



Society Perception Toward Replacement Government Center From Kuala Lumpur to Putrajaya Malaysia

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Abstract

The purpose of this research was to express public perceptions of displacement the government centre from Kuala Lumpur to Putrajaya Malaysia. The type of research used is qualitative, with accidental sampling techniques. Data collection techniques used were interviews and documentation, while data analysis methods used descriptive methods. The results of the research suggest that the society strongly agrees with a displacement of the government centre from Kuala Lumpur to Putrajaya with various factors, one of which is the reduction of congestion, but the community has several obstacles in administrative management because it takes a long time to get to Putrajaya. However, overall the people's perception of the transfer of the government centre from Kuala Lumpur to Putrajaya was very good and supported the decision taken by the Malaysian government. And Malaysia is also one of the countries that are successful in the process of moving the centre of government, as well as being an example for other countries who want to move the centre of government.

Keywords: Perception, Displacement, Government Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Putrajaya

Introduction

The government at present has the function of providing services in accordance with the applicable law and providing good and optimal public services (Rieseneder, 2008; Hermon, 2009; Hermon, 2010a). Besides the increase of the number of population and the use of natural resources has resulted in new problems (Iswandi, U. 2017; Hermon, 2017; Hermon *et al.*, 2017), one of them is the problem of public Services (Hermon, 2014a). Process optimization and service (service and process optimization) is one component to realize a good government (Food government) (Michigan Lean Consortium, 2013). Optimal public services are one of the factors that determine service satisfaction for the community. Often the optimal service to the community cannot be fulfilled due to several things, one of which is the condition and central location of government that is not conducive due to urban pressure on the location of origin and the location of government offices that are not in an integrated area due to lack of land in initial location. To overcome this, a policy of moving the center of government to another region emerged which was felt more conducive displacement of the center of government in this context is not interpreted as the displacement of the Capital, but is interpreted as the transfer of one of the capital's very complex functions, one of which is the function of government. The centre of self-government is defined as the function of the region which includes government offices and various other supporting facilities to run government activities (PSPPR, 2002). Displacement of government centres, not only moved office centres, but also moved a series of facilities and



utilities to support government activities, move the system, and move activities, as well as government mobility. Although at first this marked by the displacement of government office centres

The policy of displacement the centre of government from one region to another is a big decision because it requires the readiness of quite a lot of institutions, communities and funds (Hermon, Hermon, 2012a; Hermon, 2014b; Oktorie, 2018). Moving the function of government to a new location is a government effort to help reduce pressure in the main city due to various urban problems and provide more space along with the increasing need for office land (Siong, 2006; Hermon, 2015a; Hermon *et al.*, 2018a). The existence of a new government centre will enable the government to build well-planned urban centres equipped with various supporting facilities and technologies to improve government efficiency and productivity (Siong, 2006; Hermon *et al.*, 2018b). The transfer of central government is one of the new phenomena in world urban planning (Hermon *et al.*, 2018c).

Malaysia is one of the countries that has a central government location that is different from the capital city. The capital city of Malaysia is Kuala Lumpur but since 1999 the centre of government has been moved to Putrajaya. Putrajaya was built in 1995 at a cost of 8.1 billion US dollars, equivalent to 13 trillion rupiahs (Tjatradingrat, 2017). The construction of Putrajaya was initiated by Mahathir Muhammad. The location of Putrajaya was chosen because it has good soil contours to support development at a relatively low cost. Socio-economic impacts are also low because before the construction of Putrajaya was a small oil palm plantation. The construction of Putrajaya is considered important because of the lack of development land in Kuala Lumpur. The policy to move the government centre from Kuala Lumpur to Putrajaya has been started since 1993 and began construction in 1996, and in 2012 most Malaysian government offices have occupied Putrajaya (Putrajaya Corporation, 2012).

The centre of government was carried out due to various factors, one of which was congestion in Kuala Lumpur which was unavoidable, considering KL as the center of growth in Malaysia, then to reduce urban pressure in Kuala Lumpur and in line with the increasing office space requirements (Siong, 2006) The policy was to move the centre of government from Kuala so that the government took the decision to move the centre of government. Malaysia transforms Putrajaya in such a way as to be a centre of government, from road infrastructure to building construction and then all government offices are moved, except the Ministry of Trade and Investment, because it is to oversee commercial and commercial areas (Octafiani, 2015). Malaysia now states that the transfer of the centre of government was successfully seen from the many efficiency and effectiveness produced.

Alternatives to the transfer of government centres not only can create optimal service and government performance, but this policy can be a strategy and the beginning of the emergence of new cities in the destination. Urban problems such as the size of the city that is not balanced with population growth, the inability of the government to regulate the population and development of the city that causes congestion, pollution, crime, and the many migrations from the city to the suburbs actually trigger to make alternative new city development (Golany, 1976). One that can trigger the development of new cities is to make new growth centres, one of which is by moving the centre of government. This is seen in the city of Putrajaya which used to be a large part of the area is oil palm plantations and has a minimal population (Tjatradingrat, 2017; Hermon, 2010b; Hermon, 2012b; Hermon, 2014b), and has become one of the world famous government centres. At the moment 19 years have passed since the transfer of the government centre from Kuala Lumpur to Putrajaya, it can be seen the success of this, one of them is the increasing performance of the government apparatus. However, the transfer was carried out by the government alone, so the researchers were interested in seeing the perception of the public regarding the transfer of this central government (Hermon, 2015b; Hermon, 2016; Hermon, 2017). Based on this, the purpose of this research was to express people's perceptions of the transfer of government centres from Kuala Lumpur to Putrajaya Malaysia.

Method

In this research, qualitative research is used. The population of this research is all Malaysian people, with accidental sampling technique, which is an accidental sampling where the sample is the society met when conducting the research. Data collection techniques with interviews and documentation (Hermon *et al.*, 2008). The data obtained is then analyzed descriptively according to the data obtained in the field without



being made up, which is related to the public's perception of the transfer of government centres from Kuala Lumpur to Putrajaya in Malaysia.

Results and Discussion

Many people often mean that the capital and the centre of government are two things in common. Until now, there are still many debates between scientists try to define the meaning of the capital. Capital can be interpreted as a reflection of the nature and organization of a region in which the function of life is higher than the other regions around it with a centralized system which in its determination uses continental law and is under the control of the power system. Functions that are in a capital include economic functions, social functions, and government functions. Geographical studies on the capital are also widely studied, in which the geography of the capital focuses on understanding a place that has a high number of individuals, strong traditions, areas with striking historical heritage and monuments, and the region sometimes has high values (Claval, 2000). To date, the capital is seen differently, namely as the capital is seen as the centre of government power, the capital is seen as an area that has complex functions and historical requirements, and the capital is seen as a symbol of the regional, historical and regional environment. However, until now the definition and function of the capital, in general, have not been clearly specified in the legislation. Based on the various definitions above, there is a definition that is felt in accordance with the phenomenon of the research area, namely the capital is defined as a symbol of the activity center of the region with a higher hierarchy, and has a function as a center of economic activity, social activity center, center for environmental activities, and also a center of political activity and governance that gets legal legality and is permanent.

The government centre is also defined as a function of the area that is used for government service activities in which there are government offices and various supporting facilities to carry out the functions and duties of the government that has a very central position (PSPPR, 2002). Unlike the capital, the establishment of a central government is not born along with the birth of an administrative area. In this phenomenon, it can be concluded that what is meant by the centre of government is one of the functions of the region contained in a capital. Simply put, the centre of government is defined as a region as a function, not a territorial permanent juridical. Leaving aside the differences in the definition and understanding of the capital and the centre of government, the phenomenon of the transfer of the capital and the transfer of central government has taken place in the world. The transfer of the capital is influenced by several things, and politics is one of the factors that dominate it (Fawcett and Litt, 1918). Furthermore, the formation of a capital city is related to political power and government system power (Wusten, 2000). In some cases such as in the United States, Canada and Australia, the transfer of the capital to a new location was due to putting the capital in a strategic location that could be accessed easily by all federation areas, and to avoid giving more benefits to one of the federation's regions old (Fawcett and Litt 1918). However, in some cases in the world the factors that make up the capital are more due to political considerations compared to economic considerations and strategic locations, so that along with the development of the city area, the complexity of functions in the capital urges the government to move the capital to another location (Spate, 1942). The transfer of central government is now one of the new phenomena in world urban planning, although in many countries this theme is no longer a new phenomenon. In 2005 the Myanmar government announced the decision to move the administrative centre from Yangon City to Naypyitaw, a city 240 miles north of Yangon City (Myoe, 2006). The reason for this transfer was due to a number of factors, namely the military strategy factor, state security information, Naypyitaw was an easier to control area, decolonization factors, efforts to isolate the centre of government from a large population, and to follow Myanmar's traditional beliefs (Myoe, 2006).

The phenomenon of the policy of moving the centre of government in various countries in the world has been going on for a long time. The transfer of the capital and the centre of government in various regions through a long process and often in the transfer process there is a lack of understanding which can be a constraint to policy implementation. One important thing in the transfer of a government centre is the reason for choosing a location which is determined by various factors. The factors that are the reason for the transfer are diverse and different from one another, starting from the reason to reduce the burden of the main city, to meet the increasing need for office space, to balance national development, and so on. The reason for choosing the location to be planned also has certain reasons, ranging from physical factors, geographical



location, accessibility, facilities, historical and political. Some of these transfers were successful, but some were still constrained. The policy of moving the capital and the centre of the administration of one region with other regions varies. Some are due to factors increasing the land needs of government offices, some are caused by factors to balance national development, and some are due to political factors, national security and stability. The choice of location factors also varies, some consider accessibility, geographical location, physical condition, and social and economic.

The process of implementing policies for the transfer of central government that took place also varied, some through political intervention and internal conflicts, but some were able to do well through public participation and other reviews. Theoretically, humans will overcome spatial problems by applying spatial efficiency, such as maximizing regional functions and productivity through minimal things, maximizing spatial interactions with minimum business and costs, and approaching various types of economic activities that are not competitive (Morris 1974 in Rijanta 2006) One solution to the application of spatial efficiency carried out by humans is to move the service centre in optimal space in order to function optimally as well. In the context of regional expansion, there is a zero-sum game phenomenon where a group of people will be fortunate because they are closer and cheaper to access services, but others have to walk farther and more expensive than before in accessing services (Rijanta, 2006). This is also the case with the policy of the transfer of the capital, as well as the transfer of the central government to a new location, where some people will feel lucky with this transfer because they do not need to travel long distances, but some feel disadvantaged by this policy because of the increase in distance from the original location. One country that has a central location for a government that is different from the capital city in Malaysia. Officially the capital city of Malaysia is Kuala Lumpur but since 1999 the centre of government has been moved to Putrajaya. Putrajaya was built in 1995 at a cost of 8.1 billion US dollars, equivalent to 13 trillion rupiahs. The construction of Putrajaya was initiated by Mahathir Muhammad, covering an area of 46 square kilometres slightly smaller than the area of Central Jakarta. The location of Putrajaya was chosen because it has good soil contours to support development at a relatively low cost. Socio-economic impacts are also low because before the construction of Putrajaya was a small oil palm plantation. The construction of Putrajaya is considered important because of the lack of development land in Kuala Lumpur. Malaysia is a federal country consisting of thirteen countries (states) and three federal regions in Southeast Asia with an area of 329,847 sq. Km. The population of this country exceeds 27 million. This country is separated into two regions, namely West Malaysia and East Malaysia by the Natuna Islands, the territory of Indonesia in the South China Sea. The population of this country exceeds 27 million people. This country is separated into two regions, namely West Malaysia and East Malaysia by the Natuna Islands, the territory of Indonesia in the South China Sea. The capital is Kuala Lumpur, while Putrajaya is the centre of the federal government.

In one study that examined the planning, concept and implementation of Putra Jaya's location as the centre of Malaysia's new government, as well as the factors that influenced the choice of the location. Based on his research, it was known that the decision to relocate the Malaysian government centre had been taken since 1993 and development began in 1996, while in 2012 the Malaysian government centre was officially transferred to Putrajaya. This policy was taken to reduce congestion in Kuala Lumpur as a centre of the Malaysian government which is increasingly growing. Putrajaya is designed with the concept of garden city and intelligent city with modern and smart infrastructure that makes it easy for its residents. This is also intended to optimize government performance. Putrajaya has located 25 km from Kuala Lumpur. Putrajaya's factors chosen as the new centre of government are due to the low land prices and the calculation of the cost of infrastructure development that is not large, the Putrajaya's location is very strategic because it is located in a growth area, Putrajaya already has good transportation and accessibility, landforms and types of vegetation which makes it possible for development, Putrajaya is a potential location for the development of the surrounding area, as well as the location that has the least impact on the local community conflict. Thus, Putra Jaya was chosen as the central location of the new Malaysian government due to several factors, namely: (1) sufficient land availability and calculation of more rational infrastructure costs, (2) strategic locations that are in the growth corridor, (3) accessibility both and transportation networks, (4) types and density of vegetation that can support policies, (5) landforms, and (6) minimum impacts of local communities (Siong, 2006). As the capital city, Kuala Lumpur is the centre of Malaysia's growth. As a result, Kuala Lumpur was overcrowded, causing chaos in urban planning. Congestion problems become acute problems that are quite draining. So that in mid-1999, the Malaysian government tried to unravel the chaos by moving



the government centre from Kuala Lumpur to Putrajaya. Malaysia is changing Putrajaya to become a centre of government. Starting from road infrastructure to building new buildings. All government offices are moved. The result in 2013 Malaysia's economic growth grew significantly. Much efficiency and effectiveness are achieved by moving the centre of the government. This includes an increase in the work productivity of the state apparatus.

The results of research that have been conducted related to people's perceptions of the transfer of government centres from Kuala Lumpur to Putrajaya are known to the views of the community on the transfer of the central government. This research was conducted for seven days in the city of Kuala Lumpur so that the public perception gained was the view of the people of Kuala Lumpur towards the transfer of the centre of government to Putrajaya. Based on interviews conducted, researchers obtained results that the community at first were a little hesitant about the process of moving the centre of government to Putrajaya because according to them Putrajaya at that time was only a plantation area that had no attraction especially to serve as a centre of government. Plus to develop an undeveloped area to serve as a centre of government, it certainly requires a lot of money, especially to build infrastructure. However, these community estimates are wrong because at present Putrajaya has become the centre of a successful government. And Malaysia is also in the spotlight of the world because of its success in moving the centre of government, even though in the process it is quite a long time, it is very natural to see the state of Putrajaya which used to be used for plantations. Seeing this success made the initial view of the people who were initially pessimistic about the transfer of the centre of this government turn around in favour of the decision taken by this government. The community also stated that the transfer of the central government provided many positive aspects for Malaysian development, for example more regular development in the city of Kuala Lumpur and in Putrajaya itself where pseudo government buildings were located in Putrajaya, even though there were one or two government buildings still in Kuala Lumpur for some reason, while in Kuala Lumpur development focuses on the country's economic growth, this can be seen in most areas in Kuala Lumpur, which are shopping centers, because the centre of government moves to Putrajaya causing the necessity for government workers to move to Putrajaya this too impact on decreasing the level of congestion in the Malaysian Capital City, Kuala Lumpur. Although, there are some people who disagree with the decline in congestion because according to the Kuala Lumpur there is still severe congestion even at certain hours. Despite having many positive sides and full support from the community in Kuala Lumpur, the transfer of the centre of this government also has one drawback in the view of the people of Kuala Lumpur, that is, far enough accessibility for the people in Kuala Lumpur to take care of various matters related to the problem administration. However, overall the people's perception of the transfer of government centres from Kuala Lumpur City to Putrajaya is very good and fully supports the government's decision regarding this matter.

Conclusion

Based on the results this research about the perception of the transfer of government centres from Kuala Lumpur to Putrajaya showed very positive results and warm welcome from various elements of society in Malaysia, especially in Kuala Lumpur as the place for the research. Based on interviews conducted it was known that the public strongly supported the Malaysian government's decision to move the government centre from Kuala Lumpur to Putrajaya, because they stated that this had many advantages, one of which was to reduce congestion in Kuala Lumpur City, although congestion still occurred but not every when only at certain hours. Furthermore, the community also saw the great potential in Putrajaya, because this area used to be only a plantation area, and now is one of the busiest cities in Malaysia. However, despite having a positive impact, the people of Kuala Lumpur also stated that one of the weaknesses is that the administration process requires a long time to get to Putrajaya. However, the whole community supports the decision to move to the centre of the government.

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