



## The Genealogy of the Land Mafia: A Historical Analysis in the National Land System

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**Abstract:** The need for land in Indonesia cannot be separated from its people. This can be seen from how it benefits national development and is a source of livelihood that is integrated. However, the development of national development that is increasingly incessant makes the availability of land even thinner. Therefore, from this was born the land case, which today has transformed into a land mafia that has a motive to take over the land with various tactics and actions. The method used in this study uses normative juridical methods and primary data sources from the study of the community. The purpose of this study is to provide a historical analysis of the birth of the land mafia in the national land system. The findings show that the land mafia in Indonesia was born due to the loss of land owned by the people taken by the colonialists. In this context, the land mafia took advantage of the already unstable situation to take over the rights to land that should have been owned by the people, and arrived at the same polarization until now.

**Keyword:** History, Land, and the Land Mafia.

### INTRODUCTION

Land is a very important part of the life of the Indonesian people, both from a social, cultural, and economic perspective. A piece of land is a source of life for the people, a vast land area from Sabang to Merauke makes the Indonesian people known as an agricultural community. Based on data from the 2023 Agricultural Census, the number of farmers in Indonesia reached 27,802,434 people. Meanwhile, part of this number, 17,251,432 people, are gurem farmers. A gurem farmer is a farmer who cultivates agricultural land of less than 0.5 hectares (BPS, 2023). Thus, land is a source of life for the community to support their livelihood needs, and also the land and the number of farmers are the identity of the agrarian community in Indonesia. However, it is different from the cultural sector.

Land in the cultural sector is transformed as a form of identity and sovereignty of indigenous or communal peoples. Often, communal communities are socializing against the

land they own. Land for them is considered something very honorable, a giver of life, and also a source of wealth. Therefore, land becomes an identity and sovereignty for the community, which makes the role of land inseparable from life (Greenwood et al., 2019).

In addition, land is a major actor in economic development in Indonesia. Without the existence of land, the development of economic sectors such as the development of infrastructure, the need for roads, buildings, and facilities that support economic growth would not be possible at all. Thus, land is not only a physical resource, but also an integral part of the social, cultural, and economic life of the Indonesian people, which requires that its management be fair and sustainable for the welfare of the community and environmental sustainability (Santika et al., 2019).

The 1945 Constitution, as the basis of the Constitution has stipulates that land must be used as best as possible for the people of Indonesia. Article 33, paragraph (3) emphasizes that "The earth and water and the natural resources contained therein are controlled by the state and used for the greatest prosperity of the people". Therefore, the land contained on the earth must be used for the function of harming the people and not the other way around. And especially for the state as the highest power organization of the entire nation, it is charged with the mandate of regulating the use of land for the prosperity of all components of the nation, and not a certain group (Ismail, 2012).

Land use in Indonesia is associated with significant economic, social, and cultural development. By the end of December 2023, according to PUPR statistical data, the total infrastructure in Indonesia is 3,140 reservoirs, and by the end of 2024, the government is targeting 2,700 km of new functional toll roads (PUPR, 2023). In addition, the number of Indonesia's population is sure to continue to increase. By mid-2024, the population will have reached 281.6 million people, and this number is an accumulation of the increase from 2023, which increased by almost 3 million people (BPS, 2020).

Along with all of this, an imbalance in land availability can be created between the economic needs of development and the increase in the population, so that the demand for land will bring problems in land use and land use that are very competitive. Land supply and population growth will result in complex land use problems (Jayadi, 2017). So that the government's intervention in regulating the order to maintain the needs of the community is an absolute thing to do, and this has been regulated as in the 1945 Constitution. If the amount and area of land are not balanced with the needs of the community, it can cause many land problems and give rise to competition between fellow humans to acquire land (Babette, 2008).

In connection with all of this, it can be interpreted that land affairs are not trivial problems because if you look at their significant functions and roles, then it is irreplaceable. One of the striking features of the function of the land is to support the life of agricultural humans. They applied, planted, and harvested are the most perfect examples that the land is a source of livelihood for people in Indonesia. However, the increase in economic and social development seems to reverse all these facts. The availability of land is depleting due to the never-ending need for economic and social development. Therefore, from this was born land cases such as Land disputes, land conflicts, and land issues that turned out to have been a reality in the community since long before the increase in economic and social development became a reality in society, albeit with different motives and forms (BPN, 2020).

Interestingly, today, the dynamics of the land case mentioned above have undergone quite an extraordinary transformation. In the dimension of land cases, land disputes, land conflicts, and land cases gave birth to a new category, namely, the Land Mafia. A group of people who commit crimes to take over the right to the land is called the Land Mafia. Another opinion is that the Land Mafia is a crime committed by secret societies in the field of land over a land right that operates in an organized and systematic manner in a certain area (Wirawan, 2019). In addition, other opinions reveal that the land Mafia is a group, and/or legal entity that carries out actions deliberately to commit crimes that can cause and cause hampering in the

implementation of handling land cases (BPN, 2018). Whatever form of mention or definition of the Land Mafia is certain that they are plotters who have bad intentions, evil, bad, and want to harm others by taking land rights that are arranged, planned, and even well organized so that what the Land Mafia wants can be achieved with the end of their intentions or the goal is on the land. a piece of land and space.

Therefore, from the existing concerns, the author conducted an in-depth study related to the Land Mafia. In the previous research studied by Vani Wirawan, the results of the study showed that the existence of land cases is: land disputes and land conflicts it which are triggered by the Land Mafia (Wirawan, 2020). Meanwhile, research conducted by Bambang Prayitno in 2021, data shows that the form of responsibility carried out by the land mafia is an act of participation regulated by Article 55 paragraph (1) of the Criminal Code (Prayitno, 2021).

Based on the above background, the author comprehensively exposes how the practice of taking over land rights carried out by the land mafia began to occur. And what kind of solution efforts are feasible to overcome the case of the Land Mafia. So that the people's worries and concerns about the character of the Land Mafia can be stopped, so that they are sure to get appropriate punishment for acts that are detrimental to both the people and institutions. Therefore, based on this writing, the author reveals it through the title "Genealogy of the Land Mafia: Historical Analysis in the National Land System".

## METHOD

This research delves into the historical roots of land mafia practices within the national land system, employing a normative juridical method as its central methodological approach (F Rizky, 2020). To gather pertinent information, the author primarily relies on primary data sources obtained through meticulous literature study or library research. This crucial stage involves a comprehensive search for relevant scholarly materials directly connected to the research topic. Following the initial search, a rigorous process of source division and separation is undertaken to ensure that only the most pertinent information is retained for analysis. Ultimately, the data processing and analysis extraction remain consistently aligned with the research title throughout the entirety of the author's work (Soekanto, 2014).

Furthermore, this study strategically utilizes structuralism theory as a vital analytical tool to dissect the complexities of the land mafia phenomenon. Structuralism theory provides a framework for understanding the underlying social, economic, and political structures that have facilitated the emergence and persistence of land mafia activities (Alting et al., 2025). By applying this theoretical lens, the research aims to identify the specific structural conditions that have enabled the development and continuation of these illicit practices within the national land system. This approach allows for a deeper understanding of the systemic factors contributing to the problem, moving beyond individual cases to examine the broader societal context.

In essence, the chosen methodology, combining normative juridical analysis with a focus on primary data from literature and the application of structuralism theory, offers a robust framework for a comprehensive historical analysis of the land mafia. This approach enables the research to not only trace the genealogical development of these practices but also to critically examine the enduring structural factors that contribute to their perpetuation within the national land system. The integration of these methodological elements promises a nuanced and insightful exploration of this complex and significant issue.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

As a timeless source of life for the agrarian community, land is a supporting factor in producing abundant non-biological resources. Its existence can sustain all mankind on earth, and what it contains is an abundance that will one day disappear. Even so, land that brings many benefits to humans can be a boomerang for humans themselves. Often, the problems that come

from this land can have dimensions such as social, political, legal, and even more broadly, which encompasses all aspects of people's lives (Abdurrahan, 2011).

With the presence of things among the people, this is where the state plays an important role in coordinating the existing crisis. Land has never belonged to the state, but the state has the authority to manage it. Such as the violation of order and irregularities in the management and use of land, Law Number 5 of 1960 concerning the Basic Agrarian Regulations of land in the territory of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia is controlled by the state and if the land is not having rights from an individual or legal entity, the land will be directly managed by the state (Pattenreng, 2009).

The unrelenting dynamics of community development make the need for land even more significant. According to the Central Statistics Agency in 2023, Indonesia's population has reached 281.2 million people (BPS, 2023). If viewed from this data, the timing of land supply for the coming years will be even thinner. Therefore, efforts are needed to solve these problems so that the supply of land for the Indonesian people can be ensured. The government has made efforts, one of which is the existence of a land bank, to ensure that the people mandated by the law are hereinafter called the Land Bank Agency, which is a special body (*sui generis*) formed by the central government through a special authority to manage land. According to Article 3, paragraph (2), the functions of the land bank are as follows (Government Regulation of the Republic of Indonesia, 2021):

- a. planning long-term, medium-term, and annual activities;
- b. acquiring land that can be sourced from the determination of the government and other parties;
- c. procuring land for development in the public interest or direct land procurement;
- d. carry out land management from development, maintenance, and security, and land management;
- e. making land use through cooperation with other parties; and
- f. distributing land by carrying out land supply and distribution of land.

Therefore, with the function of the duties of the legal entity of this land bank, the government's efforts in providing land for the community should be guaranteed. Considering this fundamental function, the acquisition of land for the public interest necessitates a serious governmental commitment to overcoming land depletion for the sustainability of humanity. This entails a robust framework for the land bank, ensuring its operations align with the intended purpose of securing land resources for future generations. Furthermore, effective management and transparent governance of the land bank are crucial to prevent misuse and ensure equitable distribution. The government must also establish clear regulations and oversight mechanisms to hold the land bank accountable for its duties. Ultimately, a well-functioning land bank, operating with integrity and purpose, can significantly contribute to securing land access for the community and safeguarding long-term sustainability. These efforts underscore the vital role of governmental bodies in proactively addressing land scarcity and its implications for societal well-being.

In line with all that, it has become a reality that humans live at the same time as the land. This implies that society cannot be separated from the land. Many activities from the community require an important role from the land, ranging from gardening, digging springs, building livelihoods on them, and even other sustainability practices that require a significant role from the land. Thus, the role of land in life is integrated, without which humans will find it difficult to survive or just to enjoy life. It is like an anomaly if humans do not need the role of land in their lives. Considering that all fields or sectors in life need this role.

The important role and function of land causes a lot of problems with the land. Whether the problem is due to human actions or the problem arises due to natural shocks that do not want to see themselves destroyed by humans themselves. One of the problems born due to natural disasters is just to soil erosion. This can happen due to the erosion of the soil layer,

which has several contributing factors, such as natural factors and human activities. The natural factor is the descent of rainfall with very high intensity, thus eroding the soil layers. While the human factor itself is committing illegal or irresponsible acts of some kind, deforestation removes soil vegetation. Therefore, both of these things result in soil loss and harm the surrounding environment.

In addition, land problems have now transformed into land conflicts and land disputes. Land conflicts are a gap in the social sphere, but they are broader and pervasive, and more varied in encompassing social, economic, and cultural. This can be interpreted that land conflicts do not only focus on legal issues, but also involve tensions between groups or communities that are even more extensive. Meanwhile, in a land dispute, it is a legal barrier that occurs between two or more parties regarding land rights. In land disputes, the problems usually involve Claims of ownership, land boundaries, or the use of land rights.

The multifaceted nature of land ownership presents a dual reality, offering both considerable benefits and engendering intricate challenges within communities (Author, Year). Consequently, the presence of this valuable resource is often accompanied by a complex web of issues that demand careful consideration (Source). These problems manifest in various forms, ranging from environmental degradation such as erosion caused by both natural forces and human activities (Citation) to socio-legal conflicts involving land ownership and usage (Reference). The prevalence of land disputes further underscores the intricate and often contentious relationship between communities and their land resources. This juxtaposition highlights a critical paradox: land, while inherently possessing immense potential and advantages, is simultaneously burdened by a spectrum of problems that its very existence seems to generate (Another Source). Therefore, a comprehensive understanding of these intertwined benefits and challenges is essential for effective land management and sustainable development.

But unlike this one, the problem of land is currently transformed into an individual actor, namely, the "Land Mafia". If we review that land disputes and conflicts are more about the community or group within it. While this one, leaning towards planned plotters. Land mafia can be created because of social and economic disparities in society. This inequality seems to be a golden opportunity for the land mafia to carry out its actions. They take advantage of groups with minimal knowledge, difficult access to the legal realm, and a small household income that makes people vulnerable to being deceived. Therefore, the impulse of their desire is getting stronger to optimize their ability to lie in taking over other people's property. Not to mention the emergence of the land mafia due to the high economic value of land, the lack of integrated land administration, the lack of evidence of unique land rights, negative publications of the land registration system, and weak law enforcement (Wirawan et al., 2024). What is interesting about this Land Mafia case can be seen from one of the cases that occurred in the city of Sukabumi (Putri, 2020):

According to the daily news, Kompas.com, land mafia cases in Sukabumi occurred in the Citarik Village area, Pelabuhan Ratu District. This case was revealed after a report from a victim, namely Hoerudin Gozali, who had rented out his land with an area of 1,400 square meters. Gozali revealed that he and the Land Mafia entered into a land contract agreement for five years. In the early days of the contract, everything went smoothly without any problems. However, after the time of his contract expired, things just turned around. The Land Mafia has carried out Levering (reversal) of land rights owned by Gozali, even the Land Mafia issued proof of ownership, namely the Certificate of Ownership (SHM) Number 3507 of 2018 to Gozali. The ingenuity of the Land Mafia to obtain a certificate is to manipulate ATR/BPN employees by completing the administration of a Letter of Release of Rights (SPH). Therefore, the basis of legality owned by the Land Mafia for the issuance of a Certificate and taking over the rights to Gozali's land is in a manipulative way (Kompas, 2022).

The case in the city of Sukabumi indicates that the character of the land mafia has been planned from the beginning. The land mafia's clever excuses in such a way that the legal



umbrella in Indonesia looks very weak and helpless. Strangely enough, both the regulations and the people themselves want to be manipulated. The data shows that most of the victims do not know that their land certificates have been changed to someone else's. The victims only realized this when their land had been physically controlled by the land mafia (Nurhasan, 2006).

From some of the opinions in advance, it is said that the land mafia is a group, or even a legal entity, that carries out the forced acquisition of land rights. They gather, do, or plan to take over the ownership of other people's land until they finally gain their advantage. However, etymologically, mafia comes from the Sicilian language, which means arrogance or confidence. Originally, the term was used to describe the character of a believing and courageous individual. However, as time goes by and global developments, the word has changed its meaning and has a negative connotation that refers to the uncommendable actions carried out by the perpetrator. The behavior of this group shows a dominant and defiant attitude of the authorities, who often protect themselves and their communities through unofficial means.

The term "mafia" originated in Sicily, referring to the use of private violence in the public sphere. Its etymology remains controversial. Despite its feudal nature, the mafia is a modern phenomenon that emerged during the unification of Italy, when new state structures sought to impose themselves on a still-feudal agrarian society. Without effective central control, the mafia was a political tool for politicians, who ruled through the absentee landlord class in Palermo, the island's center of wealth and power (Blok, 2008).

From this historical analysis, the word "mafia" was finally used for the first time. In the 19th century, the word "mafia" was considered a term to name a specific social group. The word itself is a consequence of the dialect translated as "morte," which means pride and courage. But in the 19th century, some social groups, such as workers, called themselves the Mafia, just to show respect for each other's strength and courage. Even the Sicilian mafia flourished to protect the land from predatory attacks when government-provided security was scarce and bandits were widespread (Bandiera, 2003). The statement is a perception with what has been done by Battisti, M., Bernardo, G., Kourtellos, A., & Lavezzi, A. (2025) which reveals that "The Sicilian Mafia's emergence in the 19th century was linked to the characteristics of latifundia, a historical pattern of inequality in agricultural areas."

However, in the 19th century, on the other hand, there were members of the same group who began to be involved in various criminal activities such as extortion and the sale of illegal drugs. Since then, people have started associating the idea of the mafia with the formation of organized crime. As the 20th century began, the use of the term "mafia" spread out of Italy and was used to designate criminal groups in other states, although the names and structures of these groups vary. The spread of the term mainly extended to the United States, where the Italian-American mafia became a major symbol of crime terorganisir (Lupo, 2015). Therefore, the word mafia today can mean bad; the real reality of this term symbolizes violence, corruption, and the phenomenon of lawlessness that is far from its original meaning as a social quality. Therefore, the term land mafia is now widespread everywhere. And the term in Indonesia can also refer to the actions of a group or plotters who are active in taking over the rights to land belonging to others.

Historically, the land mafia in Indonesia is an individual who practices illegal practices to control or take over land rights in an illegal way. Televised back in the era of colonialism, Indonesia experienced land control that was fully owned by the Dutch East Indies government. One of the most well-known land rights is eigendom rights, which is the unrestricted control of land, the possession to be enjoyed as widely as possible, and completely, so that with such a method of land tenure, many indigenous and communal communities lose their land rights and prefer to leave their own land rather than get involved in various conflicts. This can lead to unequal access to land in Indonesia, so that if you look at it, the land mafia can be rooted in the colonial legacy and the long-term impact of the Dutch colonial rule (Putri et al., 2024). Thus,

Indonesia's land ownership struggles persist due to legal pluralism and colonialism, leading to ongoing conflicts and claims over land (Obeng, 2021).

Until in the end, this process created a polarization of power that was intended for the colonials and certain parties, thus causing prolonged and continuous social injustice. Therefore, prolonged injustice and irregular land tenure give birth to deep social injustices over land, so that it can contribute to the birth of the land mafia because it takes advantage of the weakness of the legal system and the community's lack of understanding of its rights. Colonialism formed the foundation of social injustice and land exploitation through dispossession, oppression, and the destruction of local socio-cultural systems because these behaviors were polarized, therefore it became a legacy that is still felt today in the form of inequality, agrarian conflicts, and environmental damage, as well as opening space for land mafia practices due to weak legal protection and public understanding (Urzedo et al., 2021). After reviewing historically, the land mafia was born due to the loss of land owned by the people taken by the colonialists. Forced land tenure where indigenous people are expelled from their own land creates endless injustice and fuels social tensions that harm many communities. In this context, the land mafia takes advantage of the already unstable situation to take over the rights to land that should be owned by the people. In other words, Schadenfreude describes taking advantage of the suffering of others (NGO, 2020).

These illegal practices eventually created a cycle that continues to this day. However, it is done in a more modern way, especially in political order and processes, development, and land policy (Murad, 2007). Therefore, by tracing the origins of the mafia which was historically born due to the history of legal uncertainty, inequality, and weak state protection, so that by understanding it, the community will be much more vigilant and strengthen their position in defending land rights.

It should be emphasized that knowing how the process of the birth of the land mafia works is very important to add a deeper understanding. With increasing understanding and knowledge, at a time when the same problem occurs, where land ownership is becoming increasingly unclear, and people who are struggling to defend their land are no longer trapped in a land conflict that has become polarized. Therefore, by increasing the understanding of the community, they can maintain what they have, so that in the future the community will be able to break the polarization carried out by the land mafia after gaining a deep understanding and being much more vigilant against people who seem to have bad intentions.

Indeed, there is currently a program launched by the government through agraria reform to restore land rights for people who have been taken over their power with the aim of returning the land to the people who have the right. So that it can reduce inequality and provide opportunities for people to manage their own resources. However, the reality is that there are still challenges in law enforcement and inter-institutional coordination, so better synergy between the government, the community, and the private sector is needed for a transparent and accountable land system (Amrullah dan Bakir, 2024).

So that the implementation is contrary to the expected goals due to the lack of supervision and poor administrative performance. Therefore, it even opens a gap for new problems to arise by the land mafia. They take advantage of weaknesses in the legal and administrative systems to claim land, duplicate certificates, and intimidating means. Therefore, it has not been able to be a solution to the loss of inequality faced by society. There must be a strengthening of the administrative system, law enforcement, and digitization of land services which will later play an important role in closing the gap in land mafia practices and realizing agrarian justice.

**Table 1. Summary of Research Findings on Land Issues and the Land Mafia**

Aspect	Description
Importance of Land	Land is a vital resource for agrarian communities and human survival; it supports life and development across all sectors.

State Role in Land Management	Although the state does not own land, it manages and regulates it under Law No. 5/1960. Unused land without legal ownership is under state control.
Land Bank Function	Established to secure land supply via planning, acquisition, management, distribution, and cooperation as regulated in Government Regulation (2021).
Growing Land Demand	With Indonesia's population reaching 281.2 million (BPS, 2023), land scarcity is an imminent issue that necessitates efficient land management.
Environmental and Social Land Problems	Issues such as erosion (natural and man-made causes like deforestation) and land degradation affect environmental sustainability.
Land Conflicts vs. Land Disputes	- <i>Conflicts</i> : Broader social, economic, and cultural tensions. - <i>Disputes</i> : Legal disagreements over ownership, boundaries, or usage rights.
Paradox of Land Ownership	Land provides benefits but also creates complex socio-legal and environmental challenges, requiring balanced governance.
Emergence of the Land Mafia	Arises due to: Social and economic inequality High land value Weak land administration Limited public legal literacy Corrupt practices and poor law enforcement
Land Mafia Practices	Includes forgery, manipulation of officials, illegal acquisition (e.g., Sukabumi case), often targeting vulnerable communities.
Etymology and Global Context of 'Mafia'	Originated in Sicily (19th century), initially denoting pride and protection, later evolving into organized crime and spreading globally.
Historical Roots in Indonesia	Colonial policies (e.g., <i>eigendom</i> rights) dispossessed indigenous peoples, creating systemic inequality and injustice—precursors to modern land mafia activity.
Current Challenges	Weak law enforcement, poor administrative systems, and legal pluralism perpetuate land mafia influence and hinder land reform efforts.
Government Reforms	Agrarian reform aims to redistribute land fairly, but effectiveness is hampered by poor coordination, inadequate oversight, and exploitation by land mafias.
Recommendations	Increase public awareness and legal literacy Improve governance and transparency Strengthen institutional coordination Reform administrative procedures

Land holds a central role in Indonesia's socio-economic and political landscape, serving as a vital resource for agrarian communities. However, its significance has also made it a focal point for various conflicts and disputes. The Indonesian government's establishment of the Land Bank Agency (LBA) aimed to address land scarcity and ensure equitable distribution. Yet, overlapping authorities and conflicting regulations have hindered its effectiveness. The LBA's dual role in facilitating investment and implementing agrarian reform has led to a disorientation of its authority, often prioritizing economic interests over social justice (Papuluwa, 2024).

The rise of the land mafia in Indonesia is a manifestation of systemic weaknesses in land governance. These groups exploit legal ambiguities, corruption, and administrative inefficiencies to unlawfully acquire land. Cases like the one in Sukabumi highlight how land mafias manipulate legal documents and collude with officials to legitimize their claims (Kompas, 2022). Such incidents underscore the urgent need for robust legal frameworks and enforcement mechanisms to protect land rights and prevent exploitation.

Historical factors contribute significantly to current land issues. Colonial-era land policies established patterns of inequality and dispossession that persist today. The Dutch colonial administration's emphasis on large-scale land ownership disrupted traditional land tenure systems, marginalizing indigenous communities. Post-independence, the lack of comprehensive land reform allowed these disparities to continue, creating fertile ground for land mafias to thrive (Obeng, 2021). Legal pluralism in Indonesia further complicates land governance. The coexistence of customary (adat) laws and formal state laws often leads to overlapping claims and disputes. Communities relying on customary rights frequently find themselves at a disadvantage in legal proceedings, lacking formal documentation to support their claims. This legal uncertainty is exploited by land mafias, who use formal legal channels to legitimize their illicit acquisitions (Sihombing, 2023).



Efforts to combat land mafias require a multifaceted approach. Strengthening legal institutions, enhancing transparency in land transactions, and promoting community awareness are crucial steps. The implementation of digital land registries and public access to land records can reduce opportunities for fraud. Moreover, empowering local communities through legal education and support can help them defend their land rights effectively (Sihombing, 2023). In conclusion, addressing the challenges posed by land mafias in Indonesia necessitates comprehensive reforms in land governance. This includes clarifying the roles and responsibilities of institutions like the Land Bank Agency, reconciling customary and formal legal systems, and ensuring equitable access to land resources. By tackling these issues, Indonesia can move towards a more just and sustainable land management system that benefits all segments of society.

## CONCLUSION

Historically, the land mafia in Indonesia was born due to the loss of land owned by the people taken by the colonialists. Forced land tenure, where indigenous people are evicted from their land, creates endless injustice and fuels social tensions that harm many communities. Therefore, prolonged injustice and irregular land tenure gave birth to deep social injustice over land, thus contributing to the birth of the land mafia because it took advantage of the weakness of the legal system and the community's lack of understanding of their rights at that time. Thus, Indonesia's land ownership struggles persist due to legal pluralism and colonialism, leading to ongoing conflicts and claims over land.

Meanwhile, in addition to the long history of the birth of the land mafia in Indonesia. The term “mafia” originated in Sicily in the 19th century, referring to the use of private violence in public spaces, and its etymology was controversial at the time. Regardless, its emergence was at the time of the unification of Italy, when the new state structures sought to impose themselves on a still feudal agrarian society. The emergence of the Mafia in Sicily in the 19th century was closely related to the characteristics of *latifundia*, a historical pattern of inequality in agricultural areas. This is what led to the existence of the land mafia, which was the initial condition without effective central control, leading to unfettered freedom to abuse the values of justice, honesty, truth, and morals. Hence, the birth of the word land mafia can be traced back to Sicily, which is associated with a group of people working together to take the property of others.

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