RATIO LEGIS FOR THE ABOLITION OF GIRIK AS EVIDENCE OF LAND OWNERSHIP UNDER GOVERNMENT REGULATION NUMBER 18 OF 2021

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Abstract

Land holds a crucial role in the lives of Indonesian people, serving not only as an economic asset but also as a social and cultural symbol. However, land ownership based on girik documents often leads to disputes due to the uncertainty of its legal status. This study aims to analyze the ratio legis behind the abolition of girik as evidence of land ownership based on Article 96 of Government Regulation Number 18 of 2021, which mandates the conversion of all customary lands into certificates no later than 2026. The research method employed is normative juridical, using statutory and conceptual approaches. The data sources include primary, secondary, and tertiary legal materials analyzed qualitatively. The results show that the abolition of girik is grounded in the principles of legal certainty, administrative justice, and the need to establish an orderly and integrated national land administration system. This policy is a logical consequence of the transition of Indonesia's land law system toward a single system based on certificates as the only valid proof of ownership. The abolition of girik is expected to prevent agrarian disputes, reduce opportunities for land-related fraud, and promote a fair and modernized land administration system that ensures legal certainty.

Keywords: Evidence, Girik, Abolition, Ratio Legis

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INTRODUCTION

Land holds a strategic role in the lives of Indonesian society as it encompasses economic, social, and cultural dimensions (Putri et al., 2024). Its existence is not merely a material asset, but also a symbol of social identity that is inherently linked to community relations and local cultural values (Sutedi, 2014). Legal uncertainty over land ownership creates a significant risk of disputes that may disadvantage rightful landholders. One of the frequently emerging sources of such disputes derives from girik land, the legal status of which remains ambiguous, even though girik is no longer recognized as valid proof of land rights following the enactment of Law Number 5 of 1960 concerning Basic Agrarian Principles (hereinafter referred to as the Basic Agrarian Law) (Wardhani, 2018). This issue becomes increasingly relevant as it demands government efforts to ensure legal certainty for landowners through clear and firm regulatory measures.

Girik land titles have often been exploited as a loophole by land mafia to manipulate ownership status through the use of falsified documents (Sulistyo, 2025). Ownership disputes involving girik-based land frequently arise due to overlapping claims that are not supported by strong legal evidence. One notable case that drew public attention occurred in 2025, involving a land dispute between a government institution and a group of local residents in an area of South Tangerang City. A plot of land measuring more than 127,780 square meters, which had been officially certified under the institution's name since 2003, was claimed as inherited land by several residents based on girik documents (Khaeron, 2025). This dispute demonstrates the fragile position of girik as proof of land rights and highlights its potential to trigger legal conflicts.

Government Regulation Number 18 of 2021 concerning Land Administration, Land Rights, Apartment Units, and Land Registration (hereinafter referred to as Government Regulation No. 18/2021) stipulates that girik will no longer be considered as valid proof of land ownership as of 2026. This provision is stated in Article 96 of Government Regulation No. 18/2021, which reads:

> "(1) Written evidence of land formerly subject to customary ownership held by individuals must be registered within a maximum period of five (5) years from the enactment of this Government Regulation.
>
> (2) Upon the expiry of the period referred to in paragraph (1), such written evidence shall be declared invalid and may no longer be used as evidence of land rights, but only as supporting information for the purpose of initial land registration."

Article 96 affirms the deadline for registering land formerly under customary ownership to obtain lawful recognition. Once this period lapses, girik documents function merely as administrative indicators without legal evidentiary authority. This regulation emerged as a response to recurrent land disputes caused by ownership claims grounded solely on girik. Thus, the ratio legis behind the elimination of girik becomes crucial, as it emphasizes legal protection for landowners through formal legal certainty.

The conversion of girik land into land certificates under a digital registration system serves as the primary instrument for implementing Government Regulation No. 18/2021. Digitalization is expected to reduce maladministration and enhance transparency in land administration (Septi & Indrawati, 2025). However, obstacles such as incomplete supporting documents and persistent societal perceptions that girik still carries legal validity often hinder the conversion process. Therefore, strategies are required that respect local customary values while enforcing positive law. This situation raises a key question regarding how the ratio legis of abolishing girik can be effectively implemented to achieve legal certainty.

The abolition of girik and its conversion through electronic registration has significant implications for maintaining orderly national land administration. Legal certainty constitutes an essential foundation for protecting people's rights and preventing land mafia activities. Such regulation requires comprehensive legal education for the public to ensure an understanding of the legal implications of the change in girik status. This transformation also functions as a means to modernize land services in Indonesia. Consequently, this research focuses on analyzing the ratio legis behind the abolition of girik as proof of land rights to address the emerging legal challenges caused by the ambiguity of girik status.

Research on the legal status of girik as evidence of land rights has been extensively conducted, among others by Masnadi et al., who affirmed that girik still holds legal force to serve as a basis for land certificate registration through the rights recognition process (Masnadi et al., 2021), Riski Salele who highlighted the function of girik as preliminary evidence of customary ownership, albeit not conclusive (Salele, 2019), Maximillian Billy Tjiotijono (2020), who examined the position of girik in land inheritance through a case study of the Surabaya Administrative Court Decision No. 169/G/2018/PTUN.SBY of 2019 (Tjiotijono, 2020), Desy Nurkristia who positioned girik merely as preliminary evidence requiring supporting data (Tejawati, 2021); Meta Nadia Winata who analyzed old land evidence under Government Regulation No. 18 of 2021 as only an initial registration guideline (Winata, 2021); Amiludin

et al. who discussed the legal force of girik land sales before land deed officials (Amiludin et al., 2023); and Romzul Fayadh who assessed the impact of the abolition of recognition of girik and Letter C following Government Regulation No. 18 of 2021 on agrarian justice (Fayadh, 2025). Unlike these studies, the present study specifically analyzes the ratio legis behind the abolition of girik as evidence of land rights under Article 96 of Government Regulation No. 18 of 2021.

The urgency of this study lies in the pressing need to provide legal certainty regarding the abolition of girik as evidence, so that landowners can obtain clear legal protection. The ambiguous status of girik generates risks of land disputes, land mafia practices, as well as difficulties in transactions, inheritance, and access to financing. Understanding the ratio legis behind the government's effort to address girik lands under Article 96 of Government Regulation No. 18 of 2021 is essential to comprehend the philosophical, sociological, and juridical basis for the abolition of girik, while also ensuring that the implementation of this policy effectively realizes legal certainty and orderly land administration. Therefore, the research problem is formulated as follows: what is the ratio legis of the abolition of girik as evidence after 2026 under Article 96 of Government Regulation No. 18 of 2021?

RESEARCH METHOD

This study employs a normative juridical method with a focus on analyzing the ratio legis of the abolition of girik as evidence after 2026 under Article 96 of Government Regulation No. 18 of 2021. The research data sources consist of primary, secondary, and tertiary legal materials, including legislation, legal literature, journals, articles, and supporting documents related to the abolition of girik and electronic land registration. The analysis is conducted through a statute approach to examine the provisions of Government Regulation No. 18 of 2021 and related regulations, as well as a conceptual approach to understand the doctrines of legal certainty and legal protection underpinning the abolition of girik. The data analysis technique uses qualitative analysis, involving the identification of legal facts regarding the use of girik as evidence, the examination of consistency between legal norms and societal practices, and the application of norms to facts to uncover the ratio legis of the abolition of girik. This approach enables the study to elucidate the philosophical, sociological, and juridical foundations of the abolition of girik and its implications for the legal certainty of landowners.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Regulation of Girik Land

The term girik has two meanings, namely as a document of land tax payment and as a certificate of land possession. Essentially, girik is a proof of payment of land taxes commonly used in rural areas. The society has long been familiar with the term girik, although the terminology varies across regions, such as petuk in Central and East Java, pipil in Bali, and segel in Palembang (Masnadi et al., 2021). Girik serves as a document indicating a person's control over customary land granted by the traditional authority for cultivation purposes without transferring ownership rights. This document demonstrates that an individual is authorized to utilize specific customary land in accordance with mutual community agreements (Kurniawan, 2020).

Holders of girik are not entitled to transfer or sell the land without permission from the traditional authority. The existence of girik reflects the customary agrarian legal system based on the principles of communal rights and the social function of land. This document only provides cultivation and usage rights over the land, not absolute ownership rights as stipulated under the national legal land titling system. Girik holders, therefore, have limited rights and do not possess full legal title.

Prior to the enactment of the Basic Agrarian Law, Indonesia's land tenure system adhered to a dualistic structure, comprising Western law and customary law. Land ownership under customary law was generally not supported by written documentation but was based on recognition by the local community who identified boundaries using natural markers. In contrast, the Dutch colonial legal system required written evidence of land ownership, such as girik, which in essence functioned as proof of land tax payment (Arisaputra & Mardiah, 2019). Customarily acknowledged lands were required to be recorded in documents such as girik, petok D, kekitir, or letter C as evidence of land tax obligations. These records were kept in village administrative offices and served as the administrative foundation for land control. As land was passed down through generations, girik came to be regarded by the community as legitimate evidence of ownership, thereby forming part of a traditional communal agrarian system.

Before the enactment of the Basic Agrarian Law, girik was recognized as evidence of hereditary land control originating from the colonial land tax system known as Verponding Indonesia. Girik was used to demonstrate land cultivation rights acknowledged by both the colonial administration and local

governments. However, girik-recorded lands often lacked precise boundaries because surveys relied only on community recognition. As a result, girik frequently became the source of land disputes due to the absence of legal certainty over land boundaries and ownership status. This circumstance underscores that Indonesia's land administration system remained traditional and was not yet nationally integrated.

The first regulation on girik was introduced under the Basic Agrarian Law, which unified the national agrarian legal system based on customary law adjusted to national interests. Although the Basic Agrarian Law does not explicitly mention girik, the principle of conversion enables previously unregistered customary land to be transformed into formal land rights such as Ownership Right, Right to Cultivate, Right to Build, or Right to Use. The Supreme Court Decision No. 34/K/Sip/1960 dated February 19, 1960, affirmed that petuk or girik as proof of land tax payment cannot serve as legal proof of land rights (Tejawati, 2021). This ruling clarified that girik functions merely as administrative evidence, not as legal proof of ownership.

Government Regulation No. 10 of 1961 concerning Land Registration (hereinafter referred to as Government Regulation No. 10/1961) was the first implementing regulation after the Basic Agrarian Law and emphasized mandatory land registration to provide legal certainty to rights holders. Article 3(1) specifies that land registration includes surveying, registration of land rights, and issuance of land certificates. This marked the beginning of the formalization process of customary land—previously proven only by girik or petok D—into land with registered certificates. Although girik continued to be used by society, it no longer served as legal evidence of land rights, but solely as administrative documentation for the initial registration process.

Government Regulation No. 24 of 1997 concerning Land Registration (hereinafter referred to as Government Regulation No. 24/1997) replaced Government Regulation No. 10/1961 and clarified the legal position of girik. Article 24(1) states that for unregistered land, proof of possession may include evidence such as girik, petok D, kekitir, or letter C, provided it is deemed sufficient by the Head of the Land Office as a basis for conversion. This indicates that girik retains limited evidentiary value as initial proof of possession prior to recognition or confirmation of rights. The regulation further reinforces that land certificates constitute the strongest legal evidence of land rights as specified in Article 32(1).

The status of girik was further regulated under the Regulation of the State Minister of Agrarian Affairs/Head of the National Land Agency No. 3 of 1997, which stipulates in Article 60(2) that girik or land tax documents may serve as supporting evidence of land possession for first-time registration. Regulation No. 9 of 1999 likewise confirms that alas hak (basis of rights) may consist of girik, letter C, or other documents demonstrating land possession.

Ministerial Regulation of ATR/BPN No. 21 of 2020 on Handling and Settlement of Land Cases strengthens the recognition of girik as part of the juridical data in land certification. Article 10(a) states that basis of rights for certificate issuance may include old land documents such as girik, petok D, or letter C. This provision indicates that girik remains recognized to a limited extent as a historical document demonstrating settlement of colonial-era land tax obligations, thereby forming part of cadastral data (Ratrisnanti, 2025). Such regulation provides an opportunity for the community to register their land rights and obtain certificates by submitting old documents as initial evidence of ownership.

Following legal developments, the government has imposed restrictions on the continued reliance upon girik. Landholders are required to immediately register their land rights within a specified timeframe (Yulianto & Pihawiani, 2023). Such restrictions are imposed under Government Regulation No. 18 of 2021, which constitutes the latest regulation mandating conversion of girik land. Article 96 requires holders of old documents such as girik or letter C to register their land to obtain certificates within five years following the enactment of the regulation. This provision signifies the abolition of girik as legal evidence of land rights, requiring all land in Indonesia to be certified no later than February 2026. The objective is to establish an orderly and integrated land administration system that ensures legal certainty for land rights holders.

The regulation of girik land demonstrates an evolution of the national agrarian legal system from customary possession to formal ownership guaranteed through certification. From the enactment of the Basic Agrarian Law to Government Regulation No. 18 of 2021, the legal position of girik has shifted from evidence of land possession to merely an administrative document serving as a reference for initial land registration. Every regulation confirms that girik does not constitute legal proof of ownership, but merely temporary evidence of possession pending conversion to state-recognized land rights. The affirmation under Government Regulation No. 18 of 2021 marks the end of legal recognition of girik and mandates certification of all unregistered customary lands by no later than 2026. This policy direction reflects the government's commitment to establishing a land administration system that is orderly,

transparent, and equitable, thereby ensuring legal protection and certainty for all land rights holders in Indonesia.

The Legal Standing of Girik as Evidence of Land Ownership

The legal standing of girik as evidence of land ownership prior to the enactment of the Basic Agrarian Law demonstrated an administrative recognition of land ownership under customary law. A girik served as proof that an individual had possessed and paid taxes on a parcel of land, reflecting a traditional ownership system acknowledged by rural communities as a form of social legitimacy of ownership. This position signifies that communities adhered to the communal-religious principles embedded in customary law, under which inherited land must be safeguarded. Possession of land based on girik was widely accepted within the community without requiring formal written proof, thereby establishing strong social legitimacy despite the fact that it was not yet legally recognized by the State.

The legal standing of girik underwent a fundamental shift following the enactment of the Basic Agrarian Law, which abolished the dualism between customary and Western land law. Article 5 of the Basic Agrarian Law provides that land documented under girik may serve as the basis for applying for land rights, thus placing girik merely as initial evidence in the registration process (Gemilang, 2023). A girik is no longer regarded as evidence of legal title, but only as supporting data in the conversion process of old rights into rights recognized by the State. Its evidentiary value in relation to registered land titles is limited to initial proof, which must be supplemented with other supporting data. A girik does not constitute proof of legal ownership of land, but may be used as evidence of prior possession and as a supporting document for land registration (Tejawati, 2021).

Article 24(1) of Government Regulation No. 24 of 1997 provides that the registration of land rights resulting from conversion may be supported by written evidence, witness testimony, or the owner's statement deemed sufficient by the Adjudication Committee or the Head of the Land Office. This provision confirms that a girik may serve as preliminary evidence in land registration but cannot stand alone as conclusive legal proof of ownership. A girik must be accompanied by additional proof, such as demonstration of physical possession for more than twenty years and certification from the village head. Thus, a girik is only an administrative supplement and not the legally valid basis of ownership. It cannot be relied upon as principal evidence in land disputes and, when submitted as supporting evidence, must be complemented with other documentation—such as certification from village authorities and valid land history records (Rohmah, 2025).

The legal standing of girik has also been clarified by Supreme Court Decision No. 34/K/Sip/1960, which affirms that girik or land-tax assessment documents constitute evidence of tax payment rather than legal proof of land ownership (Gemilang, 2023). This judicial affirmation strengthens the view that following the enactment of the Basic Agrarian Law, girik merely functions as administrative evidence without guaranteeing legal title. The application of the legality principle as stipulated in Article 33(3) of the 1945 Constitution reinforces the authority of the State in ensuring legal certainty through a national and centralized land registration system.

The issuance of Directorate General of Tax Circular Letters No. SE-15/PJ.6/1993 and SE-44/PJ.6/1998 subsequently prohibited the issuance of new girik or land-tax documents throughout Indonesia. This prohibition constitutes an administrative affirmation that girik is no longer recognized as an official document of land ownership but merely as a historical tax archive (Simbolon & Sitorus, 2025). Since then, girik has served only as historical documentation without any evidentiary value in law. Holders of girik are therefore encouraged to immediately proceed with land certification to obtain legal certainty, consistent with Article 32(1) of Government Regulation No. 24 of 1997, which establishes a land title certificate as the legally valid and strong proof of land rights.

A significant reform occurred with the enactment of Government Regulation No. 18 of 2021. Article 96 of the Regulation expressly eliminates recognition of girik as evidence of land ownership. A girik is acknowledged only as an administrative reference for the initial land registration process and no longer carries legal evidentiary weight (Winata, 2021). This policy direction demonstrates the Government's movement toward a unified land system based solely on certified rights, while abolishing the legal validity of traditional land documentation such as girik, letter C, and petok D. This abolition strengthens the position of the National Land Agency as the sole authority for proof of land rights.

The legal standing of girik in the context of legal certainty reflects the modern demand for unified legal proof of ownership through certificates as the only valid legal evidence. Land documented under girik that is not promptly converted is vulnerable to disputes due to the absence of strong legal protection. Legal certainty, as mandated in Article 19(1) of the Basic Agrarian Law, can only be achieved through land registration and not merely through physical possession or customary acknowledgment.

Recognition of girik as administrative evidence is thus transitional—toward a certified land rights system. This serves as the basis for the Government's elimination of girik as proof of ownership under Article 96 of Government Regulation No. 18 of 2021.

The legal standing of girik has undergone a complete shift—from socially and administratively recognized evidence toward a non-juridical status. A girik no longer possesses legal evidentiary force and merely stands as a historical document indicating past possession. Legal certainty of land ownership can only be secured through land certificates issued by the National Land Agency. The abolition of girik as evidence of ownership under Article 96 of Government Regulation No. 18 of 2021 reinforces the implementation of the formal legality principle to promote legal certainty, agrarian justice, and protection of land rights across Indonesia.

Formally recognized under colonial land administration as proof for land taxation and subsequently used as administrative reference for the conversion of old rights under the Basic Agrarian Law and Government Regulation No. 24 of 1997, girik functioned only as preliminary evidence supported by proof of physical possession and village-level documentation. Following the prohibition of new girik issuance, it became an historical archive. Its final abolition under Government Regulation No. 18 of 2021 confirms that a girik now serves solely as an administrative reference in first-time registration and no longer as legal evidence of land ownership.

Ratio Legis for the Abolition of Girik as Evidence of Land Ownership After 2026 Under Article 96 of Government Regulation No. 18 of 2021

The Government, through Government Regulation No. 18 of 2021, establishes a new provision that affirms the final deadline for the use of girik as evidence of land ownership. Such provision forms part of the national land administration reform to realize an integrated, digital-based land registration system. The abolition of girik as an official evidentiary instrument for establishing land ownership is inseparable from the Government's effort to ensure orderly land administration and eliminate land control without a legally recognized basis as mandated by the Basic Agrarian Law. This policy aligns with the acceleration of the Complete Systematic Land Registration program, which targets the registration and certification of all land parcels by no later than 2026.

Article 96 paragraph (1) of Government Regulation No. 18 of 2021 stipulates that the registration of unregistered land must be completed within five years as of the enactment of this Regulation. The elucidation of this provision clarifies that the five-year period is calculated from 2021, resulting in 2026 as the nationwide deadline for completion of land registration. This requirement implies that all unregistered land must be certified through the formal mechanism of the National Land Agency. Following the expiration of this deadline, any form of evidentiary instrument that does not originate from the formal registration system — including girik, petok D, or kekitir — shall no longer be recognized as evidence of land rights.

Article 96 of Government Regulation No. 18 of 2021 demonstrates that girik no longer functions as evidence of land ownership but only serves as a transitional administrative indicator in land registration processes. As previously provided under Article 24 paragraph (1) of Government Regulation No. 24 of 1997, girik may be used merely as initial proof for the conversion of old rights during registration. However, upon the expiration of the five-year period specified in Government Regulation No. 18 of 2021, girik loses its evidentiary weight because the State presumes that all land parcels have been duly registered and certified. Consequently, girik as the basis of a claim of land ownership will no longer be recognized under Indonesian positive law starting from 2026.

The abolition of girik as a legal instrument after 2026 has a strong ratio legis. This policy aims to ensure legal certainty over land ownership and eliminate potential overlap of claims. The absence of a land certificate has often been the source of disputes and illicit land acquisition practices, as shown in various land law studies. The ratio legis of this provision underscores that land, being a limited resource, must be administered within a national legal framework that is structured, documented, and transparent. A unified certification system also ensures legal protection for the public and enhances the State's ability to supervise land use in accordance with its designated function.

The legal basis for abolishing girik is grounded in the principle of legal certainty in land administration. The Minister of Agrarian Affairs and Spatial Planning/Head of BPN, Nusron Wahid, emphasized that girik automatically ceases to be valid once all land parcels in an area have been mapped and certificates issued. He further clarified that girik may only be considered in the event of proven administrative defects within a limitation period of less than five years (Rahayuningsih, 2025). . In relation to this, land certificates constitute a legal product that may only be replaced by another legal

product under a court mandate as regulated under Government Regulation No. 18 of 2021; hence, girik no longer possesses evidentiary value once the land certification system is fully enforced.

The abolition of girik is also driven by the necessity to strengthen legal certainty and prevent land disputes. According to the Director General of Land Rights Determination and Registration, Asnaedi, girik was originally an administrative record of land ownership before the establishment of the certification system under the Basic Agrarian Law. However, its relevance has diminished as land regulation evolved. Girik has often become a root cause of land conflicts and a loophole exploited by land mafia groups using forged documents, therefore its abolition is considered a preventive measure against future conflicts. The success of the Complete District/City Program, which maps all land parcels, diminishes the relevance of girik within the modern land law system (Rahayuningsih, 2025).

Referring to land administration authorities, it is evident that the ratio legis of abolishing girik is rooted in the principle of legal certainty and administrative justice in land governance. The State is obligated to ensure that every land parcel has a legally recognized identity through certification. This policy constitutes not only modernization of administration but also a preventive mechanism against overlapping rights, document falsification, and agrarian disputes. The underlying legislative intent confirms that only a certificate issued by the official State authority serves as valid proof of land ownership.

Data from the Ministry of Agrarian Affairs and Spatial Planning/National Land Agency indicates that more than 2,161 land-related cases were resolved in 2024, with the majority involving girik-related disputes in West Java, Banten, and Jakarta. Numerous conflicts arose due to overlapping claims between girik holders and certified landowners. For example, a case in Karawang Regency in 2020 recorded in District Court Decision No. 104/Pdt.G/2020/PN.KWG involved a prolonged dispute concerning conflicting ownership claims between girik and a registered certificate. Another case occurred between a government entity and a local community group in South Tangerang City in 2025, involving 127,780 square meters of certified land claimed as inheritance based on girik documents (Khaeron, 2025). These facts underscore the urgency of abolishing girik as a preventive measure against recurrent agrarian conflicts.

The continuation of girik as evidentiary material would weaken legal certainty and escalate disputes. Dual recognition between girik and certificates would create overlapping rights that hinder legal resolution, foster land mafia practices, obstruct investment, and impede development that depends on secure land tenure. Such circumstances would undermine the State's ability to enforce the social function of land as stipulated in Article 6 of the Basic Agrarian Law due to uncertainty of ownership data. Therefore, the abolition of girik constitutes a strategic policy to safeguard the integrity of the national land administration system.

The abolition of girik as evidence after 2026 aligns with the legal position that girik has not been acknowledged as proof of title since the enactment of the Basic Agrarian Law, and instead functions solely as administrative documentation or an indicator for initial registration (Sumendap & Soerodjo, 2024). This affirms that girik does not provide juridical ownership rights but merely reflects traditional land control and tax obligations. The legislative intent under Article 96 of Government Regulation No. 18 of 2021 embodies the State's commitment to uphold formal legality and legal certainty as mandated in Article 19 paragraph (1) of the Basic Agrarian Law, which requires registration of all land to ensure protection of ownership rights.

Such abolition serves as a logical consequence of Indonesia's shift toward a unified land law system based on certification as the sole legally valid proof of title. The alignment between the policy decision and the transformed legal status of girik — from a social-based to an administrative archive — demonstrates the Government's strong commitment to achieving orderly land administration, preventing agrarian disputes, and upholding the unification of national agrarian law to ensure legal certainty and justice for all citizens. This measure further solidifies the State's authority over the regulation, control, and validation of land rights to ensure that every land parcel holds indisputable legal legitimacy.

Based on the foregoing analysis, it can be concluded that the ratio legis for abolishing girik under Article 96 of Government Regulation No. 18 of 2021 is founded upon legal certainty as the principal pillar of Indonesia's agrarian legal system. A land certificate, as a formal legal instrument, becomes the sole proof of ownership recognized by the State. This provision ensures that each land right holds strong legal legitimacy and cannot be challenged based on informal documents. The abolition of girik after 2026 reflects Indonesia's transformation toward a modern, structured, and dispute-free land law system, while reaffirming the principle that all land rights must be recorded in the national land registry to guarantee legal certainty for all citizens.

CONCLUSION

The ratio legis for the abolition of girik under Government Regulation Number 18 of 2021 is rooted in the State's mandate to ensure legal certainty and unify the national land administration system. This policy addresses the risks of disputes and fraud associated with informal documents, affirming that only certificates issued by the National Land Agency provide lawful ownership protection. By mandating conversion by 2026, it promotes a modern, dispute-free land system aligned with principles of justice and administrative order. The author recommends that the National Land Agency accelerate certification programs through enhanced registration services and public outreach to ensure awareness of the deadline and its implications. The conversion process must be transparent, accessible, and free from illegal levies to encourage participation. Landholders retaining girik should promptly register their rights to secure legal protection. These efforts will support orderly land administration and prevent future agrarian conflicts.

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