Heritages for Heritage: Problematics of the Museum of Bulungan Sultanate

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One of the 1998' Indonesian Reformation agendas was to grant autonomy to local governments, one of which included cultural autonomy. In terms of cultural heritage, this spirit of decentralization is regulated in Law no 11 of 2010 concerning Cultural Heritage which empowers local governments to review and determine cultural heritage in accordance with local cultural values.

Since its establishment in 2013, the North Kalimantan Provincial Government has tried to establish a regional cultural identity by carrying out three ethnicities; Dayak, Bulungan, and Tidung. In Bulungan Regency, this was followed by various efforts to revamp cultural areas, improve museums, and establish several artifacts as district-ranked cultural heritage. However, there are still various problems related to the legality, regulation, as well as internal conflicts.

This paper will discuss problems in the conservation of cultural heritage in the Museum of the Bulungan Sultanate and its surrounding area. In the end, the author questions the worth of preserving heritages for the sake of preserving the heritage.

Keywords: Heritage Policy, North Kalimantan, Borneo, Museum