

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background

Indonesia is the country that is potentially supported by the rich culture and beautiful scenery that can increase the income of the tourism industry. Tourism is the process of the trip to one place for a while. The trip is caused by importance of economy, social, politic, religion, healthy, etc Suswantoro (1997, p.3). According to Yoeti (1996, p.21) tourism is a journey undertaken for a while held from a place to another place its aim is not for business or research but it's just for fun. Furthermore Kodhyat (1983, p.4) states that tourism is travelling from one place to another, temporarily, conducted in individually or in group, it attempts to find a balance or harmony and happiness to the environment in social, natural, and science area. In conclusion, tourism deals with travelling for recreation and a collection of activities with or without planning usually with in a certain short period of time.

Tourism objects are sectors that support and increase the income of the society. Tourism object should be developed because they can support the economic sector in Indonesia. The economic sector should be promoted because there are many threats for government to drum up tourism in the variety of Indonesia territories.

According to Spillane (1994, p.63-72), the elements which have support the feasibility of a tourist destination are as follows: attractions, facilities, infrastructure, transportations and hospitality. According to Yoeti (1997, p.165) the success of a tourist destination to support the achievement of the tourism industry is highly dependent on the three A (3A): attractions, accessibilities and amenities.

The development of the tourism industry is very important because the tourism industry is the complex industry in this era. It can give the

benefit for the territory and also the society that lives around the tourism objects in Indonesia especially in South Sumatera.

According to Law No.10 of 2009 on tourism, Tourism Destination is a geographic region within one or more administrative regions in which there is a tourist attraction, public transportation, tourism facilities, accessibility and society which are interrelated in tourism.

SouthSumatera is one of tourism points of destination and serves as the 17<sup>th</sup> gate of entry in Indonesia. Tourists who visit this region will be welcome by enjoyable beauty of nature, historical remains, attractive regional arts, dancing and traditional custom ceremonies. Even the amazing adventures in open space of nature are waiting for our arrival and so many histories of archaeological remains of Sriwijaya kingdom.

This province consists of 17 regions, which are Palembang, Pagar Alam, Prabumulih, Lubuklinggau, Ogan Ilir, Ogan Komering Ilir, Ogan Komering Ulu, Ogan komering Ulu Selatan, Ogan Komering Ulu Timur, Muara Enim, Lahat, Empat Lawang, Musi Rawas, Musi Rawas Utara, Musi Banyuasin, Banyuasin and Penukal Abab Lematang Ilir. One of the interesting places in South Sumatera is Lahat.

Approximately in year 1830, during Palaembang empire, Lahat had some groups of community called marga. Marga consisted of some villages like Lematang, Pasemah, Lintang, Gumay Ulu, Tebing Tinggi and Kikim. Marga was the government of suku and marga was the embryo of Lahat regency government. It covers a total area of 4,076.06 km<sup>2</sup> and with a population of 370,146 at the 2010 Census, the latest official estimate is 396,097. The capital of Lahat regency is the town of Lahat.

Lahat regency has 1,027 artifacts which spread over 40 sites in 12 communities. Artifacts are relic of history objects from megalithic era. Megaliths comes from the word “mega” meaning large and “lithos”

meaning stone. The example of artifacts is a stone or a statue. An important feature of the concept of artifact is, that this thing could move or be moved (moveable) by human hands easily (relatively) without damaging or destroying it. So the artifacts are part of the megalithic era because the artifacts can be moved by human hands.

Based on the explanation above, the writer writes this final report entitled “The Potency of Tinggi Hari Megalithic Sites as Historical Tourism Destination”.

## **1.2 Problem**

1. Has Megalithic Sites In Tinggi Hari Lahat fulfilled five essential elements of tourism?
2. Are Megalithic Sites in Tinggi Hari Lahat potential as a tourism destination in Lahat?

## **1.3 Purpose**

The purpose of this final report is to know the potency of Megalithic Sites in Lahat as a historical tourism object destination.

## **1.4 Benefit**

Some benefits from this report are :

- a. For Students :

To improve the knowledge about Megalithic Sites in Tinggi Hari Lahat as a historical tourism object destination.

- b. For Society :

The writer hopes the research findings are useful for the society to know the potency of Megalithic Sites that has not been explored.