



## **EVALUATION OF THE STATE DEFENSE PROGRAM IN AN EFFORT TO STRENGTHEN THE SPIRIT OF NATIONALISM IN THE BORDER REGION OF RI - RDTL**

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### **Abstract**

Border areas have a strategic role in maintaining state sovereignty and national integrity, especially for Indonesia which has direct borders with various countries, one of which is the Democratic Republic of Timor Leste (RDTL). The State Defense Program is one of the government's efforts to strengthen national resilience in the border region by increasing awareness of community nationalism. However, the implementation of this program faces various challenges, such as limited infrastructure, low quality of human resources, and the influence of foreign cultures that can weaken the sense of nationalism of the local community. This study aims to evaluate the effectiveness of the State Defense Program in strengthening the spirit of nationalism in the RI-RDTL border region by using a combination approach of the CIPPO model (Context, Input, Process, Product, Outcome) and the Kirkpatrick evaluation model. Through a qualitative research method with a Narrative Research approach, this study collected data through in-depth interviews, observations, and document analysis from various stakeholders, such as security forces and local communities. The results show that although the State Defense Program has an important role in building nationalism awareness, there are significant obstacles in its implementation, especially related to limited infrastructure and human resources. Therefore, a thorough evaluation and improvement of implementation strategies are needed so that this program can be more effective in strengthening national resilience in the RI-RDTL border region. The results of this research are expected to form the basis of policy recommendations that are more adaptive and sustainable.

**Keywords:** *Program Evaluation; State Defense; Strengthening; Nationalism*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Border areas are an important part of a country's sovereignty because they are at the forefront of maintaining national integrity. Indonesia as an archipelagic country has various border areas that are directly adjacent to other countries, one of which is the Democratic Republic of Timor Leste (RDTL). Border areas often face complex challenges, both in social, economic and security aspects. One of the efforts made by the government to strengthen national resilience in border areas

is through the State Defense Program, which aims to build awareness of nationalism and strengthen national unity (Kemhan RI, 2021).

The State Defense Program has a strategic role in building national character and increasing love for the country, especially for people living in border areas. According to Winarno (2020), this program not only aims to strengthen awareness of state defense in a military context, but also to instill national values in everyday life. However, the implementation of this program in border areas still faces various challenges, such as limited infrastructure, lack of competent human resources, and the influence of foreign cultures that can erode the spirit of nationalism. Therefore, an evaluation of the effectiveness of the State Defense Program is important to assess the extent to which this program is able to achieve its goals.

In the context of the Indonesia-RDTL border, the role of the State Defense Program becomes even more significant given the potential threats to national integrity. Previous research shows that border areas are often prone to the spread of transnational ideologies and socio-economic inequality that can weaken the sense of nationalism of local communities (Suryanto, 2019). For this reason, an evaluation of this program is needed to identify the strengths, weaknesses, and aspects that need to be improved in order to be more optimal in building national resilience at the border.

This research aims to evaluate the effectiveness of the State Defense Program in strengthening the spirit of nationalism in the RI-RDTL border region. This evaluation will be conducted by referring to qualitative and quantitative approaches, covering aspects of community participation, the impact of the program on nationalism awareness, and obstacles in program implementation. Through this research, it is hoped that a comprehensive picture of the program's success can be obtained as well as recommendations to improve its effectiveness in the future.

Although the State Defense Program has been implemented in the RI-RDTL border region, there are significant gaps in its implementation. Research by Siswanto et al. (2024) shows that poverty is a major problem in the border area, with a high number of underprivileged families and socio-economic disparities compared to communities in neighboring border areas. This is due to the low quality of human resources, the lack of supporting infrastructure, and the suboptimal utilization of natural resources in the region. These conditions result in people engaging in illegal economic activities to fulfill their needs, which not only violate the law, but also have the potential to cause social insecurity and threaten the stability of state security (Siswanto et al., 2024). In addition, Mulyawan (2012) highlighted that development in some border areas is still very underdeveloped compared to neighboring countries, where the socio-economic conditions of people living in these areas are generally much lower, thus triggering various illegal activities that have the potential to weaken the spirit of nationalism of the local community. This gap shows that the implementation of the State Defense Program has not been fully effective in improving the welfare and spirit of nationalism of border communities. Therefore, a thorough

evaluation of the program is needed to identify existing obstacles and formulate more effective strategies to achieve the expected goals.

Thus, the results of this research are expected to contribute to the development of national defense policy, particularly in strengthening national values in border areas. In addition, this research can also serve as a basis for improving the implementation strategy of the State Defense Program to be more adaptive to the social dynamics and challenges that exist in the RI-RDTL border region. Proper evaluation will ensure that this program does not become just a discourse, but actually has a real impact in improving nationalism and national resilience in the border region.

### **Program Evaluation**

Program evaluation is a systematic process of assessing the achievement of objectives, benefits, and effectiveness of a program to support decision-making. Tyler (1942) defines evaluation as an effort to determine the extent to which educational objectives have been achieved, while Djaali and Mulyono (2004) emphasize that evaluation is based on certain criteria for decision making. Arikunto and Safrudin (2010) highlight the importance of gathering information to determine appropriate decision alternatives. Kirkpatrick (2005) emphasizes that program evaluation aims to demonstrate benefits, decide on continuation, and support further development. Brinkerhoff (1983) adds that evaluation includes systematic comparison of performance and quality assessment, while Gall, Gall, and Borg (2003) assert that evaluation aims to obtain data related to the value and usefulness of the program as a basis for decisions.

Based on the views of experts, researchers conclude that program evaluation is a systematic process that aims to assess the achievement of goals, benefits, and effectiveness of a program in supporting decision making. Evaluation not only serves as a measure of success, but also as a basis for improvement and further development. With a variety of approaches, experts agree that evaluation involves collecting information, analyzing data, and comparing it with predetermined standards or objectives to ensure the quality and relevance of a program.

### **State Defense**

State defense is the commitment of individuals or groups in defending the existence of the state through various forms of service. Wikipedia defines it as a concept structured by legislation related to citizen patriotism (Wikipedia). Soepandji and Farid (2018b) state that state defense is implemented in various countries in the form of conscription or civil service. Natamiharja and Artiasha (2017) differentiate it into physical, namely by armed force to face external threats, and non-physical, such as increasing awareness of the nation and love for the country. Kesbangpol (2019) emphasizes the purpose of state defense on love for the country, state awareness, and belief in Pancasila. Meanwhile, Ariyanto (2021) added that the basic values of state defense include loyalty to Pancasila, willingness to sacrifice, and the spirit of realizing a sovereign, just and prosperous country.

Based on the views of experts, researchers conclude that state defense is the obligation of every citizen in maintaining the sovereignty and integrity of the

nation, both through physical and non-physical efforts. Experts agree that state defense is not only related to the military aspect, but also includes national awareness, love for the homeland, and participation in national development. In addition, state defense aims to instill national values, such as loyalty to Pancasila, the spirit of sacrifice, and determination in realizing an independent, just and prosperous country.

### **Nationalism**

Nationalism is an ideology that places an individual's highest loyalty in the national state. Hans Kohn defines it as a mental state in which individuals prioritize loyalty to the state. Politically, nationalism includes freedom, unity, equality, and collective identity to build and defend the state (Sari, 2020). Nationalism is influenced by elements such as national feelings, language, culture and religion, and aims to defend the country from threats and avoid extremism (Giri, 2019a). In Indonesia, nationalism is singularly pluralistic in the context of Pancasila, encompassing historical, cultural and regional unity (Pardede, 2021). In border areas, nationalism strengthens the unity of the Republic of Indonesia. However, policy imbalances can weaken nationalism and threaten state stability (Sumawijaya & Berantas, 2018; Irfani, 1961).

Nationalism is an ideology that emphasizes an individual's ultimate loyalty to the nation-state. Hans Kohn defines it as a mental state in which individuals prioritize loyalty to the state. In politics, nationalism includes the values of freedom, unity, equality, and collective identity to build and defend the state. Nationalism is influenced by various factors, such as national feelings, language, culture and religion, and aims to defend the country from threats and avoid extremism. In Indonesia, nationalism is singularly pluralistic in the context of Pancasila, reflecting historical, cultural and regional unity. Especially in border areas, nationalism plays a role in strengthening the unity of the Republic of Indonesia. However, if not supported by balanced policies in the economic, educational and political sectors, nationalism can weaken and threaten state stability (Sari, 2020; Giri, 2019a; Pardede, 2021; Sumawijaya & Berantas, 2018; Irfani, 1961).

### **Evaluation used**

This study uses a combination of the CIPPO (Context, Input, Process, Product, Outcome) program evaluation model with the four-level evaluation model developed by Kirkpatrick. This combination combines aspects of the Kirkpatrick model with dimensions in the CIPPO model. The CIPPO model is a comprehensive evaluation that focuses on management, while the Kirkpatrick model assesses the attitudinal changes that arise as a result of the program run by the Regional Border Management Agency, Maluku Barat Daya Regency.

To identify factors that influence the success of training programs, Kirkpatrick developed four levels of evaluation, namely: reaction, learning, behavior, and result. Of the four levels, the one combined with the CIPPO model in evaluating the state defense program to increase the spirit of nationalism of the RI-RDTL border community is the behavior level. This level is used to observe and assess whether participants actually apply the knowledge and skills gained in

their daily lives. In addition, modified characteristics from the Kirkpatrick model are integrated into the CIPPO evaluation stages to increase the effectiveness of program evaluation; (1) Context evaluation, in the Bela Negara program, is carried out by analyzing policies that support or hinder its implementation, assessing the need for policy revisions based on the challenges faced by border communities, and identifying program priorities that can strengthen the spirit of nationalism in the RI-RDTL region. (2) The input evaluation in the State Defense program includes an assessment of the readiness of human resources, program planning, and its suitability to the needs of border communities. In addition, this evaluation also reviews the availability of facilities, infrastructure, finance, and inter-agency cooperation to ensure the effectiveness of implementation. From the results of the evaluation, strengths, weaknesses, and potential improvements can be identified to improve optimal program implementation. (3) The process evaluation in the State Defense program aims to measure the effectiveness of implementation from the planning stage to the evaluation of activities. This process assesses the extent to which the program runs in accordance with the objectives set in strengthening the spirit of nationalism in the RI-RDTL border area. (4) Product evaluation in the State Defense program aims to measure ASN's understanding, attitude, skills, and commitment after attending the training. This evaluation also assesses the extent to which the training has an impact on the application of State Defense values in ASN's daily duties and responsibilities. (5) The impact evaluation in the State Defense program aims to measure ASN's understanding of the concept and objectives of State Defense as well as assess their level of participation, adaptation, and contribution in supporting the spirit of nationalism. This evaluation also looks at how ASN applies the knowledge and skills gained in the context of work and community life. (6) Behavioral evaluation in the State Defense program aims to assess ASN's understanding of the values of nationalism, patriotism, discipline, and compliance with rules. In addition, this evaluation measures changes in behavior as an indicator of the program's effectiveness in shaping national character. The results are used to provide recommendations for improvement to increase the impact and sustainability of the program in the future.

## **RESEARCH METHODS**

To evaluate the State Defense Program in strengthening the spirit of nationalism in the border areas of the Republic of Indonesia (Southwest Maluku Regency/MBD) and Timor Leste (RDTL), this research uses a Narrative Research approach. This approach is a qualitative research method that focuses on collecting and analyzing data in the form of stories or narratives from individuals or groups directly involved in the program. Through in-depth interviews, observation, and document analysis, this research seeks to explore the experiences and perspectives of stakeholders, such as security forces, local communities, and other related parties, in understanding the effectiveness of the State Defense program at the border. This research applies mixed methods by integrating two evaluation models, namely the CIPPO Model (Context, Input, Process, Product, and Outcome) and the Kirkpatrick Model. However, in this discussion, the analysis will focus on the CIPP Model to evaluate program

effectiveness. The CIPP approach is used to assess various important aspects of program implementation, starting from the policy context, resource readiness, implementation process, to the results achieved in strengthening the nationalism of border communities. Thus, this research not only provides a comprehensive picture of the program's effectiveness, but also offers recommendations that can be used to improve the sustainability and positive impact of the State Defense program in border areas.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Context Aspect Result**

The State Defense Program in the border area of Southwest Maluku Regency (MBD) aims to strengthen the spirit of nationalism and maintain security stability in the RI - RDTL border area. Based on the interview results, the local government through the Regional Border Management Agency (BPPD) has established two main strategic programs, namely border area security and development. This program includes the socialization of State Defense to the community as well as routine patrols by the TNI and Polri to ensure border conditions remain safe and under control. With this step, it is expected that the community will increasingly understand the importance of maintaining state sovereignty and play an active role in State Defense efforts. In addition to the security aspect, community involvement is also an important part of the program implementation. The community is involved in various socialization activities aimed at raising awareness of the importance of State Defense and their role in maintaining stability at the border. Through these activities, the community not only gains an understanding of national defense policies, but is also invited to participate in maintaining security and order in their environment. This is a key factor in building strong regional resilience based on the active participation of local communities.

However, the biggest challenge in implementing this program is the limited infrastructure and lack of budget. Although there has been coordination with the Regional Work Units (SKPD) to improve roads, bridges, and public service facilities, the realization of the program still faces various obstacles. Some infrastructure projects have been successfully realized, but many are still delayed due to limited funds. BPPD of MBD Regency has developed a plan for infrastructure development and improvement in the border area, but this effort still requires further support from the central government and other stakeholders. With the synergy between the local government, the community, and related parties, the State Defense program at the border can run more effectively and sustainably, thus having a positive impact on the security and welfare of the people in the border region.

### **Input Aspect Results**

#### **BPPD's Collaboration with Security Apparatus in Maintaining Border Stability**

The BPPD of Southwest Maluku District (MBD) works closely with security forces, such as the TNI and Polri, in various efforts to maintain stability in the border region. One of the measures taken is the installation of reference point pillars on several outer islands, including Kisar Island, Leti Island, Wetar Island and Lirang Island. In addition, joint patrols are routinely conducted to monitor the border and prevent cross-border violations, including illegal activities in the water area. In this security effort, BPPD faces major challenges due to the lack of support from related institutions, such as immigration and customs offices, which are not yet available in MBD Regency. Although the local government has proposed the construction of immigration and customs offices,

their realization is still pending. In addition, BPPD is also synchronizing with various related parties to accelerate the construction of cross-border posts on several outer islands, with the main priority on Lirang Island, which has high cross-border activities, including illegal movements. In 2024, coordination with the National Border Management Agency (BNPP) and related technical institutions has been carried out to accelerate the construction of cross-border posts.

### **Challenges in Maintaining Border Area Security**

One of the main challenges in maintaining security at the RI-RDTL border is the limited facilities and infrastructure. Surveillance and guarding facilities are inadequate, making monitoring efforts in the border area less than optimal. The lack of supporting infrastructure, such as immigration offices, customs, and adequate cross-border posts, also complicates the supervision and control of the movement of people and goods in this region. Therefore, more attention is needed from the central government to accelerate infrastructure development and increase resource capacity in maintaining border sovereignty and security.

### **Process Aspect Results**

#### **Urgent Needs to Support BPPD's Tasks**

In carrying out its duties, the Regional Border Management Agency (BPPD) of Southwest Maluku Regency (MBD) faces various urgent needs that must be met immediately. One of the main needs is communication infrastructure, as several outer islands are still not covered by adequate communication networks. This hampers coordination and quick response in emergency situations. In addition, defense and security infrastructure is also still limited, potentially increasing the risk of security threats, especially related to illegal cross-border activities.

In addition to communication and security aspects, lighting facilities are also a serious problem, as some outer islands still do not have proper electricity facilities. The lack of lighting not only hampers community activities but also has an impact on the effectiveness of surveillance in border areas. This condition is exacerbated by limited access to basic needs, which makes border communities feel more dependent on neighboring Timor Leste. In fact, there is a statement from the community in the form of a pamphlet stating, "Garuda in my chest, stomach in Timor Leste," which reflects their dissatisfaction with the unfulfilled welfare in the border region.

#### **Constraints in the Implementation of Tasks in the Border Region**

In implementing the state defense program, BPPD also faces various obstacles that hinder the effectiveness of task implementation. One of the main obstacles is the lack of coordination across departments and agencies within the local government agencies of MBD Regency. This condition is exacerbated by the frequent rotation of positions within the Regional Work Structure (SKPD). Frequent changes in officials have resulted in inconsistencies in program planning and implementation, and have hampered synchronization between related agencies in managing border areas. This lack of coordination has an impact on the effectiveness of policy implementation in the field, including in the provision of infrastructure and basic services for border communities. Therefore, a more systematic strategy is needed in building cross-sectoral cooperation as well as a more structured rotation policy so as not to disrupt the continuity of programs that have been designed to strengthen the spirit of nationalism and the welfare of people in border areas.

### **Product Aspect Results**

#### **Central and Provincial Government Support for BPPD Programs**

In implementing the State Defense program in the border area of

Southwest Maluku Regency (MBD), support from the central and provincial governments is a crucial factor in determining the success of policy implementation. Based on the evaluation, the coordination carried out by the Regional Border Management Agency (BPPD) of MBD Regency with the National Border Management Agency (BNPP) at the central level has received a good response.

However, despite positive communication, the realization of this support is still not optimal. As a result, various programs that have been designed by BPPD Kabupaten MBD have not been able to be implemented optimally, especially those related to infrastructure development and strengthening the border area security system. On the other hand, coordination with the provincial government still faces serious obstacles. BPPD Kabupaten MBD has attempted to establish communication with the provincial BPPD, but to date has not received an adequate response. One clear example is in the superstructure aspect, such as road construction that should be the responsibility of the provincial government.

To date, these infrastructure projects have been neglected, mainly due to budget constraints at the provincial level. The inability of the provincial government to follow up on this coordination hampers the development of border areas and potentially weakens the effectiveness of the State Defense program in these areas. Therefore, further efforts are needed to improve the synergy between the central, provincial and local governments in supporting programs in the border regions. The central government is expected to accelerate the realization of agreed support, while provincial governments need to be more proactive in carrying out their responsibilities, especially in terms of infrastructure. Without improvements in coordination and budget allocation, the State Defense program at the RI - RDTL border will be difficult to achieve optimal results in strengthening the spirit of nationalism of the people in the border region.

## **CONCLUSION**

The evaluation of the State Defense program in the RI - RDTL border region shows that despite the significant efforts of the Southwest Maluku Regency BPPD and the security forces, there are still various challenges in program implementation. Infrastructure limitations, lack of coordination across agencies, and lack of maximum support from the central and provincial governments are the main obstacles. Therefore, there is a need for more concrete strategic steps in terms of policy, budgeting, and cross-sector coordination to ensure the sustainability of the State Defense program and strengthen the spirit of nationalism in border areas.

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