



Transparency and accountability analysis of village fund allocation management in Lembang Polopadang village

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ABSTRACT

The Village Fund program aims to provide financial support to encourage economic, social, and infrastructure development in rural areas. Village funds take the form of financial transfers directly to village governments. These funds can be used for infrastructure development, local economic development, health and education services, and the development of other village potentials. The purpose of village funds is to reduce the development gap between urban and rural areas and its management with the principles of transparency, community participation, accountability, and management based on local needs and potential. The research objective is to explore more deeply how transparency and accountability in the management of village funds to improve the effectiveness of village fund management in Lembang Polopadang. The data analysis techniques used are data reduction, data display, data verification, data categorization, data interpretation and conclusion drawing. The results showed that the village's financial management has fulfilled the provisions stipulated in Permendes No. 7 of 2021 concerning Priorities for the Use of Village Funds in 2022. Transparency and accountability in the management of ADD in Lembang Polopadang have been carried out properly at the planning, implementation, administration, reporting, and accountability stages. Information regarding activities or programs financed by ADD has been well produced. In addition, physical and administrative accountability has also run well in accordance with applicable village regulations. This shows the village government's commitment to improving the welfare of the population through transparent and accountable ADD management.

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INTRODUCTION

Local government is a government body formed at the local or regional level in a country or region, in accordance with the provisions of the law (Magdalena & Suhatman, 2020; Sellers & Scharff, 2020; World Health Organization, 2020). Local governments have an important role and are responsible for managing local finances, formulating policies, and striving to develop their regions, improve

people's welfare, and encourage active and democratic participation of the people in policy making, in accordance with the principles of effectiveness and efficiency (Gobikas & Čingienė, 2021; Nani & Ali, 2020; Zeho et al., 2020).

The village is the lowest unit of government and is part of the region, the village has clear boundaries, a permanent population, the existence of government, and has its own identity and characteristics, both geographically, culturally, socially, and economically. Villages have the authority to govern, and the principles of village autonomy. The village head is called the village head, is elected by acclamation and appointed by the local government, and is responsible for regulating policies in the region (Darwin & Hadna, 2022; Olin et al., 2021; Pane, 2019). Villages have representative institutions that function to oversee policies and make decisions related to government affairs, and have access to financing, development, and village empowerment (Bakhtiar, 2021; Hariyanto, 2022; Rumkel et al., 2019; Zeho et al., 2020).

Villages are expected to be able to manage local potential, improve the welfare of the village community, and encourage active and democratic participation of the community in policy making, in order to strengthen local community-based governance arrangements. To realize this, PP No. 72 was born, which regulates the village by providing a source of funds for development and development in the form of balance funds received by local governments that must be allocated proportionally, known as the Village Fund.

The village fund is an Indonesian government program that aims to provide financial support to villages to encourage economic, social, and infrastructure development in rural areas (Arifin et al., 2020; Aritenang, 2021; Muhtar et al., 2023; Permatasari et al., 2021). The village fund program started in 2015 and is financed by the central government with funds allocated annually to villages across Indonesia. Village funds are provided in the form of financial transfers that are managed directly by the village government (Dewi et al., 2021; Watts et al., 2019). The funds can be used for various purposes, such as infrastructure development, local economic development, health and education services, and the development of other village potentials. The main objective is to reduce the development gap between urban and rural areas. Village funds are managed through the principles of transparency, community participation, accountability, and management based on regional needs and potential. The program is expected to strengthen policy-making and development implementation in their areas, as well as improve the overall quality of life of village communities (Jayawarsa et al., 2021).

Therefore, the management of allocated village funds must be right on target. The principles of using village funds in Indonesia are based on transparency, community participation, accountability, and management based on regional needs and potential. Transparency requires that it be done openly and clearly (Aguinis & Solarino, 2019). Accountability requires that village governments are responsible for the transparent and efficient management of village funds (Dewi et al., 2021; Saputra et al., 2019; Sofyani et al., 2019). Transparency is a principle or condition where information or processes can be accessed, understood, and assessed clearly and openly by the public. Transparency includes openness in decision making, fulfillment of reporting obligations, and openness to accountability and responsibility for actions or policies taken (Ortega-Rodríguez et al., 2020; Valentinov et al., 2019). Meanwhile, accountability is a concept that refers to the obligation or responsibility of a person, group, or body to be responsible for actions, decisions, and the results of activities carried out. In the context of government, accountability means the ability and obligation of the government or related institutions to carry out the duties and authorities assigned to them transparently, responsibly, and based on established ethical principles and values (ATMADJA et al., 2021; Kourula et al., 2019; Saputra et al., 2019).

Lembang Polopadang, located in Kapala Pitu Sub-district, North Toraja Regency, is one of the villages that received an allocation of village funds. However, based on initial observations made by researchers, there are several problems faced. One of them is that transparency in village financial management has not been fully implemented, because there is no information conveyed through

announcement boards or information boards regarding the amount of expenditure and receipt of village funds. In addition, there are problems with village governance, where the village government apparatus still has limitations. This has an impact on the lack of communication between the village government and the community, as well as low community participation in activities financed by village funds.

The research gap in this study looks at (1) community perceptions by understanding their views on how village fund allocations are managed and what is considered transparent and accountable; (2) inhibiting factors, namely lack of access to information, low community participation, or lack of supervision, and finding ways to overcome or reduce these barriers and (3) information technology to facilitate tracking and reporting of village fund management, and its impact on transparency and accountability.

The uniqueness of this research is that it can explore local challenges in terms of geography, infrastructure, level of community participation, or village governance structure to help identify specific and targeted solutions to improve transparency and accountability in village fund management.

It is hoped that this research will contribute to stakeholders' thinking on the importance of improving village fund management, engaging communities, building trust, reducing corruption risks, and contributing to a better understanding of policy improvements.

RESEARCH METHOD

Research Type

This research uses a qualitative descriptive research design (Mohajan, 2018; Ritchie & Spencer, 2002). According to (Yundari & Artati, 2021) descriptive qualitative is an approach in research that describes, explores, and explains the characteristics or qualities of a phenomenon or object in the form of narrative descriptions based on observations, interviews, or non-numerical data. This approach does not rely on numerical or statistical measurements, but rather on an in-depth understanding of the phenomenon being studied, which can involve analyzing text, interview transcripts, or field notes.

Research Location

This research will be conducted at the Lembang Polopadang Office, Kapala Pitu Sub-district, a village in a particular area that will be the object of research. The research location was chosen based on the consideration that Lembang Polopadang is one of the villages that received a significant allocation of village funds and is a representative of the village government in managing the allocation of village funds. The research subjects in this study were the village government consisting of the village head, village secretary, and staff at the Lembang Polopadang Office. The selection of research subjects was carried out by purposive sampling, where subjects were selected based on considerations relevant to the research objectives.

Population

Population is the whole of a phenomenon or group to be studied, and can include individuals, groups, organizations, or certain areas that have attributes or characteristics relevant to the research objectives (Leonardi & Treem, 2020). The population in this study is the village government, community members involved in the management of village fund allocations, and documents issued by the village government and related agencies related to transparency and accountability in the management of village fund allocations at the Polopadang Lembang Office, Kapala Pitu District.

Sample

A sample is a subset of the population selected to be the object of research (Bull et al., 2021; Gardner et al., 2021). Sample selection can be carried out using Purposive Sampling techniques, where sample selection is carried out based on certain criteria relevant to the research objectives, for example selecting village heads, village secretaries, or community members involved in the management of village fund allocations based on their roles and responsibilities in the process of managing village fund allocations.

Primary Data

Primary data is data obtained directly from the original source, namely the village government, village officials, or community members involved in managing the allocation of village funds in Lembang Polopadang, Kapala Pitu District. Primary data in this study can be in the form of interviews, observations, or documentation.

Secondary Data

Secondary data is data obtained from pre-existing sources, such as documents, reports, or publications related to the transparency and accountability of village governments in the management of village fund allocations. Secondary data in this study can be in the form of laws and regulations, village financial reports, village fund allocation management documents, or relevant previous research results.

Data Collection Technique

Data analysis in this study used an interactive analysis model Miles and Huberman (1994) proposed several data analysis techniques in qualitative research, known as the "Interactive Model" or "Qualitative Data Analysis Model". Some of the data analysis techniques proposed by Miles and Huberman include: (a). Data reduction: The data that has been collected will be organized, checked, and cleaned of irrelevant or duplicate data. This step aims to reduce the data into data that is more focused and can be analyzed further, (b). Data display: Displayed to be understood, for example in the form of direct quotes from the results of interviews or in the form of a summary of the results of observations and documents collected, (c). Data verification: The data that has been displayed will be verified again by triangulating the data, namely comparing data from various sources, (d). Data categorization: Data that has been verified will be grouped or categorized based on themes or patterns that emerge from the data. This step aims to identify emerging patterns or themes, (f). Data interpretation: Data that has been categorized will be interpreted holistically to understand the meaning or understanding contained in the data. The results of the interpretation will be used to answer the research questions.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Village Fund Allocation (ADD) is a fund used for government operations and community empowerment. The distribution of ADD is carried out in stages by completing reports such as the Village Budget Report (APBL), Quarterly Accountability Report, and Realization Report. ADD funds received by each village are used for 5 (five) areas, namely: (a). Field of Village Administration amounting to Rp.581,251,717.00, (b) Field of Village Development Implementation amounting to Rp.581,750,900.00, (c), Village Development Division amounting to Rp.10,000,000.00, (d). Community Empowerment Division amounting to Rp.200,074,780.00, (f) Disaster Management Division amounting to Rp.353,200,000.00

All activities funded by ADD must be accountable by involving all elements of the village community. Transparency and accountability of village funds are important principles in the management of village funds that involve the disclosure of information in a clear, open, and understandable manner to the community, as well as strict supervision in the use of village funds. The following explains transparency and accountability:

Transparency

Based on the interview with the village secretary of Lembang Polopadang, the information obtained is that in general village officials have informed the community about the nominal source of funds, namely the amount of money received from the government every time village funds are disbursed. However, the community themselves do not understand the types of funds and the sources of funds used, the important thing for them is that the funds are disbursed from the government. (Source: Alfian, Friday at 10:25 WITA on January 27, 2023, at the Polopadang Lembang Office)

This information shows that, in general, village officials have attempted to implement transparency by informing the community about the amount of funds received. However, it was noted that the community's understanding of the types of funds and the sources of funds used still needs to be improved. It is important to ensure that information provided to the community regarding village funds covers all relevant aspects, including the source of funds, allocation of funds, usage plan, and reporting and accountability for the use of village funds in a transparent and easily understood manner. In the context of accountability, it is also important to ensure that there is an effective oversight mechanism to minimize the potential for abuse or violations in the management of village funds, as well as firm action against irregularities if found.

Accountability

Accountability is the obligation to provide contraprestation for the rights obtained from the community. It must be done periodically and unpredictably through communication media to internal and external parties. It is a legal obligation, not a voluntary one. The Village Fund allocation is used for Village Government Expenses and Community Empowerment. Village Government Costs include office maintenance, government operations, allowances, and others. Community Empowerment Costs involve the development of infrastructure, institutions, and others.

Planning

Planning in the management of village fund allocations in Lembang Polopadang refers to Permendesa no 7 of 2021 concerning Priorities for the Use of Village Funds in 2022 and PMK no 190/PMK.07 of 2021 concerning Village Fund Management in 2022. The planning process involves the formulation of the plan and its implementation, which involves analyzing the positions that need to be filled and the number of employees required in the labor recruitment process. This planning is a process of determining objectives and guidelines for implementation by choosing the best of the available alternatives.

Implementation

The implementation of village fund allocation planning in Lembang Polopadang involves several steps, including: (a). Preparation of the Village Budget (APBDes), (b). Use of the SISKEUDES Application, (c). Community Involvement, (d). Activity Implementation, (e). Reporting and Evaluation, (f). Monitoring and Supervision

Business Organizer

Business structuring in the context of village fund allocation in Lembang Polopadang usually involves several steps, including: (a). Identification of Business Potential, (b). Community Consultation and Participation, (c). Planning and Budgeting, (d). Establishment of Business Groups, (e). Implementation and Monitoring, (f). Evaluation and Coaching.

Reporting

Based on the results of interviews with the Head of Lembang Polopadang, Samuel Sampe Palittin, and referring to Permendesa No. 7 of 2021, the reporting of the management of the Lembang

Polopadang village fund allocation is in accordance with the following reporting accountability indicators: (a). The first semester report and the year-end semester report are reported by the Village Head to the Regent through the Camat, (b). First semester realization report in the form of APBDesa, (c). The first semester report is reported by the Village Head to the Regent through the Camat in July, (d). The year-end semester report is reported by the Village Head to the Regent through the Camat in January.

Accountability

In line with the spirit of transparency and accountability, the Village Head of Lembang Polopadang, Mr. Samuel Sampe Palittin, has performed his duties well in submitting an accountability report on the realization of the APBDesa implementation to the Regent at the end of each fiscal year. With the use of Village Regulations as a foundation, as well as an approach in accordance with the 2022 North Toraja Regency Regional Regulation No. 78 concerning APBDesa, Lembang Polopadang has successfully involved the Village Consultative Body and fulfilled the accountability indicators according to Permendesa No. 7 of 2021. A step that should be appreciated in maintaining the integrity and transparency of the management of village fund allocations, as well as providing confidence to the community that the management of village funds is carried out professionally and responsibly.

Thus, it can be concluded that the accountability of the management of the Lembang Polopadang village fund allocation is in accordance with the provisions stipulated in the Lembang Polopadang Regulation, the 2022 North Toraja Regency Regional Regulation Number 78 concerning APBDesa, as well as the Accountability Indicators according to Permendesa No. 7 of 2021. In Lembang Polopadang, a village located in Kapala Pitu sub-district, North Toraja Regency, problems often arise. Delays in reporting are one of the main obstacles, which makes the budget from the center stagnant. As a result, salaries for village officials, electricity payments, and other operational costs are often disbursed late. In addition, development programs that have been carefully planned by the village government do not run as expected.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the study, it can be concluded that the village's financial management has fulfilled the provisions stipulated in Permendesa No. 7 of 2021 concerning Priorities for the Use of Village Funds in 2022. Transparency and accountability in the management of ADD in Lembang Polopadang have been carried out properly at the planning, implementation, administration, reporting, and accountability stages. Information regarding activities or programs financed by ADD has been well produced. In addition, physical and administrative accountability has also run well in accordance with applicable village regulations. This shows the commitment of the village government in improving the welfare of the population through transparent and accountable management of ADD. Based on the results of the study, the researcher provides several suggestions for Increasing Transparency, Increasing Supervision, Increasing the Capacity of Human Resources (HR). Suggestions for future research include expanding the scope by examining village financial management and use of the Village Fund in other villages, involving surveys or case studies to assess the extent to which improvements have been made in terms of transparency, oversight, and human resource capacity, conducting a comparative analysis between villages that have implemented the suggestions provided and villages that have not, given the importance of sustainability in ADD management, adopting a long-term monitoring approach, involving more in-depth qualitative studies, involving interviews with relevant parties such as village administrators, communities, or independent oversight institutions to gain a richer understanding of perceptions, experiences, and challenges faced in ADD management.

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