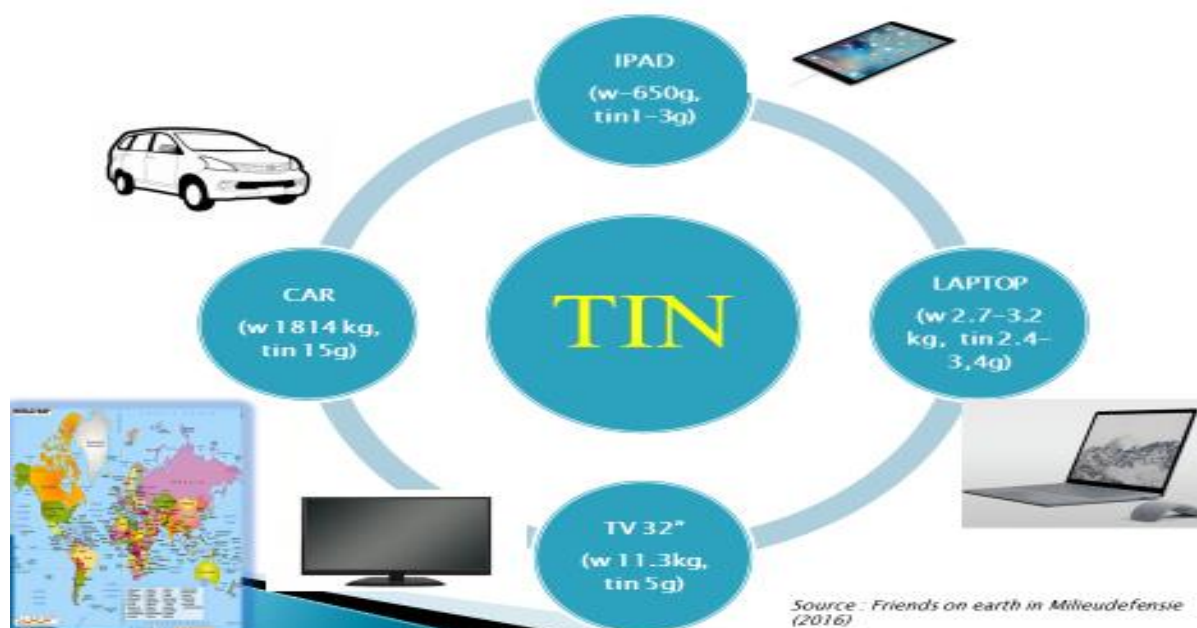
⁴ The Reform Era has become a new phase in the business politics of tin resource management in Babel. In addition to the 2 old companies that monopolize for a long time; PT.Timah Tbk and PT.Koba Tin emerged several private and illegal mining and private tin management practices, both small scale (Inkonvensional Mine / TI) and large scale (Conventional Mine / TK) owned by local businessmen and from beyond Babel. Even the presence of new businessmen of tin mining is precisely (Erwiza, 2010: 72) able to compete with the production mobility of the two old companies. Model and system of tin mining of new companies are suspected very greedy, exploitative and destructive because it is very thick with business logic hunting profits as much as possible in the fastest and shortest possible time (See Erman, 2010:71-72; Ibrahim, 2013:2).



So far, tin exploitation practices precisely displays a style which so hegemonic and capitalistic, so that caused portrait of tin resources in Babel being so exploitative and destructive. The faces of politics of tin precisely impressed capital accumulation only by many actors, whether locally, nationally, and internationally where all of them are same as not having care to ecological impacts, either environmental crises or moral decadence.⁵ On the one hand, the phenomenon of tin where it can give an instantaneous and immediate profit for the economy, but on the other hand

⁵ This condition lasted so long in the political phase of control of tin resources in Babylon, especially when the Bupati of Bangka at that time published the Perda No.6 of 2001 which regulates the problem of free mining. This is a further response to the central regulation, especially Law 11/1967, then regulation of Kepmenperindag 558/1998 and Law No.22 / 1999, which basically no longer lists tin as a strategic commodity. See Ibrahim, 2011.

precisely caused a context of chaos and complexity of value crisis in society.⁶ This in turn complicates the position of the woman and the reality of human rights on politics of tin resources in Babel. So, what happened is social injustice.



Many hundreds, even thousands of women were struggled on the tin mining arena to collect remain tin sands, on land or the beach, who felt so tired on unconventional mining, and even in the middle of suction boats owned by businessmen and state company.

Demography of Women and Tin

In Babel, tin exploitation practices have triggered a few change of topography and problem of demography which is so serious and massif, such as; prostitution practice, gambling rampant, hedonism, consumptive, exploitation of children, high rate of young couple marriage, dengue fever, proliferation of HIV Aids, domestic violence, and also high numerous of divorce so far. This context in the end is precisely being problem and multiple burden which faced dominantly by women. In south Bangka and Middle Bangka, in the last 10 recent years there were so many later school-aged children who did an early marriage.⁷

⁶ Data from ICW in 2004 alone recorded the state losses on tin commodities that were not less than Rp.68 trillion, both in taxes, reclamation costs, royalties, export taxes, and non-tax revenues. The practice of large-scale tin business through Mining Business License also shows a relatively large number. For example the findings of Minerba KPK Corsup found 601 IUPs that have not been 'clear and clean' or about 55% of the total 1,085 IUP. This is obviously a massive corruption practice in tin sumbic politics in Babel. Quoted from News Antara Babel, 25/9/2017.

⁷ Citing BKKBN data, Babel province is one of the provinces with very high early marriage rate, which is around the age of 15-19th, approximately 47.9%. This level is located at several levels from the provinces of Central Kalimantan, West Java, and South Kalimantan. South Bangka regency is one of the districts with the highest level of early marriage in Babel.



There is a politics of omission in Babel so far, both by local government, security forces, and entrepreneurs who seem to know nothing and do not care to the fact of destructive and exploitative happened so far. Women are the most burdened by local and global capitalist practice that have led to the poor reality of human rights and seem to marginalize the position of women. They precisely bared multiple problems and burdens from tin exploitation practice massively and irresponsibly.⁸

This in turn presents the politics of tin resources has displayed the detrimental impact to the community on the tin mining area, especially those trapped in the tin business vortex that is gender biased, and potentially violates human rights aspects and values. This is certainly very interesting to observe, especially for mapping related to how far the practice of tin resources reality in Babel is strongly related to the practice of strengthening or weakening of the political values of human rights or social justice.

This paper will elaborate the various old and new problems related to the position of woman and the reality of human rights in the practice of tin resources exploitation in Babel. Approximately, this paper would like to try in mapping out the reality of women demography in Babel on the politics of tin resources as the arena that triggers the violation of human values (HAM).

⁸ The condition of the paradox of the tidings actually presents the practice of mutual accusations or accusations between the old company and the new company that each claimed to be legal and the other considered illegal.



Women's politics in the context of democracy has indeed become one of the mainstreams of discourse that continues to be the attention of many parties, especially with regard to the context of women's critical feminism in the political spaces. The context of women's political studies in democratic discourse has tended to engage in electoral issues, or at least discuss the study of social capital and the empowerment of women in the context of socio-economics power.

Discussions related to women and politics of tin resources are two much related contexts, and it has always been the trigger for the emergence of various burdens of problems that being traps to the fate of women. The economic context cannot be separated by the existence of women. However, the position of women becomes very crucial in coloring the dynamics of public space that often seems to be trapped in a patriarchal context.⁹ In addition, women are also very vulnerable to problems causing their rights in the context of critical feminism to be very weak, discriminatory, and away from the values of social and economic justice.

Literature Review

This article aims at exploring how far a critical feminist & human right perspective could influence to bear on women's human right circumstance and complex burden faced in Babel. The projects analyzed women's presence and also its burden in tin mining issues whether in private or public sphere. I addressed emerging issues and questions about the status of human rights in tin mining issues.

Human rights are now has been the dominant approach to social and political justice local and globally. Related to the basic understanding of women's issues actually have relations with the work and social change context. Women from various classes

⁹ Sujadmi, 2016. 'Women and Social Capital on The Arena of Social Economic Power (A Study of Women in Pheriphery Pangkalpinang)'. Proceeding articles of international conference in University Indonesia.

are often confronted with various issues and situations, ranging from issues; marginalization, domestication, and housewarming issues.¹⁰ Dynamics and issues of human rights become one of the important arenas for the context of feminism in order to build and strengthen awareness related to discrimination, castration, and oppression that occurs, both structurally and culturally to women.

Therefore, human rights become an arena in struggling for women's position in tin resource politics. The existence of the dichotomy of public and private space in the space of feminism thinking of legal theory and practice is interpreted as the cause of the vulnerability of women's position. The relation with the political context of tin resources in Babel precisely this dichotomy does not apply because the two spaces into an exploitative arena for women so that must bear the burden layered as housewives as well as citizens.

So far there have been several studies related to politics of tin resources issues in Babel, such as the research done by Erwiza, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2010; Ibrahim, 2011, 2013, and 2016. Previous studies on women and tin mining in Babel have been done by couple of researchers. The study was adequately related to tin, women and failed state, politics of protest, regulation of tin mining and local egalitarianism, and etc.

Erman's (2010) studied and reviewed the relationships between state, women and mining companies, and how the mining and women's relationships and women's functions in mining exploitation in the local context. This study ultimately describes how then there was a state failure in the context of community building from mining exploitation. The study actually shows that as the narrowing of the agricultural space due to the expansion of the tin mining arena, it has undermined their socio-economic ecological structure, including for example when the sources of clean water damaged by the tin mining, of course women have to struggle to get the source of clean water. According to Erman, this is one context of acute suffering.

Ibrahim's study (2013), for example, explains how chaotic political texts are so far removed from the values of Pancasila. There is a context of tin political economy that is highly patterned global-local capitalism, and does not reflect the economic practice of Pancasila as a fundamental instrument in the context of the state.

The above studies are helpful and contributive in enriching the study material on women's study of tin resource politics in Babel, in terms of socio-political, economic, and cultural demographics. The viewpoint of feminism and human rights in this study actually enriches and deepens our knowledge of the study of tin political demography of tin resources in relation to human rights democracy and critical feminism which are still rare, especially the depth of the human rights dimension that arises in tin resource politics.

Research Methods

This study was designed with qualitative approach, and it was chosen by considering that the researcher would be more unimpeded to explore data without having to be limited with certain questions. Our research aimed at exploring how far a critical feminist and human right perspective could influence to bear on women's human right circumstance and complex burden faced in Babel. This project analyzed women's presence and also its burden in tin mining issues whether in private or public sphere. We addressed emerging issues and questions about the status of human rights in tin mining issues. In terms of the approach used, then the method of this research was the study of the field with a qualitative approach by depth

¹⁰ Saptari & Holzer dalam Estu Putri, 2016:2. See more; Valentina, 2007:3.

interview and media analyses. This study was also made by using the related studies. In terms of its analysis model, then the research was classified in the kind of descriptive analytic study.

There are at least 5 important factors that need to be found in this study. First, this study departs from empirical experience based on a long process of direct observation rather than testing theoretical framework in empirical reality. Second, ethnographic and demographic politics that seek to explore the knowledge and experience of everyday tin miners of women, whether directly or indirectly related to the practice of tin mining issues. Thirdly, it deals with women's political demography in the arena of tin resources power and business. Fourthly, the authors discussed again the factors that triggered the layered burden facing women; especially those related to the explanation of how sad about women's position and fate in relation to feminism and human rights values. Fifth, the author also displays the reality related dimensions grinding entities and local cultural values. This in turn will complement some of the authors' record of tin resources practice from the past until this moment that seems to strengthen the thesis of the curse of tin resources in '*Bumi Laskar Pelangi*'.

Results and Discussions

In fact, the practice of tin resources exploitation which is going on from the last and nowadays precisely is not sensitive yet to the perspective of feminism and human rights values. The position of women becomes more complicated when on the one hand women should be as a mother figure who is responsible in the care of children, cooking, and take care of the house, but on the other side precisely the woman must get involved in tin mining activity which is very vulnerable to danger of mining accident which can happen anytime. Women in this context may experience directly or indirectly many threats and dangerous experiences; ranging from the threat of landslides mudslide which in fact has many casualties, both disabled / paralyzed to death.

Daily Political of Women in Tin Issues

A woman screaming and crying hysterically while holding her child, instantly limp and fainted after lamenting the fate of the husband who is the lead of boss of mine (Rizal, 29 years) buried alive in the unconventional mining hole (TI Mini) in Pemali-Bangka Induk (Bangkapos, 29/9/2016). In October 2016, two miners (each Harjono, 44 yrs and Iwan, 43 yrs) were killed in a mine landslide. (Media Indonesia, 17/10/2016). The number of tin mining accidents in Babel is very high in the last 10 years. Based on the mass media report, during the phases of 2010, 2011 and 2012 alone there were more than 50 more casualties, most of them dead at the mine site, and others suffering disability and paralysis for a long run their life. Whereas the data is very limited, and it is likely that the number of mine accidents scattered in 7 districts/cities in Babel more cases and not reported by citizens, or even escaped the attention of local and national mass media.¹¹ Even, according to Erman (in Ibrahim 2017), death estimation data due to working accident in tin mining area in 2011 was about 1 people/week. This data was very serious.

The position of women may be in this case can feel the impact directly or indirectly, for example when the loss of the husband due to mine accidents, automatically

¹¹ In some coastal areas of Toboali and Permis-Bangka Selatan the fact is that so many villagers are desperate to dive on the seabed using a simple compressor. They dive to install a traditional pipe of floating mines on the sidelines of dredgers and large suction boats owned by businessmen and red plate companies that have huge and massive exploitation power. Not a few residents Permis Village and Sebagin Village who died due to broken blood vessels for too long diving with traditional and limited equipment.

burden women become more severe because they have to support the family, especially the needs of food, health and education of children. The condition is worsened by the increasingly narrowing of agricultural land and plantations due to the expansion of legal and illegal mining areas. Not to mention the mobility of migrants or migrants from outside Bangka Island, certainly greatly affect the space and economic mobility of local residents and immigrants full of conflicts and social ills.



A grandmother lives alone in this house & Tin Mining Area in a big scale.

Mining Sorrow, Human Rights & Multiple Burden of Women

The economic practice of tin mining in Babel certainly cannot be separated from the direct or indirect involvement of women. The demographics of mining communities in Babylon actually show women massively in the mining arena. Rules of law and mining practices tend to be out of control, liars, destructive and exploitative so far have shown a negative impact that weighs on women's position. On the other hand, they should be smarter in managing domestic needs, caring for their children, while others have to descend into the river, to 'camui-camui' (holes) as former tin mining areas (usually crocodiles) until dusk. In addition, they face the complexities of both internal and external threats; such as domestic violence, divorce, gambling, HIV AIDS, dangerous mining accidents, and so on. It reflects how dangerous, weak and heavy weights are. It is also relevant to tin mining diseases that always show some evidence; gambling, prostitution, alcohol, narcotics. However; Women are dominantly suffering from social burdens among capitalist wars in which tin have become an essential ingredient to support their industry.



One of tin mining on the beach

Suction Boat



Ext. tin mining area.

'Reman', Women and Protection of Business in Tin Island

The omission of politics context is caused by the weak local authority in provincial or regency level in Babel on disciplining illegal tin mining practice massively and widely. Erman (2006) even discovers that the country, in this context, the local government is impressed by the protectionist practice in regards to the "tin kings" business.¹²

The woman involvement practice in tin mining has been a common phenomenon on the daily basis of local people in Babel. The women position in this case is as the

¹²A study done by Erwiza Erman (2006), explained that the exploitation practice and politics of taking over the tin resources in Babel during the reformation era were empowered by the domination of tin businessmen (The local strongmen). Erwiza, even categorized that in Babel, there were three "tin kings" traced or detected; the "1st Tin King" in Pangkalpinang, was actually the owner of Sriwijaya Air; the "2nd tin King" in Pangkalpinang, was actually a business man in Mentok, west Bangka; and based on the results of the interview between the researcher and Erman in March 2015, the "3rd tin king" lived in Toboali, south Bangka who was also a business man having the important role in the tin business circle in south Bangka. More interestingly, the aforementioned "tin kings" had a strong access to the main source of power that possessed the protection service from the apparatuses and also hardly commit doing some manipulation practices related to illegal mining agenda to outside Indonesia (i.e. Singapore, Japan, Taiwan, France, The Netherlands, etc.)

active tin miner using the provided equipment. There are also women who follow their husband using a small machine such as Robin. This activity is closely related to the dangerous threats that can happen anytime.

In this case, the women are sometimes faced with the dangerous threats such as an immediate avalanche or the crocodile threats from the river around the tin mining area. Besides, there are a few women involving in "Reman" activity in tin mining area. This position is different from the "preman" or freeman context in common. The "reman" category has its own types such as, the "reman" who is accidentally providing the food and beverage service, including the boat service that will help the mobility of the tin miner to reach the mining locations or areas. The results gained from the activity is that there is a reward in a form of one can or one plate of tin, or more or less 1-2 kg from the miners who give it voluntarily to the *reman* and the service provider.

Trajectory political trajectory presents the reality of consciousness as well as the overwhelming pressure that women face. Some of the mobilization of protest political movements through the momentum of demonstrations related to tin mining has been transferred by the business political interests of brokers or tin businessmen who use female miners to protest any new policies considered to inhibit the mobility of excavation and expansion of their mining areas. On the other hand, there is also, the context of domestic issues that women must face, such as the potential for fractures or divorce of household relations resulting from mine economic strains that have fostered the development of the context of 'disease mining'; gambling, women/ prostitution, drinking and drugs.

From some of the data the researchers obtained, as well as the process of interviews with the mothers, WALHI Babel, religious leaders, community leaders, and the Tanjung Pandan District Religious Court as well as Sungailiat Bangka in March 2015; August-September 2016; August 2017 turns out divorce rate in Babel is relatively very high. In Belitung Island, for example, the number of divorce claims to divorce slots shows relatively high numbers for the small population sizes.¹³ In 2011, 2012, 2013

Upcoming Disease

Besides, the HIV AIDS threat increases every year. Babel becomes one of the provinces in Indonesia that has prominent number of HIV AIDS sufferers and it increases every year. Based on the interview done in June 2015 with some local people and some newcomers who open food stalls in the area of *Parit Tiga* dock and *Bakik* Jebus, as well as the ship crews in the suction boat owned by *PT. Timah Tbk* around the dock, the researcher obtains some information such as there is a prostitution practice in the suction boats and dredgers that is 1-3 miles in the middle of the beach.

¹³ Some interesting cases showed that there were some prostitution and gambling practices emerged in the forests where the tin mining was explored. Besides, there were some cases when women in Belitung Island attacked (invaded) some café or coffee shops in Belitung. Most of the coffee shops functioned as the public social arena where the local people had their meetings. Despite of the previous fact, there were also some coffee shops functioned as the place where the married tin miners had their "forbidden relationship" with another men or women. Moreover, there were also coffee shops that offered "plus services" to the tin miners where the stigma about negative coffee shops emerged.

¹⁵This condition was confirmed by Jumina (37 years old) as a nurse in *Bhakti Timah* Hospital in Pangkalpinang who confirmed to the researcher that for the past few years, there were numerous number of foreigners, especially those coming from Thailand who were infected by HIV AIDS. This interview was conducted in May and in September, 2017.

Most of the workers or the suction boat labors were the Thailand people who have limited permission from the immigration office are not allowed to land on the terrain in the West Bangka. Commonly, there are a few woman (mostly newcomers) who frequently across to the beach every week using the boat provided to give a sex service to miners.¹⁴

Moreover, the results of the interview (with Ratno, 2015) shows that it is nearly easy to find the autistic children in Babel. Although there are no medical facts confirming this issue, it has been the attention of the Japanese researchers that find out that there is a radiation threat from the tin mining activity (dangerous tin-waste substances) done in the mine area or in the smelter area (tin melting area).

Furthermore, it is inevitably that the policy will strengthen the economic design of tin politics, in local, national, and global scales which will produce a serious protection to the women rights. In this case, it is very urgent to strengthen the national or international community attention in relation to the circumstances fact of women rights. This case gives a serious and long-term implication to the structure and the quality of local demography entirely.

Conclusion

Based on the results of this study, in general there are several conclusions obtained. For instances, tin resources as a non-renewable exploited massively and destructively without seriously concerning human rights violence, environmentally broken, social-cultural pressure. The problems are several detrimental effects of tin resources will violate and endanger women position in social and political local demography. However, women in politics of tin resource have so far faced many negative social impacts; like violence in family, divorce, prostitution, uneducated women, poor quality water supplies due to ground water contamination by dangerous particles from tin waste which could endanger their health and pregnancy, excessive working hours of husbands in tin mining area until evening, the lack of women's participation in education, growing number of prostates, and etc. Besides, the loss of local wisdom that is so far important as a public sphere for citizen, especially for women. The facts show that women have lost a lot of their experiences as active citizens. By this time, there are many conflicts in politics of tin resources in which women are involved. Tin mining in Babel has tremendously altered the lifestyle of local communities and women in particular.

In this study, there are several suggestions that can be given for further research.

1. The advice given is in stakeholder in local, national and international contexts to strengthen commitment in law enforcement, especially in upholding the law punishment for tin mining and business activities whether small and a large scale. Besides, strengthening the control and education empowerment is very important in improving the awareness and quality of life. Up next, it is important to make an audit for company or businessmen to prove the guilty in destructing of environment, violating the rights of children and women who have suffered the detrimental effect of tin resources exploitation.
2. To strengthen the commitment and integrity of local NGO, Police officer and local administrative in ruling the tin regulatory system in order to give more protections for women.
3. NGO in local and national should try to consolidate to the international stakeholders in making sure that advocacy of human rights for local people who have faced the detrimental effects of tin resources is able to be empowered economically, socially, and politically. This means, the public awareness for

strengthening the values of human rights needs to be seriously encouraged in terms of making social justice.

4. It should be any re-investment from the profit obtained, whether from investor red plate or black, formal and informal to maximize the beneficial.
5. It is very important CSR and The Royalty should be allocated for protecting, empowerment, and appreciating human right values in local context.

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