

THE ROLE OF COOPERATIVE IN INCREASING; LABOR'S ECONOMY AT PT NUSANTARA IV TOBASARI SIMALUNGUN REGENCY

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ABSTRACT

The role of cooperative in increasing society's economy is strongly hoped by Indonesian people, it is as an national economic pilar. The problem is how is the role of cooperative in increasing labor's economy and the government's role in developing cooperative?

The objective of research is to know the role of cooperative in increasing labor's economy and the government's role in developing cooperative experienced by Cooperative in Tea Plantation of PTP Nusantara IV Tobasari Simalungun Regency. This research used descriptive analysis with juridical normative and empiric approaches. The location of research was in Tea Plantation of PTP Nusantara IV Tobasari Simalungun Regency and Service Office of Cooperative Simalungun Regency.

The result of this research indicates that role of cooperative is not successful in increasing labor's economy. It is because the Askep (Assistant Manager) and the Head of Cooperative are combined and automatically, they do not focus in their job and they were not responsible for their job. In fact he has 5 main jobs, 4 Assistants, 1 papam. Besides the weakness of Government in performing training or education especially in Cooperative.

Keywords: cooperative role, economic increase, labor

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of development is to reach a just and prosperous society in accordance with the Preamble of the 1945 Constitution (hereinafter abbreviated to the 1945 Constitution), one of the goals of development is the Cooperative. Cooperative Organizations are present in all countries.

Historically, cooperatives originally grew in industrialized countries in Western Europe. But then after colonialism in some Asia's countries and South Africa, cooperatives also grew in colonized countries. After the colonized countries experienced independence,

many countries used cooperatives as a means to improve their welfare. Even cooperatives serve as one of the tools of government in implementing development policy.¹

Indonesia as a colonized country and the Dutch Government had grown up at that time. Cooperatives during the Dutch and Japanese colonialism have moved to improve the standard of life of Indonesians in gaining their independence by means of seizures and colonizers.

Cooperatives in addition to moving to unite the weak economy and strive to improve their lives, it is also a tool of struggle for the success of Indonesia's development, especially the development of rural communities.

Cooperative Indonesia is a tool of economic democracy and development tool of society, based on Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution which has the ability to perform its role in development in accordance with the basic cooperative in Article 33 paragraph (1) of the 1945 Constitution, which states: the economy is organized as a joint effort based on the principle kinship.

In the first paragraph the explanation of the 1945 Constitution states that in Article 33 there is a foundation of economic democracy, production is done by all, for all, under the leadership for the ownership of the members of society. The prosperity of society is preferred, not the prosperity of the individual. Therefore, the economy is organized as a joint effort based on the principle of kinship. Build a company that sesuai with it is a cooperative.

Realizing the provisions of the 1945 Constitution has been issued Act number 25 of 1992 on Cooperatives on 21 October 1992 (L.N. Republic of Indonesia Number 3502). On weighing (d) it is said: that in order to realize such matters again the provisions on cooperatives in a law in lieu of Law no. 12 of 1967 on Principles of Cooperation.

In 1 point (1) of Law no. 25 of 1992 on Cooperatives, it is said that cooperatives are business entities consisting of people or legal entity cooperative with the base of its activities based on the principle of cooperatives as well as the people's economic movement based on the principle of kinship.

¹Hendar dan Kusnandi, *Ekonomi Koperasi Untuk Perguruan Tinggi*, Fakultas Ekonomi Universitas Indonesia, Jakarta, 1999, hlm. 1

Kartaspoetra and his friends said: The cornerstone of the Indonesian cooperative structure is the 1945 Constitution and the basis of its motion is article 33 of the 1945 Constitution and its explanation.²

Indonesian Cooperative as a means of democratizing the national economy, this means that cooperatives in Indonesia should play an active role to realize the welfare of society in accordance with the 1945 Constitution. The hope of Indonesia to cooperatives can serve as the pulse of the economy. As the economic pulse, Village Unit Cooperatives (KUD) and cooperatives in general always act to protect those weak economic producers, who are members of the cooperative.

As a means of struggle, the economic cooperative embodied in the principle of kinship (Article 2 of the Operational Law) on its joints, meaning that the purpose of the cooperative is not merely pursuing profit, but the main one is to provide services so that its members are enthusiastic and passionate work, so as to achieve increased revenue. Similarly, cooperatives can provide facilities to satisfy the needs of its members. In addition to providing guidance and coaching efforts to its members, especially members who are passionate to work, so that he reach an increase his income. Similarly, cooperatives can provide facilities to satisfy the needs of its members.

In addition to providing guidance and coaching efforts to its members, especially its low economic members, so that each member can improve the workings, quality of work and the number of work can be integrated and well-directed rural community development, regional and national.

The spirit of cooperatives in various regions of the archipelago has succeeded in generating the spirit and passion of the farmers to improve the results of their land and the results of agricultural cooperatives are also increasing due to the presence of Village Unit Cooperative (KUD). Healthy, professionally managed KUDs can expedite their marketing at a price that is acceptable to farmers, and the results are even more evident in the assistance of the KUD.

Cooperatives promise welfare for its members, has formed a cooperative laborers in PTP Nusantara IV Tobasari Simalungun Regency whose members consist of workers who are around the plantation. In the beginning, the cooperative was formed upon the self-help of the

²AG.Kartasapoetra, dkk, Koperasi Indonesia, RinekaCipta, Jakarta, 1989, hlm 6

labor society in the hope that the cooperative could improve the fate and improve the employee's welfare. The basic philosophy of the cooperatives established to save and facilitated the way of cooperatives in the success of the achievement of the ideals and objectives of the cooperative as the contents of Article 3 of the Cooperative Law which states: cooperatives aimed at improving the welfare of members in particular and society in general and participate in building the order of the national economy in order to realize a progressive, just and prosperous society based on Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution.

Implementation of the cooperative will not happen if the foundations, goals, functions, roles and principles of cooperatives do not work without the board and support of each member. In fact, the cooperative contained in PTP Nusantara IV Tobasari of Simalungun Regency has not been able to run maximally for the welfare of members. The problem occur in every member, they are still not aware of the process of borrowing system which not executed in a timely manner as agreed, or the awareness and ability to run the obligation of the cooperative management is still a constraint in advancing cooperatives that until now have not been able to realize the achievement of economic prosperity as haste members of the cooperative.

Problem Formulation

Those above issues are interesting to be investigated in order to find the right solution. The problem formulations are as follow:

- a. What is the role of cooperatives in improving the labor economy?
- b. What is the role of Local Government in cooperative development?
- c. What are the cooperative obstacles in the binding of the labor economy?

Objective of the Research

- a. To know the role of cooperatives in improving the labor economy.
- b. To know the role of Local Government in co-operative development.
- c. To know the obstacles of the cooperative in improving the labor economy.

Research Methods

a. Specification

The law conducted in this research was normative juridical that is legal research conducted by examining secondary data material. The research approach used to cooperative problem in improving labor economy with normative approach is about economic law.

This research consists of literature study with secondary data consist of:

- 1) Primary legal materials, namely binding legal entities, consist of:
 - a) Constitution of 1945.
 - b) Law Number 13 Year 2003 dated March 5, 2003, concerning Manpower.
 - c) Act Number 25 of 1992 dated October 21, 1992, concerning Cooperatives.
 - d) Legal Entities from the Colonial Period which until now still prevails as the Civil Code.
 - e) Judgment of Courts of Jurisprudence.
 - f) Articles of Association (AD) and Bylaws (ART)
- 2) Secondary legal material, which provides explanation of the primary legal entity, as follows:
 - a) The writings or opinions of civil law experts on the enactment of cooperatives.
 - b) Writing or opinion of the primary legal expert.
- 3) Tertiary legal matter, ie materials that provide guidance and explanation of the primary and secondary legal entities, among others:
 - a) Big Indonesian Dictionary
 - b) Encyclopedia of Indonesia
 - c) Law magazines related to cooperatives

In accordance with the formulation of the problem and the objective of writing, the nature of this study is descriptive. Descriptive is intended to obtain a description of the state and implementation of cooperatives in PTP Nusantara IV Tobasari Simalungun regency.

Discussion

1. The Role of Cooperatives in Improving the labor economy.

In fact, the cooperative cannot fully able to improve the labor economy as expected, especially in the plantation PTP Nusantara IV Tobasari Simalungun regency, the responsibility of the cooperative manager received less attention, to carry out his duties as a manager of cooperatives in improving the economy of workers in the plantation PTP Nusantara IV Tobasari Simalungun Regency. Thus, the prices of goods sold are more expensive than the stalls/kiosks located in the vicinity. It is concluded from interview result with research sample which stated that 90% cooperative is not working, while 10% stated cooperative can lift economy of society or laborer.

2. The role of government in cooperative development.

The cooperative could not realize according to the purpose of Article 3 of Law no. 25 of 1992, the cooperative aims to promote the welfare of its members in particular, and society in general and participate in developing the national economic order in order to realize a developed, just and prosperous society based on Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution. Nevertheless, in the Office of Cooperatives District Simalungun there is an increase to form new cooperatives. In addition, the supervision of the Cooperative Office of Simalungun Regency is still lacking or weak, especially the incomplete data of existing cooperatives, so it cannot be known which cooperatives are going well and which are not healthy. Evidently, after traced on December 12, 2007, to request the data of the last 10 years to Mr. Limbong, To Administration Archive Office of Cooperatives Simalungun District that is Mr. I.M. Saragih, SH directed the researcher to consult Mr. Limbong directly, and the data could not be fulfilled because he just moved. The reason was as a justification, the lack of archival equipment in the Office of Cooperatives Simalungun District proved the government was less able to monitor the development of cooperatives in Simalungun District which cooperatives are healthy and unhealthy cooperatives, it should be dissolved.

3. Cooperative barriers in improving the economy of workers/members.

The most concern issue in the PTP Nusantara IV Tobasari plantation of Simalungun Regency is the lack of capital and skill of the management of the cooperatives. While training and education of cooperatives for cooperative managers are very rarely done. The crucial thing is that the cooperative board is not from among the workers themselves who know what and how the primary needs of its members. The limited capital of cooperatives in the form of money is one of the factors that cannot be competed with the cooperative to compete with the kiosks that are in the vicinity. Therefore, the selling price of the nine basic commodities provided by the cooperative becomes more expensive than the selling price of stalls selling the same materials in same place. This happens because the cooperatives located on the plantation site buy materials to be sold from kiosks/talls located in Sait Buttu located within the same sub-district. While the stalls outside the plantation shop to downtown Pematangsiantar, where large wholesalers so that the purchase price was much cheaper. Such conditions cause members of cooperative employees are reluctant to shop at the Cooperative because the price is too high. Members only shop when in a state of urgency by owing and deducting their salary for months to come. Through the results of interviews researchers with employee cooperative leadership mentioned this happens because of lack of cooperative capital so that not able to shop directly to downtown Pematangsiantar so that the price of materials supplied in the cooperative employees become more expensive.

Conclusions and Suggestions

1. Conclusion

- a. Cooperative managers received less attention, the implementation of its duties as a manager of cooperatives in improving the economy of workers in the plantation PTP Nusantara IV Tobasari Simalungun regency has not been fully implemented, so the price of goods sold is more expensive than the stalls/kiosks in the vicinity.
- b. Simalungun Regency Cooperative is still lacking or weak, especially it has not complete the existing cooperative data, so it is unknowable which cooperatives are running well and which are not healthy. Evidently, after tracing on December 12, 2007, it does not have the data for 10 years back from this research.

- c. The obstacle is the minimal cooperative capital where the cooperative purchases goods from Sait Buttu sub-districts--shops around the plantation area of approximately 1 km—so that the price is expensive, which should be a shopping cooperative should be a large wholesale place located in the city Pematangsiantar. Thus the price can compete with the kiosks that are around the cooperative.

2. Suggestions

- a. Position of cooperative management should not be handled by Askep (assistant head) as Chairman. It is because the amount of responsibility that must be implemented by Askep, so he/she cannot concentrate themselves on the tasks that must be implemented by cooperatives. Cooperative managers should be elected from members in accordance with Article 9 of the Articles of Association of existing cooperatives and after being elected as administrators, for elected officials no longer burdened with the responsibilities of employees, factory employees, crop workers and so on the responsibility of the absolute management to float koperai employees as a pillow of the labor economy.
- b. Simalungun District Cooperative Office should create and complete data list of cooperatives in the work area to facilitate obtain data about healthy and unhealthy cooperatives. Unhealthy cooperatives are provided with education and cooperative training at least once a year with funding sources from the government, and for cooperatives that remain inoperative even though they have been provided with education and training should be dissolved in order not to become a burden to the government.
- c. It is better for the cooperative management to be elected from members of the same workers who have the same needs as their members, and to the management is given knowledge about the management of cooperatives so that the constraints that arise in managing the cooperative can be solved.

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