

SUSTAINABLE MANGROVE TOURISM: ECONOMIC VALUATION AND PARTICIPATION IN SINJAI

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Abstract

Introduction to The Problem: Mangrove Forest is one of the tourist attractions that has the benefits of beauty, uniqueness and significant economic value for the people of Tongke - Tongke village, Sinjai Regency. The purpose of this study was to calculate the economic benefits of mangrove forests using the Individual Travel Cost Method. Data were obtained through a visitor survey with a total of 22 observations. There are 6 variables used in this study, namely Number of Visits as the dependent variable and Travel Cost, Distance, Age, Education, and Occupation as independent variables. The results of this study explain how these variables affect a person's decision to travel and how much influence it has on the number of tourist visits made.

Purpose/Objective Study: This study aims to identify the form of community participation and economic benefits of mangrove forests using the travel cost method from an Islamic economic perspective.

Design/Methodology/Approach: This study uses the ITCM (Individual Travel Cost Method) analysis technique, which is a travel cost analysis method using survey data from individual visitors in statistical analysis.

Findings: Based on the results of this study, it was found that the tongke-tongke village community participated in the development of mangrove forests from an economic and social perspective, the surrounding community initiated the existence of a mangrove forest tourism village because it was built on the work and self-help of the local community, so that this mangrove forest is community-based, and this is one of its characteristics that distinguishes the existence of mangrove forests in other areas that exist as engineering results of government policies that have a large economic benefit value for visitors, this can be seen from the value of economic benefits obtained for one year



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which amounted to Rp. 176,307,689, from an Islamic economic perspective the existence of this mangrove forest is able to provide mashlahah for the ecosystem around the mangrove debt area. 176,307,689, from an Islamic economic perspective the existence of this mangrove forest is able to provide mashlahah for the ecosystem around the mangrove debt area.

Paper Type: Research Article.

Keywords: Participation; Mangrove Forest; Nature Tourism; Travel Cost; Islamic Economic Perspective.

INTRODUCTION

Tourism is a crucial factor in a country's economic development (Rian et al., 2023). In recent years, Indonesia's tourism industry has experienced significant growth, prompting many tourist attractions to renovate and improve their services. These efforts aim to enhance visitor comfort and safety while increasing the appeal of destinations for both domestic and international tourists (Langi et al., 2024). Various facilities have been built or upgraded, including hotels, mosques, restaurants, fashion shops, and other tourism-related infrastructure. These improvements are expected to further boost the tourism sector and contribute to Indonesia's economic growth (Waluyo et al., 2022).

Indonesia possesses immense tourism potential, which benefits both the government and society (Oktavia et al., 2021). In 2014, the tourism sector contributed USD 11,166.13 million to the national economy, making it the fourth-largest industry after oil and gas, coal, and palm oil. The sector has significantly contributed to economic growth and improved public welfare (Nurohman & Qurniawati, 2021). Additionally, the tourism industry generates employment opportunities for hundreds of thousands of people, helping to reduce poverty and enhance the quality of life. Given its substantial impact, tourism remains a strategic sector that requires continuous support and development (Ashaab et al., 2024).

According to Presidential Regulation No. 73 of 2012 concerning the national strategy for mangrove ecosystem management, the development of mangrove forests must involve local communities, as their participation significantly influences the success of conservation efforts (Suherman et al., 2024). Empowering coastal communities in mangrove forest development not only supports environmental sustainability but also creates economic opportunities. Successfully developed mangrove forests can be utilized as tourist attractions, providing additional sources of income for local communities (Rahmawati et al., 2024).

One of the areas in South Sulawesi with extensive mangrove forests is Tongke-Tongke Village, located in the East Sinjai District of Sinjai Regency (Arief et al., 2021). Unlike other mangrove forests

developed through government initiatives, the conservation efforts in Tongke-Tongke are driven by local communities. Their dedication to environmental preservation has transformed the area into a community-based conservation project. The local population plays a crucial role in managing the mangrove forest as a tourist attraction, ensuring its sustainability and maintaining ecological balance (Anshari & Alham, 2023).

The growth of the tourism sector in Sinjai Regency can be significantly enhanced through active community participation. Raising public awareness about tourism management and its benefits is essential for fostering engagement in tourism-related activities (Arief et al., 2021). With an area of 223 km² and a population of 238,099 people, Sinjai Regency has great tourism potential. However, inadequate attention from the local government has hindered its optimal development and future prospects (Nurohman & Qurniawati, 2021).

Mangrove forests provide substantial economic benefits, making them increasingly popular as ecotourism destinations in coastal areas. Their natural beauty and unique characteristics offer local communities opportunities to improve their livelihoods (Hidayat et al., 2024). The rich biodiversity within mangrove ecosystems, including fish, shrimp, and other marine life, supports local fisheries and aquaculture industries. Additionally, mangrove trees provide wood for construction, furniture, and shipbuilding, further increasing their economic value. Given these benefits, mangrove forest conservation should be prioritized to ensure their long-term sustainability (Budiarti et al., 2024).

Mangrove forests are invaluable natural resources that contribute to both ecological and economic sustainability. As the world's largest archipelagic country, Indonesia possesses vast mangrove forests that play a strategic role in environmental preservation (Fransisco et al., 2024). These ecosystems support marine biodiversity, protect coastal areas from erosion and flooding, and act as carbon sinks, reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Their conservation is essential for maintaining ecological balance and supporting the livelihoods of coastal communities (Hafiz & Samadi, 2024).

Despite their importance, mangrove forests in Indonesia face serious threats due to deforestation. Human activities such as land conversion, urban expansion, and agricultural development have significantly reduced mangrove coverage (Manoso et al., 2023). The destruction of mangrove forests disrupts marine and terrestrial ecosystems, leading to declining water quality and biodiversity loss. If not addressed, continued degradation could have severe environmental and economic consequences. Therefore, proactive measures, including continuous monitoring and conservation programs, are essential to prevent further damage (Harefa et al., 2024).

Mangrove ecosystems provide diverse habitats for various species. The tree canopy shelters birds, mammals, and insects, while branch holes and water pools support aquatic life. The forest floor is home to shellfish, mudskippers, crabs, and amphibians, while its waterways serve as breeding grounds for fish and shrimp. These ecosystems create a dynamic environment that sustains numerous species. Therefore, preserving mangrove forests is crucial for maintaining biodiversity and ensuring the sustainability of coastal ecosystems (Ramadhan et al., 2023).

Mangroves are vital coastal resources that offer both ecological and socio-economic benefits. They act as natural barriers against coastal erosion and sedimentation while protecting shorelines from wave action (Suherman et al., 2024). Additionally, mangrove ecosystems support local fisheries, tourism, and industries dependent on marine resources. Their conservation is essential for sustaining economic activities and preserving environmental integrity. Hence, coordinated efforts between the government, businesses, and local communities are necessary to ensure their long-term protection and utilization (Hasibuan et al., 2024).

Mangrove forests play a crucial role in environmental protection. Their dense root systems stabilize shorelines, prevent coastal abrasion, and reduce the impact of tidal waves (Fransisco et al., 2024). Furthermore, mangroves act as natural buffers that prevent seawater intrusion, preserving freshwater resources and preventing land degradation. Given their critical ecological functions, conserving mangrove forests is necessary to safeguard both the environment and coastal infrastructure. Long-term conservation efforts should therefore be prioritized to ensure these ecosystems' continued benefits (Purnomo et al., 2024).

Mangrove ecosystems offer significant ecological functions, including preventing seawater intrusion, reducing wave energy, and providing habitats for various bird species. They also trap sediments, helping expand land areas and enhance marine fertility (Langi et al., 2024). Economically, mangrove ecosystems support industries such as fisheries, aquaculture, and wood production for construction and paper manufacturing. Additionally, they contribute to local livelihoods through ecotourism and natural resource utilization. Therefore, sustainable mangrove forest management is essential for balancing environmental conservation and economic development (Suriadi et al., 2024).

The biological importance of mangrove ecosystems cannot be overlooked. They serve as breeding, feeding, and nursery grounds for fish, crabs, and shrimp, supporting local fisheries. In the past, fishermen relied on mangroves for abundant catches and improved fish quality. Additionally, mangrove forests play a crucial role in absorbing carbon dioxide, contributing to climate change mitigation. Given these multiple benefits, efforts to conserve mangrove ecosystems should be prioritized to maintain their biodiversity and long-term sustainability (Fransisco et al., 2024).

Given the benefits and potential of mangrove forests, this study aims to assess the economic valuation of mangrove forests and examine the extent of community participation in social and economic activities related to mangrove forest development in Tongke-Tongke Village, Sinjai Regency.

METHODOLOGY

The method used in this study is to analyze the variables of distance, age, education, occupation and travel costs incurred by ecotourism visitors whether they can simultaneously influence the frequency of tourist visits to mangrove forest ecotourism in Tongke-Tongke village and quantitative descriptive methods. And to see the participation of the Community in using descriptive methods with a qualitative approach through direct observation.

The data analysis method used in this study aims to determine the effect on related variables, multiple regression is carried out to determine the extent to which the independent variable affects the dependent variable. In multiple regression there is one dependent variable and more than one independent variable (Sugiyono, 2022). In this study, the dependent variable is tourist visits, while the independent variables are distance, age, education, employment and travel cost.

The Travel Cost Method (TCM) is used to estimate the economic value of an ecosystem or recreation area with the assumption that the value of an area is represented in the sacrifices visitors make to visit the location. This method can be used to calculate the benefits or costs that arise due to several cases. The basic principle of TCM is that the travel time and costs sacrificed by people visiting a tourist attraction represent the "price" for enjoying the area. Thus, people's willingness to pay for tourism objects can be estimated from the number of their visits at various price levels. There are two techniques for calculating the value of economic benefits in the TCM method, namely the Zonal Travel Cost Method (ZTCM) and the Individual Travel Cost Method (ITCM). The main difference between ZTCM and ITCM is the type of data obtained, where ZTCM uses data related to the zone of origin of visitors, while ITCM uses survey data from each individual visitor through interviews.

This study uses the ITCM (Individual Travel Cost Method) analysis technique, which is a travel cost analysis method using survey data from individual visitors in statistical analysis. This method is commonly used by researchers to be widely used by researchers to analyze the value of the economic benefits of tourist attractions.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1. Income of Local Communities (Traders) Around Sinjai Mangrove Forest Tourism Objects

| No | Name | Capital | Advantages | Income/Month |
|----------------|-----------|---------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | Esse> | Rp. 5,000,000 | Rp. 300,000 | Rp. 9,000,000 |
| 2 | Nurhidaya | Rp. 1,500,000 | Rp. 200,000 | Rp. 6,000,000 |
| 3 | Darmawati | Rp. 500,000 | Rp. 200,000 | Rp. 6,000,000 |
| 4 | Kamrida | Rp. 500,000 | Rp. 200,000 | Rp. 6,000,000 |
| 5 | H.Hasna | Rp. 2,000,000 | Rp. 200,000 | Rp. 6,000,000 |
| 6 | Nilkawati | Rp. 700,000 | Rp. 150,000 | Rp. 4,500,000 |
| 7 | Mia | Rp. 300,000 | Rp. 150,000 | Rp. 4,500,000 |
| 8 | Retro | IDR 500,000 | Rp. 150,000 | Rp. 4,500,000 |
| 9 | Hikma | Rp. 1,000,000 | Rp. 150,000 | Rp. 4,500,000 |
| 10 | Nurwali | Rp. 300,000 | Rp. 100,000 | Rp. 3,000,000 |
| 11 | Sulaiha | Rp. 1,000,000 | Rp. 100,000 | Rp. 3,000,000 |
| 12 | Jena | Rp. 200,000 | Rp. 100,000 | Rp. 3,000,000 |
| 13 | Irmawati | Rp. 1,000,000 | Rp. 50,000 | Rp. 1,500,000 |
| 14 | Reza | Rp. 100,000 | Rp. 50,000 | Rp. 1,500,000 |
| 15 | Selvi | Rp. 150,000 | Rp. 50,000 | Rp. 1,500,000 |
| 16 | Raje> | Rp. 500,000 | Rp. 50,000 | Rp. 1,500,000 |
| 17 | Kia | Rp. 100,000 | Rp. 50,000 | Rp. 1,500,000 |
| 18 | Aprizal | Rp. 100,000 | Rp. 30,000 | Rp. 900,000 |
| 19 | Husnawati | Rp. 50,000 | Rp. 30,000 | Rp. 900,000 |
| 20 | Maida | Rp. 100,000 | Rp. 20,000 | Rp. 600,000 |
| Total | | | | Rp. 69,900,000 |
| Average | | | | IDR 6,657,143 |

Sources: Researcher (2024)

Based on the table above, it shows that of the 20 traders around the location of the tongke-tongke mangrove forest, the average monthly income is Rp. 6,657,143, this shows that the amount of community participation in the economic sector is quite large, where they provide food stands for visitors.

Community Participation in the Economy

Economic Impact

Income as the amount of income received by members of the community for a certain period of time in return for services or factors of production that have been contributed. this can be seen from the facilities available in mangrove forests such as public wc, tenant sales and parking, entrance tickets managed by the community, the existence of mangrove ecotourism forests is enough to provide a multiplier effect for the tongke-tongke village community in terms of income so as to increase the purchasing power of the community.

Employment, in terms of employment, mangrove debt can absorb a lot of labor from the surrounding community considering that the location of the mangrove forest which is close to the capital city of Sinjai is strategic enough to be visited so that it is expected to be able to attract the interest of the community to visit so that by increasing the number of community visits will be able to increase or open employment opportunities for the wider community.

Based on the data obtained from the results of the observation, it can be seen that the Community, 24 observations were collected and there were 5 variables used in the regression analysis, namely visit frequency as the dependent variable as well as travel cost, education, income, distance and age as independent variables. The data obtained from the survey results can be seen from the table below.

Table 2. Visitor Data From The Survey

| Resp. | Jkun | Tc | Jarak | Usia | Pendidikan | Pekerjaan | Sk |
|-------|------|--------|-------|------|------------|-----------|----------|
| 1 | 5 | 80000 | 25 | 23 | 3 | 1 | 1369776 |
| 2 | 1 | 103000 | 25 | 22 | 4 | 1 | 54791.06 |
| 3 | 3 | 145000 | 25 | 22 | 3 | 1 | 493119.5 |
| 4 | 5 | 30000 | 5 | 19 | 3 | 1 | 1369776 |
| 5 | 1 | 70000 | 5 | 21 | 4 | 1 | 54791.06 |
| 6 | 1 | 160000 | 25 | 22 | 4 | 1 | 54791.06 |
| 7 | 2 | 108000 | 25 | 22 | 3 | 1 | 219164.2 |

| | | | | | | | |
|----|---|--------|----|----|---|---|----------|
| 8 | 3 | 55000 | 5 | 21 | 4 | 1 | 493119.5 |
| 9 | 5 | 5000 | 5 | 20 | 4 | 1 | 1369776 |
| 10 | 1 | 170000 | 25 | 21 | 4 | 1 | 54791.06 |
| 11 | 1 | 85000 | 10 | 19 | 4 | 1 | 54791.06 |
| 12 | 1 | 460000 | 25 | 21 | 3 | 1 | 54791.06 |
| 13 | 5 | 20000 | 5 | 21 | 4 | 1 | 1369776 |
| 14 | 5 | 80000 | 5 | 21 | 4 | 1 | 1369776 |
| 15 | 3 | 53000 | 5 | 23 | 4 | 1 | 493119.5 |
| 16 | 3 | 55000 | 5 | 21 | 4 | 1 | 493119.5 |
| 17 | 5 | 50000 | 5 | 20 | 4 | 1 | 1369776 |
| 18 | 1 | 60000 | 5 | 20 | 4 | 1 | 54791.06 |
| 19 | 1 | 80000 | 25 | 30 | 4 | 2 | 54791.06 |
| 20 | 1 | 270000 | 25 | 20 | 4 | 1 | 54791.06 |
| 21 | 4 | 60000 | 5 | 22 | 4 | 1 | 876656.9 |
| 22 | 4 | 90000 | 5 | 21 | 4 | 1 | 876656.9 |

Sources: Researcher (2024)

Table 3. Descriptive Statistics of Respondents

| Variabel | Minimum | Maximum | Rata-Rata |
|------------------|---------|---------|-------------|
| Jumlah Kunjungan | 1 | 5 | 2.833333333 |
| TC | 5000 | 460000 | 101416.6667 |
| Jarak | 5 | 25 | 13.33333333 |
| Usia | 19 | 30 | 21.375 |
| Pendidikan | 3 | 4 | 3.791666667 |
| Pekerjaan | 1 | 2 | 1.041666667 |

Sources: Researcher (2024)

Based on the survey results above, it can be seen that the minimum visit frequency is 1 time per year, for the maximum visit frequency is 5 times per year, while the average visit frequency per year is 2.8 times per year. In terms of travel costs, the minimum cost incurred by visitors is IDR 5,000 while the maximum cost incurred is IDR 460,000. The average travel cost incurred by visitors to come to the museum is IDR 101,416. At the education level, the average last education of visitors is S1. The minimum income earned by visitors is below Rp 1,000,000, the maximum job is above is Student / student. because most visitors who come to the Mangrove Forest are students. The minimum distance traveled by visitors to get to the museum is 5 KM while the farthest distance is 25 KM. The average distance traveled by visitors is 13, 3 KM. In terms of age, based on the survey results, the minimum age of visitors who come to the geology museum is 19 years old, for the maximum age is in the range of 30 years, while the average age of visitors who come to the geology museum is 21 years old.

Table 4. Regression Results

| | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Travel Cost | -9.125576539 | 3.335246 | -2.7361 | 0.012059 |
| Jarak | -0.178528347 | 0.167591 | -1.06526 | 0.298309 |
| Usia | -0.178528347 | 0.167591 | -1.06526 | 0.298309 |
| Pendidikan | -0.463157895 | 0.873759 | -0.53008 | 0.60137 |
| Pekerjaan | -1.913043478 | 1.739921 | -1.0995 | 0.283437 |

Sources: Researcher (2024)

In the regression results, it can be seen that the t-stat probability value for the Travel Cost variable is 0.012059 (lower than 0.1), indicating that travel costs affect the number of visits. While the probability for the Age variable is 0.298309, the Distance variable is 0.298309, the Education variable is 0.60137 and the Employment variable is 0.283437 (higher than 0.1). This indicates that the influence of the Age variable, Distance variable, Education variable, Employment variable on the frequency of visits is not significant. One possibility that causes the variables of Age, Distance, Education, Employment is influenced by other variables. Based on the magnitude of the probability of the t-stat variable "Travel Cost has a significant negative effect on the number of visits Travel Cost (TC) has a negative effect on the number of visits, which means that the greater the cost of traveling to the Mangrove forest incurred by an individual, the number of visits to the Mangrove Forest will decrease." then the above results can be concluded that the estimated regression coefficients can be used as a reflection of the demand function.

Table 5. Results of Economic Valuation of Mangrove Forest in Tongke-Tongke Village

SUMMARY OUTPUT

| Regression Statistics | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Multiple R | 0,503874789 |
| R Square | 0,253889803 |
| Adjusted R Square | 0,219975703 |
| Standard Error | 1,511141751 |
| Observations | 24 |

| ANOVA | | | | | |
|------------|----|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|
| | df | SS | MS | F | Significance F |
| Regression | 1 | 17,09524672 | 17,09524672 | 7,486260984 | 0,012058628 |
| Residual | 22 | 50,23808662 | 2,283549392 | | |
| Total | 23 | 67,33333333 | | | |

| | Coefficients | Standard Error | t Stat | P-value | Lower 95% | Upper 95% | Lower 95.0% | Upper 95.0% |
|--------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| Intercept | 3,758818887 | 0,45777791 | 8,211009755 | 3,82135E-08 | 2,809445608 | 4,708192167 | 2,809445608 | 4,708192167 |
| X Variable 1 | -9,12558E-06 | 3,33525E-06 | -2,736103248 | 0,012058628 | -1,60425E-05 | -2,2087E-06 | -1,60425E-05 | -2,2087E-06 |

Sources: Researcher (2024)

Economic Valuation of Tourism Area: SK x Total visits

It is known that the total visit of Mangrove forest tourism for one year is: 20.198 Thus obtaining an Economic valuation value of Rp. 176,307,689. Based on the results of this study it was found that the value of economic benefits for visitors, this can be seen from the value of economic benefits obtained for one year which is cc, based on the results of this survey due to land conversion from forest conservation to community settlements because this area does not get attention from the government to be developed and preserved, even though the contribution and potential for mangrove forest development is quite large considering the function of mangrove forests as ecotourism areas that are able to provide a considerable multiplier effect for communities and tourists.

A fairly extensive mangrove forest is Tongke-Tongke Village, East Sinjai District, Sinjai Regency. One of the advantages of this Tongke-Tongke mangrove forest, because it was built on the work and self-help of the local community, so that this mangrove forest is community-based, and this is one of the characteristics that distinguishes it from the existence of mangrove forests in other areas that were born and grew as government policy engineering. Mangrove management in TongkeTongke Village was originally a self-help group of the Aku Cinta Indonesia Natural Resources Conservation Group (KPSDA ACI) and has succeeded in building mangrove forests with the aim of protecting beaches and villages. (Harnaidah, 2016: 45) Previously this area was a coastal area that was widely converted into ponds and residential areas by the local community. However, this did not last long along with the decline in productivity in the area which then motivated the local community of Sinjai in the coastal area to rehabilitate the area through mangrove replanting. Now the existence of mangrove forests is growing and developing as expected even though it was once damaged by logging, Tongke-Tongke mangrove forest is currently used as a tourist area that contributes economically to the Community With that,

it is very necessary to have a form of participation in the development of mangrove forest ecotourism carried out by the community, local community, or the Government. who participate in it. Starting from the forms of development participation and socio-economic impacts that can support the improvement of the welfare of local communities around the TongkeTongke mangrove forest area in Sinjai Regency. Given that this mangrove forest has many benefits, one of which is the livelihood of the local community. Along with the current climate change that encourages the government to find solutions that are environmentally friendly and sustainability to Indonesia's Economic Development, this mangrove forest also has the potential as halal ecotourism that can contribute to regional and national economic growth, and this mangrove forest is very likely to be developed as an instrument that will support the blue economy program as a maritime development strategy in Indonesia considering the benefits of mangrove forests in addition to decomposing organic waste, mangrove forests can also help accelerate the process of decomposing chemicals that pollute the sea such as oil and translucent, and is a natural barrier to strong sea winds in certain seasons.

The Existence of Mangrove Forests from an Islamic Economic Perspective

The halal tourism industry is a sector that is being worked on now, by looking at the potential of the halal industry which is quite a concern for the government and even Indonesia is targeting as the center of the world's halal industry in 2024, therefore it needs a movement to realize Indonesia as the center of the halal industry, economically, mangrove forests contribute to the economy of sinjai where many local residents are then fixed as labor during the development of mangrove forests, mangrove forests as ecotourism areas have more value than other tourism areas, where mangrove forests display mangrove trees that are lined up with benefits as a deterrent to abrasion in the coastal area, There are several general criteria for halal tourism including the following (Pradika, 2021): oriented towards the public good, oriented towards enlightenment, refreshment, avoiding sin, avoiding drugs, avoiding polytheism, maintaining behavior / ethics, maintaining security, respecting social and cultural values, preserving the environment, worship facilities, and halal food.

Mangrove forests are able to display environmental sustainability to maintain the sustainability of the entire ecosystem around it, not only to maintain the existence of today's generation, but also to ensure the security of future generations, especially by looking at the climate crisis that indirectly occurs due to man-made conditions making development that ultimately terjadi environmental pollution both through the air and land, by looking at the function of mangrove debt as a deterrent to beach abrasion and as a decomposer of inorganic waste, the presence

of mangrove forests is able to become an instrument to protect the environment and protect the soul of the community today and in the future, on the other hand the availability of mushollah facilities and food that is guaranteed halal makes this tour able to be categorized as a halal industry that is able to make a considerable contribution to a sustainable economy.

CONCLUSION

Mangrove Forest is one of the tourist attractions that has the benefits of beauty, uniqueness and significant economic value for the people of Tongke - Tongke village, There are 6 variables used in this study, namely the Number of Visits as the dependent variable and Travel Cost, Distance, Age, Education, and Employment as independent variables. The results of this study indicate that travel costs affect the visitor's decision to travel or visit while other variables have no effect, the economic valuation value for a year was obtained at Rp. 176,307,689.

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