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The Impact Revitalization Development at Lapangan Merdeka For the People of Medan to Become Environmentally Sustainable Green

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Abstract

The revitalization of Medan's Merdeka Square, covering 4.88 hectares, aims to restore its cultural heritage value and revitalize the social and economic aspects of the surrounding area. Revitalization focuses on protecting key elements, such as historical fields, trembesi trees, and cultural memories, while adapting the space for modern needs. Phase 1 of the project involves significant groundwork, including casting 1,818 piles, excavating 152,147.47 m³ of soil, and distributing it to three locations: TPA Terjun, the Islamic Center, and other sites. As Medan faces environmental challenges stemming from urban development prioritizing economic growth over green areas, the concept of sustainable green infrastructure has gained prominence. Revitalized green open spaces (RTH) in urban areas function as gardens, urban forests, recreational spaces, sports facilities, and more. The revitalized Merdeka Square will transform into a green infrastructure hub, expanding its green space from 18,520 m² to 21,580 m². This development will preserve its status as a cultural heritage site while hosting cultural arts, music, and culinary events. Using a qualitative method with both primary and secondary data, this study examines the importance of Merdeka Square's revitalization as urban green infrastructure and its impact on the well-being of Medan's residents.

Keywords: Revitalization; Cultural Heritage; Economy; Green Open Space

1. Introduction

Indonesia is a unitary state which is divided into several provinces, districts and cities to facilitate the delegation of duties and authority. This concept is in line with the concept of decentralization which has the main aim of bringing services closer to local communities for the sake of creating a prosperous society. In order to create a prosperous society, there needs to be development in a region, which is directed at improving the nation's quality of life, so that it can create peace and prosperity for the Indonesian people. Development in general means improvements in everything around, one of which is development in the fields of facilities and the economy, namely the construction of the revitalization of Lapangan Merdeka. The importance of revitalization development is to save Lapangan Merdeka, which contains historic site buildings, by protecting it from slums and turning it into an environmentally friendly public space.

The development of an area or city will definitely have an impact in various physical and non-physical fields. Development in the city of Medan in general and the region in particular is dominated by development in the economic and service sectors bringing various influences and problems. Therefore, the revitalization of the Lapangan Merdeka development is being carried out, which is expected to be a public open space as well as a green open space. Revitalization is an effort to revive an area or part of a city that previously experienced decline and decreased environmental quality. Revitalization can also be understood as a step to repair or revive something important in order to provide optimal results and benefits. The revitalization of Medan's Lapangan Merdeka began on July 7 2022. This project aims to return Lapangan Merdeka to its original essence as a cultural heritage and green open space (RTH). Lapangan Merdeka will be restored as a cultural heritage site. President Joko Widodo and the Governor of North Sumatra, Edy Rahmayad, inaugurated the start of this project by laying the first stone. This moment is very historic because the first stone was laid by the president directly. The goal is so that there are no more buildings blocking people from seeing Lapangan Merdeka.

The Lapangan Merdeka area, which is an informal city activity where its residents can serve as a recreation area, sports facility and even a tourist spot, is ground zero for the city of Medan. The planning of the area and the development of revitalization and its environment are given great attention so that the function of Lapangan Merdeka as a green open space as city infrastructure which will later be used as a sports facility, art venue, family recreation area, historical place and as a city public space is maintained. Therefore, revitalization is carried out, which is expected to be a public open space as well as a place for green open space. Revitalization is an effort to revive an area or part of a city that previously experienced decline and decreased environmental quality. Revitalization can also be understood as a step to repair or revive something important so that it can provide optimal results and benefits.

Green open space (RTH), which is basically a basic need, is not prioritized in providing it by various urban areas [1]. This can be seen in big cities in Indonesia, such as Jakarta, Surabaya, Medan and Bandung, where the green open space area has been reduced from 35% in the early 1970s to 10% today. Most of the existing green open space has been converted into urban infrastructure and new residential areas [2]. Therefore, revitalization is carried out which is expected to be a public open space as well as a place for green open space. Revitalization is an effort to revive an area or part of a city that previously experienced decline and decline in environmental quality. Revitalization can also be understood as a step to repair or revive something important so that it can provide optimal results and benefits.

2. Literature Review

2.1. Development of Revitalization of Merdeka Square

Work on the revitalization of the Medan Merdeka Field is one of the Guardian's main programs Bobby Nasution's city of Medan continues to show progress. Based on information from the Department of Housing, Settlement Areas, Cipta Karya and Medan City Spatial Planning, work on the first stage of the revitalization of the Merdeka Field which was carried out included the installation of drilled piles or pile foundations and excavation of the basement. As many as 1,800 drill piles have been installed to support the revitalization of the field which aims to restore its function as a green open space (RTH) as well as a cultural heritage. Apart from green open space and cultural heritage, Bobby Nasution, through this revitalization, wants to make the field which was previously a square into a public space as well as a place for interaction and various activities for the residents of the city of Medan.

The main concept of revitalizing the Lapangan Merdeka is space preservation historical cities and the dynamics of contemporary urban design. The revitalization of the Lapangan Merdeka will maintain the old trembesi trees and the character of the open field to preserve its significant historical and cultural heritage value. The revitalization of Merdeka Square is also carried out as an effort to conserve the natural environment through the rain garden and sponge city concepts. Apart from that, revitalization is also expected will recreate public space as a space for meeting and interaction between city residents. The Lapangan Merdeka revitalization development project includes the construction of a square and supporting facilities, as well as a basement. Apart from historical sites, the revitalization of Lapangan Merdeka is also aimed at green open spaces. In the development plan listed on the market, a people's stage and supporting facilities will be built. All of them apply the concept of preserving historic city space with a contemporary design. The revitalization of Lapangan Merdeka received a lot of support from various levels of society. Even young people support the plan. Many residents hope for a hijai open space, where residents can comfortably carry out outdoor activities, including reading books quietly in the middle of Medan city. Apart from that, it is hoped that the independent field will become a place for selfrealization for Medan's young people.

2.2. Mobility as a Service

As The third largest city in Indonesia, the city of Medan is also a gateway for passenger flow and trade in goods and services. Merdeka Field is one of the assets of the Medan City Government which is Regional Property (BMD) in the form of land. Medan is one of them A city in Indonesia that is rich in potential historical building heritage, both Dutch colonial heritage and glorious kingdoms in the past. To avoid further deterioration of the physical, functional and visual character of this old city area, innovative efforts are needed, namely by revitalizing the atmosphere of the environment so that it does not fade further. The Lapangan Merdeka area is considered to represent historical buildings in the city of Medan, with potential in terms of architecture in its buildings and in this area new activities have emerged to revive the atmosphere of the environment and its surroundings.

The revitalization of Lapangan Merdeka is currently receiving a lot of criticism from several residents The city of Medan complained that the construction of Lapangan Merdeka was considered slow to be completed. "The construction of Lapangan Merdeka is progressing rather slowly. "It stopped for one year and now it's starting again," said Junaidi in his statement, Thursday (18/04/2024). Apart from these complaints, there are also residents Medan city supports and welcomes this revitalization project. They hope that this field will become a more comfortable and beautiful place for activities, as well as becoming a center for activities and art. "Hopefully the construction of Lapangan Merdeka will be completed quickly" is a business opportunity for MSMEs around Medan Field," said Juwita in her statement, Thursday (18/04/2024). Overall, residents hope for the revitalization of Lapangan Merdeka will improve the quality of life and provide a better space for the people of Medan.

2.3. Medan City Government Strategy in Revitalizing Merdeka Square

Lapangan Merdeka, which has strong historical value for Medan residents, is now undergoing revitalization which aims to restore its function as a Green Open Space (RTH) and cultural heritage. The following are the strategies implemented by the Medan city government in this revitalization process:

1. Historic City Preservation
 - a. The main approach in the revitalization of Lapangan Merdeka is the preservation of historic city space. The old trembesi trees around the field and the open character of the field will be maintained.
 - b. Environmental conservation efforts through the concept of green parks and sponge cities are also implemented in the revitalization of this 4.88-hectare field.
2. People's Stage and Supporting Facilities
 - a. One of the main parts of Lapangan Merdeka that is being revitalized is the pavilion which will be the only building on the surface of the field.
 - b. All buildings that previously covered the field will be demolished and moved to the basement. In the basement there will also be a museum, cinema and prayer room.
 - c. Merdeka Square will also be integrated with a train station to support the development of low-carbon areas and strengthen its potential as a transit hub and transit-oriented development (TOD).
3. Public Participation and SDGs Commitment
 - a. This revitalization is a form of the Medan city government's commitment to achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs), especially goal 11 which relates to sustainable cities.
 - b. The Mayor of Medan has responded to pressure from the Medan Civil Society collaboration by returning this field as a green open space and cultural heritage.
 - c. President Joko Widodo himself laid the first stone for the revitalization of Lapangan Merdeka on July 7, 2022.

With this strategy, it is hoped that Lapangan Merdeka will be held will be a better place for Medan residents, combining historical values with today's needs. Hopefully this revitalization will provide broad benefits for the community and the surrounding environment.

2.4. Transformation of Merdeka Square into a Sustainable Green Open Space that Combines Historical Values with Contemporary Needs

Medan Lapangan Merdeka, as one of the historical sites, will undergo revitalization which will transform it into a green open space that combines historical values with contemporary needs. The concept of revitalizing Lapangan Merdeka aims to create a meaningful space for Medan residents and respect the city's cultural heritage.

The following is the concept for the revitalization of Lapangan Merdeka that will be carried out applied:

1. Historical Preservation

This concept maintains the character and historical significance of Lapangan Merdeka as a public open space. The old trembesi trees will be preserved, and Lapangan Merdeka will be a place that honors the history of Medan and the history of the Proclamation of Independence.
2. Green open space

Lapangan Merdeka will be transformed into a green open space. Apart from maintaining its function as a public open space, this revitalization also aims to mitigate climate change.
3. Contemporary Design

The revitalization will combine contemporary design with historic preservation. Lapangan Merdeka will be a "void" or open city space that contains contemplation and reflection about the past as well as preparation for the future.
4. Humane Infrastructure

Apart from building a bright and poetic underground parking, water absorption from the public open space above the parking basement will be channeled to the "collector tunnel" on the north side, without burdening the drainage channels outside Lapangan Merdeka.
5. Cultural Meeting Place

This revitalization is expected to foster togetherness in the multi-ethnic Medan community. Lapangan Merdeka will become a stage for the people, the seats on the pavilion stage will only be raised when they are to be used.

3. Research Method

3.1. Pickup Location and Time

This research was carried out on Jl. City Hall (Jl. Pulau Pinang), Medan, North Sumatra, Indonesia. Especially at the location of the Lapangan Merdeka revitalization construction project. This research was conducted over a period of 2 days on April 17-18, 2024.

3.2. Population and Sample

The population and sample in this research are Medan City residents who work and go to school around Lapangan Merdeka in Medan City. Considering the limited time, information and abilities of researchers, the researchers took 10 Medan City residents as respondents. The data collection method is documentation and interview methods.

3.3. Data Analysis Techniques

The first stage of this research is to determine the condition of the revitalization of green infrastructure development at Lapangan Merdeka. This objective is an initial identification regarding the ongoing development conditions of each green infrastructure variable that will be studied, which will later become input for the following stages. This stage is carried out by direct observation of the area you want to research and identifying the condition of the green infrastructure at Merdeka Field. The second data analysis technique is to use descriptive analysis techniques because the data obtained is qualitative, namely by asking several questions. Next, presenting the data begins by reviewing all available data from various collected data sources, arranging it into units, which are then categorized at the next stage, and checking the validity of the data and interpreting it with analysis according to the researcher's reasoning ability to make research conclusions. After the previous research stages have been carried out, the next stage in this research is to carry out the system analysis stage. By using this system analysis, it is intended to identify and evaluate the problems, obstacles that occur and the expected needs of respondents at Lapangan Merdeka so that improvements can be proposed. The main task of system analysis at this final stage is to find weaknesses in the development of the Merdeka Field green infrastructure so that improvements can be proposed.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1. Analysis of the development of Green Infrastructure Revitalization at Lapangan Merdeka

Lapangan Merdeka is an icon of open space in the city of Medan. Lapangan Merdeka has quite large potential, not only as a place for sports, holding events and a food court. But it also has potential as a place for family recreation and tourism. Lapangan Merdeka occupies a strategic position because it is located in the center of Medan city and is the zero point for the city of Medan. Lapangan Merdeka is the most important public domain for both the planning area and the city of Medan, because this place, apart from containing historical value, is currently being built with a revitalization development which is a place for artistic performances that will be enjoyed by various races and ethnicities. So that people can enjoy art performances. The upcoming Lapangan Merdeka will be used as green open space (RTH) with an estimated additional green space from 18,520 m² to 21,580 m². Medan will provide wider, more comfortable and much needed space for the residents of the city of Medan. This revitalization has also become a cultural heritage that can be enjoyed by various cultures as well as for the younger generation and the elderly because the revitalization of Lapangan Merdeka will provide green open space, where people or residents can comfortably carry out outdoor activities.

In phase I, 1,800 drill piles were installed to support the revitalization of the field which aims to restore its function as a green open space (RTH) as well as a cultural heritage. Apart from being a cultural heritage, this revitalization aims to make the field which is used as a public square as a public space. In phase II, the work will focus on structural work which includes preliminary work, soil, underground structures and upper structures. Followed by architectural work including ground floor architectural work, which includes architectural work for the people's stage, doghouse, chimney, lobby area, stairs and crown. Basement 1 floor work and basement 2 floor work are also under construction in phase II.

4.2. Results of Community Respondents Regarding Revitalization at Lapangan Merdeka

In the results of in-depth interviews and observations with informants who are residents of the city of Medan around Lapangan Merdeka who work and go to school, it appears that several respondents thought that the progress of the Revitalization project being built was quite slow because it had stopped in phase I. Added to this was the negative impact The consequences of this revitalization are traffic jams and flooding due to the lack of absorption capacity. However, it is possible that some respondents think that this revitalization development project is a good plan from the Medan city government that does not eliminate the existing historical value.

4.3. Benefits and Impact of the Revitalization of Lapangan Merdeka as Green Infrastructure for the City of Medan

Green infrastructure is a spatial planning concept that has a very good impact on the environment because green infrastructure does not disturb the natural cycle of the environment. Apart from that, *green infrastructure* from the planning, construction,

operation, to maintenance stages really pays attention to aspects of protecting, saving and reducing the use of natural resources. Therefore, *green infrastructure* has several functions, namely as follows:

1. Reducing Rainwater Runoff

Rainwater runoff is a problem that is very common after construction activities because it can reduce the area of water absorption into the ground which can cause flooding and many other problems, therefore green infrastructure provides solutions such as Permeable Pavement which is implemented by installing sidewalks that allow water to absorb into the soil or Filter Strips designed to filter runoff.

2. Filtering and Absorbing Pollutants in Water

Pollutants in water can have a bad and dangerous impact on the environmental ecosystem, so the right solution to reduce them is by filtering, managing or eliminating used waste water, such as a Constructed Wetland.

3. Saving Rainwater

Rainwater can provide miracles but can also be a disaster because of the large amount of water falling simultaneously, therefore collecting or storing rainwater can be a good solution to this problem, for example Rain Harvesting.

5. Conclusion

In designing revitalization, it is important to ensure optimal use of space. The pavilion will be converted into a people's stage and integration with the train station is a good step to maximize the function of the field. Revitalization must maintain the historical and cultural value of Lapangan Merdeka. The old trembesi trees and the character of the open fields must also be preserved. Museums and meeting rooms can also be a means of enriching public knowledge about the city's history. The concept of rain gardens and sponge cities in revitalization can help conserve the natural environment. Paying attention to environmental aspects is a positive step for the future of the city. Revitalization must recreate public spaces that are friendly and invite interaction between city residents. Facilities such as public stages and green open areas can strengthen the role of the field as a place to gather and interact. Involving the community in the revitalization process is the key to success. The opinions and aspirations of local residents must be heard and taken into account in project planning and implementation.

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