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Indonesian Consulate General in Davao in Protecting the Rights of the Indonesian Citizens in Mindanao

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ABSTRAK

Abstract In 2016, the Indonesian Consulate General in Davao and UNHCR registered 8,745 Persons of Indonesian Descents (PIDs). Furthermore, 2,399 of them have been confirmed as Indonesian citizens. Since 2020-2023, there have been approximately 30 cases experienced by the Indonesian diaspora in Mindanao such as criminal acts and lack of documents for Indonesian citizens. This research aims to analyze how the Indonesian Consulate General in Davao's efforts to provide legal protection to the Indonesian diaspora in Mindanao. This research uses a qualitative method by collecting secondary data from literature studies such as books, journal articles, websites, reports, and another research. The findings of this study show that the Indonesian Consulate General in Davao in providing assistance on various legal issues, offers legal assistance to Indonesian citizens involved in various criminal and civil cases by providing or arranging the services of lawyers. The Indonesian Consulate General in Davao also cooperates with the Philippine Department of Justice (DOJ), with the assistance of UNHCR Philippines in order to provide legal identity to undocumented Indonesian citizens.

Abstrak Pada tahun 2016, Konsulat Jenderal RI Davao dan UNHCR telah mendaftarkan 8.745 Orang Keturunan Indonesia (PID). Selanjutnya, 2.399 orang di antaranya telah dikonfirmasi sebagai WNI. Sejak tahun 2020-2023, terdapat kurang lebih 30 kasus yang dialami oleh diaspora Indonesia di Mindanao seperti tindakan kriminal dan kekurangan dokumen bagi WNI. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis bagaimana upaya KJRI Davao dalam memberikan perlindungan kepada diaspora Indonesia di Mindanao. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif dengan mengumpulkan data sekunder dari studi literatur seperti buku, artikel jurnal, website, laporan, dan penelitian lainnya. Temuan dari penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa KJRI Davao dalam memberikan pendampingan terhadap berbagai permasalahan hukum, menawarkan bantuan hukum kepada WNI yang terlibat dalam berbagai kasus pidana dan perdata dengan menyediakan atau mengatur jasa pengacara. KJRI Davao juga bekerja sama dengan Departemen Kehakiman (DOJ) Filipina, dengan bantuan UNHCR Filipina dalam rangka memberikan identitas legal kepada WNI yang tidak berdokumen.

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INTRODUCTION

Around the 17th century, the migration of Sangihe and Talaud residents to the Philippines coincided with the Dutch colonial presence in Indonesia (Wuryandari & Raharjo, 2019).

Because of their language and origins in North Sulawesi, Indonesians are referred to as "Sangir/Marore" and are found living among the indigenous people in South Cotabato province in southern Mindanao, namely General Santos City (formerly Dadiangas), Davao del Sur, and Sarangani. These areas are very close to the Sulawesi Island chain in northeastern Indonesia, home to people who have historically dared to take big risks to sail and live in southern Mindanao (Talampas, 2015). In 2004, the number of Indonesian citizens from Sangir and Talaud in Southern Mindanao was around 7,946 people (Putri, 2017). The Indonesian population living in the Philippines consists of immigrants and foreign workers from Indonesia and their descendants. Among them are a large number of individuals who were previously stateless and officially known as Person of Indonesian descent (PIDs). The governments of both countries and the United Nations (UN) are helping these people obtain citizenship (UNHCR, 2016).

The sea that connecting the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia include strategic economic routes. Throughout 2015, more than 100,000 ships passed through Sulu waters carrying 55 million metric tons of cargo, passing through more than 1 million 20-foot containers. Sulu waters are also the crossing of 18 million ship passengers. Various businesses and networks of terror and international crime, often smuggling products from Indonesia such as cigarettes and even roosters, because in the Philippines, the culture of saving cock-fights still exists and becomes the entertainment of the community and local leaders (Santosa, 2016). The close regional relations between North Maluku, North Sulawesi and the Southern Philippines to Sabah and North Kalimantan have been going on since before the arrival of Europeans to these areas (Jafar, 2023). With this close traditional relationship in the past, it is possible for cases of illegal smuggling to occur in Mindanao. The Indonesian Consulate General in Davao City as the representative of the Indonesian government in Davao has handled various problems experienced and carried out by Indonesian Citizens (WNI) in Mindanao. Some violations of the law are committed such as arms smuggling, fish smuggling, cigarette smuggling, buying and selling illegal goods, difficulty obtaining a passport, difficulty making a visa, not having enough documents to make a passport. However, statelessness is the main reason why they do not have identity and passport.

Table 1. Cases Faced by the Indonesian Consulate General in Davao 2020-2023

Cases	Total Person			
	2020	2021	2022	2023
Illegal entry undocumented	3	4	5	23
Illegal Fishing	5	-	3	-
Smuggling weapon	-	-	1	2
Murder	-	-	2	-
Presumed terrorism	1	1	-	-
Stranded	-	1	1	-
Kidnapping/Hostage	1	-	-	-
Affected by pandemic	46	5	-	-

(Source: Consulate General Republic Indonesia, Edited by the author)

As stated in table 1, throughout 2020-2023 the Indonesian Consulate General in Davao City faced cases involving Indonesian citizens as listed in the table, some of which were illegal entry undocumented, undocumented Indonesian citizens, murder, presumed terrorism or suicide bombing, Indonesian citizens stranded in the Mindanao area, and kidnapping.

Person of Indonesian Descent (PIDs) in Mindanao also considered as the Indonesian diaspora. The Indonesian diaspora refers to people who have Indonesian heredity but live outside Indonesia. According to former Indonesian Ambassador to the United States, Dino Patti Djalal, in Alunaza (2017), the Indonesian diaspora consists of two categories, the first is those

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who have Indonesian blood. While the second is those who have Indonesian culture and soul. Therefore, the Indonesian diaspora is very small if only based on legal calculations through passport ownership. Whereas there are also many who have Indonesian culture, blood and soul who live abroad but do not have a passport or are even foreign citizens (Alunaza, 2017). Even though PIDs in Mindanao may have spent centuries living in the Philippines, they have strong historical and cultural ties to Indonesia. Additionally, via language, rituals, and religion, these PIDs continue to be connected to their Indonesian cultural background. The Indonesian government frequently acknowledges and works to develop ties with PIDs, in order to enhance cultural and diplomatic relations between the two nations.

There are about 6,000 Person of Indonesian descents (PIDs) in the southern Philippines who do not have valid citizenship, according to mapping research conducted in 2012 and 2013 by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Indonesian Consulate General in Davao and the Philippines Government. They are subject to immigration penalties because they do not have secure immigration status and because neither Indonesia nor the Philippines recognize them as citizens (Tan, 2014). In 2016, the Government of Indonesia through the Indonesian Consulate General in Davao City in collaboration with the Government of the Philippines and UNHCR registered 8,745 people of Indonesian descent who were later confirmed that 2,399 of them were Indonesian citizens (Consulate General Republik Indonesia, 2024). The definition of stateless given by international law is a person who is not considered a citizen by any State under the operation of its laws (UNHCR, n.d.). To guarantee that statelessness does not occur in this way in the future and to give those who have lost their Indonesian citizenship the means to regain it, the government revised the citizenship law in 2006. However, some never formally reclaimed their Indonesian citizenship and remained stateless; at this point, they are not recognized as citizens by Indonesia or the Philippines.

According to the Presidential Decree of the Republic of Indonesia Number 108 of 2003 concerning Representative Organizations of the Republic of Indonesia Abroad, Article 6. Consular Representatives have the main task of representing and fighting for the interests of the Nation, State, and Government of the Republic of Indonesia and protecting the interests of Indonesian Citizens and Indonesian Legal Entities through the implementation of consular relations with the Receiving State (Indonesia, 1999). Protection of Indonesian citizens in the working area of the Indonesian Consulate General in Davao City is all efforts made to serve and protect the interests of Indonesian citizens and BHI in the working area of the Indonesian Consulate General in Davao City, including the provision of information/legal/and/or social assistance by taking into account the principle of prioritizing the involvement of responsible and/or authorized parties in accordance with statutory provisions; not take over the criminal and/or civil responsibility of Indonesian citizens; and in accordance with statutory provisions, local state laws and international laws and customs (Consulate General Republik Indonesia, 2024). According to Satjipto Rahardjo, legal protection is to provide protection for human rights that are harmed by others and that protection is given to the community in order to enjoy all the rights provided by law (Rahardjo, 2018). Quoting from Purba (2019), according to Muchsin, Legal Protection is something that protects legal subjects through applicable laws and regulations and is forced to implement them with a sanction (Purba, 2019). Consular representatives are responsible for providing public services related to non-political aspects, such as the legal affairs of citizens abroad (Tarigan, 2020). Consular officials have the power to interfere in matters of judicial procedure to prevent injustice from occurring. However, the interference of consular officials in providing consular assistance is limited to the preparatory stage of justice, whereas if it has entered the judicial process, consular officials have no right to interfere (Jennifer, 2013).

There are several recent studies on the protection provided by Indonesian representatives abroad to Indonesian citizens who are abroad (Ginting, 2022; Son, Mangku, & Yuliartini,

2022; Khotimah, 2023). This research was mostly conducted with the perspective of international law, they also focused on Indonesian citizens in general. (Ginting, 2022) discusses the role of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in protecting Indonesian citizens abroad during the Covid-19 pandemic. However, none of these studies address the practices of Indonesian representatives abroad in protecting Indonesian citizens in the South Philippines. Thus, research is different from previous research because the author will focus on the problems of legal violations that occur and the problems of Indonesian descendants who do not have an identity to analyze the efforts of the Indonesian Consulate General in Davao in protecting the Indonesian citizens in Mindanao.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

In this study, the author uses the national interest concept and theory of realism which is believed to helping in reviewing research on the efforts of the Indonesian Consulate General in Davao in protecting the rights and interests of the Indonesian diaspora in Mindanao.

National Interest Concept

Hans J. Morgenthau (2010) in his book entitled *Politics Among Nations* defines national interest as the minimum ability of a nation-state to protect its physical identity (territory, land, territory), political identity (political economic regime), and cultural identity (ethnic, linguistic, historical norms) from interference from other countries or nations (Rijal, 2019). Felix E. Oppenheim (1987) defines the concept of national interest as the welfare goal of the national government at the international level. This indicates that the national interest of a country is to maintain its political autonomy and national integration for the continuity of the welfare of its people to the international stage. Broadly speaking, national interest is the goals, ideals and expectations that a country wants to achieve (Saragih et al., 2019). Paul Seabury defines national interest through two perspectives, namely descriptively, which means that it is a goal that must be achieved by a nation permanently through government leadership. While normatively, national interest is a collection of ideals of a nation which the nation tries to achieve by dealing with other countries (Sudarsono et al., 2018).

Security, including the survival of the people and the need for land and welfare, is an essential element in the formation or determination of a nation's national interest (Trisakti & Zahidi, 2022). Indonesia's national interests are generally summarized in the Preamble of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, 4th paragraph, which stated that the Government of the Republic of Indonesia protects the entire Indonesian nation, promotes general welfare, and educates the nation's life. Based on this understanding, this paper will see that there are at least two things that become Indonesia's national interests in maintaining and protecting the Indonesian diaspora abroad through the Indonesian Consulate General in Davao. First, security-related interests, Indonesian Consulate General in Davao plays an important role in helping them seek protection. Second, humanitarian and moral interests, the Consulate General of Indonesia Davao plays an important role in fulfilling these moral and legal obligations by providing protection and assistance to the Indonesian diaspora. Both are then elaborated in the discussion of this paper.

Realism

Realism is the perspective that first attempted to fully conceptualize the “national interest”. This view sees that the “national interest” must be seen from the interests of the state, because since 1648, the “state” is the supreme political supremacy in society and “anarchy” in international politics can only be dealt with through the state. Since the state is the only actor, foreign decisions only recognize the “state” as the only entity. Therefore, the “national interest” is nothing but the “state interest” based on the power they possess (Rizky Mardhatillah Umar, 2017). Realist theory in the study of international relations places the concept of power at the

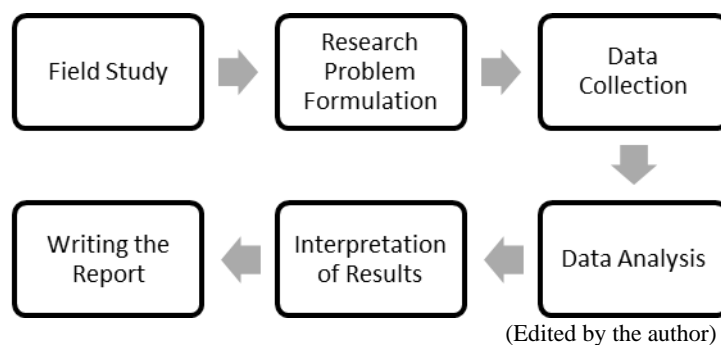
centre of all nation-state behaviour. This theory assumes that states act to maximize their power, so that they can better achieve their own goals. As Hans Morgenthau said, the clue that can help explain the international political landscape is the concept of national interest in the sense of power (Bakry, 2017a).

The author uses the theory of realism to show that the Indonesian Consulate General in Davao can be seen as an instrument of the state in protecting its citizens abroad, especially in conflict areas such as Mindanao. This can be relevant to the efforts made by the Indonesian Consulate General in Davao in protecting Indonesian citizens in Mindanao. The Indonesian Consulate General in Davao plays an important role in safeguarding Indonesia's national security and interests, by protecting the Indonesian diaspora from threats and violence. This effort can be interpreted as an effort to maintain stability and prevent escalation of conflict in Mindanao which can have a negative impact on Indonesia. The theory of realism in the study of international relations at its core places the concept of power at the center of all nation-state behavior. This theory assumes that states act to maximize their power, so that they can better achieve their own goals. As Hans Morgenthau said, the main clue that can help us explain the international political landscape is the concept of national interest (Bakry, 2017b).

RESEARCH METHODS

To analyze "How are the efforts of the Indonesian Consulate General in Davao in protecting the Indonesian citizens in Mindanao?" The author uses qualitative research methodology. Qualitative research methodology uses a variety of data collection techniques, such as interviews, observation, and document analysis. This approach allows researchers to collect rich and varied data, which can provide more comprehensive insights into the phenomena studied in mini research (Rifa'i, 2023). The primary data used by the author in this study are observations during the three months of carrying out an internship at the Indonesian Consulate General in Davao City, as well as interview with Mr Harya K Sidharta, the consul of Protocol and Consular Affairs and Mr Orfendo, home staff at Protocol and Consular affairs Indonesian Consulate General in Davao. This study also uses secondary data obtained by collecting data that has been published in national and international journals. Secondary data in this study were also obtained from official websites, documents and books produced by the Indonesian Consulate General in Davao and the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This research uses a type of descriptive research with a qualitative approach. Regardless of the facts, the qualitative research process is subjective and descriptive. In this kind of methodology, observation and description are more important. The main purpose of this kind of methodology is to assess people's knowledge, attitudes, behaviors, and views regarding the research subject. This method uses case studies, action research, disclosure analysis, ethnography, and grounded research, among others. The quality of the phenomenon is the basis of the qualitative research approach (Mehta, 2023).

Figure 1. Flowchart Methodology



FINDING AND DISCUSSION

The border between Indonesia and the Philippines, which is mostly a sea area, makes many Indonesian citizens who work as fishermen intentionally or unintentionally cross border crossings when fishing. This also causes many Indonesians to be included in illegal entry violations. Some traditional fishermen also sometimes do not realize that they have caught fish across borders. The PIDs have lived in Mindanao, live without official documents, for more than 4 generations. Some of them have never visited or lived in Indonesia, but their ancestors or parents will remind them of their heritage and where they came from ([Mehta, 2023](#)). They traveled to Mindanao illegally around Sarangani province without official documents. There are some examples of cases involving Indonesian citizens that were resolved by the Indonesian Consulate General in Davao as follows:

1. Arrest of Weapon Smuggling Fugitives

Quoting from Detik, the North Sulawesi Regional Police, arrested one suspect on the wanted list (DPO) initials RM related to a firearm smuggling case in 2022. The perpetrator was arrested in the Philippines after a 2-year fugitive. In coordination with the National Police Division and Police Attaches in Manila and Davao, the suspect, RM as the mastermind of firearms smuggling, was successfully brought back to Indonesia ([Sudirman, 2024](#)).

2. Arrest of Illegal Smuggler

Two Indonesian citizens were arrested in the Southern Philippines by joint Philippine maritime authorities, in September 2023. When the vessel KM PEJUANG DEVISA 2 was searched by Philippine Navy officers, 296 cartons of contraband cigarettes were found on board consisting of four crew members, two Filipinos and 2 Indonesians. Having no valid documents, they were then taken and detained at Felix Apolinario Naval Post, Panacan, Davao City. The arrest of KM PEJUANG DEVISA 2 is not the first time, they have also been smuggling illegal goods such as cigarettes, drugs, and arms trafficking that have come to the attention of the Philippine authorities ([Aulia, 2023](#)).

3. Arrest of Indonesian Citizens Suspected of Having Links to Terrorist Groups

In 2017, the Indonesian Consulate General in Davao, which has obtained consular rights, helped an Indonesian citizen who is the wife of one of the top officials of a terrorist group. They help communicate with law enforcement, regarding whether there are criminal acts committed in Indonesia. This is because, if there is and indeed has been a court decision, then the chance of extradition is even greater. However, if there is none, then legal proceedings will be conducted by the Philippines. The Indonesian Consulate General in Davao also coordinates with the Philippine police regarding the role of the Indonesian citizen in terrorist groups ([Gabrillin, 2017](#)).

4. Illegal Entry

In November 2020, the Indonesian Consulate General in Davao City assisted in the repatriation of 5 Indonesian citizens back to Indonesia after being detained for 1 year for entering Philippine waters and illegal fishing. The repatriation process is carried out after 5 Indonesian citizens have received a deportation order from Philippine Immigration. As a form of protection for Indonesian citizens, the Indonesian Consulate General in Davao City assisted their repatriation to Indonesia at state expense ([Consulate General Republik Indonesia, 2022b](#)).

5. Domestic Violence

According to one of the home staff at the Indonesian Consulate, Protocol and Consular Function, Mr. Orfendo, Domestic violence is also one of the cases handled by the Indonesian Consulate. Rape, scam, kidnapping are usually experienced by Indonesian citizens who have relationships with Filipinos.

6. Residents Who Not Have Legal Identity or Residence Permit

Some Indonesian settlers in Southern Mindanao still have the status of "illegal entry" or what we can call PIDs (Person of Indonesian Descents), because they do not have valid stay permits and work permits, do not have the obligation to pay taxes for foreigners or ACR (Alien Certificate of Registration). In general, the socioeconomic condition of Indonesian citizens is below the poverty line, as a result of low income, limited skills, and the status of Indonesian citizens themselves. Most Indonesians work as sharecroppers and manual laborers in plantations or factories and fishermen in fishing companies, as they are unable to compete with Filipinos and are willing to accept any low-wage jobs to support their families. Their status as Indonesian citizens is also a barrier for them to get a better job, especially if they want to work in the government. In addition, poverty has made them unable to send their children to school, so they are not registered with Philippine government agencies, so that in the event of a case involving them, the authorities can act in accordance with applicable immigration provisions, whether in the form of fines, criminal laws, or even threats of deportation ([Konsulat Jenderal RI, 2006](#)).

In carrying out its duties as Indonesia's representative abroad, the Indonesian Consulate General in Davao in accordance with the direction of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs carries out its diplomatic mission in protecting Indonesian citizens living in Mindanao, Philippines. Some of the efforts made by the Indonesian Consulate General in Davao in protecting Indonesian descendants in Mindanao are as follows:

DISCUSSION

Providing legal Protection

The legal protection referred to here is assistance for Indonesian citizens so that their rights can be fulfilled during the trial process. As stipulated in the Regulation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia Number 5 of 2018 concerning the Protection of Indonesian Citizens Abroad article 7 concerning the form of protection which includes representing Indonesian citizens in front of courts and other agencies in the local State based on applicable practices and procedures, and providing assistance, mediation, advocacy, and providing legal assistance in the form of providing Advocate services ([Indonesia, 2018](#)). The Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia Davao makes repeated visits to the accreditation area of the Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia Davao to provide guidance on various legal, social, and cultural issues. The Indonesian Consulate General in Davao will immediately respond to any problems involving Indonesian citizens in the field of accreditation. It will offer legal assistance to Indonesian citizens involved in various criminal and civil cases by providing or arranging the services of lawyers who consistently work to ensure that cases are resolved as fairly as possible in accordance with applicable law ([Konsulat Jenderal RI, 2006](#)).

Protection that can be done as a sign of the presence of the state is visits to prisons, finding translators if they do not know the local language, local legal system, legal aid schemes, even regarding prosecution and appeal/consular protection procedures must be based as measures to ensure citizens get their rights in every process passed and not as an intervention action ([Pustika, 2022](#)). Although the Indonesian Consulate does not have the authority to intervene in any form in the judicial process. However, the Indonesian Consulate will try to ensure that every Indonesian citizen gets the fairest treatment possible, just like local citizens. In other words, the status of Indonesian citizen is not a reason to complicate the judicial process. The consular function of the Indonesian Consulate General in Davao City recorded 27 common cases including illegal entry, murder cases, and stranded fishermen in 2019 ([Consulate General Republik Indonesia, 2019](#)). In the 2020 period, the Indonesian Consulate General in Davao City handled 18 general cases and 2 special cases, namely the kidnapping of Indonesian citizens

carried out by the Abu Sayyaf Group, and the arrest of suicide bombers in Sulu ([Consulate General Republik Indonesia, 2020](#)). In the 2021 period, the Indonesian Consulate General in Davao City has 10 general cases that have been handled ([Consulate General Republik Indonesia, 2021](#)). In the 2022 period, the Indonesian Consulate General in Davao City handled 32 special cases and 55 general cases ([Consulate General Republik Indonesia, 2022b](#)).

Facilitating legalize Identity to PIDs (People of Indonesian Descents).

In solving the problem of PIDs or undocumented citizens, the issue of legalization is an urgent problem. In implementing it the Consulate General of Indonesia Davao has conducted socialization to people of Indonesian descent on Mindanao Island. The Consulate General of Indonesia Davao has also conducted data collection of all Indonesian citizens in the accreditation area with the aim of knowing how many Indonesian settlers are already required to pay ACR (Alien Certificate Registration). The Consulate General of Indonesia Davao also has an ACR payment assistance program for all Indonesian settlers who are legally required to pay ACR. Upon becoming Indonesian citizens, PIDs will have their status changed to Registered Indonesian Citizens (RINs). They are no longer considered stateless people. The legalization process of PIDs is considered successful due to the well-coordinated cooperation between UNHCR, the Indonesian government, and the Philippine government, with a clear goal of eliminating statelessness in the Southern Philippines ([Saleha & Cheng Guan, 2022](#)).

The Indonesian Consulate General in Davao City has issued a total of 1,259 RI Travel Documents (passports) RINs which were also symbolically handed over by the Minister of Foreign Affairs in 2018. As of 2023, a total of 835 RINs has received special non-immigrant visa / 47 (a)(2) endorsements from the DOJ (Department of Justice) with a validity period of five (5) years ([Consulate General Republik Indonesia, 2023a](#)).

Table 2. Confirmation of Persons of Indonesian Descent (PIDs) in Southern Mindanao by 2022

No	Declaration	Total
1.	Confirmed Indonesian	2,879
2.	Confirmed Philippines	2,758
3.	Have back to Indonesia	2,400
4.	Limited Dual Citizenship (Affidavit)	466
5.	Pending Cases	242
Total		8,745

(Source: Consulate General Republik Indonesia, Edited by the author)

On September 9, 2022, Department of Justice and UNHCR representatives met with the Indonesian Consul General Davao. During the activity, UNHCR presented the Registration and Confirmation of Persons of Indonesian Descent (PIDs) program in Southern Mindanao, and several pending cases. It was announced in December 2021 that a total of 2,879 (33%) confirmed Indonesian citizens, 2,758 (32%) confirmed Philippines, 2,400 (27%) could not be found or had returned to Indonesia, 466 (5%) limited dual nationals, and 242 (3%) pending cases ([Consulate General Republik Indonesia, 2022a](#)).

The Registration and Confirmation of Nationality program is used by the Philippine government to map and register all stateless groups in the country, including Persons of Indonesian Descent (PIDs). The Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation (JCBC) met concurrently in Manila, whereupon both nations decided to address the issues pertaining to individuals of Indonesian heritage residing in the southern Philippines. The Bureau of

Immigration (BI), the Public Attorney's Office (PAO), the Indonesian Consulate in Davao (KJRI Davao), and the United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees (UNHCR) collaborated on this project, which was led by the Refugees and Stateless Persons Unit of the Philippine Department of Justice (RSPPU-DoJ) (Villa & Wiratri, 2023). The Indonesian Consulate assists those who have registered to verify their Indonesian citizenship. Cases involving individuals of Indonesian descent who show no clear Filipino characteristics were submitted to the Consulate for evaluation. As part of their global goal to end statelessness, UNHCR facilitates the missions. Through an integrated registration system that is used to register PIDs, they also offered aid with information management (Tanggol, 2017). The PIDs data was completed between 2012 and 2016, and both governments collaborated to verify the PID's citizenship. In Mindanao, the Bureau of Immigration carried out a last PIDs check. Free legal aid was offered by the PAO, including judicial modifications of birth certificate entries. Those PIDs who chose to apply for Indonesian citizenship were then registered by the Indonesian Consulate. Additionally, in November 2017, hundreds of birth certificates were given to stateless individuals with Indonesian ancestry in several Mindanao provinces by the Indonesian Consulate in Davao, the Republic of the Philippines, and the UNHCR (Basa, 2018).

Programs carried out by the Consulate General in Davao in the protection of Indonesian citizens

- 1) Held coordination meeting with Liaison and guardian officer
This meeting aims to monitor and improve the service and protection of Indonesian citizens, regarding immigration, security, border and cultural issues. The Liaisons and Guardian Officers are expected to assist the Indonesian Consulate General in Davao City to cooperate with the Barangay Captain which has been recognized as having a very positive impact both in the service and protection of Indonesian citizens and in disseminating information about Indonesia.
- 2) Consular Stall
The program aims to improve access to consular services, provide immigration consultation, security information services for Indonesian citizens in the Philippines, and provide the latest developments on border agreements in the Southern Philippines (Consulate General Republik Indonesia, 2023b).
- 3) Self-reporting socialization
The Indonesian Consulate General in Davao regularly socializes self-reporting activities for Indonesian citizens. This effort is carried out to reach Indonesian citizens who are around the Mindanao islands so that they can be recorded, and minimize problems that may arise in the future, especially related to citizenship status, illegal entry, and stay permits
- 4) Immigration and Consular Services
The Indonesian Consulate General in Davao is working to finalize the first batch of residence permits for PIDs who have entered the fifth and sixth generations in the Southern Philippines.
- 5) ACR (Alien Certificate Registration) payment assistance program
In addition, the Consulate General together with UNHCR and the Philippine Department of Justice on separate occasions also held Advocacy Meetings with local government officials. This is done so that people of Indonesian descent who have not renewed the ACR for years can be cleared of fines and Indonesian citizens who do not have birth certificates can be assisted and given relief (Adiyudha, 2018)

The periodic registration and registry program has helped identify the number of Indonesian citizens in Mindanao, making it easier for the Consulate General to provide protection and services. Likewise, legal assistance and labor dispute resolution have helped many Indonesian citizens facing problems, although challenges remain in terms of speed of response and available legal resources. In general, the programs of the Consulate General in Davao City in protecting Indonesian citizens in Mindanao have been successful and effective, but there remains room for improvement. Some of the challenges that need to be addressed include increasing the speed of service, increasing legal resources, and expanding communication and outreach. Regular evaluations and feedback from Indonesian citizens are essential to continuously improve the effectiveness of these programs.

CONCLUSIONS

The Indonesian population living in the Philippines consists of Indonesian immigrants, foreign workers, and their descendants. Among them are a large number of individuals who were previously stateless and are officially known as Person of Indonesian Descent (PIDs). As the representative of the Indonesian government in Davao, the Indonesian Consulate General in Davao City has dealt with various problems experienced and committed by Indonesian citizens in Mindanao. Some of the law violations committed include arms smuggling, fish smuggling, cigarette smuggling, buying and selling illegal goods, difficulty in obtaining passports, difficulty in making visas, not having enough documents to make a passport. However, statelessness is the main reason why they lack identity and passports. In addressing these issues, the Indonesian Consulate General in Davao provides legal assistance to Indonesian citizens involved in various criminal and civil cases by providing or arranging the services of lawyers who consistently work to ensure that cases are resolved as fairly as possible in accordance with applicable laws. The Indonesian Consulate General in Davao has also conducted a data collection of all Indonesian citizens in the accreditation area with the aim of knowing how many Indonesian settlers are already required to pay ACR. The Indonesian Consulate General in Davao also has an ACR payment assistance program for all Indonesian settlers who are legally required to pay ACR. The Indonesian Consulate General in Davao City in collaboration with the Philippine Department of Justice (DOJ), with the assistance of UNHCR Philippines, has initiated a citizenship registration and confirmation program for 8,745 PIDs in Southern Mindanao since 2016 to date. The author's suggestion for future research is to analyze the effectiveness of Consulate General Davao's Efforts in Providing Protection and Facilitating Citizenship for the Indonesian Diaspora and its Descendants in Mindanao.

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