

## **Lesson Learn The Leadership Period of Admiral Keumalahayati for the Development of Maritime Defense Strategy**

**Anis Nur Laily<sup>1)</sup>, Agus Adriyanto<sup>2)</sup>, Rudy Sutanto<sup>3)</sup>, Lukman Yudho Prakoso<sup>4)</sup>**

<sup>1,2,3,4)</sup> Sea Defense Strategy, Faculty of Defense Strategy, Republic of Indonesia Defense University

\*Corresponding Author

Email: [anisnurlaily500@gmail.com](mailto:anisnurlaily500@gmail.com)

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### **Abstract**

*Aceh is one of the provinces in Indonesia which is located at the tip of Sumatra Island. History records that Aceh has a strategic position which is the starting point for trade from the sea. Both national and international traders use Aceh as a transportation route. The maritime history of the Kingdom of Aceh can be preserved and published, such as the story of Admiral Keumalahayati. The purpose of this research is to take lessons from the story of Admiral Keumalahayati's leadership for the development of a maritime defense strategy. This study uses qualitative methods and uses a socio-political approach to determine the character of leadership and historical methods to determine the journey of Admiral Keumalahayati's leadership. The results showed that Admiral Keumalahayati had been the leader of the Inong Bale Troop (widow woman), conducting diplomacy with countries that wanted to cooperate with the Kingdom of Aceh. Admiral Keumalahayati was the first female warlord to become the navy leader of the Kingdom of Aceh. This maritime history ultimately has a significant role in overcoming several problems related to Indonesia's position as the world's maritime axis country.*

**Keywords:** *Leadership, Admiral Keumalahayati, Marine Defense Strategy*

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Aceh Province is part of Indonesia which is located at the tip of the island of Sumatra, is a maritime area that is blessed with abundant marine and fishery potential with a coastline that covers 1,660 km<sup>2</sup> with an area of 295,370 km<sup>2</sup> sea area<sup>2</sup>. Astronomically Aceh is located between 95013' and 98013' east longitude and 2048' and 5040' north latitude. Aceh is an area that has a very strong maritime culture from ancient times. Judging from its position, Aceh can be called the gateway to the west of the Indonesian archipelago. In the course of history, Aceh's strategic position has attracted many foreign nations with various interests such as trade, diplomacy and so on. The arrival of various foreign nations is important for the development of Aceh itself, both culturally, politically and economically. Even so, among the foreign immigrants there were also immigrants who carried out actions driven by colonialism and imperialism (Ismail, 2021).

History records that the city of Sabang was a city that used to have a free port which was the busiest port in the world. The influence of the geographical location of Aceh which is in the Malacca Strait makes Aceh one of the areas passed by many local and international traders in the past as a very strategic sea transportation route. Aceh's maritime history during the reign of the Kingdom of Aceh which should be preserved and published. An Acehnese hero, Sultan Iskandar Muda and Admiral Keumalahayati, are one of Aceh's most memorable heroes in the history of Aceh's maritime shipping. Both of them were important figures in the struggle for territory in Aceh when fighting colonialism (Saifullah, 2012).

The coming of the Portuguese to Asia, especially the Malay area, was followed by the Spanish and the Dutch in 1596. The English also followed because

the success of the Dutch nation with the aim of trade relations with the Indonesian nation. The desired trade is spices because Indonesia is a spice producing country. The shipping and trade of the British, which were once feared by the Portuguese at sea. During the voyage it was known that the power of the Portuguese was opposed by the Kingdom of Aceh, the only strong kingdom that could wage war with the Portuguese (Syafaah, 2017).

Foreign nations who want imperialism and colonialism are met with resistance. This resistance was mainly carried out to defend the position of the sovereign Acehnese. The Portuguese were in conflict with Aceh because they tried to seize Malacca from the hands of the Muslims in 1511 and their intervention in the kingdoms around the Malacca Strait. Aceh which had grown as a large empire, as a substitute for Malacca which had been captured by the Portuguese, tried to fight and expel the Portuguese from the Malacca Strait region. Aceh considers the Portuguese to be destroyers of the harmony of life and trading networks that have been a tradition in the Malacca Straits (Ilham & Merry, 2021).

The Aceh-Portuguese conflict lasted throughout the XVI century until the end of the quarter of the XVII century. In this relatively long conflict, prominent figures emerged from both parties concerned. From the works of foreign writers and writers from the Indonesian nation itself about the history of Aceh, it can be found a number of names that were once such figures. Among them is Keumalahayati which is traditionally called by the Acehnese Malahayati or just Hayati (Saifullah, 2012).

Keumalahati is a woman with the rank of admiral (admiral) of the Kingdom of Aceh and was one of the leaders of the navy during the reign of Sultan Alaidin Riayatsyah Al Mukammil (1589-1604) who was popularly called Sultan Al Mukkamil. Before being appointed as an admiral, Keumalahayati had served as the leader of a female army troop in the Kingdom of Aceh. Because of her success in leading the women's troops and also because she won the trust of the sultan, who at that time did not trust men as office holders, women were appointed as admirals (Hastanti et al., 2008).

According to a manuscript (M.S.) stored at the National University of Malaysia and dated 1254 H or around 1875, Keumalahayati came from among the former Acehnese sultans. His father's name was Mahmud Syah, an admiral. His grandfather, from his father's line, was also an admiral named Muhammad Said Syah, son of Sultan Salahuddin Syah who ruled 1530-1539 M. Sultah Salahuddin Syah himself was the son of Sultan Ibrahim Ali Mughayat Syah (1513-1530), founder of the Kingdom of Aceh Darussalam (Saifullah, 2012).

Judging from the Keumalahayati genealogy as contained in M.S. above that his father and grandfather had served as admirals. Apart from being a confidant of the sultan, he was considered capable. The appointment of Keumalahayati as admiral may also have been due to the growing maritime spirit within him, which was passed on to him by his father and grandfather even though he was a woman. Before being appointed as an admiral, Keumalahayati had held the position of commander of a women's army (Wildan et al., 2015).

According to an oral tradition, the women's troops led by Keumalahayati consisted of widows whose husbands died in the wars that occurred between the Kingdom of Aceh and the Portuguese, including Keumalahayati's own husband. The formation of this troop was also on the idea of Keumalahayati. The intention is that the widowed women can take revenge for the death of their husbands. For this reason, Keumalahayati asked the sultan to form a women's army. This request was well received by Sultan Al Mukammil. Furthermore, a female troop was formed which was called the Inong Bale (Woman Widow) fleet. For the benefit of these troops and also as a place for their base, a fort was established which in Acehnese terms is called Kuta Inong Bale (Women's Fort).

Widow). Until now, the former fort can still be found in Krueng Raya Bay, near the Malahayati harbor (Anwar & Turama, 2022).

After taking office as admiral, Keumalahayati coordinated a number of marine troops, overseeing the ports under the syahbandar and also galley type ships (current warships) belonging to the Kingdom of Aceh. John Davis, a Dutch ship captain who visited the Kingdom of Aceh during the time when Keumalahayati became an admiral, said that the Aceh kingdom at that time had a fleet of equipment consisting of 100 warships, some of which had a cargo capacity

of up to 400-500 passengers, who was the leader. at that time was a female admiral, Keumalahayati (Saifullah, 2012).

At the beginning of the XVII century, the Kingdom of Aceh can be said to have a strong army. Its most important strength is the warships owned by its sea fleet, in addition to the elephant troops owned by its ground troops. Apart from the Kingdom of Aceh, which has Bandar Aceh Darussalam as its capital, the ships were also stationed at the port

ports that are under the power or influence of the kingdom, for example Daya and Pedir. Among these ships there are ships whose size exceeds ships made in Europe during the same period (Rizal, 2019).

Keumalahayati's strength as an admiral began to enter a severe test when for the first time there was contact between the Kingdom of Aceh and the Netherlands. On June 21, 1599 two Dutch ships named de Leeuw and de Leeuwin anchored in the capital city of the Kingdom of Aceh. The two ships were each led by two brothers, namely Cornelis de Houtman and Frederick de Houtman. Initially, the two Dutch ships received a good reception from the Kingdom of Aceh because it was hoped that from them a good market would be built for the agricultural products of the Kingdom of Aceh, especially pepper. Admiral Keumalahayati had succeeded in thwarting attempted disturbances by the Dutch Navy under the leadership of Cornelis de Houtman and Frederick de Houtman in 1599. Cornelis de Houtman was killed by Malahayati one on one on the deck of the ship, while Frederic de Houtman was thrown into the custody of the Kingdom of Aceh. Aside from being an admiral, Malahayati is also a reliable diplomat (Saifullah, 2012).

Apart from the Dutch fleet, Admiral Keumalahayati also succeeded in attacking the Portuguese fleet. Keumalahayati's reputation as the gatekeeper of the Kingdom of Aceh, made the British, who recently entered this area, choose to take the path of peace. When developed countries are choking on the issue of gender equality, especially developing countries at this time. The archipelago has long had extraordinary gender heroes. The world's first female war admiral (Syafaah, 2017).

At the time the Inong Bale fleet was formed according to his request to Sultan Al Mukammil, Keumalahayati had sworn before the sultan in the name of God that he would fight to the last drop of blood against the enemies of the Kingdom of Aceh. He proved his words by winning battles and dying on the battlefield. Together with his troops and the Darma Wangsa, who later had the title Iskandar Muda, succeeded in expelling the Portuguese in the battle at Teluk Krueng Raya. Based on the background above, the authors are interested in raising research related to Admiral Keumalahayati's leadership as a study of the currently implemented marine defense strategy (Syafaah, 2017).

## RESEARCH METHODS

This study uses a socio-political approach combined with the concept of behavior. The socio-political approach consists of two words, namely sociology and politics. Sociology itself means the study of society and attempts to describe the past by revealing the social aspects of the events studied. This approach in historical studies aims to understand the subjective meaning of social behavior, not just investigate its objective meaning. Political science has the meaning of science that studies power as a core concept, where the concept. Another concept as an object of political study is the state, decision-making and wisdom. Socio-politics is a science that discusses power, government, authority and command not only in the national community, but in the lives of all communities from the smallest to the largest, from those that are just a blink of an eye to the most stable, there are those who rule and there are those who obey it, those who

make decisions and those who obey those decisions. The scene places socio-politics in certain phenomena that will always reappear in every society (Zainun, 2016).

This study also uses socio-behavioristic theory, namely a theory which states that leadership is born from natural talent, inheritance, and intelligence. Experience in leadership, formal formation in organizations, environmental situations, education and training, social agreements, and political contracts. In the context of leadership, this theory is the most prominent theory. This is because socio-behavioristic theory combines all the views of existing theories, both from sociological, psychological, political, artistic, traditional, and from a management approach. Leadership related to political power, a country's constitutional system, social agreements, organizational behavior, and so on, as a whole is a consideration of socio-behavioral theory (Sadhyoko, 2015).

This socio-behavioristic theory is more comprehensive in view of the fact that humans are seen from the process of forming their leadership behavior. At first, natural talent already exists in a leader, especially in leading himself which is related to the process of survival that is able to survive in the face of various problems that befall him. Then these talents continue to develop through actions imitating attitudes, behavior or physical appearance of the people around them. This is of course based on the ability possessed by the leader. He will develop with a wider range of experiences and become the main stimulus in the development of his leadership (Sadhyoko, 2015).

The concept of behavior emphasizes that the success and failure of a leader is determined by the attitudes and actions taken by the leader. This can be seen from the way of giving orders, giving assignments, communicating, making decisions, encouraging subordinates' morale, enforcing discipline, supervising and others. While the research method used in this study is the historical method. The historical method is an attempt to reconstruct past events tied to scientific procedures. The historical method is also the basic principle used in the process of collecting data or sources, understanding, interpreting, and presenting it in a synthetic form a historical story. The historical method is carried out through four stages to get perfect results, namely heuristics, verification, interpretation and historiography (Baqi, 2020).

Heuristic is the initial stage for a researcher to find, obtain, collect, and record sources related to the object of research. Heuristic is also a skill in finding, handling, and detailing bibliographies, or classifying, and caring for records. The verification stage is carried out to test the legitimacy of the originality of sources which is carried out through external criticism, and the validity of credibility is traced through internal criticism. Describe and sort sources on a regular basis regarding concepts and problems that are in accordance with this research. Internal criticism is done because it relates to the content of the source. Criticism is carried out by comparing the contents of one source with another to obtain accurate data (Baqi, 2020).

Interpretation or interpretation of history is often referred to as historical analysis. Interpretation is the interpretation of data that has become a fact, by describing and collecting relevant data. Based on the data found, the researcher conducts an analysis by understanding the sources obtained to carry out the analysis by understanding the sources that can collect data related to the subject matter. To analyze the discussion about Admiral Keumalahayati, researchers used a political sociology approach combined with behavioral concepts and the theory that researchers used was socio-behavioristic. Historiography is the stage of presenting the results of historical research. There are two layers in the process of writing history. The first layer is a layer of facts. The second layer is the layer that contains a series of facts so that it becomes a coherent historical story. It is at this stage that the results of the process of finding sources, criticizing sources, and interpreting sources are explained in a descriptive-analytic, chronological, and presented in one chapter (Baqi, 2020).



## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The format of the results of research and discussion is not separated, considering the number of pages. The geographical location of Aceh which is surrounded by the high seas and oceans makes the sea an important place in the life of the Acehnese. The sea became a very strategic land to provide income from the economic side, establish communication, and absorb knowledge from various nations who came, because it was a place for trade and the spread of civilization between the European, Arab and Chinese worlds in the past. The sea for Aceh also has a function as a place of struggle and becomes a land to make a stronghold of life from enemy attacks. Warriors use the sea to fight for their religion and country. It was started by Mahmud Syah who played the role of the navy in defending the state and religion of the Acehnese (Baqi, 2020).

Keumalahayati was a female marine admiral, the daughter of Admiral Mahmud Syah who was a highly respected sea commander at that time, also a granddaughter of Sultan Salahuddin Syah who was none other than a descendant of Sultan Ibrahim Mughayat Syah the founder of the Darud Donya Darussalam kingdom (Sultanate of Aceh Darussalam ). Keumalahayati is a woman who comes from Aceh, lived in the 16th century, she studied marine military education at Ma'had Baitul Maqdis located in Kutaraja. Ma'had Baitul Maqdis military education is a place of learning that produces brave officers and is very famous for his courage who is ready to defend *nggroe*. Cadets from various regions of Aceh chose this education including Malahayati, it has been his dream for a long time to gain knowledge, develop and spend time in this education (Saifullah, 2012).

Malahayati was once the head of ocean security. He got that position because he succeeded in defeating sea pirates who disturbed fishermen who were fishing. Its guard area is very wide, from the Malacca Strait to the Indian Ocean. Malahayati then served as Commander of the Darud Donya Aceh Kingdom Protocol whose task was to regulate all activities carried out by the Sultan because the Sultan experienced a crisis of trust in officials in the palace and his family and relatives because he was suspected of having personal interests in controlling the country (Saifullah, 2012).

The story of Keumalahayati's heroism begins when there was a sea battle between the Portuguese fleet and the fleet of the Kingdom of Aceh during the reign of Sultan Al Mukammil. The Aceh fleet was led by the sultan himself and assisted by two admirals. The terrible battle that took place in Haru Bay ended with the destruction of the Portuguese fleet, while the Acehnese, lost two admirals and 1,000 of their soldiers died, one of the admirals who died in the battle in Haru Bay, her husband Keumalahayati who served as commander of the World Darud Palace Protocol named Admiral Tuanku Mahmuddin bin Said Al Latief who is the Commander of the Sea Fleet of the Malacca Straits (Saifullah, 2012).

The victory of the Aceh Malacca Straits fleet over the Portuguese fleet was greeted with joy by all the people of Aceh Darussalam. Likewise, Keumalahayati felt happy and proud of the heroism of her husband who died on the battlefield. Although he was proud, he was also furious and angry at the Portuguese. Not surprisingly, he wanted to avenge his husband's death and vowed to continue fighting the Portuguese. To carry out his intention, he submitted a request to Sultan Mukammil to form an Aceh fleet whose soldiers were widowed women whose husbands died in the battle of Teluk Haru. After the death of her husband, the Sultan dismissed Malahayati from her position (Commander of Royal Protocols). Then Malahayati by the Sultan was appointed Commander of the Malacca Straits to replace her husband to secure the Malacca Straits (Saifullah, 2012).

Considering that Keumalahayati was a capable soldier and alumni of the Military Academy, the sultan was happy to grant his request. For this reason, Keumalahayati was

entrusted with the task of being commander of the fleet and was appointed admiral. The newly formed fleet was named Armada Inong Bale (Armana Female Widow) by taking the Krueng Raya Bay as its base, or its full name was Teluk Lamreh Krueng Raya. It was around the Krueng Raya Bay that Admiral Keumalahayati built the Inong Bale fort which was located on a hill about 100 meters high above sea level. The wall facing the sea is 3 meters wide with cannon holes leading into the bay. The fortress, in Acehnese terms, is called Kuto Inong Bale (Wildan et al., 2015).

Keumalahayati said, being Commander in Chief was a noble task and had a great responsibility. Being a commander must have a high leadership spirit. A true leader is a person who is able to serve, traits that enable him to carry out his duties and responsibilities as well as possible. Keumalahayati considers being a leader not to prioritize personal interests but to uphold justice and truth. The resistance carried out by Keumalahayati went through several stages stages of mastery and building strength to take the fight. Like starting to master the domestic and public fields. In these two fields, Keumalahayati becomes a subject that can determine its own will. The public part is like being part of the public institution, or government department. This was also done by Keumalahayati by being part of the top officials of the Kingdom of Aceh (Sayuti Aquarini Prayatna, 2021).

After becoming an admiral, Keumalahayati coordinated a number of marine troops, supervised the ports under the syahbandar and also warships belonging to the Kingdom of Aceh. When the Inong Bale fleet was formed, it only consisted of 1,000 young widows whose husbands died in the Haru sea battle field. The number of troops was enlarged by Admiral Keumalahayati to 2,000 people. These additional personnel are no longer widows, but teenage girls who want to join the Inong Balee troops led by Admiral Keumalahayati. At the beginning of the XVII century, the Kingdom of Aceh already had a formidable army. Its most important strength is the warships owned by its Navy. Besides that, the Royal Aceh Army also has elephant troops. To fill the territory and conquered areas, the Kingdom of Aceh placed its warships in ports that were under its control or under its influence. As Commander of the Malacca Straits, Admiral Keumalahayati has the main task of maintaining the peace of the Malacca Straits (Masrizal et al., 2020).

Keumalahayati was not only an Admiral and Commander of the Royal Aceh Navy, but he was also the Commander of the Women's Palace Guards. Admiral Keumalahayati is also a reliable diplomat and negotiator. It is proven from various experiences in facing practiceits counter partfrom Holland and England. As a military man, Keumalahayati was firm and highly disciplined, but in dealing with negotiations, he was flexible without sacrificing his principles. In maintaining the security of the Malacca Strait, Keumalahayati routinely checks the situation and carries out operations if it finds ships that are anchored and buys spices from the country. paraInong Baleeas Admiral Keumalahayati's troops, trained to fight to continue the struggle of their husbands (Rizal, 2019).

After the Cornelis de Houtman incident, on November 21, 1600 the Dutch came again to the Kingdom of Aceh with two ships led by Paulus van Caerden. However, the Dutch made a carelessness before entering the Port of Aceh, namely sinking an Acehnese trading ship and transferring all the pepper loads to the Dutch ship and then just leaving the coast of Aceh. On June 31, 1601, Dutch traders came again to buy pepper led by Admiral Jacob van Neck. After the robbery incident, Keumalahayati ordered his men to hold back the Dutch troops and was informed that Admiral Paulus van Caerden had sunk an Acehnese merchant ship. Therefore, as compensation, the sultan had ordered the captivity of every Dutch ship anchored in Aceh waters. (Saifullah, 2012)

By August 23, 1601, traders returned to Aceh on the orders of Prince Maurits to establish friendly relations with the Kingdom of Aceh. Prince Maurits will also punish van Caerden. This made the Sultan of Aceh willing to accept their presence in Aceh and convinced Aceh through

Keumalahayati. They were allowed to trade in Aceh and Keumalahayati was ordered to free all Dutch prisoners including Frederick de Houtman. Another important event was the sending of three Aceh envoys to the Netherlands, one of these representatives was a naval officer under the leadership of Keumalahayati. The three of them were the first Aceh ambassadors from the Kingdom in Asia who had ever been sent to Europe (Saifullah, 2012).

Apart from the Dutch, the British also came to cooperate with Aceh. Lancaster held negotiations with Admiral Keumalahayati. From then on, the Portuguese seemed to dislike the arrival of the British and the Dutch. The Portuguese began to build forts on the island on the coast of Aceh. The establishment of the fort was opposed by the Acehnese. The Kingdom of Aceh has changed sultan from Sultan Al Mukammil to Sultan Ali Riayat Syah who is his son. Dharmawangsa Tun Pangkat was the nephew of Sultan Ali Riayat Syah who was imprisoned in 1606. At the request of Keumalahayati, Darmawangsa was released to help fight against the Portuguese. Fierce fighting in the waters of Aceh ensued. Thanks to the persistence of Admiral Keumalahayati and Darmawangsa, the Portuguese troops were finally defeated. The incompetent Sultan Ali Riayat Syah finally abdicated and was replaced by Darmawangsa with the help of Admiral Keumalahayati. Then Darmawangsa had the title of Sultan Iskandan Muda who ruled the Kingdom of Aceh from 1607-1636 AD. In 1607, Keumalahayati died. His name is not only remembered by the people of Aceh, but also by the international community as the guardian of world trade stability in his time (Saifullah, 2012).

"Indonesian history is maritime history", this expression implies that the Indonesian nation is essentially a maritime or maritime nation that bases all its life activities on the existence of the sea. The sea is not a separator between islands, but the sea is a unifier for communities, ethnic groups or races that live in one area. Many kingdoms in Indonesia, both Hindu-Buddhist and Islamic, have successively demonstrated their superiority in controlling the seas. The presence of the Portuguese, the Dutch and the British systematically succeeded in crippling maritime power and destroying the nation's hegemony Indonesia at sea. Facing these foreign powers, there was resistance from the Indonesian people, with the maritime spirit between the 16-19th centuries, the Indonesian seas were colored by sea warfare (Lemhanas RI, 2014).

However, these resistance efforts seemed to be in vain, because the backwardness of technology, tactics, politics and divide et impera became the main factors of failure. One by one the Indonesian nation's maritime power base was paralyzed and we were thrown out of the sea and became an agricultural nation. During the era of the Hindu-Buddhist Indonesian kingdom, many historical sources confirmed the evidence of the glorious marine life of the Indonesian nation. Since the decline of Majapahit at the end of the 15th century AD, control of Indonesia's maritime trade has been fragmented into a number of coastal Islamic kingdoms. In the Malacca Strait, the Malaccan kingdom appeared as a major force whose influence extended to the Riau Islands, Johor, Pasai and Aceh. Malacca grew to become a port that regulated the flow of rice and pepper from Java, spices from Maluku, porcelain from China, and cloth from India and the Middle East (Syafaah, 2017).

At the beginning of independence after the Portuguese, British and Dutch and Japanese colonization, the Indonesian Navy had a high spirit of service. Despite the lack of facilities and infrastructure, the longing for glory at sea, which for nearly three and a half centuries of Dutch colonial rule, had the opportunity to be realized. Under the promises of independence in the future, the longing for glory as a maritime nation in the future is resurrected. The obsession with the emergence of tough sailors, the influence of the oceans that had been dead had been rising again. Japan gave young people the opportunity to become Heiho and Kaigun soldiers as well as students at the High Shipping School (SPT) in Jakarta, Semarang and Surabaya. It turned out that the results of the education from the SPT gave rise to a number of Indonesian Navy officers

who played a major role in restoring Indonesia's maritime glory, such as Yos Soedarso (Sadhyoko, 2015).

For maritime defense, Admiral Keumalahayati is the world's first female figure who inspired the Indonesian Navy, especially the Srikandi-Srikandi Korps Wanita, especially in developing the strengths and capabilities of members as a leader in national defense and security at sea. The name Keumalahayati has been immortalized for the name of the corvette-type warship, KRI Malahayati-362 which has strengthened the Indonesian Navy since 1980. The name Keumalahayati has also been enshrined as one of the names of the Center for Electronics and Weapons Control Training Building at the Navy's Doctrine Development, Education and Training Command. The figure of Admiral Keumalahayati inspires women as strategists as well as diplomacy experts, and builds sea control capabilities and maritime security interdependence.

Maritime history can be projected to have a significant role in overcoming several problems related to Indonesia's position as the world's maritime axis country. Geographically, Indonesia is the largest archipelagic region in the world. This area is inhabited by various ethnic groups who for centuries have used the sea as a vehicle to communicate with each other. Maritime history will be a vehicle for raising awareness of the historical processes that have led to the formation of the Indonesian nation. Maritime history is very suitable to be used as a medium for socialization and enculturation of maritime cultural values as a basis for building a maritime nation in the future (Lemhanas RI, 2014).

Maritime history will be able to provide a broad discourse on cross-cultural communication between one community and another which is the basis for the process of integration among Indonesian people. This is possible because the relationship by sea has preconditioned the occurrence of cross-cultural communication through shipping and trade channels. The ability to manage the sea and the resources contained therein as capital to realize the various interests of the nation and state can basically be carried out if there is political will from all components of the nation and its leaders. Even in the history of culture it has been recorded that the Sriwijaya and Majapahit Kingdoms were once centers of excellence in the maritime, cultural and religious fields throughout the Southeast Asian region (Lemhanas RI, 2014).

## CONCLUSION

The Indonesian nation was born from the struggle of intelligent, critical and responsible national leaders. The seeds of this national consciousness have begun to emerge from the bright ideas of the leaders which reflect the noble ideals of the Indonesian people. A number of names from the regions have contributed their valuable thoughts and ideas. The existence of the Indonesian nation is largely determined by educated, intelligent and enlightened thinkers and national figures. One of them was Admiral Keumalahayati. Nowadays when people talk about gender equality, in fact Indonesia (Aceh) already has great gender heroes. In addition, it turns out that she is also the world's first female war admiral. This exemplary and wisdom in the history of his life's journey needs to be expressed again in order to make us aware that the Indonesian state was formed with the contribution of a number of national thinkers who came from various regions. The unity that they have designed should not be damaged and distorted by present and future generations, just because of differences in principles and ideology. For maritime defense, Admiral Keumalahayati is the world's first female figure who inspired the Indonesian Navy, especially the Srikandi-Srikandi Korps Wanita, especially in developing the strengths and capabilities of members as a leader in national defense and security at sea. The figure of Admiral Keumalahayati inspires women as strategists as well as diplomacy experts, and builds sea control capabilities and maritime security interdependence.



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