Article

The Sharia Practices for Establishing Sustainable Mining Industry

Libertina Widyamurti Ambari

Faculty of Engineering, University of Cendrawasih, Jayapura, Papua, Indonesia

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Correspondence
Libertina Widyamurti Ambari, Kampus Uncen Waena Jl. Kamp Wolker, Jayapura, 99358, Indonesia Telp.: (+62)-0967-587-290 Fax: (+62)-0967-587-257 E-mail: wilbertina@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

As mining will be the cornerstone of human civilization, it is continuing and shall continue (Gose, 2009), and thus, it is on the other side facing the negative images alleged by most of the world communities as the activity brings damages on the environment, and is quite a bit proved losing the local communities in terms of social and economic catastrophes. In some cases of mining operation, these issues often force the operators/companies to close the sites, but still leave the problems behind. Whereas for the mining which has been established, running the operation in several countries worldwide does not mean discharging from the issues. Setting up a sustainable mining industry in order to keep civilizing the humans, as well as preserving the environment and improving the social and economic impacts on the people, should be done and would pose a challenge at once. Such a project as Mining, Minerals and Sustainable Development (MMSD) has demonstrated in responding the challenge of sustainable mining. In addition, general indicators on sustainable mining have been proposed by the Global Mining Initiative (GMI). Then, how Sharia, which is well-known as the blueprint of Muslim society, regulates a mining industry so it can comply with the sustainability concept. This paper is outlining the environmental, social and economic failures, which are caused by the implementation of current mining operation, and how sharia practically answers the challenge for establishing sustainable mining industry. The MMSD framework and the GRI indicators are included as comparisons.

1. INTRODUCTION

Mining is like having two personalities of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. Mining improves humans’ quality of life, since the activity does not only bring the valuable minerals out of the Earth but also creates multiplier effects by providing works for tens, hundreds, even thousands of people. Nevertheless, mining also gives impacts to the environment as it changes the nature and declines the biodiversity, in which any kind of remediation would not return the site to the condition as natural as it was. Meanwhile, mining is always dealing with land and local people who own them and live in or surrounding the sites. For the sake of corporate interest, which is facilitated by the government that stands on behalf of national wealth, a mining company can freely exploit the customary land, while chasing the local people away from their homeland to nowhere, besides affecting the nature and thus endangering their lives. In the sphere of economy, a mining company seems to be in favor of the country and the people. But, it is only in the case of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), which cannot be considered as profits for the people in a broad scope.

The Mining, Mineral and Sustainable Development (MMSD) noted that a mining industry can adopt some sustainable development drivers to approach the sustainability, namely environmental, socio-economic, corporate and regulatory matters (Van Zyl et al., 2002).

The Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) indicators for mining consist of three main cores namely economic, environmental, and social indicators. The economic indicator concerns customers, suppliers, employees, investors and public sectors. The environmental indicator concerns materials, energy, water, biodiversity, emission, effluent, waste, suppliers, products and services, compliance, and transport. Whereas the social indicator includes labour practices and decent work, human rights, society, and product responsibility.

The Sharia practice in mining is based on principles written in Al-Qur’an and explained in sunnah (the practices of the Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu ‘alayhi wa sallam). The sources of Sharia make this law distinguished from any kind of sustainable mining frameworks as it concerns mineral resources ownership, the people’s needs on the materials, and how mining activities give welfare impacts to the people. The Sharia mining practice, which is recommended in the paper, includes economy, environment, and government as the main dimensions.
2. MINING AS THE RESOURCE FOR HUMAN LIFE

The mining era has been as old as human civilization age, as it is minerals which endorse people’s needs in every realm, since hundred thousand years ago, until at present, and indeed to the future of humankind. It is most likely impossible visualizing life, or improving the quality of life without encompassing mineral mining in our life.

According to World Bank Report, activities that are based on natural resources can positively affect growth for long periods of time. A patent evidence can be seen in the development history of natural resource-rich developed countries, such as Australia, Finland, Sweden, and the United States. Mining was the main driver of growth and industrialization in Australia and the United States over more than a century (OxFAM America, 2002 in Whitmore, 2006).

2.1. Industry

Such abundant artefacts as sharp edge of flint stone from some 450,000 years ago, shows that mining has been a main activity of mankind’s life to provide technology in their life (Ghose, 2009). Then the human life needs to grow time after time and encourages people to develop various technologies which are very dependent on mineral resources.

The “food” of industry has included mineral (Ziran, 1999), which is essential to everyday life, making up a lot of products we all use. Almost all people’s necessities have been supplied by the mining industry for electronics by the sub sector of metallic minerals (e.g. iron, copper, zinc), for construction by the sub sector of construction minerals (e.g. sands, gravels, gypsum, granite and andesite), as well as for such industries as cosmetics, jewelleries, detergents, drugs, glass, paint, paper by the sub sector of industrial minerals (e.g. borates, calcium carbonates, kaolin, plastic clays, t alc, quartz and diamonds) (Azapagic, 2003).

2.2. Economy

The mining sector has strong and direct impacts on economy as demand for mineral continuously grows along with the increase in people’s needs, and the emerging innovation of dependent-minerals technology advancement. The mining and mineral sector is very diverse although it is relatively small with the production of over 80 mineral commodities. The USA, Canada, Australia, Russia, Brazil, South Africa, China and the EU are among the major producers with production increasingly being concentrated in developing countries (Azapagic, 2003).

In terms of economical impact of mining, the minerals total exports shares more relevantly than their absolute scale as they (minerals) accounted for over 50% of total exports, and took a significant percentage in GDP in 2000 for eight countries; five of these were in Africa as shown in table 1 below (Crowson, 2009).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>GDP</th>
<th>Exports</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Botswana</td>
<td>40.1</td>
<td>92.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghana</td>
<td>16.3</td>
<td>61.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guinea</td>
<td>13.6</td>
<td>63.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Namibia</td>
<td>20.1</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jamaica</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>58.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suriname</td>
<td>42.6</td>
<td>75.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papua New Guinea</td>
<td>35.3</td>
<td>58.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.3. Employment

About 30 million are estimated to be involved in large-scale mining, representing 1% of the world’s workforce, with a further 13 million working in small-scale mining (IIE (International Institute for Environment and Development) and WBCSD (World Business Council for Sustainable Development, 2002 in Azapagic, 2009) as the mining industry directly opens employment.

A mining industry, especially the large-scale one, brings a multiplier effect in economical circumstance as it invites other business sectors which support the operation, including supplier companies of foods, energy, mining equipment, chemical and materials. In addition, mining service businesses serve transportation, drilling, blasting as well as permitting and mine closure. These mining-dercamces business sectors consequently lead to provide more job opportunities.

2.4. Local community

The local communities, or ethnically named Indigenous People, are the members of a society which are significantly affected by the mining activities operating in their land. From the bright side (the dark side will be discussed further in the following sub headings) of mining operation, the area where the activities take place becomes a distinctly advanced region over the other areas in the country, particularly compared to those that have no such operation. This expectedly occurs because a mining process needs a complex supporting system, not only for the direct operation such as roads, bridges, water supply structures, telecommunication, etcetera, but also the indirect operations to facilitate the workers and their families such as hospitals, schools (elementary to the higher education), grocery markets, etcetera.

For instance is Freeport McMoran, the giant gold and copper mining company belonging to a U.S corporate. In order to pay back the minerals it has mined to the native people, it has built a modern city named Kuala Kencana located in Timika, Mimika regency (approximately 478 kilometers from Papua province’s capital of Jayapura). Kuala Kencana, which was inaugurated by President Soeharto in 1995, is an organized city with running centralized clean water distribution, a fresh sewage system and other underground-constructed common utilities.

3. THE COMPATIBILITY OF MINING TO SUSTAINABILITY CONCEPTS

Naturally, mining includes the removal, processing and disposal of vast volumes of rock and disposal of vast amounts of wastes (Allan, 1995). In 1995 the gold industry moved and processed 72.5 million tons of rock to extract 7,235 tons of gold, while the rest, 99%, was left as waste (D’espostio, 2000). According to a report from the United Nations Environment Programme Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (UNEP DTIE) in 2000, 13 billion tons of stone, 10 billion tons of sand and gravel, and 500 million tons of clay were mined annually (UNEP DTIE, 2000).
3.1. Mining closure

Obviously, mining will greatly affect the environment through its various processes (land opening and clearing, excavation and dredging, mass transportation and mass dumping), threatening geomorphological, ecological, hydrological components dramatically and permanently as the environmental threats of a mine do not end when the operation does proceed. The environmental impacts will be severer if companies and governments are reluctant to clean up toxins from the areas since this is not considered as a profitable project. Environmental failures are the ground from mining companies to close the operation prematurely.

The age of a mining activity also relies on economical circumstances namely those aspects which relate to supply-demand chain management, transparency and accountability, productivity and profitability. The equitable benefits should be given to the stakeholders, including shareholders, employees, local communities and business as well as the governments by means of taxes and royalties. Therefore mine managers should be responsible for keeping costs to a minimum while maximizing revenue. Commonly covering up these expenses would end up problematically, moreover if the companies compensate the minimum costs through budget cutting for payments of employees and their insurances, or declining their technical performances in environmental monitoring and treatment, field exploration or methodology and equipment utilizes.

The problematic environment and economic conditions encountered by mining companies commonly are hand in hand with social conflicts. The occupation of lands belonging to the indigenous people is potential to create disputes between the local communities and the company, the government, as well as the security apparatuses at the other side. In addition to find their lands degraded, the indigenous people who demand equitable compensation from being exploited, commonly get nothing but violence and injustice. On the other hand, the existence of mining companies together with their urban clusters can increase wealth disparity and deepen poverty (Lins and Horwitz, 2007), especially in the local context, thus it leads to create horizontal conflicts. Large-scale metal mining is dominantly operated in developing countries across the world by capitalistic corporates. Instead of advancing these countries and the local communities’ economic growth, the industry tends to pose socio-economic problems. The United Nations reported that the proportion of people living on less than $1 a day in mineral-exporting countries rose from 61% in 1981 to 82% in 1999 (Whitmore, 2006). Meanwhile, according to a study from Britain’s Lancaster University, mineral-driven, resource-rich countries were among the poorest economic performers between 1960-1993 (Whitmore, 2006).

Of these three main dimensions of problematic-potential conditions (environment, economic and social), economics and technical efficiency are the common grounds to premature mining closures. Figure 1 illustrates the reasons that force mining companies to close their operations.

![Figure 1. Premature mine closures by reasons (aggregated from data 1981-2005), (Laurence, 2006). Economic calculation is the main reason for a mining company to close (31%) its operation. Since the company is run by the private corporate, it is obvious that the market price should cover up the production otherwise the mining will be no longer operated. 3.2. Sustainability initiatives](#)

The Brundt Commission Report in 1987 was the first defining sustainable development as a system of development that meets the basic needs of all people without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own life-sustaining needs. General parties commonly suggest that a mining operation be non-sustainable activities simply since it exploits non-renewable resources. Moreover, with such all problems that should be dealt with mining companies, then can they meet the sustainability?
Humphreys (2001) pointed out that it is a demand that the affordability of mining companies in sustainability, and consequently operators should have to meet it in such a way in order to be accepted by the stakeholders and shareholders as well.

We found a number of initiatives and projects to achieve the sustainable mining goals, like the ones in 1998 that CEO’s nine of the largest mining and metal companies launched the Global Mining Initiative (GMI) whichgoal created an industry association that would focus on sustainable development in the mining, metal and mineral sectors. This would go on to spawn the Mining, Minerals and Sustainable Development (MMSD) project in 2000, the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) in 2001, and a global conference in May 2002. Under their cooperation, ICMM and Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) have set up the Sustainability Reporting Guidelines, a model for sustainability reporting used across sectors in 2002, (Lins and Horwitz, 2007).

3.3. Key sustainability

According to MMSD, there are four sustainability drivers during the process of developing a mining project and during the operation of a mine in which any decision is made to take into account a number of considerations which are currently behind the decision-making process, namely on environment, socio-economic, corporate, and regulatory matters. Table 2 shows the sustainable drivers and each of them has sub-drivers, and their concerns (Van Zyl et al., 2002).

<p>| Table 2. Sustainable development drivers proposed by MMSD (Van Zyl et al., 2002). |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Driver</th>
<th>Sub driver</th>
<th>Concern</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Environment: Physical and chemical characteristics of the waste and the method of disposal.</td>
<td>Land</td>
<td>Site selection should follow a number of basic steps that aim to ensure the optimal location of mining facilities, and take into account climate, topography, hydrology and geology.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Water</td>
<td>A risk management plan includes design and management of waste facilities in order to minimize the production and migration of acid drainage and its impacts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Riverine disposal</td>
<td>The disposal of large volume of disposal into a river system has the potential to cause serious environmental and social impacts downstream.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marine disposal</td>
<td>Deep sea marine or submarine disposal of tailings involves deposition at depth so they remain on the sea floor below the most biologically active zone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End use</td>
<td>Rehabilitation of waste disposal sites to a stable and productive post-mining landform, which is suitable and/or acceptable to the community at optimum environmental, social and economic values.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public opinion and expectations</td>
<td>Transparency in impact and analysis waste disposal decision-making as well as communication to overcoming mistrust for all actors involved.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefits and compensation</td>
<td>Royalty payments, taxes, land rent, job creation and infrastructure development (e.g. roads, power production, water distribution, construction of schools, hospitals) as well as compensation payments for the local community for a loss of resources.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate</td>
<td>Providing adequate funds for closure and post closure monitoring and maintenance, which are designed based on realistic assumptions about technologies and implementation, including time it would take to complete.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy/culture</td>
<td>Publishing annual report on environmental, social and sustainable development progress for assessing the performance of the company.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legislation and policy</td>
<td>Synergizing various government policies, environmental legislation and other laws and regulations related.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regulatory authority</td>
<td>Cooperation between national, regional and local governments and governance of a mining activity.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Another sustainable structure proposed by the international mining association is the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) framework which contains indicators for reporting on an organization’s economic, environmental, and social performances. Table 3 summarizes an overview of the guidance for the mining and metal sectors report.
Table 3. Mining and metal sectors indicator categories (Azapagic, 2004).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aspect</th>
<th>GRI indicator categories</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Economic | Customers  
| | Suppliers  
| | Employees  
| | Investors  
| | Public sector |
| Environmental | Materials  
| | Energy  
| | Water  
| | Biodiversity  
| | Emission  
| | Effluents  
| | Wastes  
| | Suppliers  
| | Products and services  
| | Compliance  
| | Transport |
| Social |  
| | • Labor practice and decent work: employment, labor/management relations, health and safety, training and education, diversity and opportunity.  
| | • Human rights: strategy and management, non-discrimination, freedom of association, child labor, forced labor, disciplinary practices, indigenous rights.  
| | • Society: community, bribery and corruption, political contributions, competition and pricing.  
| | • Product responsibility: customer health and safety, advertising, respect for privacy. |

3.4. Critics on secular approach

Mining companies realize that in order to stand the operation, environment preservation, profit sharing to the government and the local people, as well as social responsibility should be the companies’ major interests. According to the international view, these are the right way that mining companies must do as a compensation to the people and the government.

Corporate Social Responsibility in Resource Mining Report from Knowledge Impact Strategies Consulting in 2013, summarized several activities that mining companies have done to the local people and the government as follows:

1. Infrastructure projects are programs to support such public facilities as schools, hospitals and community health facilities, roads and pavement, restoration or remodeling of existing community buildings and facilities, as well as water supply for potable water and/or irrigation.
2. Grants namely funds to support community members or third-party organizations that are committed to early-age education, scholarships, donations that may or may not be made to local community organizations, community projects located in the area where the mining company operates, financial support for the community, and venture funding.
3. Community programs are composed of those implemented by the mining company namely early-age education development, entrepreneurship programs or workshops, training for particular areas of interest (agriculture, nutrition, health, safety, etc.), education for children or adults at general or basic levels, skills development for mining or related jobs, and career development such as job opportunity and mentoring for high school students.
4. 3rd-party collaboration is defined as programs run by separate organizations but financially supported by the mining company for instance early-age education development, education for children or adults at general or basic levels, training for particular areas of interest (agriculture, nutrition, health, safety, etc.), local business development, other community programs (programs not related to business development, education or training).
5. Government collaboration that is a program run by the government but financially supported by the mining company, for example early-age education development, basic services, economic development of the community, and job training plan for employment.

In the mining sector Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) refers to a company’s voluntary actions.

There is an issue that causes postponement in mining projects (which can cost up to two-thirds of project’s initial value) and even closure of mining operations (Humphreys, 2000), namely a time when opposition to the mining industry materializes as social conflicts, then mining projects risk blockades, vandalism, and other acts of violence. And therefore, mining companies have realized that they “face significant risk if they operate without the consent of affected communities” (Kemp et al., 2006: 394) and that they need to focus on “achieving and maintaining a social license, or freedom, to operate” (Kemp et al., 2006: 394). In this context, CSR is a part of the mining companies’ mechanism to acceptance by local communities. They seem to promise people’s welfare, yet based on just a business. Soon after the companies shut down their operations, these CSR programs will stop immediately. The programs to develop people which are driven by the company are temporary in nature and do not give impacts to the whole society. On the other side, since companies have taken the government’s duties to meet people’s basic needs (education, health, employment), they most potentially creates public distrust in government, and vertical conflicts between people and the government are inevitable.
On the economic perspective, financial compensation in the forms of taxes and royalties paid by the companies to the government cannot be considered commensurate to the profit that they have gained. The royalties paid in Brazil is 15%-25%, while in Democratic Republic of Congo and Republic of Congo are 14% and 20%, respectively (Corporate Income Taxes, Mining Royalties and Other Mining Taxes Report, 2012). In Ghana, Indonesia, South Africa and Tanzania the royalties are as much as 10%, 20%, 12% and 15% respectively. As for dividends Indonesia's values are the highest of the other six countries namely 20%.

Politically, the ownership of minerals in the private corporate’s hands has displaced control and authority of mining management from the government to individual or business groups. It is similar to handing over the state’s wealth to individual dominance, and loosing sovereignty.

4. THE ISLAMIC PRACTICAL DIRECTIVES IN A MINING INDUSTRY

Islam believes directions of a variety of implications for everyday lives, covering individual aspects such as worship and morality, as well as public sectors including social, economic, and political issues. They are formulated practically in that so called Sharia that covers those aspects in life. One of the public issues which are addressed by Islam is natural resource management.

In accordance to with the sustainability initiative which is driven in the mining industry sectors, Islam has its specific practical directives, that are derived from the Glorious Al-Qur’an and As-sunnah (the practices of Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu ‘alayhi wa sallam) as the sources of Islamic laws and regulations.

The Islamic practical directives which are proposed in this paper highlight three mining industrial dimensions, concerning the main issues that commonly pose problems in this sector, counting economy, environment and governance (authority). Although, the intention of sharia regulates mining operations, it is not alain to those initiated by the international mining forums, which are oriented to sustain the mining company operation while compensating the exploitation by paying royalties, taxes and other payments for the local government and the communities, and rehabilitating the nature after all exploitative operations. Sharia, as it is practical, is conducted by the people in order to meet Allah Subhanahu wata’ala’s directions, and by doing obedience it is believed that all creatures will get His grace and mercy, what in Islam is said Islam rahmatan lil’alamiin (Islam is graceful for the universe).

4.1. Economics

It is understood that almost all the large-scale mining companies operating in developing countries belong to the capitalist corporates with permission from the governments through laws and regulations. The capitalist exploitation has neglected the government and community ownership by accentuating the possession of all materials merely in the private sector without any limits. The corporate-based exploitation of minerals has led society to poverty, deficiency, social disparities, which are prone to conflicts. This is the main cause of mining’s failures in the world, though it is not the major ground for closure.

Taquddin an-Nabani (1990) noted the general principles of the economic system of Islam are initial ownership, disposal of the ownership, and distribution of wealth amongst the people. Sharia economics regulates the ownership on commodities into three categories, namely state, public, and private ownerships, according to the amount of the commodities and how significant they control people’s lives, and meet their basic needs.

Regarding with natural resources, Rasulullah Sallallahu ‘alayhi wa sallam said “the Muslims are partners in three substances, water, pastures and fire” [Sunan Abu Dawud]. The interpretation of this sunnah by Imam Shafi, Imam Maliki and Imam Hambali pointed out that what is intended by water that the people share and therefore the water that may not be bought and sold is the rain water, river water and the like, and not water from private sources such as a private well. In terms of the pastures, they are the open areas of land which are not owned by anyone, or land which is not being used for agriculture and has the normal vegetation for grazing cattle. Meanwhile, fire indicates any natural resources which are used to produce heat and energy, such as wood, coal, minerals and oil. Other narrations also indicate that people can possess and sell water as long as the community was not in dire need of it. It can be derived from these narrations that whatever the community is in need of must be provided and cannot be withheld privately to the disadvantage of the people. And therefore, the government is responsible to provide the people with access to water and energy as required to fulfill their needs, and all public utilities as necessitated by the time and place. Thus it is not advisable that one adopts the model of liberal privatization whereby even the essential public utilities are sold to private companies and are therefore not available except to those who pay for them, leading to a society where only those with material wealth can access vital services.

In another sunnah, Rasulullah Sallallahu ‘alayhi wa sallam took back a salt mine from a shahabah, Abyad bin Hamal, due to its abundance amount, that so called by sharia “ma’u al-‘iddu” (like the flowing water) (narrated with Imam At-Tirmidizi).

Thus, the abundant natural resources which flow like water (ma’u al-‘iddu) should be managed by the state with the ownership is for the public (al-milikyah al-uummah). The income obtained from the management of natural resources becomes the wealth of the state (baitul mal) to be spent in accordance with the people’s needs including the one to support the mining operations such as exploration, excavation, dredging as well as maintenance and monitoring environmental rehabilitation. Instead of getting royalties, taxes or other compensation payments the amount of which is very small compared to that of the private-sector obtained from the exploitation, people will receive their right in basic needs such as housings, education and health insurances, security services, and other public constructions like educational and health infrastructures, roads, bridges, also communication and irrigation facilities. Since these facilities constructions and services are not a corporate project, they will be lasting forever.

In exploiting minerals and other natural resources, Allah Subhanahu wata’ala said, “Indeed, those who are wasteful are brothers of the devils, and ever has Satan been to his Lord ungrateful”; [Al-Isra’ (17):2]. This verse commands people to manage and use sources of life in accordance with their needs and not for wasting and redundancy in collecting wealth. This attitude is expected to preserve mineral resources owned by a generation in an area to be bequeathed in an equal amount to the next generation. In addition, being economical in using mineral resources would lead people to avoid hedonism which is potential to create social gaps.

Allah Subhanahu wata’ala said, “And the earth-We have spread it and cast therein firmly set mountains and caused to grow therein [something] of every well-balanced thing. And We have made for you therein means of living and [for] those for whom you are not providers. And there is not a thing but that with Us are its depositories, and We do not send it down except according
to a known measure’, [QT. Al-Hijr (15):19]. This clause and the one before leading mining operators to count the amount of deposit and the amount of mineral volumes which can be exploited in accordance with the people’s needs so as not to forget the rights of the next generation in enjoying natural resources.

4.2. Environment

The ban to do wasteful deeds in using natural resources is in line with Allah Subhanahu wa ta‘ala’s order to maintain the environmental balance. Allah Subhanahu wa ta‘ala said, “And cause not corruption upon the earth after its reformation. And invoke Him in fear and aspiration. Indeed, the mercy of Allah is near to the doers of good’, [QT. Al-A‘raf (7):56]. Mining operations should as minimum as possible disturb natural environment. Even, an option of “no mining” may be taken if the exploitation can cause damage to the environments, although it gives a large amount of material benefits to the people. Within this problem, Allah Subhanahu wa ta‘ala said, “Corruption has appeared throughout the land and sea by (reason of) what the hands of people have earned so He may let them taste part of (the consequence of) what they have done that perhaps they will return (to rightousness)”.[QT. Ar- Rum (30): 41]. An alternative way of mining technology, such as bio-mining and bio-leaching can be considered in order to keep exploiting, while preserving environments.

4.3. Government

For fear of dissociation of Muslims from Islam, Sharia directs the Islamic Ummah to reject secularism which is forbidden in Islam believes. Sharia is a mode of organizing society and its institutions, besides serving as a guide for the conduct of individuals within the institutional and social context (Tinker, 2004 in Kamla et al., 2006). By this definition Sharia practical is not for Muslims only, but since it covers and beneficial for the non-Muslims this law also directs them to believe and apply it in their social life. Obviously, sharia mining directives are not applicable within the condition in which secularism which allows capitalism is still practiced.

In order to apply and obtain its benefits to the people, the Ummah (including the non-Muslims that life under Islamic constitution) must have an Islamic government which governs all the people’s issues with Islamic practical ways, covering mineral exploitation management. This government, which is the so called Khalifah Islamiyah, is the only Islamic government legitimated by Allah Subhanahu wa ta‘ala and Rasulullah Sallallahu ‘alayhi wa sallam. Allah Subhanahu wa ta‘ala said, “O you who have believed, obey Allah and obey the Messenger and those in authority among you. And if you disagree over anything, refer it to Allah and the Messenger, if you should believe in Allah and the Last Day. That is the best (way) and best in result’, [QT. An-Nisa’ (4):59]. The Khilafah Islamiyah will guarantee all the Islamic laws and regulations to be implemented by the Ummah under one leadership of the Khalifah who holds the bai’at (the agreement of obedience from the Ummah).

5. CONCLUSION

“And We did not create the heaven and the earth and that between them aimlessly. That is the assumption of those who disbelieve, so woe to those who disbelieve from the Fire.” [QT. Sad (38):27]. Allah Subhanahu wa ta‘ala creates the universe to be managed by mankind as they have advantages for life. Mineral resources have been created to meet peoples’ needs. The mining exploitation is inevitable nor the damages caused by the activity.

A lot of mining management initiatives encompassing economics, environment and social views have been driven to achieve the sustainability in this sector. However, they are unsuccessful to sustain mining operations since failure on economics are still occurring regarding to the poverty and social disparities in rich-mineral countries, besides the mineral resources depletions in a very rapid period. In addition, the local communities who live in mineral-rich lands are susceptible to experience violence from the security apparatus, diseases due to the mining substance, and uncertainties because of the potentials of man-made hazards such as landslide, drought and loss of biodiversity. This is because the mineral management is applied based on corporate-capitalist control which merely focuses on material benefits for the corporates, regardless of the environmental damages and social failures.

As a practical way of life, Sharia through Al-Qur’an and sunnah, directs minerals as a natural resource to remain owned by the Ummah (all the citizens of Khilafah Islamiyah State), and are managed by the government so that the operations will always be oriented to the people welfare. The environmental aspects are also the main consideration to preserve the natures to be always in its balance and measure. To ensure the sharia mining is completely applied, the Khilafah Islamiyah must be established as it is the only legitimate and authorized institution in Islamic governmental framework to accomplish Allah Subhanahu wa ta‘ala’s commands.

References