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The Role of Religious Groups and Small and Medium Enterprises in The Mining Sector After The Amendment of The Mineral And Coal Law in 2025

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Abstract

Amendments to the Mineral and Coal Law (UU Minerba) 2025 provide priority access to religious organizations and small and medium enterprises (UKM) in the mining sector. This policy aims to increase community economic participation and encourage equal distribution of welfare. This research uses a qualitative method with a literature study approach to analyze the implications of this policy. The results of the study show that religious groups have the potential for community-based economic empowerment, workforce education, and the application of ethical principles in mine management. SMEs, on the other hand, can contribute to the diversification of the local economy, although they face challenges in terms of capital and technology. This amendment also has broad socio-economic impacts, including the potential to increase community welfare, the risk of conflicts of interest, and environmental challenges. Therefore, clear regulations and assistance programs are needed to ensure the implementation of this policy is effective and sustainable.

Key words: *Mineral and Coal Law 2025, religious groups, SMEs, mining, economic policy, socio-economic impacts.*

Abstrak

Amandemen Undang-Undang Mineral dan Batubara (UU Minerba) 2025 memberikan akses prioritas kepada organisasi keagamaan dan usaha kecil menengah (UKM) dalam sektor pertambangan. Kebijakan ini bertujuan untuk meningkatkan partisipasi ekonomi masyarakat serta mendorong pemerataan kesejahteraan. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif dengan pendekatan studi pustaka guna menganalisis implikasi dari kebijakan tersebut. Hasil kajian menunjukkan bahwa kelompok keagamaan memiliki potensi dalam pemberdayaan ekonomi berbasis komunitas, pendidikan tenaga kerja, dan penerapan prinsip etika dalam pengelolaan tambang. UKM, di sisi lain, dapat berkontribusi pada diversifikasi ekonomi lokal, meskipun menghadapi tantangan dalam aspek modal dan teknologi. Amandemen ini juga memiliki dampak sosial-ekonomi yang luas, termasuk potensi peningkatan kesejahteraan masyarakat, risiko konflik kepentingan, dan tantangan lingkungan. Oleh karena itu, diperlukan regulasi yang jelas dan program pendampingan guna memastikan implementasi kebijakan ini berjalan efektif dan berkelanjutan.

Kata kunci: *UU Minerba 2025, kelompok keagamaan, UKM, pertambangan, kebijakan ekonomi, dampak sosial-ekonomi.*

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INTRODUCTION

The amendment to the Mineral and Coal Law (UU Minerba) in 2025 brought significant changes to the management of natural resources in Indonesia. One of the important points of this amendment is the provision of priority access to mining concessions for religious community organizations and small and medium enterprises (SMEs). This step aims to increase community involvement in the management of natural resources and encourage economic equality. (Dami, 2025)

Previously, priority access to mining business permit areas (WIUP) was generally given to state-owned enterprises. However, with the revision of the Minerba Law, religious organizations and SMEs now have a greater opportunity to be involved in the mining sector. This policy is expected to empower local communities and increase the economic contribution of the mining sector. (Dami, 2025)

However, the implementation of this policy raises several questions. Some parties question the capacity and readiness of religious organizations and SMEs in managing complex mining operations that require large investments. In addition, there are concerns about potential conflicts of interest and

environmental impacts that may arise from the involvement of these new actors in the mining industry.(Rahel NC, 2025)

It is therefore important to conduct an in-depth study of the potential role of religious groups and small businesses in the mining sector following the amendment of the Mineral and Coal Law in 2025. It is hoped that this study will help understand the challenges and opportunities that exist and provide policy recommendations that can ensure effective and sustainable participation of these groups in the management of Indonesia's mineral resources.

Theoretical basis

The amendment to the Mineral and Coal Law (UU Minerba) in 2025 has significant implications for the management of natural resources in Indonesia. One of the important points in this amendment is the provision of priority access to mining concessions for religious community organizations and small and medium enterprises (SMEs). This step aims to increase the participation of these groups in the mining sector and encourage economic equality.(Francisca, 2025)

The Role of Religious Groups in the Mining Sector

Granting mining permits to religious community organizations is an unprecedented step in the history of Indonesian mining regulation. The theory of community participation in natural resource management states that direct involvement of local communities can increase a sense of ownership and responsibility for the surrounding environment. However, the implementation of this policy raises various questions regarding the capacity and readiness of religious organizations to manage complex mining operations that require(Shiddiq, 2025a)

The Role of Small Businesses in the Mining Sector

Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) play an important role in the Indonesian economy, especially in creating jobs and driving local economic growth. The theory of local economic development emphasizes that empowering SMEs can improve the welfare of local communities. With the amendment to the Minerba Law which gives priority to access to mining concessions for SMEs, it is hoped that there will be an increase in the contribution of SMEs in the mining sector. However, challenges such as limited capital, technology and human resources are obstacles that need to be overcome to ensure the successful implementation of this policy.(Shiddiq, 2025)

Implications of the 2025 Mineral and Coal Mining Law Amendment

The 2025 amendment to the Minerba Law is designed to encourage the development of the domestic mineral management industry and ensure the security of raw material supplies for the industry. In addition, this change aims to increase the participation of religious groups and SMEs in the mining sector, which was previously dominated by large companies and state-owned enterprises, however, the success of implementing this policy is highly dependent on the readiness and capacity of these groups to manage mining operations effectively and sustainably.(Francisca, 2025)

Overall, this theoretical basis emphasizes the importance of religious group and SME participation in the mining sector as an effort to achieve economic equality and sustainable natural resource management. However, further studies are needed to understand the challenges and appropriate strategies in optimizing their role after the amendment of the 2025 Minerba Law.

METHOD

This study uses a qualitative method with a library research approach, which emphasizes descriptive questions that aim to describe a symptom in existing facts. Literature study or bibliography can be interpreted as a series of activities related to the method of collecting library data, reading and recording and managing research materials (Mubarok & Tambunan, 2021). In this case, the researcher took research data from books, data and BPS, official websites that publish information that supports previous journals, as well as credible sources that can be accounted for their validity.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The 2025 Amendment to the Mineral and Coal Law (UU Minerba) presents new dynamics in Indonesia's mining sector. One of the significant changes in this revision is the provision of priority access to mining concessions for religious organizations and small and medium enterprises (SMEs). This policy aims to expand community economic participation in natural resource management and encourage economic equality. However, there are various challenges that need to be studied further, especially in terms of readiness, capacity, and the social and economic impacts of the policy.

This study uses a qualitative method with a literature study approach to understand the role of religious groups and SMEs in the mining sector after the amendment to the 2025 Minerba Law. The literature study was conducted by analyzing various legal documents, academic journals, and relevant research reports.

1. The Role of Religious Groups in the Mining Sector

Religious groups in Indonesia have significant social and economic influence. In the mining context, their roles may include:

a. Community-Based Economic Empowerment

Religious organizations often have extensive social networks, which they can use to improve the welfare of their members through sustainable economic activities.

b. Resource Management with Islamic Ethical Principles

Several studies show that an approach based on religious values can contribute to more responsible natural resource management (Wahyudi, 2023).

c. Education and Training of Workforce

Religious organizations can play a role in providing education and training for local workers so that they can face the demands of the mining industry (Hidayat, 2024).

However, the main challenges in implementing this policy include the limited managerial capacity and resources owned by religious organizations to manage mines efficiently.

2. The Role of Small Businesses in the Mining Sector.

Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) have great potential in increasing the economic participation of the community in the mining sector. Some important aspects that need to be considered in the role of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in this sector are:

a. Local Economic Diversification

b. Capital and Technology Challenges

c. Government Support Policy

3. Socio-Economic Implications and Amendments to the 2025 Minerba Law

CONCLUSION

From the analysis of this literature study, it is clear that granting mining concession access to religious organizations and SMEs has great potential to increase community participation in the mining industry. However, there are major challenges in terms of readiness, capacity, and social and environmental impacts that need to be managed properly. Therefore, clearer regulations and assistance programs from the government are needed so that this policy can run effectively and provide optimal benefits for the wider community. Thus, this study underlines the importance of a holistic approach in implementing the 2025 Minerba Law amendment policy, by considering economic, social, and environmental factors in a balanced manner.

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