

# **INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO PROTECT INDONESIAN CITIZENS IN MINDANAO, SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES.**

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## **Abstract**

This undergraduate thesis aimed to answer the reason why thousands of Indonesian citizens came and settled in the region of Mindanao, Southern Philippines, which started from 1969 to the present even though their existence was very controversial to many parties around. One of the factors that makes Indonesian citizens alienated by the surrounding community even though they have lived for years in the area is due to lack of clarity regarding their citizenship status and the absence of a clear identity from them. To puzzle out the problem, this undergraduate thesis utilized the theory of Bilateral Cooperation and the Role theory by Mohtar Mas'oe. This research found out that there was a shift in population from Indonesia to the Mindanao region of the Southern Philippines because Indonesia and the Philippines had long established strong partnerships with the proximity of the two which were only taken four hours from Marore Island to Mindanao Island by boat. In addition, The Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia in Davao City as fully responsible for the existence of Indonesian citizens in Mindanao has sought to resolve this problem. Some of these efforts include: (1) The Indonesian Consulate General conducts data collection which is assisted by the Philippine government and UNHCR and (2) The Indonesian Consulate General conducts socialization and create a Congress of the Diaspora of Indonesia-Southern Philippines, where the congress aims to provide basic knowledge about Indonesia that they had forgotten while living in the Philippines for decades. In influencing the determinants, The Indonesian Consulate General has succeeded in resolving this case, there are some citizens who have been officially declared citizens of Indonesia has been granted a free passport and visa and returned to Indonesia according to the area they came from when in Indonesia.

**Keyword(s): Indonesia, the Philippines, Indonesian citizen, The Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia in Davao City, Diaspora Indonesia Southern Philippines.**

## Background

One of the main things for the welfare of its citizens, among others, is the existence of protection from the state for its society. Based on the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, especially in article 28D, the Indonesian government discusses the rights obtained by Indonesian citizen as follows:

- 1) Every person shall have the right of recognition, guarantees, protection and certainty before a just law, and of equal treatment before the law.
- 2) Every person shall have the right to work and to receive fair and proper remuneration and treatment in employment.
- 3) Every citizen shall have the right to obtain equal opportunities in government.
- 4) Every person shall have the right to citizenship status<sup>1</sup>

Therefore, in the article of 28D mandates for state administrators to protect all Indonesian citizens, and vice versa that every Indonesian citizen also has the right to get protection from the Indonesian government. Considering that Indonesia has islands that are in direct contact with other countries, including in the border with Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Vietnam, Papua New Guinea and East Timor.<sup>2</sup> It raises causes border problems with other countries such as protection, poverty, education and health problems. Therefore, many Indonesian citizens living in border areas experience vulnerability to nationalism. One example is the Indonesian citizens who live in South Mindanao, Philippines. Indonesian citizens living on the island of Mindanao generally come from islands around the Sangihe and Talaud Islands, North Sulawesi. The problem of vulnerability to the sense of nationalism of Indonesian descendants or commonly referred as the “Registered Indonesia Nation’s” (RIN) who live in South Mindanao, Philippines is one of the problems experienced by the Indonesian citizens living in the area, especially in the Southern Philippines.<sup>3</sup>

The South Philippine Region is an accreditation area of the Consulate General Republic of Indonesia, Davao City which consists of Mindanao Island, Sulu Islands, and Tawi-Tawi Islands. Historically, since the 1930s, it was the beginning of the first generation of Indonesian descendants in South Mindanao, Philippines (Davao, 2006). The interaction of Indonesian citizens in Mindanao Island was initially grown due to the economic activity, such

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<sup>1</sup> International Labor Organization, “*The 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, Chapter XI in the Article of 28D*”. [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_protect/---protrav/---ilo\\_aids/documents/legaldocument/wcms\\_174556.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_protect/---protrav/---ilo_aids/documents/legaldocument/wcms_174556.pdf) . Retrieved on 27 September 2018.

<sup>2</sup> Sawe, Benjamin Elisha, “*Which Countries Border Indonesia?*”. <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/what-countries-border-indonesia.html>. Retrieved on 27 September 2018.

<sup>3</sup> Lopez, Ariel C, “*Indonesia, Mindanao and persistent connections*”. <https://www.rappler.com/move-ph/balikbayan/52018-philippines-indonesia-connections>. Retrieved on 27 September 2018.

as fishermen, becoming laborers on pineapple and coconut plantations on the islands. This activity continues and develops until now, which in turn makes Indonesian citizens lack of knowledge, lack of education and adequate skills, and only prioritizes labor in finding jobs. Therefore, as a result, they can only be fishermen, farmers, and laborers with very low income to afford the daily life of their families.

Thus, the biggest problem faced by Indonesian citizens in Mindanao, Southern Philippines is economic problems. They are in a very low economic condition, even most of them cannot get access to proper education because of the expensive cost factor which will have impacts on their future life. Strict competition in finding jobs today is indeed a burden for those who live in other countries with limited skills and lack of education. This is the responsibility of the Indonesian government in paying attention to its citizens who live in other countries and need help from Indonesian government. The Head of the Foreign Ministry Sub-Directorate of Consular Supervision, Krisna Jaelani said there were five legal bases for the protection of Indonesian citizens abroad, among others:

1. The fourth paragraph of the 1945 Constitution which is “Subsequent thereto, to form a government of the state of Indonesia which shall protect all the people of Indonesia and their entire native land, and in order to improve the public welfare, to advance the intellectual life of the people and to contribute to the establishment of a world order based on freedom, abiding peace and social justice.”
2. The Vienna 1961 Convention concerning diplomatic relations between countries, one of which regulates the protection of citizens abroad.
3. Law Number 37 of 1999 concerning foreign relations, precisely in Chapter V, which regulates the protection of Indonesian citizens by Indonesian representatives abroad.
4. Law Number 39 of 2004 regulates the protection of Indonesian Workers abroad.
5. Minister of Foreign Affairs Regulation No. 4 of 2008 concerning the service of citizens to Indonesian representatives abroad.<sup>4</sup>

In this paper, some particular terms are used. Those are *Constitution*, *Nationalism*, *Registered Indonesia Nation's (RIN)* and *Accreditation area*. *Constitution* is “the basic principles and laws of a nation, state, or social group that determine the powers and duties of

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<sup>4</sup> Jaelani, K. (2016) “Wawancara Kasubdit Pengawasan Kekonsuleran Kementerian Luar Negeri Republik Indonesia.” Jakarta: Kementerian Luar Negeri.

the government and guarantee certain rights to the people in it”<sup>5</sup>. Meanwhile, *Nationalism* is “loyalty and devotion to a nation especially a sense of national consciousness exalting one nation above all others and placing primary emphasis on promotion of its culture and interests as opposed to those of other nations or supranational groups”<sup>6</sup>. Then, *the Registered Indonesia Nation’s (RIN)* is “native people of Indonesian descent who decide to live in Philippine. People like this are usually called as *RIN*. The people of Indonesian descents have their own intentions and goals when deciding to live in Philippine, whether it’s because they are looking for a more decent life in Philippine, or because they feel that they have a close relationship with Filipinos until they often visit each other which supported by a close enough distance between Indonesia and Philippines to reach. While, *Accreditation area* is “the territory of the recipient country which constitutes diplomatic jurisdiction for a diplomatic representative of a sending country determined according to the principles of diplomatic law that has been approved by the international community”.<sup>7</sup>

## **Theoretical Framework**

In the process of answering the research question, the utilization of theories and concepts are needed. According to Mohtar Mas’oed “theory is a statement that explains the relation of several concepts in which it attempted to explain a phenomenon that occurred” (Mas'oed, 1990). Therefore, the concepts and models below are used:

### **1. Bilateral Cooperation Theory**

In international relations, bilateral cooperation is a mutually cooperation that is generally known as bilateral relations. In connection with the concept of bilateral relations, Didi Krisna in his international political dictionary said that: “Bilateral relations are conditions that describe a mutual and influential relationship or a mutual relationship occurs between two parties or two countries and the state acts as the main actor in the implementation of the bilateral relationship.” This bilateral cooperation aims to create peace, accelerate the problem solving process between the two countries involved, and improve mutual prosperity. In this

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<sup>5</sup> Merriam Webster (1828). *The Definition of Constitution*. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/constitution>. Retrieved on 27 September 2018.

<sup>6</sup> Merriam Webster (1828). *The Definition of Nationalism*. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/nationalism>. Retrieved on 27 September 2018.

<sup>7</sup> Karnia Paramestri, “*Istikah-istilah Dipomatik*”. <http://repository.unika.ac.id/1738/7/09.20.0029%20Karina%20Paramestri%20LAMPIRAN.pdf>. Retrieved on 27 September 2018.

case, it pays more attention to social, political, cultural and economic structures so as to produce a harmonious relationship between the two countries.<sup>8</sup>

In bilateral diplomacy the main concept used is that a country will pursue its national interests in order to obtain maximum benefits and the only way is to make good and prolonged relations between countries.<sup>9</sup>

Basically, the bilateral relationship is a cooperative relationship between countries which is a diverse meeting of international interests from several countries which cannot be fulfilled by their own people. According to Rudy, cooperation was formed from various individual commitments to get collective welfare which is the result of the existence of equal interests.<sup>10</sup> The definition of cooperation according to Holsti can be divided into five, among others are:

- 1) The view that two or more value interests or goals meet each other and can produce something, promoted or fulfilled by all parties.
- 2) Approval of certain problems between two or more countries in order to utilize the conflict of interest equation.
- 3) The view or expectation of a country that the policies decided by other countries help the country to achieve its interests and values.
- 4) Official or unofficial rules regarding future transactions made to carry out the purpose.
- 5) Transactions between countries to fulfill their agreement.<sup>11</sup>

In addition, cooperation between the governments of two sovereign countries in the context of seeking a joint solution to a problem involving the two countries through negotiations and agreements is referred as bilateral cooperation. The bilateral cooperation is a part of the reciprocal relationship pattern which includes the following processes:

- a) The actual stimulus or policy of the country that initiated it.
- b) Perception of these stimuli by decision makers in the recipient country.
- c) Response or reciprocal action from the recipient country.
- d) Perception or response by decision makers from the initiating country.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Krisna, D. (1993). *Kamus Politik Internasional*. Jakarta: Grasindo, page. 18

<sup>99</sup> Rana, K. S. (2002). *Bilateral Diplomacy*. New Delhi: Manas Publications

<sup>10</sup> Rudy, T. M. (2005). *Administrasi dan organisasi internasional*. PT. Refika Aditama.

<sup>11</sup> Holsti. (1987). *Politik internasional : Kerangka analisa* . Surabaya: Pedoman Ilmu Jaya.

Thus, it can be said that bilateral cooperation is a form of relationship between two countries that mutually influence or the occurrence of reciprocal relationships that are manifested in the form of cooperation. In this bilateral agreement raises agreements covering the aspects of politics, trade economics, culture, education, security, and defense. Therefore, the bilateral relations that exist between the two countries have an important role to play in developing each country and creating many benefits in various negotiations and can create forums to exchange ideas and technology exchanges such as the exchange of facilities owned by the two countries with the agreement of both.<sup>13</sup>

By using this theory, it is expected that it will be easily done to find out how the Indonesian government attempts to protect its citizens. It is also expected that by applying this theory, this research is able to verify that in order to achieve Indonesia's national interests, which is the welfare of its citizens, the Indonesian government needs to cooperate with the Philippine government to realize its plan. Therefore, the two countries made a bilateral cooperation which aims to achieve the interests of each of the two countries by making agreements agreed by both countries. In the reciprocal relationship between the two countries, the state acts as the main actor in the implementation of the bilateral cooperation.

In this case, the establishment of bilateral relations between Indonesia and the Philippines has led to the creation of a community called as the Indonesia-Southern Philippines Diaspora. Considering that in 2012 the first Indonesian Diaspora Congress was held in Los Angeles, while in 2013 the Congress of the Second Indonesian Diaspora was held again in Jakarta. Exactly, in the second Congress of Indonesian Diaspora, the Indonesia-Southern Philippines Diaspora was chosen to represent Indonesian Diaspora Network for the Philippines by the Indonesian Global Diaspora Network. On September 17, 2013, it was agreed that the Indonesia-Southern Philippines Diaspora was under the responsibility of the Consulate General of the Republic Indonesia in Davao city to be part of the Indonesian Diaspora, and then the inauguration of the committee was held on October 28, 2013. Hence, the existence of bilateral cooperation between the Indonesian government and the Philippine government has

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<sup>12</sup> Yani, P. a. (2005). *Pengantar Ilmu Hubungan Internasional*. Jakarta Pusat: Remaja Rosdakarya.

<sup>13</sup> Goldstein. (2003). *Economic Interdependence and International Conflic*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

helped to accelerate the Indonesian government in the process of prospering its citizens, especially those who live in Mindanao, Southern Philippines.<sup>14</sup>

## 2. Role Theory

Coser and Anthony Rosenberg in his book entitled “An Introduction to International Politics” argued about the role theory definition as follows:

As the demands given structurally include norms, expectations, prohibitions, responsibilities wherein there is a series of pressures and conveniences that connect, guide, and support their functions in the organization.<sup>15</sup>

Meanwhile, Mochtar Mas'oeed argued about the definition of role theory as follows:

The expected behavior will be carried out by a person or government institution who occupies a position". This is the behavior attached to that position, expected to behave in accordance with roles and responsibilities held by political actors. So, that expectation eventually forms a role.<sup>16</sup>

Polak argued that a role is a series of activities that stand out by someone or a group of people in encouraging the occurrence of a thing. Thus “the role is a pattern of actions carried out individually or collectively which brings an effect to many people”<sup>17</sup>. According to Levinson in Soekanto (1999), the role includes three things, among others are:

- a) The role includes norms that are related to a person's position or place in society. The role in this sense is a series of rules that guide a person in people's lives.
- b) The role is a concept of what individuals can do in society as an organization
- c) The role can also be said to be an important individual behavior for the social structure of society.<sup>18</sup>

Therefore, in this case, the government plays a major role in carrying out its functions and objectives in service, development, empowerment, and community regulations. As stated by

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<sup>14</sup>Indonesian Diaspora Network. “Tentang Indoensian Diaspora Network”. <http://www.diasporaindonesia.org/index.php/idn/about>. Retrieved on 27 September 2018.

<sup>15</sup> Lewis A. Coser. 2003. “Role Theory”. <https://www.encyclopedia.com/social-sciences-and-law/sociology-and-social-reform/sociology-general-terms-and-concepts/role-theory>. Retrieved on 27 September 2018.

<sup>16</sup> Mas'oeed, M. (1989). *Studi Hubungan Internasional, Tingkat Analisis dan Teorisis*, Universitas Gadjah Mada.

<sup>17</sup> Polak, J.B.A.F Mayor. 1974. *Sosiologi, Suatu Pengantar Ringkas*. Jakarta: Ichtiar

<sup>18</sup> Soekanto, S. (1999). *Sosiologi Suatu Pengantar*. Jakarta: Rajawali Press.

Soekanto (1984) that the role is a dynamic aspect of position, if someone carries out his rights and obligations according to his position, then he has done a role.<sup>19</sup>

On the other hand, in the discussion of international relations, Mochtar Mas'oeed argues that based on principle, the main goal from the perspective of international relationship is to learn about the behavior of actors such as the state or the holders of power of an international organization in the arena of international transactions and such behavior includes war, conflict, and cooperation in international organizations. Mas'oeed also explained that there are five influence variables in making foreign political decisions, including idiosyncratic variables or individual variables, role variables, bureaucratic or government variables, social variables and systemic influences.<sup>20</sup> Thus, in this context, the variable used refers to the second variable, which is the role variable defined as an illustration of the position of a person or government institution or as a role that is expected for an individual who is competent toward the creation and implementation of foreign policy. Based on Law Number 37 of 1999 concerning Foreign Relations stipulates the mandate provided by the law to provide protection for every Indonesian citizen who lives abroad. As a result, continuous effort is needed in seeking to improve the provision of protection to Indonesian citizens domestically and abroad.<sup>21</sup>

By using this theory, this research attempts to show that the role of the Indonesian government in collaboration with the Consulate General of the Republic Indonesia, Davao city is very important in striving for the welfare of Indonesian citizens in Mindanao, Southern Philippines. One of the efforts made by the Indonesian government for the welfare of its citizens is by creating a community called the Indonesia-Southern Philippines Diaspora. The Indonesian government wants to provide a platform for Indonesian citizens who live abroad to remain united and solid, and continue to make a positive contribution to Indonesia's development. The Consulate General of the Republic Indonesia, Davao City has a significant role in realizing the Diaspora community. Eventually, the Indonesian-Southern Philippines Diaspora received full support from both countries, which are the Indonesian government and the Philippine government since the presence of the Diaspora's community would make it easier for the Indonesian government to control its citizens in Mindanao.

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<sup>19</sup> Soerjono Soekanto, *Sosiologi Suatu Pengantar, Edisi Baru*, Rajawali Pers Jakarta, 2009.

<sup>20</sup> Soeprapto, R. (1997). *Hubungan Internasional: Sistem, Interaksi, dan Perilaku*. Jakarta: RajaGrafindo Persada.

<sup>21</sup> Kementerian Luar Negeri Republik Indonesia. "*Perlindungan WNI di Luar Negeri: Upaya Sistemik Pemerintah Yang Berkesinambungan*". <https://www.kemlu.go.id/id/berita/siaran-pers/Pages/Perlindungan-WNI-di-Luar-Negeri-Upaya-Sistemik-Pemerintah-Yang-Berkesinambungan.aspx>. Retrieved on 5 October 2018

Meanwhile, the Philippine government also felt it was beneficial as they do not need to control Indonesian citizens more intensively because they have received attention from the Indonesian government represented by the Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia in Davao City. Thus, with the existence of the Diaspora community has provided benefits to both countries and the success that they have achieved is from the great role of the Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia in Davao City which participated in each of its activities and always control's any activities carried out in the community. In other words, the Indonesia-Southern Philippines Diaspora is fully under the auspices of the Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia in Davao City.

### **Research Method**

In this study that discusses the efforts of the Indonesian government in protecting Indonesian citizens living in Mindanao, Southern Philippines. The author uses qualitative methods, namely data collection techniques in the form of library research on written literature such as books, articles, journals, and also source resources obtained from the internet, which are considered relevant to the problems in this study and then analyzed descriptively.

### **Result and Discussion**

#### **1) Bilateral Relations between the Indonesian Government and the Philippine Government**

Bilateral relations between Indonesia and the Philippines are very close. Since 1949, both of countries established close friendly relations until they became military allies by supporting each other's government. The two countries have signed a bilateral cooperation memorandum of understanding which has sparked several collaborations in various fields, including firstly, cooperation in the protection of migrant workers, secondly, cooperation in the aspect of vocational education and training, thirdly, cooperation against drug smuggling, the last is cooperation in research education and training between national defense education institutions. Bilateral cooperation that has been built for a long time between the two countries aims to further improve relations between the two and to develop each of their countries. With the establishment of the bilateral cooperation, Indonesia and the

Philippines have now felt significant benefits for the development in their respective countries.<sup>22</sup>

Bilateral relations between Indonesia and the Philippines are getting closer, even from year to year their bilateral relations are getting stronger. As a proof, almost in year, the two countries held a meeting to discuss developments for their future reach.<sup>23</sup> In February 2018, the two countries attended and officially opened the Indonesia-Philippines Workshop on Islamic Education Cooperation held in Jakarta.<sup>24</sup> Besides that, the Indonesian government and the Philippine government also insist on increasing closer bilateral cooperation in the economic field.<sup>25</sup> In August 2018, the two countries held a meeting at the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Jakarta and were attended by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, Retno Marsudi, and the Philippine Foreign Secretary, Alan Peter Cayetano. At the meeting, the two countries discussed efforts to strengthen bilateral cooperation, especially in the economic field for people's welfare. As one of the issues of concern between the two countries, namely the Roll-on / Roll-off (RoRo) route between Davao City and Bitung to improve the bilateral economy which was agreed last year by the President of Indonesia, Joko Widodo and the President of the Philippines, Rodrigo Duterte.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>22</sup>Laurence Charles Salazar. *"Bilateral cultural diplomacy: 50 years of Philippine experience (1959-2009)"*. Encatc Journal of Cultural Management and Policy, Volume 5, Issue 1. National Commission for Culture and the Arts, Manila, Philippines.

<sup>23</sup> Evelyn Tan- Cullamar. *"The Indonesian Diaspora and Philippine-Indonesian Relations"*. Philippine Studies Vol. 41, No. 1 (1993): 38-50. Ateneo de Manila University.

<sup>24</sup> Kementrian Luar Negeri Republik Indonesia. *"Strengthening the Relationship, Indonesia-Philippines Promote Islamic Education Cooperation"*, <https://www.kemlu.go.id/en/berita/Pages/Strengthening-the-Relationship,-Indonesia-Philippines-Promote-Islamic-Education-Cooperation.aspx>. Retrieved on December 7, 2018.

<sup>25</sup> Kementerian Luar Negeri Republik Indonesia. *"Welcoming the 70 Years Anniversary of Bilateral Relations, Indonesia-Philippines Tightens Economic Cooperation"*. <https://www.kemlu.go.id/en/berita/Pages/Welcoming-the-70-Years-Anniversary-of-Bilateral-Relations,-Indonesia-Philippines-Tightens-Economic-Cooperation.aspx> Retrieved on 2 January 2019.

<sup>26</sup> Kementerian Luar Negeri Republik Indonesia. *"Kapal Roro Davao Bitung Diresmikan Presiden Jokowi dan Duterte"*. <https://www.kemlu.go.id/davaocity/id/berita-agenda/berita-perwakilan/Pages/Kapal-Roro-Davao-Bitung-Diresmikan-Presiden-Jokowi-dan-Duterte.aspx>. Retrieved on 2 January 2019.

**2) The duties and functions of the Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia in Davao city by creating a community called the Indonesia-Southern Philippines Diaspora in Mindanao, Southern Philippines.**

The Indonesian government seeks to protect and prosper Indonesian citizens living in Mindanao, the Southern Philippines. So, the Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia in Davao City as a representative of the Indonesian government in charge of the Mindanao region made various efforts to protect its citizens, some of the efforts are:

- a. The Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia in Davao City seeks to collect data for all Indonesian people living in the Mindanao region.<sup>27</sup> The data collection aims to determine Indonesian citizens who are official by having Indonesian citizenship documents and will be given free passports and visas so that they can return to their home areas in Indonesia.<sup>28</sup> The Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia in Davao City is fully responsible for the resettlement and allocation of places for these Indonesian citizens.
- b. The Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia in Davao City sought to create a forum in which the forum was called the Diaspora of Indonesia-Southern Philippines. The forum was created to unite all Indonesian citizens living in the Mindanao region, the Indonesian government wants to continue to be able to socialize with fellow Indonesian citizens and it is hoped that the forum can enhance brotherly relations and have a good impact on the progress of the Indonesian nation. In the forum, Indonesian citizens were taught how to be good citizens when living abroad. In addition, they were also taught about basic Indonesian knowledge which included history, flags, national anthem, culture, and teaching in the use of the Indonesian language which they had forgotten that knowledge when tens of years lived in Mindanao, Southern

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<sup>27</sup> Kementerian Luar Negeri Republik Indonesia. “Upaya Pendataan WNI di Pulau Balut dan Pulau Sarangani”. <https://www.kemlu.go.id/davaocity/id/berita-agenda/berita-perwakilan/Pages/UPAYA-PENDATAAN-WNI-DI-PULAU-BALUT-DAN-PULAU-SARANGANI.aspx>. Retrieved on 2 February 2019.

<sup>28</sup> Kementerian Luar Negeri Republik Indonesia. “Pemerintah RI Terbitkan 590 Paspor Gratis bagi WNI Keturunan di Mindanao.” <https://www.kemlu.go.id/davaocity/id/berita-agenda/berita-perwakilan/Pages/Pemerintah-RI-Terbitkan-590-Paspor-Gratis-bagi-WNI-Keturunan--di-Mindanao.aspx>. Retrieved on 2 February 2019.

Philippines. Meanwhile, in the forum they were also taught to be able to operate computers by bringing in reliable trainers from Indonesia.<sup>29</sup>

- c. The Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia in Davao City strives to build Learning Centers at points of settlement of Indonesian citizens. The Indonesian government wants all Indonesian citizens living in the Mindanao region to remote areas to get basic knowledge about Indonesia.<sup>30</sup> The Learning Center is open to all Indonesian citizens of all ages and is open free on Saturdays and Sundays. The school was opened only two days because most of those who were still in school, Monday-Friday attended the Philippine School. Thus, there was an open school at the Learning Center for two days so that Indonesian citizens as a whole could join and get the same knowledge as other Indonesian citizens. Regarding the program implemented at the school is the same as what was done at the Diaspora forum, which includes teaching basic knowledge about Indonesia, teaching to process food available in the surrounding environment to be used as food or handicrafts which can later be sold to improve their economic level. However, the most important mission is to teach Indonesian citizens to use Indonesian in their daily lives.<sup>31</sup>

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<sup>29</sup> Kementerian Luar Negeri Republik Indonesia. “*Diaspora Indonesia di Filipina Selatan Di dorong untuk Lakukan Community Based Project*”. <https://www.kemlu.go.id/davaocity/id/berita-agenda/berita-perwakilan/Pages/Diaspora-Indonesia-di-Filipina-Selatan-Didorong-untuk-Lakukan--Community-Based-Project.aspx>. Retrieved on 2 February 2019.

<sup>30</sup> Nirwahyudi, Teguh, “*Anak-Anak Mindanao Betah hingga Lancar Berbahasa Indonesia di Pidie*”, <http://mediaindonesia.com/read/detail/160359-anak-anak-mindanao-betah-hingga-lancar-berbahasa-indonesia-di-pidie>. Retrieved on 13 January 2019.

<sup>31</sup> Harijono, Tri, “*Sebelum Mati, Saya Ingin Lihat Indonesia*”, <https://nasional.kompas.com/read/2012/11/28/09470597/artikel-detail-komentar-mobile.html>. Retrieved on 13 January 2019.

## **Conclusion**

Final conclusions based on quantification with content analysis conclude it is inevitable that there are still thousands of Indonesian citizens living in Mindanao, Southern Philippines. There are various kinds of problems with the different contexts they face, starting from a number of Indonesian citizens who want to be able to return to Indonesia but they do not have clear personal data and lose their citizenship documents. However, there are some Indonesian citizens who do not want to go back to Indonesia and want to settle in Mindanao, but they cannot afford to pay Alien Certificate of Registration (ACR) considering the high tax costs and unequal income.

The Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia in Davao City found that it was quite difficult to resolve the citizenship problem. Thus, the Indonesian government took the initiative to form a forum that aims to change the minds of those who were originally downtrodden, oppressed and persecuted because being foreigners who do not have clear citizenship status, it is now expected that they will think more openly by facing all problems with logic. In the forum also taught some skills such as cooking typical Indonesian food and also being taught skills in operating the computer. The efforts of the Indonesian government produced maximum results, many of whom got more decent jobs such as being cashiers in supermarkets, working in private Philippine offices and no longer working as unskilled laborers with unequal wages.

Therefore, the success of the efforts for Indonesian citizens is certainly with the strong bilateral relations between Indonesia and the Philippines. With the existence of bilateral cooperation, it will be easier for the two of them to improve each other for their respective countries. Also, success in this effort is certainly due to the hard work of the Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia in Davao City in handling and providing solutions to problems faced by Indonesian citizens living in Mindanao, the Southern Philippines.

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