
RESEARCH ARTICLE

Legal Culture of Coastal Lampung Indigenous People Based on Local Wisdom

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ABSTRACT

This article discusses the legal culture of the Lampung Coastal Traditional Tribe Community Based on Local Wisdom, which highlights the traditional legal system of the Lampung Coastal Traditional Tribe Community and how local wisdom shapes and influences its legal practices. This research examines how cultural values, customs, and local norms play a role in resolving disputes, law enforcement, and regulating social life in these communities. Using qualitative methods, this article analyzes the structure of customary law and legal implementation mechanisms based on local wisdom principles, as well as their impact on social harmonization and cultural preservation. It is hoped that the findings from this research will provide in-depth insight into the relevance and adaptation of customary law in the modern context, as well as enrich understanding of the diversity of local wisdom-based legal systems in Indonesia.

KEYWORDS

Legal Culture, ethnic Lampung Pesisir, Local Wisdom.

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1. Introduction

Indonesia is a country rich in cultural, ethnic, national, and linguistic diversity.¹ Every culture has its own unique customs and traditions. For example, in Lampung, there are two distinct customary traditions, Adat Pepadun and Adat Saibatin (Peminggir). People who follow Adat Pepadun generally live along the river that leads to the Java Sea, while those who follow Adat Saibatin inhabit the coast and along the river that leads to the Indonesian Ocean. The origin of Lampung comes from the term "Anjak Lampung," which indicates a high origin. Therefore, the ancestors of the Lampung tribe in the past first settled in the Skala Brak highlands, located on Mount Pesagi to the shores of Lake Ranau, now known as West Lampung Regency.² According to Meli Septania (2017)³ Lampung Pesisir people usually live in Labuhan Maringgai, Pugung, Jabung, Way Jepara, Kalianda, Raja Basa, Teluk Betung, Padang Cermin, Cukuh Balak, Way Lima, Talang Padang, Kota Agung, Semaka, Suoh, Sekincau, Batu Brak, Belalau, Liwa, Pesisir Krui.

Lampung Pesisir and Lampung Pepadun share one region but have different traditions and cultures. Linguistically, both use different dialects; Lampung Pesisir uses dialect A (Api), while Lampung Pepadun uses dialect O (Nyow). In Lampung Pesisir community, the series of traditions after the wedding is called "Nayuh," while in Lampung Pepadun, it is called "Begawi or Guaiyan."

¹ Ahmad Sofwani, Hendrik Kurube, and Choirul Saleh, "Indigenous Forest Conservation Model Based Local Wisdom of Great Wamesa Clan in Teluk Wondama West Papua," 2022.

² Citra Ayyuhda, "Nilai-Nilai Kearifan Lokal Kitab Kuntara Raja Niti Sebagai Pedoman Laku Masyarakat Lampung," n.d.

³ Meli Septania, Hasyim Adelina, and Yanzi Hermi, "Implementasi Nilai Kearifan Lokal Dalam Proses Upacara Pernikahan Adat Lampung Sai Batin," *jurnal kultur demokrasi*, 2017.

Nayuh refers to a series of traditions, such as circumcision and marriage. Before Nayuh, there is a family meeting or traditional meeting called Himpun in the Lampung Saibatin community, which consists of Himpun Muakhi (deliberation from the extended family), Himpun Suku-suku Adat (deliberation from local traditional leaders), and Himpun Muli Mekhanai (preparation for bujang and gadis).

Recognition of and respect for indigenous peoples has been expressly regulated in Article 18 B paragraph (2) of the 1945 Constitution. Article 18 B paragraph (2) states that "the state recognizes and respects customary law communities and their traditional rights as long as in reality they still exist, in accordance with the development of society and the principles of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia and are regulated by law."

This research adopts a normative juridical approach, which involves analyzing library materials or secondary data, including primary, secondary, and tertiary legal materials. This normative legal research is conducted through several stages, namely the inventory of positive law, the discovery of legal principles, and the discovery of law in concreto.

2. Result and Discussion

2.1 Kitab Kuntara Raja Niti

Kitab Kuntara Raja Niti is a traditional guide to the customs of the people of Lampung. It is used by almost all tribes and sub-tribes in Lampung, whether they live inland or on the coast. In Lampung's customary laws, especially those found in the Kitab Kuntara Raja Niti, there are many values that are in line with commonly known Islamic values. Lampung customary law is closely related to local wisdom, especially when viewed from the perspective of the spread of Islam in Indonesia, especially in Lampung Province.⁴

Kitab Kuntara Raja Niti is a very important and valuable literary work that serves as a traditional guide for the people of Lampung. It is not only a guideline for practicing customs but also plays a crucial role in maintaining and preserving local culture. It is widely used by almost all tribes and sub-tribes in Lampung, both those living in the remote inland areas and those along the coast closer to trade and shipping activities.⁵

Lampung's customary law, contained in the Kitab Kuntara Raja Niti, contains values that are in line with Islamic principles that are generally accepted in the community.⁶ This reflects how Lampung customary law has adapted and integrated with Islamic teachings, creating a synergy between local traditions and broader religious values.

This Lampung customary law is not only a reflection of local wisdom but is also closely linked to the process of spreading Islam in Indonesia, particularly in Lampung Province. The Kitab Kuntara Raja Niti, as such, serves not only as a legal and customary guide but also as a bridge between local traditions and religious influences, showing how the two elements influence each other and merge in the context of the Lampung people's lives.⁷

2.2 Kitab Kuntara Raja Niti as a Local Wisdom Value of Lampung People

The Kitab Kuntara Raja Niti is a precious heritage that not only guides the customs of the people of Lampung but also reflects the rich and deep values of local wisdom. This book is used not only by the major tribes in Lampung but also by sub-tribes scattered in various regions, both inland and on the coast. As a collection of customary rules and norms that have been passed down from generation to generation, Kitab Kuntara Raja Niti not only influences the social structure of Lampung society but also serves as a foundation for regulating various aspects of daily life, ranging from family affairs, agriculture, to religious life.

One important aspect of the Kitab Kuntara Raja Niti is its ability to harmonize traditional values with Islamic teachings.⁸ Although this book originated before the spread of Islam in Lampung, its values have been successfully integrated into the context of the

⁴ Ayyuhda, "Nilai-Nilai Kearifan Lokal Kitab Kuntara Raja Niti Sebagai Pedoman Laku Masyarakat Lampung."

⁵ Yayan Sopyan et al., "Degradation of Customary Inheritance Law in the Sai Batin Lampung Tribe," *Al-Adalah* 17, no. 2 (March 19, 2021): 295–314, <https://doi.org/10.24042/adalah.v17i2.7137>.

⁶ Fitri Yasin and Eni Juhro, "Kitab Kuntara Raja Niti Study of the Entry of Islam in Lampung," in *Proceedings of the The First International Conference On Islamic Development Studies 2019, ICIDS 2019, 10 September 2019, Bandar Lampung, Indonesia* (The First International Conference On Islamic Development Studies 2019, ICIDS 2019, 10 September 2019, Bandar Lampung, Indonesia, Bandar Lampung, Indonesia: EAI, 2019), <https://doi.org/10.4108/eai.10-9-2019.2289343>.

⁷ Wahyudin Wahyudin, Dedi Wahyudi, and Khotijah Khotijah, "Managing Local Independence: The Role Of Traditional Leaders In Building The Character Of Ulun Lampung," *Akademika: Jurnal Pemikiran Islam* 25, no. 2 (October 1, 2020): 235, <https://doi.org/10.32332/akademika.v25i2.1644>.

⁸ Yasin and Juhro, "Kitab Kuntara Raja Niti Study of the Entry of Islam in Lampung."

religious life of the majority Muslim Lampung community today. This shows the flexibility and depth of local wisdom in accommodating and integrating new values without sacrificing the identity and cultural heritage that has existed for a long time.⁹

The Kitab Kuntara Raja Niti is also a reflection of wisdom in managing natural resources and the environment. The guidelines on agriculture, fisheries, and other natural resource management contained therein reflect a deep understanding of the harmonious relationship between humans and their natural surroundings. These values not only survive and are relevant in the modern context but also make a positive contribution to maintaining the sustainability of the ecosystem and the socio-economic life of the people of Lampung.

Kitab Kuntara Raja Niti is not just a traditional guidebook but a symbol of local wisdom that is deeply embedded in the culture and lives of the Lampung people. Its involvement in regulating social, religious, and environmental values shows how important this heritage is in holistically shaping the identity and sustainability of Lampung society. Through understanding and respecting the Kitab Kuntara Raja Niti, the people of Lampung not only keep their ancestral heritage alive but also continue to develop these values to realize a better and sustainable future for future generations.¹⁰

2.3 Kitab Kuntara Raja Niti as a Guide in Coastal Traditions

Coastal Lampung is an area that experiences intense interaction with various cultures and economies thanks to its position as a trade and shipping route. Coastal communities often face situations involving multiple interests and conflicts that require fair and structured resolution. The Kitab Kuntara Raja Niti serves as a guide in dealing with customary issues in the region. It provides clear rules and procedures regarding various aspects of social life, including dispute resolution, marriage, and individual rights.¹¹

In coastal Lampung, where life is often connected to maritime activities and trade, the Kitab Kuntara Raja Niti helps maintain social stability and ensures that customary norms are consistently applied. For example, in terms of land and natural resource management, it sets out rules that help avoid conflict between local residents and outsiders who may be involved in resource exploitation. This is particularly important in coastal areas, where ownership and use of resources are often a major source of conflict.

2.4 Integration of Customary Values and Modernity in the Coastal Zone

Coastal Lampung is experiencing rapid social change due to the influence of globalization and modernization, which brings new challenges for communities in maintaining their traditional values. In this dynamic context, the Kitab Kuntara Raja Niti plays a crucial role in helping communities integrate adat values with the demands of modern times. It not only provides guidance for the adaptation of customs but also offers a flexible legal framework that allows traditional practices to be adapted to the needs and changes taking place in coastal communities that are increasingly connected to the outside world. For example, the Kitab Kuntara Raja Niti directs how customs can be modified to remain relevant amidst social and economic changes without compromising their underlying cultural essence. With this approach, the book serves as a bridge between tradition and modernity, facilitating a process of adaptation that maintains a balance between innovation and cultural preservation. This enables coastal communities to manage the changes they face in a way that respects their cultural heritage while welcoming new developments so that they can address the challenges of globalization in a way that retains their unique cultural identity.¹²

2.5 Islamic Influence in Coastal Customs

The spread of Islam in coastal Lampung has had a significant impact on local customary laws and traditional practices. This acculturation process brought its own challenges, where the integration between Islamic values and local customs had to be done carefully to maintain social harmony. The Kitab Kuntara Raja Niti played a crucial role in this context due to its ability to harmonize pre-existing customary principles with newly introduced Islamic teachings. As a manual regulating various aspects of community life, it provides a framework that allows coastal communities to harmoniously combine customary law with the demands of Islamic teachings. Coastal communities, which are often the meeting point of different cultures and religions, need guidelines that not only preserve existing customary practices but also accommodate Islamic teachings in an appropriate manner. The Kitab Kuntara Raja Niti helps bridge the gap between these two value systems by providing practical guidelines to address conflicts and tensions

⁹ Nirva Diana, "Manajemen Pendidikan Berbasis Budaya Lokal Lampung," 2012.

¹⁰ Rosy Febriani Daud and Eko Abadi Novrimansyah, "Strategi Komunikasi Pembangunan Berkelanjutan Berbasis Kearifan Lokal Pada Daerah Wisata Di Provinsi Lampung," *INDEPENDEN: Jurnal Politik Indonesia dan Global* 3, no. 2 (December 9, 2022): 13, <https://doi.org/10.24853/independen.3.2.13-28>.

¹¹ Rosidah Amini and Annisa Rahman, "Strategi Implementasi Kearifan Lokal Desa Kenali Lampung Barat yang Adaptif Sesuai dengan Perkembangan Zaman," *Jurnal Terapan Ilmu Manajemen dan Bisnis* 2, no. 1 (May 31, 2019): 72–89, <https://doi.org/10.58303/jtimb.v2i1.2040>.

¹² Ilham Yuli Isdiyanto, Muhammad Farid Alwajdi, and Muhammad Nur, "The Existence of Kuntara Raja Niti Book in the Value System of Lampung Society in Pekon Marga Kaya," *Sosial Budaya* 20, no. 1 (June 30, 2023): 1, <https://doi.org/10.24014/sb.v20i1.19599>.

that may arise during the acculturation process.¹³ As such, it not only preserves local customs but also supports the integration of new religious values, ensures that cultural change takes place gradually and harmoniously, and strengthens social cohesion within coastal communities.

For example, in the context of traditional rituals and ceremonies, the Kitab Kuntara Raja Niti prescribes ways in which Islamic elements can be incorporated without changing the essence of the ceremony. This ensures that coastal communities can conduct their worship in a way that is in accordance with Islamic teachings while still maintaining their cultural heritage.

2.6 Dispute Resolution and Social Justice in the Coastal Zone

One of the most important aspects of the Kitab Kuntara Raja Niti is its role in dispute resolution. In coastal areas, where interactions between different groups are often intense and dynamic, the existence of a fair and efficient system for handling conflict is crucial. The Kitab offers detailed and systematic guidelines for resolving disputes, grounded in the principles of justice and deliberation. The procedures written in this book not only guarantee that any disputes are resolved in a manner consistent and in accordance with customary values but also ensure that the process reflects equitable social justice. By following these guidelines, communities can avoid prolonged conflict and maintain social harmony amidst a pluralistic society. In addition, the system set out in the book strengthens the social fabric by providing a widely acceptable resolution mechanism, enhancing trust and mutual respect among community members.

Kitab Kuntara Raja Niti not only serves as a guideline in dispute resolution but also plays an important role in maintaining social stability and harmony in Lampung society. Providing clear rules and procedures helps prevent disputes from arising that could worsen inter-group relations, especially in coastal areas where social interaction is dense. The principles taught in the kitab emphasize the importance of mediation and deliberation, which allow all parties involved in the dispute resolution process to reach a mutual agreement peacefully. Through these mechanisms, the Kitab Kuntara Raja Niti ensures that conflict resolution is not only fair but also in accordance with the cultural values of the community, thus strengthening the sense of unity and reducing the likelihood of divisions within the community. As such, it serves as an invaluable tool for maintaining social balance and strengthening cohesion within Lampung's indigenous communities.

3. Conclusion

The Kitab Kuntara Raja Niti plays a very important role in the customs of the Lampung people, especially in coastal areas. In coastal contexts, where social and economic interactions are highly complex, it provides guidelines that help maintain social stability, integrate customary values with the demands of modernity, and harmonize customary principles with Islamic teachings. Through its comprehensive function, Kitab Kuntara Raja Niti not only preserves Lampung's cultural heritage but also contributes to the management and resolution of problems in coastal communities in a fair and harmonious manner.

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¹³ Adinda Akhsanal Viqria, Nabila Zatadini, and Muhammad Galib Iqbal, "Hukum Dan Masyarakat Adat: Telaah Sosiologi Hukum" 5, no. 1 (2023).