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Long and Windy Road of a Local Political Decentralization in Indonesia

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Abstract

Decentralization requires form of devolution of power and authority of the central government to the regions. In practice, decentralization aimed at improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the services to the whole society. In Indonesia decentralization is enacted through Law No. 23 of 2014 on Regional Government. These rules serve as an entire legal entity for community who have autonomy and care of the local authority to set appropriate aspirations and interests of the people that does not contradict to the national judicial order and the public interest. This article aims to describe the dynamics of local political decentralization after the enactment of Law No. 23 the Year 2013. This is because local Government authorities regulate and manage the government according to the principle of autonomy. The co-administration is given the broadest possible autonomy. The primary purpose of the provision is to accelerate the realization of public welfare by improving services, empowerment, and community participation. Extensive freedom in the strategic environment of globalization is expected to enhance competitiveness regard to the principles of democracy, equality, justice, privilege and specificity and the potential and diversity of the regions in the system of the Republic of Indonesia.

Keywords: Decentralization, Local Government, and Autonomy.

Introduction

Decentralization journey in Indonesia if traced throughout the history of this nation is long and winding. The political changes in the 1990's into a reverse flow of the Indonesian nation trip to bring some positive impact. Such changes include changing the relationship between central and local government to a more democratic by enlarging the portion of decentralization. Changes in the system of government then making the institutions supporting the system is changed. A decentralized government system has been initiated by the founders of this country to put a clause in the 1945 Constitution (Article 18). In a research study by Chalid (2005) Implementation of the article raises the issue since the beginning of independence. Struggle to find the meaning of nationality which is seen as a secondary identity, always faces the question of identity in the form of strong solidarity primary ethnicity, religion, customs and language, and local traditions. These factors also led to an uprising by factors other regional inequities in the distribution of economic resources between the central and regional.

Political perspective, decentralization is a step toward democratization. The government's presence is felt by the people and people's involvement in the planning, implementation, and monitoring of development and governance more real. Socially, decentralization will encourage people toward self-managed by the functioning of the social institutions which constitute social capital in solving the problems faced. With institutions that have been internalized, they considered the settlement

mechanism more effective, efficient, and fair. While the economy, decentralization is believed to prevent the exploitation of the center of the region, to foster innovation and motivate people to be more productive society. Administratively will be able to enhance regional capabilities in the planning, organization,

Post-expiration of the New Order, regional autonomy is an essential mandate in the framework of the implementation of the reform agenda. Rajiani & Pyplacz, (2018) mentioned there is a necessity to reorganize the legal and political, from the central province, regency/city to the village government level together with country specific culture

. Regional autonomy is expected to begin on the conditions of good governance. The healthy and assertive government would support all the reform measures, including in the field of politics. Local Government is the holder of the authority of a region or area in conjunction with the strong and broad powers in advancing local and regional public welfare (Roe, 2018). The existence of Local Government, such as the organization of government in general, is to facilitate citizens (community) to achieve a common goal and a common good. Local Government has strong power against the people in the territory. Context of decentralization and regional autonomy, the role of government has become so important. Regional autonomy is very dependent on the quality of management and local government performance (Azfar, Gurgur, & Meagher, 2018).

Area (and local governments) - as mandated by the Regional Autonomy Law - obtained broader authority to design construction and creative in achieving progress and create prosperity. The central government has space limited authority to intervene in the process of regional development. The philosophy of decentralization and regional autonomy adopted by Indonesia did not give great opportunities to the central government to intervene in regional matters.

Law Number 22 the Year 1999 on Regional Government is obvious in giving authority to the regions to freely organize itself and the limits on government-owned authority in succession to intervene in the process of regional development. However, the clarity of the central and local authorities as well as central and local relations pattern as can be seen in Law No. 22 of 1999, it is likely to experience blurring in Law No. 23 of 2014 replacing Law No. 22 of 1999. The fact is, of course, it helped give color and a separate impact in creating local political dynamics (in the area) as well as in the pattern of central and local relations.

Policy and Implementation of Regional Autonomy

Regional autonomy outlined by Act No. 32 of 2004. Originally conceived as a right, authority, and duties of the autonomous regions to set up and manage their affairs and interests of local communities by the laws and regulations (Hud, 2005). This law also states that an autonomous region is a unit of community boundaries that has the authority to regulate and administer governmental affairs and public interests' initiative based on the aspirations of the people within the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia (Pratikno, 1991). It shows that the basic meaning of autonomy is the existence of authority of local governments to determine policies aimed at the implementation of local governance wheels by the aspirations of its people.

Regarding autonomy then more straightforward with the renewal of the Law No. 23 of 2014. The authority of local autonomy refers to the decision-makers in the area to determine the type and level of service provided to the community, and how the service is provided and financed. The authority granted is real, comprehensive and responsible to allow regions to set up and implement a local authority based on its initiative following the interests, conditions, and potential of communities in each region (Nurcholish, 2007). The existence of Regional Autonomy expected to increase the capacity of the community strengthening democracy. The success of the delivery of the Regional Autonomy determined:

1. Increasingly low levels of dependence (degree of dependency) The local government to the central government, not only in planning but also in the provision of funds. Because a planned development will only be effective if it was made and carried out by the local government.

2. The ability of the region to boost its economic growth (growth from inside) and external factors directly influence regional development growth rate (growth from outside) (Imawan, 1991).

Regional autonomy is closely related to the pattern of distribution of powers between the central government and local governments. Yet it can not be denied that the implementation provides both a pretty positive impact for the Region, and that may be difficult for the central government even Regions. Necessary arrangements systematically described the hierarchical relationship both concerning coordination, guidance, and supervision. Therefore, the implementation of this policy then caused a mixed response from the government and the public

Relation to the implementation of decentralization as mandated Law No. 20 of 2014 signaled the government affairs division between central and local governments. The local government is generally considered that the regional autonomy policy is good especially for the regions to develop potential. First, politically the policy provides flexibility for local governments to regulate and manage their affairs is based on the principle of autonomy and duty of assistance following the conditions and needs of the region. Second, economically disadvantaged Local Government because they have greater authority to manage and exploit the natural resources found in the region (Juliantara, 2000).

Local Government district has very broad authority in managing the region in this case as it runs dynamics of administration and utilizing various resources that are in the territory. The emphasis of the implementation of the regional autonomy policy is that at the district and city, the local government create a presumption that the regional government has the authority to take various measures in accordance with the objective conditions of the area and be adjusted to the demands of the dynamics of local communities . Regional autonomy is varied from the various Regional Regulation (Perda), head of the local regulations, and provisions of other areas. The position of local governments are becoming critical as the central point of the implementation of the various policies adopted in the region. These conditions explain the attitude of local governments are becoming the center of the entire implementation of policies and not merely as implementers but also regulated by the central government, as in the previous era (Sabarno, 2007; Said, 2007).

The context of central and local authorities in the implementation of regional autonomy policy has not been fully implemented well. There is a reluctance of the central government to give too much authority to the regions, based on the premise that not all regions are ready to implement regional autonomy policy. However, judging from perspective areas, Indonesia has diversity. Diversity in question still has its limitations. However, the Regions should be given a room based on the authority granted by the Constitution to him, to be able to organize its territory, following the aspirations of its people. Therefore, the problem of confusion in doing policies can be overcome with good.

Decentralization and Local Politics

Decentralization, in the context of political studies, generally refers to the distribution of power based on territoriality (territorial). Decentralization related to the extent of the authority (power) and authority (authority) handed over a geographical hierarchy in the country and also related to the institutions and processes that enable the ongoing division (Smith, 2012). Specifically, in the context of development, Smith explained that the emphasis in the general decentralization program of democratic decentralization, the development is seen as a measure of political autonomy that needs to be submitted to the institutions in the local context can participate and watch. There is 6 promise of decentralization in the context of development:

First, democratic decentralization is a more effective way to meet local needs rather than central planning. This relates to the provision of a mechanism responsive to a variety of circumstances faced from one place to another. Secondly, decentralization is very relevant to meet the needs of

the poor. It is said, if the development of means to eradicate poverty and inequality, then it must involve the participation and mobilization of the poor. Decentralization is especially needed to enable poor rural communities to participate in politics. Third, decentralization improves access to administrative agencies. Fourth, the form of decentralization in which people can participate is said to soften resistance to profound social change in development. Participation in local institutions should help to overcome indifference, pessimism, and the passive attitude of the rural population. Decentralization can secure a commitment to development that requires a change of attitude. Fifth, decentralization should reduce congestion in the center, by providing greater decision making and flexible by reducing the level of central direction and control. Sixth, there is a persistent belief that local democracy is necessary for national unity. In large countries with social and economic diversity necessary to satisfy the legitimate political aspirations of the sub-groups, especially those that are ethnically different (Smith, 2012).

Participation in such institutions should increase civic awareness and political maturity. People learn faster when they have to be responsible for the decisions of local officials. They get invaluable training in resource allocation. Thus the perceived close relationship between the local political institutions and political development. Experience in local government people learns to choose between priorities and leaders. Countries do mobilize support for the development plan. Popular energy should be utilized for the task or economic regeneration. Plans and objectives must be delivered in physical and cultural conditions are difficult. Local institutions can provide local data, interpretation of local needs, indoctrination (to the benefit of the health program, for example),

The advantage can be taken of what is believed to be a willingness to pay locally greater than central taxes. The regional government allows maximum use of local resources which have efficiency values quite apart from other benefits, such as political education, which may be brought to the community. Therefore, closely related to democratic decentralization and development that seeks to use the capacity to help themselves to improve the economic and social welfare of the "community" (Hidayat, 2008). Meanwhile, local politics basically does not only describe and photograph the issues in administration of local government and legal-formal relations among institutions government. Further, it must concerns with the dynamics of political, social, and economic in the local sphere which implies a struggle of interests, competition between groups, the conflict as well as the behavior of actors.

Mechanisms in Center-Regional Relations

Granting autonomy to the widest area is carried out based on the principle of the unitary state. In unitary state sovereignty only in the state government or the national government and no sovereignty in the region. Therefore, any area of autonomy granted to the region, the final responsibility for the regional administration will remain in the hands of the Central Government. Local Government in a unitary state is an integral part of the National Government. Accordingly, the policies are made and implemented by the Region is an integral part of national policy. The differentiation is located on how to utilize the wisdom, potential, innovation, and competitiveness (Abbas et al, 2018).

In the context of democracy, central and local relations are often associated with decentralization and regional autonomy. Decentralized, autonomous regions established and empowered to effectuate the purposes of the local community. Thus the autonomous region is the creation of the central government and at the same subordination. The local government is a government under a sovereign national government in a unitary state, and the sovereign power of the state to the federal state (R. Siti Zohro, 1999). Regional autonomy is a government of, by, and for the people in the national territory of a country formally located outside the central government. Regional autonomy is a solution, not the problem in the context of the democratic era in Indonesia,

Another perspective, the disintegration can be a threat if the policy is not carried out. If autonomy fails, the country could break up, because autonomy is the recognition, trust, and respect for the region. In a unitary state, there are two ways to connect between the central and local governments. First, the so-called centralization, i.e all matters, duties, functions, and powers of government

administration are in the central government . Secondly, by way of decentralization, in which affairs, duties, and authority of the government's implementation handed over to the widest area (Sarundayang, 1999). Factual, central and local relations do not always work in harmony. Disharmony that can originate in the distribution of power between central and local governments are crippled. Distribution of power committed in the form of mandates, limiting the space for local governments. Restrictions can cause conflict between central and local governments. Although the central and local government relations often run out of harmony, with strategy and various forms of innovation ideas, relationships can be created regional centers working relationship is a partnership.

Potential Conflicts in Perspective of Decentralization

Social effects, in turn, produces several specific conflict acute including disputes between countries due to environmental scarcity, conflicts of ethnic groups, and the mass mobilization of a civil strike or against the government (Ishiyama and Marijke, 2012; Origin, Findley, & Walsh, 2016). Three forms of conflicts caused by social pressure because of the scarcity of the environment. First, a simple environmental scarcity leads to conflicts. Regular conflict as a result of scarcity occurs when the structural conditions to encourage the state to use force to augment the cake part of their resources. From a structural perspective that when the power enlarged the challenger group, this group may choose to oppose the existing government power of violence rather than peaceful means, or even trying to seize power. Therefore, this simple scarcity conflict can be considered a resource war. Although conflicts over strategic resources such as coal, oil or others may fit into this category, a clear focus, in this case, was a war for resources that can be updated.

Second, environmental scarcity leads to conflicts in-group identity. This conflict occurs when population growth and migration create problems between groups. Conflicts *versus them* thrive when groups move from areas that are degraded to the area with new opportunities and interact with the residents, who now have to divide the fixed amount of resources to more people. Scarcity because this type of requirement increase tensions between groups that had lived in peace, and when interacting with other social and political factors may be opening the possibility of violent conflict.

Third, environmental scarcity encourages rebellion against the government. Environmental scarcity may also increase the action against the state by force. When a group of experienced deprivation, the group will assess and compare their access to resources by the access that other groups, especially with the group that was holding political power. When the relative deprivation experienced by a group that no power increase, awareness of the sense of economic justice will lead to increased hostility to the ruling group. The group is looking for an opportunity to oppose the ruling party, and deliberately created a situation which could encourage changes in the relative power between the groups.

Conclusion

The decentralization policy, known by the term autonomy envisioned as an effort and political strategy to accelerate the creation of regional progress and welfare of the community. Autonomous regions provide opportunities for regions to create freely and widely to advance their lives. The perspective of the interests of local government, decentralization is to achieve political equality. Implementation of decentralization is expected to open up opportunities for people to participate in political activities at the local level. Therefore, people in the region can elegantly practice forms of political participation, for example, be members of political parties and interest groups, get the freedom to express interest, and active in the policy-making process. The second objective of the decentralization of the interests of local government is local accountability. The implementation of decentralization is expected to create an increase in the ability of local governments to pay attention to the rights of the community, which includes the right to participate in decision-making and policy implementation in the area, as well as the right to control the implementation of the regional administration.

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