

## ABSTRACT

### **The Role of Traditional Leaders in the Preservation of Tando Traditions in Wedding Events to Strengthen the Cultural Customs of the Bajo Tribe in Kampung Bukut, Sapeken Island: 2024.**

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This research aims to find out how the practice of *Tando* tradition in Bukut village, Sapeken Island and the role of traditional leaders in the preservation of the *Tando* tradition. The research method is to use a qualitative descriptive type of research. As a credibility test, the researcher used triangulation. The data sources of this research are primary data sources and secondary data sources. Data collection is carried out by carrying out observations, interviews, and documentation.

The results of the research are that traditional leaders play the role of holders of hereditary local knowledge and wisdom, and become the main pillar in carrying out existing customs with the active involvement of traditional leaders in the Sapeken Islands. In the context of preserving the culture of the Bajo tribe, the role of traditional leaders is not only as an authoritative figure, but also as an agent of change who is able to adapt the tradition to remain relevant and sustainable in the midst of the dynamics of the times. The Tando traditional practices carried out by the Bajo tribe on Sapeken Island are as follows: *a. Panjajakan b. Mappetu Ada c. Maddupa d. Mappaisseng e. Mappaci*