



## **The Fishermen Struggle on the Extreme Climate Change**

### **Script of Feature Production by JRKDem**

Indonesia is an archipelago that is inhabited by millions of people who live in coastal areas; most of them depend on marine resources. Therefore, the life and economy of coastal communities, especially fishermen will be very dependent on natural conditions, like a climatic condition, wind speed, currents and the height of sea wave.

Climate change is happening. It is extremely unpredictable and causing fishermen difficulties to find the fish. Sometimes even their lives at stake in their activities at sea. Sinking of fishing boats and accidents due to big waves are part of the impact of climate change.

Host Noor Chasanah interviews Mr.Soyin, a 63 years-old man who since childhood has been a fisherman in the Kemantren village, Paciran sub district, Lamongan, East Java. In order to meet the life needs of his family, he willingly braved the huge waves in the sea to catch fish.

According to him, the life of fishermen is currently much more difficult than in the past. The presence of strong winds and big waves is due to climate change. It is a tough challenge that must be faced by fishermen. He has seen a change in the last 3 years.

Currently there are about 120 people in the Kemantren village who work as fishermen. But with the extreme sea conditions, many fishermen do not dare go out to sea every day.

According Mr.Soyin, the fishermen so far do not obtain information about climate change from the government. They know about the weather forecast that is going to happen based on the count of the wind in a year.

Erratic climatic conditions, finally affects the income of Mr.Soyin and other fishermen.

Therefore, in order to supplement his income as a fisherman, Mr.Soyin is using his boats to transport goods that are required by large ships in ports in the region.

Besides Mr. Soyin as traditional fisherman, the host also interviews Mr. Ridwan, a modern fisherman who uses a large ship with many people (staff) to go out looking for fish in the sea. For him, the cost and the risk is much greater today than a few years ago.

In addition, the effects of climate change and prolonged heat today have an impact on the lives of fishermen.

Mr. Ridwan added that due to the rainy season that did not come, several fish species which have an high economic value have not appear on the surface of the sea.

According to Mr.Ridwan, the information on climate change isn't known so that his calculation to get to the fish often is not in accordance with what he expects.

With uncertain climate conditions, then Mr. Ridwan's income as a fisherman has decreased drastically, even sometimes he doesn't make a profit.

Mr. Ridwan and other fishermen have to face the risk that is quite large, but until now they have never gotten any safety guarantees or insurance from the government.

Mr. Ridwan hopes that the government wants to help and hears the complaints of the fishermen.

Mr. Soyin and Mr. Ridwan are a small example of the lives of fishermen in Indonesia who continue to struggle in the midst of extreme climate change. The economic conditions, health and education of fishermen families should get more attention from the government and all elements of society to realize the welfare of fishermen.

This feature is presented by the Community Radio Network for Democracy (JRKDem) cooperates with the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC).

I'm Noor Chasanah conveying to you.

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