www.isjutl.com, Vol. 01, Issue, 01, No. 01, pp.700-707, October, 2026

LEGAL ANALYSIS OF THE CONSTRUCTION
2026, Vol. 02, Issue. 02, No. 3, pp. 700-707

ISJUTL
INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC JOURNAL OF UNPAZ TIMOR-LESTE
International Peer Reviewed Journal: Open Access
Publication: High Visibility: Rapid Publishing

ISSN: 3007-9195 (1) : 3007-9187 (e)

ORIGINAL RESEARCH ARTICLE OPEN ACCESS

Legal Analysis of the Construction of Uma Kbi'it Laek by the Government of Timor-Leste from a Human Rights Perspective

Julião Da Costa
Master of Law UNPAZ

ARTICLE INFO

Article History:

Received 6th October 2026

Received in revised form 7th October 2026

Accepted 8th October 2026

Published online 14th October 2026

Key word:

Legal analysis of the construction of uma kbi'it laek by the Government of Timor-Leste from a human rights perspective

ABSTRACT

This research aims to examine and analyze government policy specifically the Programa Nasional Dezenvolvimentu Suco (PNDS) designed to improve the quality of life and foster a prosperous society. The study employs both normative and empirical research methods, utilizing statutory, conceptual, comparative, case-based, and historical approaches. The legal materials incorporated include primary, secondary, and tertiary sources.

The findings indicate that the government has implemented policy programs aimed at poverty alleviation in Timor-Leste. Access to adequate housing (uma kbi'it laek) is a fundamental right for the people of Timor-Leste, a principle grounded in the legal tenets of legality, legal certainty, utility, and justice within the governance framework of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste (RDTL).

Copyright: © The Author(s), 2024. Published by Science Publishing Group. This is an Open Access article, distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 License , which permits unrestricted use, distribution and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

INTRODUCTION

Drawing from Timor-Leste's post-independence experience when all infrastructure, including public and government housing, was destroyed it became evident that reconstruction demanded substantial financial resources to rebuild infrastructure serving the public interest and meeting the population's essential needs. Social development is inherently tied to program planning aimed at fostering public welfare, economic growth, and progress across social, political, cultural, and environmental spheres, involving both private and public sectors.

At its core, development is a societal transformation toward an ideal state, as envisioned in the Constitution. This transformation rests on two key pillars: sustainability and change. Development is a multidimensional process encompassing significant shifts in social structures, public attitudes, national institutions, and economic growth, alongside reducing inequality and eradicating absolute poverty. Development seeks to enhance public welfare and improve living standards, with people serving as both subjects and objects of this process. Conversely, poverty undermines public well-being, often driven by unstable income, scarce employment opportunities, and limited skill sets factors preventing many from securing fundamental rights, such as access to decent, habitable housing.

Based on the above, several issues emerge. First, the political dimension: in implementing the Uma Kbi'it Laek (UKL) housing program for the vulnerable, leaders have frequently prioritized political party interests or personal agendas, losing sight of core issues. This has created inequities in program delivery, fueling social disparities and community discord. The extent of inequality varies but remains difficult to address, as it is deeply influenced by political agendas and leadership capabilities. Issues include agrarian concerns, land rights, civil rights violations, lack of public participation, and inequitable resource distribution and housing access. These problems arise because development policies sometimes overlook the community's fundamental right to justice. Furthermore, UKL implementation requires involvement from executive state institutions, local authorities, and independent bodies to conduct direct field observations essential for accurately identifying those unable to build their own homes, enabling central and local governments to formulate joint policies for effective execution.

Second, legal considerations: Article 58 of the 2002 Constitution of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste (RDTL) serves as the foundational norm for subordinate legislation specifically Law No. 94/2022 (December 28, 2022), amending Law No. 8/2013 (June 26, 2013). This framework authorizes Ministerial Diplomas and the National Program for Suku Development (PNDS) to develop poverty alleviation strategies, including assistance for UKL housing construction, in accordance with human rights and social justice principles. From a human rights perspective, a key legal challenge is the ambiguity surrounding land ownership status, placing community members in a vulnerable position and hindering collaboration with local authorities. Weak adherence to legal norms often results in poor public participation in development planning. A critical challenge is weak law enforcement a gap between written law and its application frequently undermining justice, legal certainty, non-discrimination, and participation. Despite constitutional guarantees reflected in Article 94/2022, enforcement remains weak, particularly for impoverished populations. State institutions legislative, executive, and independent bodies must ensure UKL is implemented per human rights and social justice principles.

Third, sociological perspective: the UKL program presents recurring challenges for the public, stemming from government assistance failing to reach intended beneficiaries, permit and land ownership complications, and negative quality-of-life impacts from substandard, uninhabitable housing leading to health risks, environmental concerns, and potential crime increases. Social gaps and resentment emerge when programs miss their targets, creating injustice in beneficiary selection and fueling resentment among those denied their rights. The community perceives a lack of transparency by village authorities in program management and distribution, exacerbating the sense of injustice.

Per government regulations specifically PNDS Article 94/2022 (December 28, 2022), the fourth amendment to Ministerial Regulation No. 8/2013 (June 26, PNDS General Regime) and the first amendment (No. 25/2022, May 19) the UKL program addresses development of

decent, modest homes and residential areas. An Uma Kbi'it Laek serves as a proper dwelling, a space for family development, a reflection of inhabitants' dignity and self-worth, and an asset for owners. Beyond shelter from external threats (wind, rain, heat, security risks), it fulfills non-physical functions: ensuring life continuity, upholding values and norms, fostering social relationships, providing peace and comfort, and enhancing dignity.

UKL development represents: a) a social policy; b) an effort to improve public welfare; c) provision of safe, decent, dignified housing; and d) an initiative aligned with humanitarian values. The program targets impoverished individuals unable to secure habitable homes, with the government playing a serious role in addressing poverty. Fundamentally, development aims to improve national quality of life, fostering a prosperous society by enhancing human resources and generating constructive public benefits. Through PNDS, the Government of Timor-Leste pursues a just and prosperous society through such development projects.

UKL construction requires harmony, compatibility, and balance across dimensions. The government's policy objective is elevating living standards, focusing on increasing income, particularly for those facing economic hardship. Public administration serves as the mechanism for managing the public sector to meet citizen needs. Yet many continue living in adverse conditions, such as poverty an implication of social inequality often accompanied by neglected children, beggars, substandard housing, unemployment, crime, and poor health. Timor-Leste, as a newly independent nation, continues grappling with poverty, a significant obstacle to prosperity, particularly regarding housing and human settlements. Poverty leads to unmet fundamental human needs physical, psychological, social, and spiritual including lack of decent housing.

Poverty is an urgent issue demanding government intervention. Common characteristics of impoverished living conditions include lack of access to basic environmental infrastructure, housing quality far below acceptable standards, and unstable livelihoods. Housing represents a fundamental human need and plays a highly strategic role. A home protects occupants from external threats while fulfilling non-physical functions: ensuring life continuity, upholding values, fostering social interaction, providing peace and comfort, and enhancing human dignity.

Poverty also acts as a barrier to development at national and regional levels, making its alleviation a primary government objective. The government has implemented various interventions from direct cash assistance and physical goods to community empowerment all aimed at improving living standards. Poverty is a state where individuals cannot sustain themselves per their social group's living standards or utilize their mental or physical capabilities within that group. Absolute poverty occurs when income falls below the poverty line, insufficient for food, clothing, healthcare, housing, and education. The poverty line is defined as average expenditure or consumption required to meet basic needs. Relative poverty occurs when individuals or groups cannot attain the average living standard of their regional society, which varies by location and social group.

The UKL program stems from low purchasing power or limited consumption capacity, where restricted income prevents individuals from meeting basic needs. Under Article 56, Paragraph 1 of the Constitution (2002), concerning social security and assistance, all citizens are entitled to social assistance and security per the Constitution. The UKL program can be evaluated through various developmental lenses; the "welfare state" model emphasizes government's role in ensuring citizen well-being through social security and welfare policies.

Given this framework, UKL implementation requires strategic planning encompassing multiple development sectors, involving both public and private spheres ensuring development planning does not overlook any aspect, including socio-cultural, political, or economic dimensions, with particular attention to UKL development. Rights-based approach: social welfare theory posits that rights are fundamental prerequisites for well-being; the state must recognize and protect rights supporting societal welfare. Article 6 of the Constitution outlines "Objectives of the State": a) ensuring economic development and scientific/technological advancement; b) promoting a society based on social justice by fostering material and spiritual well-being; c) promoting harmonious, integrated development across sectors and regions with equitable distribution of national resources.

In daily life, humans face three basic needs: shelter, food, and clothing. The need for decent housing requires serious attention, as demand grows with population expansion. Housing is an essential requirement a proper place to live, far more than mere rest or protection adhering to minimum building standards established by government regulations. Housing is a basic human necessity and crucial factor in enhancing human dignity; fulfilling this need must consider general development policies, institutional frameworks, land issues, financing, and supporting elements for decent housing construction.

In Timor-Leste, the right to decent housing is often not prioritized as a core human rights agenda component, rarely viewed as an urgent state obligation. It is essential to recognize housing as a fundamental human need and vital factor in elevating dignity, requiring careful consideration of development policies, institutional arrangements, land matters, financing, and supporting elements.

Welfare represents comfort derived from fulfilling material and non-material needs. Material welfare pertains to socio-economic aspects (clothing, food, shelter), while non-material welfare relates to emotional, intellectual, and spiritual well-being. Welfare signifies a state beyond mere happiness individuals perceive life as prosperous when feeling happy and satisfied with achievements, experiencing inner and outer tranquility and justice, free from the looming threat of poverty. Welfare level can be defined as the aggregate condition of individual satisfaction, divided into two debate areas: the scope of "welfare" and how its intensity can be represented in aggregate. Welfare represents satisfaction derived from consuming income, though inherently relative, depending on satisfaction magnitude. In broader terms, welfare encompasses a social, material, and spiritual way of life characterized by security, morality, and inner and outer peace enabling every citizen to pursue physical, spiritual, and social needs for themselves, their households, and society. Welfare serves as a benchmark indicating societal well-being. To be "well-off" implies affluence, good health, and peace, requiring effort commensurate with individual capabilities. Economists often view welfare through individual income and purchasing power a somewhat narrow interpretation equating prosperity solely with income, positioning welfare as the direct antithesis of poverty.

1.1 Welfare State Theory in Timor-Leste

The welfare state theory is clearly applicable in Timor-Leste, where the government provides free medical treatment to the public through the Ministry of Health across various regions. The Ministry of Education implements free education programs and offers scholarships to academically capable students, enabling them to pursue further studies domestically or abroad. In the social sector, the Ministry of Social Affairs administers the Bolsa da Mãe (Mother's Allowance) program to assist underprivileged families with purchasing clothing, notebooks, and other school supplies.

Through the Technical Secretariat for the National Program for Suco Development (PNDS) under the Ministry of State Administration, pursuant to Ministerial Regulation 94/2022 (December 28), the government implements the Uma Kbi'it Laek (UKL) program "homes for the vulnerable" throughout Timor-Leste to alleviate the burdens faced by the impoverished. The UKL program aligns with the Strategic Plan for National Development (PEDN) 2011–2023, reflecting the government's commitment to the public's aspiration for a prosperous nation.

1.2 Theory of Human Rights

Human rights are fundamental rights inherent to every individual from birth, serving as an essential component of human dignity. These rights encompass freedom of expression, the right to education, and the right to well-being. Universally recognized, human rights provide a vital foundation for upholding justice, welfare, and peace within society. A profound understanding of human rights allows us to better appreciate their importance in fostering a more just and harmonious society.

Human existence is defined by the objective of achieving happiness for the greatest number of people. The application of a right or law is determined by whether it generates the greatest happiness for the largest possible number of individuals. While every person inherently possesses rights, these may be forfeited if they conflict with the happiness of the majority individual interests must be subordinate to broader societal interests. Because this perspective prioritizes the collective, it is associated with utilitarianism.

Utilitarianism, a moral philosophy developed by Jeremy Bentham and James Mill, equates goodness with pleasure or happiness. It assumes individuals act solely to maximize pleasure and minimize pain, calculated in terms of utility often viewed as satisfaction derived from material consumption. The "greatest happiness" principle can evaluate laws, institutions, and political systems. Utilitarianism deems an action "right" if it produces more pleasure and less pain than any alternative.

1.3 Public Policy Theory

The term "policy" is defined in the Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia as a series of concepts and principles serving as a framework for planning task execution, leadership, and conduct within a government or organization, encompassing aspirations, goals, principles, and management guidelines for pursuing specific objectives. Policy can also be defined as a series of actions proposed by an individual, group, or government within an environment characterized by obstacles and opportunities, aimed at achieving particular goals. Purposeful, intentional behavior is a core component of policy definition; ultimately, a policy must reflect what is actually implemented, not merely what was proposed.

The scope of public policy studies spans economics, politics, social affairs, culture, and law. In terms of hierarchy, public policies can be national, regional, or local ranging from statutes and government regulations to presidential decrees, ministerial regulations, regional regulations, and gubernatorial decisions. Public policy can be understood as "the authoritative allocation of values for the whole society" the authoritative distribution of values to all members of society or as "a projected program of good values and practices," a structured program aimed at achieving specific values in practice.

1.4 The Concept of Poverty

Etymologically, "poverty" derives from the root word "poor," denoting a state of total deprivation lacking assets, property, or basic necessities. Poverty is defined as an individual's

inability to meet fundamental needs for a decent standard of living. Individuals or groups falling below the minimum standard for food and non-food needs are considered below the "poverty line."

In legal literature, a distinction exists between kbi'it laek and kiak (poor). A kbi'it laek individual possesses some assets or means of livelihood or both yet can only cover half or more of basic needs. In contrast, kiak refers to those with no assets or steady livelihood, or those who can meet less than half of basic needs. Economically vulnerable populations fall into two categories: those with absolutely no means of livelihood or employment, and those whose living conditions are slightly better than those with no income at all.

Poverty is regarded as a socio-economic "illness" affecting not only developing nations but also developed countries. Historically, people have been classified as "poor" not necessarily due to lack of food, but due to scarcity of material resources. Over the past three decades, poverty alleviation efforts have included providing basic necessities, healthcare services, education, employment opportunities, agricultural development, revolving credit funds, supporting facilities, and sanitation outreach. Poverty is measured by one's capacity to meet basic needs an economic inability to satisfy essential food and non-food requirements assessed in terms of expenditure. Individuals are classified as "poor" if their average monthly per capita expenditure falls below the poverty line.

1.5 The Concept of Policy

A policy is a collection of decisions made by an actor or political group, encompassing both objectives sought and means to achieve them. Those formulating policies possess the authority to implement them. Public policy assumes every society shares common goals, pursued through joint effort requiring binding plans formalized as policies by the government.

According to Hoogerwerf, public policy is the purposeful shaping of society through the exercise of power (doelbewuste vormgeving aan de samenleving door middel van machtsuitoefening). Political science studies the making of public policy; political life encompasses activities influencing policies adopted by authorities and methods of implementation. The concept of public policy relates to objectives and patterns of governmental activity regarding various issues, inherently incorporating specific goals.

Two primary perspectives exist regarding public policy: one views it as synonymous with government actions, while another focuses specifically on policy implementation. Public policy represents a dimension of public administration concerned with decisions about what ought to be done analogous to the brain's function determining actions carried out by the body's organ systems. Public policy occupies a vital position in state administration, serving as an instrument through which government regulates national life. A state comprises four primary components: state institutions (executive, legislative, judicial branches), the people as citizens, a territory with recognized sovereignty, and public policy.

1.6 Principles of Legal Certainty and Utility

The principle of legal certainty is a foundational tenet emphasizing clarity, order, and fairness within legal rules. Its purpose is to ensure individuals understand their rights and obligations, preventing arbitrary action in law application. This principle applies equally to everyone and remains consistent, not subject to capricious change.

The principle of legal utility posits that law should provide the greatest possible benefit to society. In both creation and application, consideration must be given to how law yields tangible benefits for individuals and society going beyond legal technicalities or abstract notions of justice. The law should provide concrete, positive benefits rather than existing as a rigid set of rules disconnected from daily life. Legal authorities must consider this principle, reaching decisions that provide the greatest benefit to the public.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research methodology serves as a tool to strengthen, cultivate, and develop scientific knowledge knowledge organized systematically through reasoning, subject to critical examination and continuous evolution. Based on the established research framework, this study employs both normative and empirical legal research methods. Methodology, the core of any research endeavor, outlines the procedures by which research must be conducted.

2.1 Philosophy and Administration Toward Well-being

For decades, the concept of development has evolved from a narrow focus on economic growth into a more holistic, human-centered framework. Syed Agung Afandi underscores development as a multidimensional process encompassing economic, social, political, and cultural dimensions, with the ultimate goal of improving community quality of life. Yamin and Haryanto view international development as an ongoing effort to address global inequality and poverty, while Jamaluddin emphasizes that development must be transformative, bringing meaningful structural changes to people's lives.

Development administration serves as the backbone for policy implementation. Sondang P. Siagian explains that development administration entails systematic activities planning, organizing, executing, and overseeing development efforts to achieve established goals. Ali Kabul Mahi highlights the strategic role of regional development planning as a vital instrument for directing resources toward effective and equitable objectives. Initiatives focused on well-being must be carefully planned, accommodating the real needs of the community.

Afandi, Muslim Afandi, and Rizki Erdayani broaden the perspective by emphasizing sustainable development that considers environmental and social dimensions for future generations. Development programs do not exist in isolation; they are integrated into a broader political system. David Easton's political systems theory demonstrates how inputs from the environment (demands and support) are processed into outputs (policies and decisions) by the political system relevant for understanding how public needs, including housing development, are translated into government policy. Keban (2008), Amir Santoso, Ekowati (2009), and Riant Nugroho assert that public policy must be responsive to societal dynamics and aimed at achieving the public good.

2.2 Law- and Human Rights-Based Development: The Foundation of Justice

Participatory and equitable development cannot be separated from a robust legal framework and human rights protection. Development law serves as an instrument ensuring the entire development process unfolds within parameters of justice, transparency, and accountability. Kelsen views law as a hierarchical system of norms that is binding and guaranteed by the state, providing a foundation for the validity of decree-laws and the Constitution as supreme norms governing development programs. Jimly Asshiddiqie and M. Ali Safa'at emphasize the Constitution as the fundamental norm guiding all state activities, while Abintoro Prakoso asserts that legal theory provides an analytical framework for understanding how law operates within society.

From a human rights perspective, development programs are viewed not merely as efforts to improve physical conditions but as fulfillment of citizens' fundamental rights. The Constitution of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste explicitly affirms this commitment: Article 58 asserts the right of citizens to adequate housing and a healthy environment, mandating the state to create conditions necessary for realizing these rights. Article 56, paragraph 1, broadly guarantees every citizen the right to social security and welfare, providing a robust legal foundation for the "Uma Kbi'it Laek" program.

John Rawls's theory of justice provides a profound ethical framework for equitable development. He argues that a just society must ensure equal opportunity for all, with inequalities structured to yield the greatest benefit to the least advantaged members of society a principle highly relevant to the "Uma Kbi'it Laek" program targeting vulnerable and underprivileged groups.

The implementation of this program in Timor-Leste is governed by Decree-Law No. 94/2022 (December 28), the fourth amendment to Decree-Law No. 8/2013 (June 26, the General Regime for the PNDS), alongside the National Suco Development Program (PNDS) and Ministerial Diploma No. 56/2022 (November 17), which sets out regulations for planning, granting, and executing social housing for the underprivileged. These form the legal pillars supporting the housing program's implementation at the local level. A legal analysis of these decree-laws from a human rights perspective is crucial to ensuring the constitution's spirit and Rawlsian principles of justice are genuinely realized in practice.

2.3 Conceptualization of Uma Kbi'it Laek and Its Relevance to Human Rights

The term Uma Kbi'it Laek in the Tetum language literally means "a home for those without power" or "a home for the poor." This program represents the Government of Timor-Leste's commitment to addressing housing issues for the most vulnerable segments of society a step directly linked to fulfilling the human right to adequate housing. The Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia defines "poor" as lacking assets or being in a state of total deprivation, underscoring the program's urgency.

Mizra (cited in Khairuddin, 1992) and Sondang P. Siagian (1985) highlight how housing development often serves as an important indicator of societal well-being and a government's commitment to its people. In Timor-Leste, developing uma kbi'it laek is more than physical construction; it is an investment in the dignity, security, and future of individuals and families. This aligns with Imron (2012) and Sunarti (2012), who emphasize government intervention in providing basic necessities to improve population quality of life. Prawoto (2008), Armilasari, and Wiludjeng (2018) add that housing development programs must consider socio-cultural aspects and community participation to be effective and sustainable. Without comprehensive analysis from a human rights perspective, such programs despite good intentions may fail to meet minimum standards for adequate housing, including accessibility, affordability, and adequacy.

2.4 Human Rights to Housing (Uma Kbi'it Laek – UKL)

Every individual has a fundamental right to a decent place to live, including access to housing that is affordable, safe, and meets health standards and other basic needs. An uma kbi'it laek

is a dwelling satisfying minimum standards for structural safety, health, and sufficient space per occupant, while providing basic facilities and a comfortable living environment.

Housing conditions include permanent dwellings of families living in poverty, dwellings classified as severely damaged and unfit for habitation, dwellings of disaster victims completely destroyed, and dwellings of impoverished families with land rights compelled to relocate due to government development programs or urbanization.

Economic conditions categorize families as living in poverty when their verified income falls below a specific threshold (USD 1.25 per day) or fails to meet standards. Sources of income are assessed by the PNDS verification team, considering subsidies, small business earnings, and income contributed by a candidate's children. A candidate is eligible if their child has permanent income meeting Timor-Leste's minimum wage or earns income through casual or volunteer work.

Social conditions include situations such as a family member suffering from mental illness or physical disability, family breakdown (divorce), widowhood, neglected children, or being a victim of natural disaster.

This research adopts a normative legal approach, which according to Soerjono Soekanto and Sri Mamudji focuses on studying legal doctrine, legislation, and court rulings to analyze prevailing law. Peter Mahmud Marzuki asserts that legal research is a process of identifying legal rules, principles, and doctrines to address specific legal issues relevant for examining the alignment of decree-laws and their implementation with the constitution and human rights principles.

To analyze program effectiveness and implementation, the sociology of law perspective articulated by Soerjono Soekanto proves useful. Soekanto views law as a social phenomenon interacting with society; therefore, its implementation must be understood within a broader social context. Although Nurgiyantoro (2015) and Samsuddin (2019) discuss objective analysis within literary works, the principles of objectivity and analytical steps they propose remain relevant for ensuring depth and impartiality when analyzing legal and policy data, assisting in evaluating how the spirit of "development law" is translated into social reality.

2.5 Definition of Law

Law is a set of rules comprising norms and sanctions established to regulate human behavior within society, aiming to create order and justice. Law is coercive in nature; it is enacted by an authorized official body and carries the threat of punishment for violators.

2.6 Law as a Means to Justice

According to Plato, the realization of the "good" is accessible only to the aristocracy the "chosen ones" (philosophers) who possess wisdom; under their governance, everyone can participate in justice, and justice can be achieved perfectly. If this were the case, law would be unnecessary, as those in power would inevitably translate their highest knowledge into action.

In more practical terms, Plato formulated his theory of law as follows: (i) law serves as the best framework for managing the phenomenal world fraught with injustice; (ii) legal rules must be compiled into a single code to prevent legal chaos; (iii) the purpose of each law is to enable the public to understand the value of compliance, fostering realization that obeying law solely out of fear of punishment is not ideal drawing on the Socratic concept that individuals truly aware of what constitutes a "good life" will naturally choose to act accordingly; (iv) the function of law is to guide citizens through legislation toward a virtuous and perfect life; (v) those who violate the law must be punished, though such punishment is not vengeance, as violation is viewed as an intellectual ailment stemming from human ignorance.

Roscoe Pound's perspective on law's effectiveness in driving social change is rooted in the idea that law, as a social institution, is a deliberate, "by-design" construct the product of systematic, scholarly intellectual effort. Because it is an intellectual, scientific, and purposefully designed product, it can be continuously refined to better serve as an instrument for social change. This characterization of law as a product of scientific intellectual design and the associated concept of "social engineering" is reflected in the tasks a sociological jurist must undertake to ensure law functions effectively as a tool for systematic social change.

2.7 Basic Concepts of Development

Development is a process of change encompassing an entire social system politics, economy, infrastructure, defense, education, technology, institutions, and culture (Alexander, 1994). Portes (1976) defines development as economic, social, and cultural transformation. Ginanjar Kartasasmita (1997) provides a simpler definition: "a process of change toward a better state, achieved through planned efforts." Sondang P. Siagian defines development as an endeavor or series of endeavors involving planned growth and change, consciously undertaken by a nation, state, and government toward modernity as part of nation-building. Development can also be understood as a process of taking action to transform the lives and livelihoods of a population, enabling them to adequately meet all types of needs, including evolving requirements of a growing population in alignment with advancements in science, technology, and engineering.

Government can be understood in both broad and narrow senses. In the broad sense, government encompasses all organs of power within a state legislative, executive, and judicial branches and is interpreted as the execution of duties by all bodies entrusted with authority to achieve state objectives. A government is an organization that regulates and administers state affairs; without it, a state could not function effectively. Government functions include upholding the law, establishing local regulations, and reconciling conflicting interests within society to ensure proper and efficient state operation. The primary functions of government include: formulating and implementing policies and regulations to govern social, economic, and political life; managing and executing development initiatives to enhance public welfare; and fostering empowerment by improving the quality of human resources and society as a whole.

RESULT, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSION

3.1 Uma Kbi'it Laek (UKL) Program

The UKL program "Housing for Underprivileged Families" represents a concrete manifestation of the Government of Timor-Leste's commitment to combating extreme poverty and fulfilling citizens' fundamental right to decent housing. Within the development framework, UKL projects are frequently integrated into or funded through local financing mechanisms, including budget transfers of the PNDS (National Village Development Program). This mechanism ensures a "bottom-up" approach to funding decisions, whereby each village identifies its own urgent needs. However, despite the inclusive and participatory spirit of the PNDS, research findings indicate fundamental gaps and weaknesses at the level of the legal superstructure governing the UKL program. The program's moral and political strength has yet to be matched by a definitive and hierarchical legal framework.

3.2 Formulating a More Adequate Legal Basis for the UKL Program: A Human Rights-Based Development Approach

To address the first research question, it is recommended that the Government of Timor-Leste formulate a new, comprehensive legal framework with strong legal standing, transitioning the UKL from a mere 'program' into a legally binding 'state mandate.'

Elevating the Legal Status of the UKL from a Program to a State Mandate: Addressing the weaknesses in the current legal basis requires elevating the regulatory framework for the UKL to the level of a Government Decree or, ideally, a Law enacted by the National Parliament. Recommendations for formulating a new legal basis include:

- Enactment of a Lei de Habitação Social (Social Housing Act): This legislation must explicitly define the 'Right to Housing' as a state obligation to be implemented through programs such as the UKL. Such an Act would also provide multi-year budgetary certainty.
- Measurable Definition of Kbi'it Laek (the vulnerable/impoverished): The new regulation must establish clear, transparent, and socially vetted eligibility criteria for instance, by utilizing Timor-Leste's Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) to prevent subjective interpretation.
- Integration of Remedy Mechanisms: The legal framework must include clear complaint procedures and appeal mechanisms for citizens who feel aggrieved by the UKL selection process. This is a crucial element of human rights accountability.

This approach aligns with the perspective that development must be underpinned by a legal structure, rather than relying solely on good intentions. "A robust legal framework is the foundation that distinguishes charitable projects from the implementation of human rights."

Principles of Inclusivity and Accountability in the New Regulation: The new regulation should serve as a bridge between the bottom-up spirit of the PNDS and the top-down oversight provided by the central government.

Dimension Existing Regulations (Weak) New Formulation (Adequate, Human Rights-Based) Hierarchy of Norms Ministerial Order/Annual Budget Decree-Law or Social Housing Law Participation Limited to local/tribal processes Guaranteed participation of vulnerable groups (persons with disabilities, female-headed households) in national-level policy formulation Accountability Internal financial and administrative audits Administrative grievance mechanisms and oversight by an independent committee, as mandated by law Eligibility Criteria Subjective/political Objective, based on Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) data and verified by an independent body

Formulating an adequate legal framework does not merely guarantee a house; it guarantees dignity. By enacting robust legislation, the Government of Timor-Leste will firmly affirm its commitment that Uma Kbi'it Laek (housing for the vulnerable) is a right of every impoverished citizen, rather than a mere political favor or a temporary project.

3.3 The Use of Uma Kbi'it Laek by Beneficiaries as a Citizen's Right Within the Framework of Human Rights Protection

This chapter presents research findings focusing on the second core issue of this thesis: the extent to which Uma Kbi'it Laek (UKL) is utilized by its owners, based on citizens' rights as an integral part of human rights protection. This analysis is grounded in field data collected under the framework of the Programa Nasional Dezenvolvimentu Suku (PNDS) and is examined in light of international human rights law and the Constitution of Timor-Leste.

The use of a UKL house by its owner can be viewed through the lens of citizens' rights. While a distinction exists between the right to own and enjoy such a dwelling and the state's authority to regulate and address housing needs, the right to adequate housing is a human right guaranteed by the Constitution. Owners have the right to use their property, provided that such use complies with prevailing laws and does not infringe upon the rights of others.

3.4 The Uma Kbi'it Laek (UKL) Program Entails the Following

The protection of human rights: This is a Government of Timor-Leste initiative aimed at providing safe, healthy, and comfortable housing for the population particularly those living in poverty or with low incomes in accordance with the principles of the right to adequate housing. This government program includes assistance for the construction of UKL dwellings. Regarding the principle of human rights protection, specifically the right to adequate housing, the government bears the responsibility of ensuring a housing system that allows every individual to live in safety, peace, and dignity.

Property rights over land: This is a crucial requirement, especially for beneficiaries. Legal ownership or lawful possession of land serves as the foundation for individuals to have the right to reside in and permanently own a home, rather than merely renting or occupying land belonging to another party.

Ensuring security of tenure: A legitimate land ownership status provides the legal basis and legitimacy for the construction of homes. Through this government assistance program, recipients are required to hold rights to the land; this ensures that the assistance is not misused and can provide long-term benefits. Property rights ensure that the houses built truly belong to the occupants, protecting them from the risk of losing their homes due to potential land disputes.

Participation in the decision-making process: This refers to the community's involvement through labor, ideas, material contributions, or social engagement in government assistance programs. Such participation is essential to ensure that development aligns with the community's needs, fosters a sense of ownership, and accelerates the creation of healthy, safe, and comfortable living environments.

Field Findings Regarding Access, Formal Ownership, and the Use of UKL Housing

The implementation of the UKL program via the PNDS mechanism has successfully reached the most vulnerable segments of the population, providing them with physical access to decent housing. However, the research findings reveal a dichotomy between physical access and legal certainty regarding the occupancy of these homes.

3.5 The Correlation Between UKL Housing and Enhanced Dignity

In-depth interviews with beneficiaries across several villages highlight the transformative impact of owning a UKL house. For many families, possessing a home with sturdy walls and a secure roof represents more than just the fulfillment of basic needs; it signifies the restoration of their dignity.

In the past, we felt ashamed to host guests in our dilapidated shack. Now, we can sleep without worrying about the rain, and my children can study in peace. This is not just a house; it is a source of honor for our family." (Field Interview, Suku, May 2023)

These findings confirm that the use of UKL housing is directly correlated with the realization of the right to an adequate standard of living, as guaranteed under Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and Article 31 of the Constitution of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste (RDTL).

3.6 Challenges Regarding Security of Tenure

Although UKL units are physically occupied, research indicates that full usage rights grounded in citizens' rights still face serious challenges concerning "security of tenure." UKL programs generally grant ownership only of the physical structure, while the land upon which the building stands often lacks clear certification or remains subject to customary (traditional) land disputes. The PNDS framework, which focuses on village infrastructure development, lacks the mandate to resolve the underlying agrarian conflicts.

Research findings indicate that 40% of UKL beneficiaries acknowledge that their land status is limited to a "right-to-use" arrangement or overlaps with customary ownership claims, even though they have fully occupied the homes for more than three years. If usage rights which encompass the right to reside without the threat of eviction are not legally guaranteed, then the UKL homes, despite their existence, fail to fully meet the standards for the "right to adequate housing" as developed by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), particularly regarding the element of security of tenure (General Comment No. 4).

Legal Analysis of the Use of UKL as a Citizen's Right Under Human Rights Protection

The question of whether the use of UKL is based on a citizen's right as part of human rights protection must be addressed through a rigorous legal analytical framework.

3.7 UKL as a Manifestation of Constitutional Rights

Article 58 of the Constitution of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste explicitly states: "Every citizen has the right to adequate housing and to an adequate living environment..." The UKL program serves as a concrete realization of the state's "positive obligation" to fulfill this constitutional right.

3.8 The Non-Regression Principle in the Utilization of UKL

A crucial aspect of human rights protection in the context of UKL is the application of the non-regression principle. Once the right to housing has been realized through the construction of UKL homes for the vulnerable, the state is not permitted to take regressive steps, such as implementing policies that undermine the certainty of future use or ownership.

Investigations indicate that UKL beneficiaries utilize their homes for various functions essential to citizens' rights, including as shelter, a center for family life, and a base for micro- and small-scale economic activities. These uses affirm their rights to economic freedom and private life all of which are protected under Article 54 of the Constitution of the RDTL.

3.9 Implementation of the Principles of Non-Discrimination and Social Justice in the Utilization of UKL

Within the framework of the PNDS, the criteria for UKL beneficiaries focus on the most vulnerable groups predominantly widows, the elderly, and families with members living with disabilities. These research findings demonstrate how development policy can be effectively directed toward upholding distributive justice and the principle of non-discrimination (Article 26 of the ICCPR).

The utilization of UKL by these vulnerable groups is not merely a matter of a subsidy; rather, it represents the restoration of rights that had previously been neglected. This reflects Timor-Leste's commitment to fostering a spirit of dignity, respect, and rights the core tenets of a democratic state governed by the rule of law (Article 1 of the RDTL Constitution).

The specific implementation, utilization, and post-construction monitoring of these homes are governed by the 2023 PNDS manual, Matadalan Implementasaun Uma Naroman ba Povu (Implementation Guidelines for 'Homes of Light' for the People), which emphasizes the participation of women and marginalized groups within the Village Development Committees.

Challenges to Sustainable Utilization

Despite strong enthusiasm, the sustainability of UKL housing as an exercise of citizens' rights is threatened by a lack of follow-up mechanisms. Should a house sustain damage after the warranty period expires, the beneficiaries who, by definition, are economically disadvantaged face significant difficulties in maintaining the asset. To ensure the sustainability of this right to housing, the state must establish a post-construction support system, transforming the UKL program from a mere construction project into a permanent instrument of social and legal protection.

Synthesis of Findings: UKL as a Pillar of Human Rights-Oriented Sustainable Development

The findings of this study clearly conclude that UKL housing is utilized by its owners as an exercise of their rights as citizens, forming part of the protection of human rights. However, the full realization of this right is hindered by a legal framework that does not yet fully guarantee security of land tenure.

The UKL program, implemented through the PNDS, represents a monumental and inspiring step toward realizing a vision of development in Timor-Leste that is inclusive and people-centered. It serves as evidence that the government possesses the political will to lift its people out of poverty and substandard living conditions.

The study's findings underscore the urgent need for the Government of Timor-Leste to:

Integrate land tenure: Synchronize the UKL program with national land legislation to provide beneficiaries with robust land-use rights certificates.

Strengthen legal protection: Ensure that any intervention or dispute involving UKL beneficiaries is addressed through legal mechanisms that uphold human rights principles specifically the right to adequate housing and protection against forced eviction.

By addressing these legal gaps, Timor-Leste will strengthen the status of the UKL initiative, transforming it from mere assistance into an affirmation of the legitimate and inalienable human rights of its citizens. This represents an inspiring legacy for a dignified national development process.

3.10 Obstacles and Challenges Faced in the Uma Kbi'it Laek Development Program

This study analyzes the Uma Kbi'it Laek (UKL) Development Program initiated by the Government of Timor-Leste within the framework of the Programa Nasional Dezenvolvimentu Suku (PNDS) through the lens of human rights. While the program's objective of providing decent housing for the most vulnerable populations is noble, this study identifies critical obstacles, particularly regarding the absence of a comprehensive, human rights-based monitoring and evaluation (M&E) mechanism. The lack of a holistic M&E framework hinders the program's ability to effectively measure and ensure the full realization of the right to adequate housing, including dimensions such as dignity, participation, and sustainability. Based on this analysis, policy recommendations are presented to strengthen the human rights framework within the implementation of the UKL, fostering inclusive and sustainable development.

3.11 Building a Foundation of Hope in Timor-Leste

Timor-Leste, a vibrant young nation, has demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to rebuilding itself following a long struggle for independence. Amidst various development challenges, the government has launched several initiatives to improve the quality of life for its people; one such initiative is the Uma Kbi'it Laek (UKL) program. This program which literally translates to "Homes for the Poor/Vulnerable" emerged as a concrete response to the fundamental need for decent and safe housing. Often implemented through the PNDS framework, the UKL reflects a "bottom-up" approach to development, empowering local communities to take charge of their own development processes.

However, the effectiveness of development programs like the UKL is not measured solely by the number of physical structures built, but also by the extent to which they fulfill basic human rights and contribute to the dignity and holistic well-being of the community. This section explores the trajectory of the UKL Program from a human rights perspective, highlighting the challenges encountered in ensuring that every house constructed serves not merely as a shelter, but as a foundation for a dignified life, consistent with international human rights standards.

3.12 Overview of the UKL Program within the Context of the PNDS

The UKL Program is an initiative by the Government of Timor-Leste aimed at reducing poverty and improving the quality of life by providing decent housing to the most vulnerable families in rural villages. The program is frequently implemented through the PNDS a participatory development mechanism that allocates funds directly to the village level for projects prioritized by the local community. The PNDS approach emphasizes local ownership, accountability, and grassroots decision-making principles that are inherently aligned with core human rights concepts, such as participation and empowerment.

The primary objective of the UKL is to provide safer, more hygienic, and structurally sound housing for families who previously lived in inadequate conditions. The expectation is that, with decent housing, these families will gain a more stable foundation to improve their health, their children's education, and, ultimately, their economic prospects. As government officials have frequently emphasized in their speeches, "The Uma Kbi'it Laek is not just about four walls and a roof; it is about providing hope, dignity, and opportunities for a better future."

3.13 Human Rights Analytical Framework for Housing Development

The right to adequate housing is recognized as a universal human right under Article 11(1) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), which has been ratified by Timor-Leste. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, in its General Comment No. 4, explains that the right to adequate housing should not be interpreted narrowly as merely a place to live.

Furthermore, other human rights principles such as non-discrimination, participation, accountability, and transparency are fundamental to a human rights-based approach to development. Governments have an obligation to respect, protect, and fulfill these rights, which entails not only refraining from actions that violate these rights but also taking proactive measures to ensure their realization.

Crucial Obstacles in the Implementation of the UKL Program: The Need for Comprehensive, Human Rights-Based Monitoring and Evaluation

Despite good intentions and the efforts already made, research has identified significant obstacles in the implementation of the UKL Program most notably, the lack of a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation (M&E) mechanism that is explicitly grounded in human rights. This constitutes the "third problem" that serves as the primary focus of this analysis, directly affecting the program's capacity to achieve the transformative impact expected from a human rights perspective.

Focus on Outputs Rather than Holistic Outcomes: As observed, the UKL Program's M&E tends to be oriented toward measuring quantitative outputs, such as the number of houses built, the budget utilized, and the duration of construction. While these metrics are essential for managerial accountability, this approach often fails to capture broader qualitative outcomes, particularly those concerning the fulfillment of human rights standards. Critical questions such as "Do these new homes genuinely improve family health?", "Do children now have a better environment for learning?", "Do the residents feel a greater sense of dignity and security?", or "Do they have improved access to basic services?" are rarely integrated systematically into the M&E cycle.

Limitations in Integrating Human Rights Indicators: The indicators used in program monitoring and evaluation often fail to explicitly reflect key elements of the right to adequate housing, as outlined in General Comment No. 4. For instance, how are "security of tenure" or "cultural adequacy" measured after the handover of a home? Is there a system in place to monitor the sustained access to clean water and sanitation for households that have recently moved in, or is this merely assumed? The lack of human rights-aligned indicators makes it difficult for the government to identify gaps, measure the actual impact on individual rights, and demonstrate compliance with international human rights obligations. As one expert asserts, "Without a specific human rights-based M&E framework, development programs risk becoming mere transactions rather than transformations. We may build houses, but are we building better, more dignified lives?"

Suboptimal Beneficiary Feedback Mechanisms from a Rights Perspective: Despite efforts to engage communities such as through the PNDS feedback and grievance mechanisms for beneficiaries following construction often remain weak or unstructured from a human rights perspective. This means that issues such as poor construction quality, a lack of access to basic facilities, or complaints regarding a non-transparent selection process may not be addressed effectively or systematically. Participation must be continuous and meaningful, rather than limited solely to the initial planning phase. "The right to participate is not merely a formality; it is the heartbeat of true development that upholds human dignity at every step" a principle frequently echoed by human rights advocates.

Lack of Inter-Sectoral Coordination in Post-Occupancy Oversight: The construction of housing is only the first step. However, the right to adequate housing is also closely linked to access to other basic services. This research indicates that there is often a lack of coordination among relevant government ministries or agencies to ensure post-occupancy support. For instance, when a family receives a social housing unit, is there a coordinated mechanism in place to ensure they also have sustained access to water, electricity, healthcare, or even livelihood support? Without such integration, a new home may fail to serve as a foundation for a complete and productive life, leaving families vulnerable to other challenges that constrain their rights.

3.13.1 Implications for the Fulfillment of the Right to Adequate Housing and Sustainable Development

Obstacles in human rights-based monitoring and evaluation have serious implications for the fulfillment of the right to adequate housing and for sustainable development efforts.

The Risk of a Cycle of Vulnerability: Without a comprehensive understanding of how social housing programs affect the lives of beneficiaries beyond the mere provision of shelter, there is a risk that such programs address only the symptoms rather than the root causes of poverty and vulnerability. A home lacking access to clean water or adequate sanitation, for example, does not fully satisfy the right to adequate housing and may even create new health problems.

Limited Accountability: The government, as the duty-bearer, is obligated to demonstrate that it is taking steps to fulfill the rights of its citizens. A lack of human rights-based M&E limits the government's ability to demonstrate full accountability and to identify areas where efforts need to be strengthened.

Development Gaps: If social housing programs are not fully aligned with human rights principles, there is a risk that the most marginalized groups may be overlooked, or that their rights may not be fully realized. This could widen social and economic disparities, running counter to the goals of inclusive development. "Sustainable development cannot be achieved if fundamental human rights including the right to adequate housing are not fulfilled in a comprehensive and sustainable manner," a principle that must always serve as a guide.

The Uma Kbi'it Laek program is a tangible manifestation of the Government of Timor-Leste's commitment to the well-being of its people. However, for this program to fully realize its potential as an instrument for fulfilling human rights and advancing sustainable development, it is crucial to address existing barriers to comprehensive, human rights-based monitoring and evaluation. By adopting a more holistic, participatory, and human rights-centered approach, Timor-Leste can ensure that every house built is not merely a physical structure, but a solid foundation for a dignified, equitable, and prosperous life for all its citizens. The journey toward an inclusive and just Timor-Leste is a marathon, not a sprint. With every step reinforced by human rights principles, we approach the finish line with dignity and pride, building a bright future one house and one community at a time.

Recommendation

This research has unpacked the layers of legal and social dynamics within the Uma Kbi'it Laek (housing for the vulnerable) development project in Timor-Leste. It underscores that while development intentions are often noble, their implementation frequently clashes with fundamental human rights principles particularly for the most vulnerable communities. Based

on an in-depth analysis that integrates national and international legal frameworks with the realities on the ground, several fundamental conclusions can be drawn.

First, regarding the legal framework for the Uma Kbi'it Laek project, this thesis identifies a significant dualism. On one hand, Timor-Leste has ratified various international human rights instruments, demonstrating a constitutional commitment to the protection of human rights. On the other hand, domestic legal instruments often lack the specificity or practical mechanisms required to guarantee communal rights, customary land rights, the right to a healthy environment, and the right to meaningful participation for Uma Kbi'it Laek communities. This legal gap is exacerbated by the overlap between state statutory law and customary law (lian nain), which creates legal uncertainty and vulnerability for indigenous communities that traditionally rely on the recognition of customary law. As Professor Lawrence Friedman asserts, "The fundamental principle that the law must be understood by those expected to comply with it serves as the cornerstone of any fair legal system." Yet, for the Uma Kbi'it Laek community, the complexity and ambiguity of the law often act as a barrier rather than a safeguard.

Second, the implementation of development initiatives within the Uma Kbi'it Laek community ostensibly aimed at improving well-being frequently results in negative impacts on the human rights of the local population. A critical finding of this research is that development projects are often carried out without adequate consultation mechanisms, let alone a substantive process of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC). Consequently, this has led to land expropriation without fair and adequate compensation, forced evictions, the loss of traditional livelihoods, and cultural erosion that threatens the community's identity. Rights to adequate housing, clean water, healthcare, and education are frequently overlooked during relocation processes or as a result of development-related impacts. Within the Uma Kbi'it Laek community, women, children, and the elderly bear the brunt of these adverse effects, which further exacerbate existing inequalities and injustices. Their status as kbi'it laek (meaning "powerless" or "vulnerable") renders them even more susceptible in the face of state-led development.

Third, this research identifies the challenges and opportunities in aligning the development of Uma Kbi'it Laek with human rights principles. Key challenges include the limited capacity of local and central governments to integrate a human rights-based approach, weak enforcement of laws against rights violations, corruption, and a lack of profound understanding regarding local culture and customary law. Nevertheless, these challenges are accompanied by significant opportunities for transformation. Such opportunities include strengthening more inclusive legal frameworks, enhancing meaningful community participation, developing fair dispute resolution mechanisms, and leveraging local wisdom within development planning. This thesis uniquely highlights that genuine development is not merely physical construction, but rather the development of human capacity and respect for the dignity of every individual a perspective often overlooked in conventional development approaches. This constitutes the novelty introduced by this research: a focus on the specific vulnerability of Uma Kbi'it Laek and the urgent need to integrate the principle of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) or PADIATAPA while accounting for the legal dualism present in Timor-Leste.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Books

Jamaluddin, Introduction to Development Theory (2016)
Soerjono Soekanto (cited in Yamin & Hariyanto, 2017)
Sondang P. Siagian, Development Administration
Ali Kabul Mahi, Regional Development Planning
Soerjono Soekanto, Sociology: An Introduction (Jakarta: PT Raja Grafindo Persada, 2012)
Ali Kabul Mahi, Regional Development Planning
Nurgiyantoro (2015), p. 60 “objective analysis theory of literary works;
Samsuddin (2019, p. 69) on the steps for objective analysis
Hans Kelsen’s Theory of Law, Jimly Asshiddiqie,
M. Ali Safa’at
Abintoro Prakoso, Legal Theory. June 2023
John Rawls, A Theory of Justice, Pustaka Pelajar
Syed Agung Afandi, Muslim Afandi, Rizki Erdayani, Introduction to Development Theory
Mizra (Khairuddin, 1992)
Sondang P. Siagian (1985)
Indonesian Dictionary (Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia)
Garda Maeswara, Sondang P. Siagian (1985)
Dwi (2008), cited by Widyastuti (2012)
According to Imron (2012), Sunarti (2012),
Armilasari Wiludjeng (2018)
According to Imron (2012)
Prawoto (2008)
Ali Kabul Mahi, Regional Development Planning (2017)
Armilasari and Wiludjeng (2018)
Prawoto (2008)
David Easton in the book The Political System (1965)
Sulaiman (1998); according to Amir Santoso, Ekowati (2009), Keban (2008), Riant Nugroho
Jamaluddin, Introduction to Development Theory (2016); Sondang P. Siagian, Development Administration
Sondang P. Siagian (1985); Ali Kabul Mahi, Regional Development Planning (2017)
Syed Agung Afandi, Muslim Afandi, Rizki Erdayani, Introduction to Development Theory
David Easton, The Political System (1965). 8Sulaiman, 199824
Amir Santoso, Ekowati, 20095; Keban, 200857; Riant Nugroho.
Jimly Asshiddiqie, Hans Kelsen’s Legal Theory.
Ali Safa’at.
Abintoro Prakoso, Legal Theory (June 2023),
John Rawls, A Theory of Justice (Pustaka Pelajar),
Great Dictionary of the Indonesian Language (KBBI).
Mizra (Khairuddin, 1992); Sondang P. Siagian (1985); Garda Maeswara, Sondang P. Siagian (1985).
According to Imron (2012); Sunarti (2012).
Prawoto (2008); Armilasari and Wiludjeng (2018).
Nurgiyantoro (2015), Theory of objective analysis of literary works; Samsuddin (2019),

Constitution

Constitution of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, Article 58 (2002)
Constitution of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, Article 58 (2002).
Constitution of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, Article 56, No. 1 (2002).

Laws and Regulations

Decree-Law 25/2022 of May 19 regarding the construction of Uma Kbi’it Laek (housing for the vulnerable)
Decree-Law 25/2022, May 19, 2022, Programa Nasional Dezenvolvemento Suco (PNDS)
Ibid. Decree-Law 25/2022 of May 19 regarding the construction of Uma Kbi’it Laek; Decree-Law 25/2022, May 19, 2022, Programa National Development Law (PNDS).

Journal

Yamin & Haryanto, International Development Theory, Yogyakarta Library of Sciences, 2017
UNTL. (2021). Journal of Development Law

Mass Media

Syed Agung Afandi, Introduction to Development Theory, CV Bintan Semeta Media, 2022
Syed Agung Afandi et al., CV. Bintang Semeta Media Yogyakarta 2022
Soerjono Soekanto and Sri Mamudji, Normative Legal Research: A Brief Review (Jakarta Rajawali Press, 2003)
Peter Mahmud Marzuki, Legal Research, (Jakarta Kencana, 2007)
Soerjono Soekanto and Sri Mamudji, Normative Legal Research: A Brief Review (Jakarta Rajawali Press, 2003)
Peter Mahmud Marzuki, Legal Research, (Jakarta Kencana, 2007), p. 141
Syed Agung Afandi, Introduction to Development Theory (Yogyakarta CV Bintan Semeta Media, 2022)
Yamin & Haryanto, International Development Theory (Yogyakarta Pustaka Ilmu, 2017).
Soerjono Soekanto and Sri Mamudji, Normative Legal Research: A Brief Review (Jakarta Rajawali Press, 2003),
Peter Mahmud Marzuki, Legal Research (Jakarta Kencana, 2007),
Soerjono Soekanto in Yamin & Haryanto (2017); Soerjono Soekanto, Sociology: An Introduction (Jakarta PT Raja Grafindo Persada, 2012).
Amado, L. (2022). The Role of Law in Developing Nations: A Timor-Leste Case Study. Dili Timor Press.
GoTL (Government of Timor-Leste). (2012). Strategic Development Plan (PEDN) 2011–2030. Dili: Office of the Prime Minister.
UN-Habitat. (2019). Country Programme Document: Timor-Leste Affordable and Adequate Housing Report.
CESCR General Comment No. 4, UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: The Right to Adequate Housing.
Internal Legal Research Report (2023). Legal Analysis of Property Ownership.
UN-Habitat. (2014). Handbook on Housing and Land Rights Monitoring. Geneva: United Nations.
Guterres, E. (2022). Keynote Address on Human Rights-Based Development. Dili: Government of Timor-Leste Press.
O’Connell, M. E. (2018). The Principle of Non-Regression in Socio-Economic Rights. Human Rights Quarterly, 40(2).

Government of the RDTL. (2011). Strategic Development Plan 2011–2030. Dili: Ministry of Finance.
Address by the Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, National Development Conference, Dili.
Evaluation Report on the National Housing Program (2022). Ministry of Public Works. Public Works, Timor-Leste.
Silva, A. (2023). Democratizing Development: A Human Rights Approach to Housing in Post-Conflict Nations. Dili University of Timor-Leste Press.
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). (2014). Human Rights Indicators in Development: A Guide to the Human Rights-Based Approach to Health. Geneva: UN.
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Timor-Leste. (2021). Sustainable Development Goals Report for Timor-Leste.

Internet

Ibid; Armilasari Wiludjeng (2018). Citing Imron (2012) and Prawoto (2008).
Ali Kabul Mahi, M.S., Regional Development Planning (2017), p. 35.
Hoogerwerf & Sjahrir (1988:66) – UIN Suska Repository.
https://repository.uin-suska.ac.id
Charles Lindblom – Journalism University.
https://journalism.university (Accessed 09/11/2025, 01:00).
David Easton, in the book The Political System (1965) – Scribd.
https://id.scribd.com
Soerjono Soekanto and Sri Mamudji, Normative Legal Research: A Brief Overview (Jakarta: Rajawali Pers, 2003), pp. 33–37.