



The Role of Village Apparatus in Managing Village Fund: A Case Study in Marindal II Village, Deli Serdang, Indonesia

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Abstract

The village's source of income must be managed properly and professionally. The role of the village government becomes very central in the management of village funds. This is important to be done in order to provide the welfare of the village community as a whole in accordance with the mandate of Village Law No. 6 of 2014. This study aims to depict the role of village apparatus in village fund management (VFM) for development in Marindal II village, patumbak district, deli serdang regency, Indonesia. This study was employed by using qualitative approach. The primary data were collected through interview and observation. The research informant consists of a key informant, a primary informant and an additional informant. The results present that the role of village apparatus in Marindal II Village, Patumbak district, Deli Serdang regency is relevant based on the guidance from the regulation of the ministry of home affairs No. 20 of 2018 namely the role in planning, implementing, administrating, reporting, and accountability.

Keywords: *Village Apparatus; Role; Village Fund*

Introduction

Development is defined as an effort to make life better for everyone (Julita, 2018). Development, as a word, is used to describe processes and efforts to improve economic life, politics, culture, community infrastructure and so on (Faqih, 2002). It is an effort to meet basic human needs, both individually and in groups, in ways that do not cause damage, both to social life and the natural environment (Trijino, 2007). In this context, it is realized as an effort to fulfill human needs. It is provided by the government to ensure the welfare of its people through measurable and systematic efforts. Furthermore, in carrying out the development process, the government must consider the consequences that will be obtained. So that the development process carried out does not cause damage, both social damage and natural damage.

If development is understood as a process, then it is carried out by one or a group of people of course, in this process, it will also involve many people or even a state so that the development will not be separated from the actors who will plan and make it happen. The discourse of development involves social and political aspects. The sense of development depends on the dominant hegemonic power that resents the local authority to the center. If development is understood as a political arena, then, in fact, the

actors in it have a tendency to seize power so as to control individuals, groups and discuss the state (Faqih, 2002).

Understanding how development is patterned, it will open the area in relation to the options and orientations. In development policy orientation taken, the analysis of actors becomes relevant because each particular value and belief implies how the development project is (Winarno, 2012). It also reinforces that development is inseparable from the actors who will drive how it can run and where it will be run.

Law No. 6 of 2014 on villages has provided great opportunities and placed the village as the spearhead of development and improving the welfare of the community (BPK, 2014). The village is given adequate authority and resources in order to manage its potential in order to improve the economy and welfare of the community. Every year, the central government has budgeted a large enough village fund to be given to the village.

The percentage of village funds every year continues to increase this in order to realize development programs in villages throughout Indonesia, and of course to improve the welfare of the community in the village. The government disburses village funds to be distributed since 2015. Village funds budgeted by the central government continue to increase every year starting from 2015 amounting to Rp. 20.8 Trillion, increasing in 2016 by Rp. 47 Trillion, and increasing again in 2017 and 2018 by Rp. 60 Trillion. In 2019 it reaches Rp. 70 Trillion and President Joko Widodo announced that for 2020 the VF will reach Rp. 72 Trillion (Babulu, 2020).

Marindal II village was located in Patumbak district, Deli Serdang regency with an area of 711 ha with a population of 17816. It is as one of the hinterland areas that are directly adjacent to the city of Medan is one of the villages that develop in the Marindal II area from the physical and social life of its people. This can be estimated as a positive impact of the strategic location factor as one of the hinterland areas near Medan city that is realized from the interaction between the village and the city of Medan. The community is now felt no longer as the life of the villagers. When viewed from the cultural life, the pattern of life, the people of this village are also not like the culture of people's lives in the countryside from the way of dress, kinship, cooperation, and so forth. The form of work or livelihood of the community has also been more heterogeneous that is not fixated on the primary sector alone. Those aspects will affect the level of education of the child, health, the state of the house, as well as his pattern of life.

There are some previous studies related to village fund management in Indonesia. For example, Ahyat, Badaruddin, Humaizi, & Kusmanto (2020) investigate the role of *Mukim* in managing village fund (VF) in Aceh Timur, Indonesia. They argue that the role of *Mukim* is not maximized so that it affects directly to the management of VF. Daud (2019) in his research discovers that VF has been used effectively and wisely for the sake of village community. He further underpins that the transparency in managing VF is crucial thing to be done. In other region, Papua, Pattiasina, Seralurin, Kadubu, Hamadi, & Bonsafia (2020) state that bureaucracy brings bad effect in village financial system application. They add that communication, human resources, disposition, bureaucratic structure, and village facilitators simultaneously influence the implementation of the village financial system application. Different from the previous studies, this study aims to see how the role of village apparatus in village fund management (VFM) for development in Marindal II village, Patumbak district, Deli Serdang regency, Indonesia.

Review of Literature

Politic of Development

The politics of development, according to Warjio (2016), is a concept to explain how political or certain strategies in the context of development achieve its goals. Important variables in development politics include:

1. The existence of development actors. Development actors are those who perform sental and decisive roles in the development process. These can be individuals, groups, or countries. As actors they have an instinct and interest in development through a certain way or strategy.
2. The existence of power. Power is what development actors have to realize goals in the form of hard power and soft power.
3. The existence of a system. The system is a mechanism owned by development actors in realizing development goals.
4. Ideology. It is the spirit that drives development actors to achieve goals and become spirit in achieving their goals.
5. Foreign Intervention. Foreign intervention is development actors come from "outside" supporting development that plays and has specific goals.

The results of a combined analysis of actors who examined in urban spatial planning with the principle of good governance that the weight of actors in urban spatial planning are prioritized are public actors (civil society) and government actors and the last private actors (Sutiyoso, 2017). This shows us how development actors have a considerable role even starting from the stage of development planning. Of course, this actor has an interest in serving the public interest, but on the one hand it can also survive and expand personal/group interests.

Village and Its Apparatus

According to Julita (2018), village is a combination of the activities of a group of people and their environment. The result of the fusion is a form or appearance on the face of the earth caused by the elements of physiography, social, economic, political, cultural that interact with each other between these elements and also in relation to other regions. Year by year, village has experienced dynamic growth and development (Supriyanto & Azhari, 2020).

In particular, some of the social characteristics of village communities according to Soejono Soekanto include: villagers have strong kinship because they generally come from one descendant, the pattern of life is *gemeinschaft* that is tied by a strong family system, most of the population works in the agrarian sector (agriculture, plantations, livestock, and fisheries), the way of farming is still relatively simple or traditional so that most of the results are still intended for the needs of daily life (Soekanto, 2002).

Village Apparatus is the village government and village consultative agency (VCA) or *Badan Permusyawaratan Desa* that organizes village government. The village government according to Law No. 6 of 2014 on villages is the village head assisted by village equipment as an element of village government organizers while the VCA is institution that carries out government functions whose members are representatives of the villagers based on regional representation and elected democratically (BPK, 2014). To organize a village government that is advanced, prosperous and independent without having to lose its identity, it is to place or choose a village appartus that has a capable capacity so that the mechanism is regulated in such a way that every village head and VCA selected is considered capable to run the wheels of village government.

Village managers in the village law are composed of village secretariat led by the village secretary (BPK, 2014). Village secretary is assisted by elements of the secretariat staff in charge of assisting the village head in the field of government administration. This secretariat consists of at most 3 (three) affairs, and assisted by regional executives and technical executives, where the technical executor is the assistant element of the village head as the executor of operational duties that also consists of at most 3 (three) sections.

Village Fund Management

Adisasmita (2006) explains the purpose of village development in the divide into 2 (two) namely long-term village development and short-term village development. The long-term development goal is the realization of improving the welfare of village communities which is directly carried out through increased employment opportunities, business opportunities and income based on the approach of community development, business development, and human development so that indirectly, it lays the solid foundations for national development. Meanwhile, the short-term goal of village development is to increase effectiveness and efficiency in the implementation of economic activities and in the utilization of human resources and natural resources.

Village Fund is a fund derived from the state budget. It is intended for villages that are transferred through the district/city budget and used to fund the implementation of government, development implementation, community development, and community empowerment. Village Development is an effort to improve the quality of life and life for the welfare of the villagers (Ahyat et al., 2020; Rangkuti, Marzuki, & Agusmadi, 2019).

Anjani (2019) confirms that the village head is attribution given the authority of VFM. Then, the authority is delegated to the village equipment to help carry out the management of village finance. Thus, the responsibility of authority remains in the hands of the village head. The priority use of VF is the choice of activities that take precedence over other activities to be financed with village funds.

1. To finance the implementation of programs and activities in the field of village development and empowerment of village communities.
2. To finance the implementation of programs and activities of a cross-field nature.
3. It is expected to provide the greatest benefits for the villagers in the form of improving quality of life, improving welfare and poverty reduction as well as improving public services at the village level.

Methodology

This research employed qualitative approach which aims to describe the role of village apparatus in VFM. This study took place in Marindal II Village, Patumbak district, Deli Serdang regency, Indonesia. The data comprise of primary and secondary data. Primary data were collected through interviews and observations, while for secondary data, those were gained by reviewing literature studies and documentation from various journals, books, research results and other media related to research topics. In determining the informants, purposive technique was used. Purposive is a technique to determine research samples with certain considerations that aim to make the data obtained later can be more representative (Sugiyono, 2012).

The data analysis techniques utilized component analysis techniques. By using triangulated data collection technique, a number of specific and different dimensions on each element will be found (Sugiyono, 2012). The analysis was firstly done by using several stages, namely the deployment of observation results, interviews and documentation. Then, the selection of observation results, interviews and documentation were subsequently done in order to discover the contrasting elements of the role of village apparatus VFM for development in the village Marindal II, Patumbak district, Deli Serdang regency, Indonesia.

Result

Marindal II Village

Marindal II village is a land-based village plantation. The community in Marindal II Village is an employee of PT. Perkebunan Nusantara 2 (PTPN-2) who works and is given housing facilities by the

company. Marindal-II villagers currently have a variety of ethnicities, religious tribes with various sources of income such as building workers, factory workers, self-employed, the rest such as, driver, housewife, civil servant, and entrepreneur to plantation itself.

Marindal II village is growing rapidly because of the increasingly dense population of ex PT. Perkebunan Nusantara IX land area which is the leadership of land area for the establishment of buildings given from the tenants and until now the plantation housing has been inhabited by the community and become an urban-like area due to the distance between Marindal II Village and the adjoining city of Medan.

Most of the people of Marindal II Village work in agriculture and carpentry sector. Farming is the main job of the villagers, but it is a seasonal job because it is done only in certain seasons such as the growing season and harvest season. Outside the growing season and harvest season that in one year can reach 4 times, men generally work as building and construction workers outside the village.

Village Fund Utilization

Village income is not only sourced from village funds, but there are some also sourced as village income such as PAD, BHPRD and village fund allocation. This study specifically analyzed VF which is managed and used for village development. In 2018, village funds received by Marindal II village is about Rp. 698565000. The village fund is managed by the village government for the field of governance, development and community empowerment. For more details can be seen in the attachments in the study.

In 2018 there was only 1 title of activities using the village budget for village government administration, namely for data collection and preparation of village profiles, other activities using silpa budget in 2017. Village development using village funds in 2018 is more likely to be the development of village infrastructure. The development is certainly the result of village deliberations whose process can be seen in the results of the next research in this study. Development, and maintenance of infrastructure are more dominant in the use of Marindal II village fund. This was the result of an agreement with the village government of the Village Consultative Agency (BPD), *Lembaga Ketahanan Masyarakat Desa*, and community leaders. The planning starts at the village level. These results are realized by infrastructure development using village funds.

The use of village funds for the field of community empowerment is prioritized for trainings, and socialization. It is expected that the development will not only be physical but the human resources of the villagers will also be built. This can be interpreted as development in the Marindal II village runs in accordance with the rules and designation. So that, the infrastructure and human resources development carried out in this field can be felt by all village communities. As for the field of community development, village funds were not used because it is accommodated in the allocation of VF in accordance with the regulation of the Regent of Deli Serdang No.005 of 2018 on the procedures for distribution, determination of details and technical guidelines for the use of village funds in Deli Serdang regency in 2018. The focus of development in Marindal II Village is the development, improvement of village infrastructure that aims to improve the mobility of village communities so as to improve the economy of village communities.

The Role of Village Apparatus in Village Fund Management

Role is the action of a person according to the norms and rules that follow the role he has. In short, it can be said that the role is the behavior of a person in society that many people expect of his position. The role in this discussion is the role of village managers in managing village funds for development in Marendal II village, Patumbak district, Deli Serdang regency.

The role of village officials to be seen in the management of village funds for development in Marindal II village is as follows:

1. Role in Planning
2. Role in Implementation
3. Role in Administration
4. Role in Reporting
5. Role in Accountability

Those five roles are seen from the results of the research, namely direct observation and the results of interviews conducted to the village government apparatus, namely the village head, village secretary, village treasurer, head of development section, head of village government, chairman and vice chairman of village consultative agency and the community, who were made the main informants, key informants, and additional informants in this study. The additional informant is a community figure who provides development information that occurred in Marindal Village II in the period 2018-2019, where the information found is development sourced from VF with the aim of the development of Marindal II Village District Patumbak Deli Serdang Regency.

The role of village government in village development planning and its mechanisms according to village treasurer Ibu Selly Fransiska:

"The process flow starts from deliberation at the village level, then village deliberation for the preparation and determination of village RKP, then the secretary prepares the village budget based on the village RKP. After the approval of the village head, it is submitted to BPD to be discussed with other elements of the community. If it has been agreed together about the village budget, it will be submitted to the sub-district to be evaluated. Then, the village head submits a draft village regulation on village budget to the sub-district to be evaluated. If it has been evaluated and approved by the village head, it has to be subsequently executed. The role as treasurer plays an active role following from village deliberations, every expenditure and financial income of the village from me as treasurer but still the approval of the Village Head" (Interview, Monday, June 08, 2020).

Mr. Nurhasan, the Chairman of village consultative agency of Marindal II village, states that

"The mechanism begins with the discussion of the sub-village carried out in the sub-village. Each head of sub-village and its citizens meet and determine the priorities that are the most important and urgent related to the development plan in sub-village. Then the results of the meeting are brought into the village meeting. At this meeting, it will be filtered which is the most important and urgent so that this deliberation cannot be carried out once but up to twice. The village head is very fond if there are people giving brilliant ideas for the progress of Marindal II village. The managers also work well together so that the village government is in the harmonious relationship. The role in planning is all involved with the village council to determine development options that are an important and coercive priority". (Interview, Friday 05 June 2020)

Based on the results of the interview of key informants, main and additional mentioned above, the development planning of Marindal II Village is decided by the discussion involving all related elements in the village, so that it is in accordance with the applicable provisions in the management planning of village funds.

Discussion

The results of interviews and observations of researchers can conclude that a considerable role was carried out by the village government at the time of implementation. The village head as the spearhead in village development knows its function and forms a team of village financial management

executives and then forms an activity implementation team to carry out their respective field activities and run well. This is in line with what Anjani (2019) that the village head is attributionally given the authority of village financial management, then the authority is delegated to the village device to help carry out the management of village finance, thus the responsibility of authority remains in the hands of the Village Head.

From the interview, the other sectors of development except infrastructure need to be boosted even though the community members agree to prioritize infrastructure. In relation to village development, other researchers, Nababan, Amin, & Badaruddin (2020) believe that the village managers need to create some works strategies for village development strategies by analyzing what are strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats (SWOT) of the policy so that it can be implemented for the maximum usage of VF for development.

Conclusion and Suggestion

Based on the results of data analysis, the role of village apparatus in the management of village funds for development in the village of Marindal II, Patumbak district, Deli Serdang regency has been fully understood and carried out in accordance with the regulation of the Ministry of Home Affairs No. 20 of 2018 namely (a) the role of planning, (b) the role of implementation, (c) the role of administration, (d) the role of reporting, and (e) the role of accountability. Referring to the conclusion, the proposed suggestion is the village government must also prioritize development to improve the welfare of village communities and poverty reduction as well as educational and cultural facilities.

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