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OPEN GOVERNMENT AND CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN PARTICIPATORY PROCESS OF LOCAL MEDIUM-TERM DEVELOPMENT PLANNING IN ANAMBAS ISLANDS REGENCY

Bambang Irawan and Henny Asmara

Department of Public Administration, Administrative Science Faculty, Institute of Social Science and Management STIAMI, Jakarta, Indonesia

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ABSTRACT

Openness and participation are key principles to build local government accountability and trust, which are necessary for the functioning of democracies. The research aimed to identify and evaluate the benefit of open government and citizen participation in participatory process of local medium-term development planning in Anambas islands regency. This research using the qualitative research method with 21 informants using an interview related to the research problems. Based on in-depth interview, observation and documents, there are four characteristics in process of participatory in preparing local medium-term development planning of Anambas islands, included principles of good governance, democratic participation, introduction to identity groups, and integrative planning. These characteristics explained the importance of openness, participation and understanding the stakeholder for better participatory process.

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INTRODUCTION

The concepts of open government and participation are obviously related, they can bring forward more active forms of citizen involvement in governance, with citizens not only participating by providing their opinion, but also being more active in setting the agenda of discussion, and even more active by working together with governments to develop new services. However, these advancements are by no means automatic; it is quite important to better understand how the critical success factors of open government and citizen participation initiatives relate, as well as how open government initiatives can actually contribute to more participatory and collaborative forms of governance.

Openness and participation are key ingredients to build accountability and trust, which are necessary for the functioning of democracies. High level of transparency and participatory citizen increase accountability for decisions and provide less opportunity for self-interested abuse of the system and the opening-up of data makes it easier for citizens to monitor their government's activities including the services they provide and public policy process.

Participation will be more effective when stakeholders are identified clearly. Stakeholder engagement in government

program participation described from many fields including organizational theory, political science, sociology, and anthropology. In citizen participation, stakeholders are considered any individuals or organizations that might have interest or an ability to use engagement in participatory process in decision-making.

The aim of this research to identify and evaluate the benefit of open government and citizen participation in participatory process of Local Medium-Term Development Planning of Anambas Islands Regency. Several concepts about open government and citizen participation will be explained below

Open Government

(OECD (2005) defines open government as the transparency of government actions, the accessibility of government services and information, and the responsiveness of government to new ideas, demands and needs. The concept of "open" focus on improving the evidence base for policy-making, strengthening integrity, discouraging corruption and building public trust in government. According to researchers such as Heckmann (2011), open government can be a transformation process that offers the potential power to formulate transparency as more than a stabilization.

*Corresponding author: **Bambang Irawan**

Department of Public Administration, Administrative Science Faculty, Institute of Social Science and Management STIAMI, Jakarta, Indonesia

Open government models also are proposed to promote more effective decision making processes, improve accountability mechanisms, and regain public trust in government and public administrations (Gavelin *et al.* 2009). To contextualize open government policy in the Anambas Island, first, it tried to understand political, public, and organizational changes in the way of government work and interact with citizens. Second, it considered the role of the government working in the public administrations to implement the open and participatory government. Open government's definition is an open and developed proposal to build governance models. These new models of governance aim to be structured alongside transparently, informing, listening, and working with civil society to deal with public needs effectively, efficiently, and sustainably (Gavelin *et al.* 2009, Lathrop and Ruma, 2010).

Citizen Participation

Citizen participation, as defined by administrative scholars, refers to the role of the public in the process of administrative decision making or involvement in making service delivery and management decisions (Callahan, 2007). In other hand, Langton (1978) defines citizen participation as an initiated and controlled process by government to improve or to gain support for decisions, programs, or services. The definitions explained the two perspectives of participation both from government and citizen in engagement process.

Assuming that citizens know how to identify the problems affecting them, open government initiatives should be a catalyst for civic engagement. At the local government, citizens not only be able to assess the productivity of government agencies but also make them more accountable. The public should also contribute ideas to enhance participation in public policy process by giving idea, information and responses. This civic engagement and participation fosters a new level of transparency that promotes more involvement at the grassroots and contribute to governance mechanism concept.

Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholders are defined as individuals or groups who can affect, or are affected by, the actions and results of a specific organization, initiatives, policies, or projects (Harrison and Freeman, 1999). Benefits and impacts on stakeholders should also be considered in decision-making. In the context of considering stakeholder theory in research, this translates to focusing on transmitting relevant knowledge and information to a broader set of interests than the traditional academic audience.

The key principle of stakeholder engagement is that organizations seek to understand, respect, and meet the needs of parties who have a stake in the actions and outcomes of the organization (Plaza-Úbeda *et al.* 2010). Involving stakeholders in the production of knowledge can be seen as an ethical requirement of institutions (Harrison and Freeman, 1999). Importantly, in the field of social, working closely with stakeholders outside the academic community can be understood as a strategic necessity to ensure that consideration of up-to-date scientific information about social and public issues impacts in understanding the holistic views.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Moleong (2012) defined the qualitative method as a research procedure that produces descriptive data in written or oral performs, and observable persons and behaviors. The meaning embedded in qualitative approach is demonstrated through implementation by observing a phenomenon, both with direct observation through information and studying data to answer questions. Using the qualitative research method, this study describes and discusses how participatory process practices in Local Medium-Term Development Planning formulation of Anambas Islands Regency in 2016-2021.

In this study, researcher used in-depth interviews with 21 persons using a list of questions that have been provided related to the research problems. Informants in this research included: Regent of Anambas Islands, Several Head Officers in Government, Population and Human Resources of Local Planning Agency (BAPPEDA) in Anambas Island Regency, representatives of NGOs, representatives of Youth Organizations and Non Profit Organizations and society. In this research, the data analysis technique used is interactive model of analysis (Miles, Huberman and Salnada, 2013) includes data condensation, data display and conclusion drawing/verification.

RESULTS

Anambas Islands Regency is a maritime autonomous region with seven districts and 54 villages. The seven districts are Jemaja, East Jemaja, South Siantan, Siantan District, East Siantan, Middle Siantan, and Palmatak. Tarempa is capital of Anambas Islands Regency.

Local Medium-Term Development Planning was an elaboration of the vision, mission, program of the elected Head of local government which is guided by the Local Long-Term Development Planning as well as to the Provincial Medium-Term Development Planning for the regency or municipality. The Local Medium-Term Development Planning contains the direction of local financial policy, local development strategy, local public policy, and local program accompanied by a work plan within the regulatory framework and indicative funding framework. The principles of good governance, democratic participation, introduction to identity groups, and integrative planning.

DISCUSSION

Applications of open government and citizen participation concept in process of preparing Local Medium-Term Development Planning of Anambas Islands Regency can be explored by the following measures:

Principles of Good Governance

The principles of good governance cannot be separated from the commitment of local government leaders and their staff in running the government. This commitment is certainly manifested through a system established and run jointly between the civil apparatus of the state and society. In relation to the process of drafting the Local Medium-Term Development Planning of Anambas Islands Regency in 2016-2021, the Anambas Islands District Government has taken concrete steps in the implementation of government in services,

clean, free from corruption, and prioritizes transparency and accountability.

The application of the principles of good governance should come from mutual commitment and openness of information, equality (with no distinction of race, religion and socioeconomic conditions), the commitment of decision makers, both excessive and legislative), critical awareness of citizens, organized communities, and the support of a conducive political climate.

There is a problem with cultural factors of communities who tend to be inconsistent with things that are unfavorable. In the research, it was revealed that there were public doubts caused by the unclear responsibility of stakeholder exist in development planning process. The conditions effected to the level of trust to the local government in relation to development planning process.

Democratic Participation

Participatory development planning, known as participatory planning, is actually a political process for obtaining collective agreements through negotiation activities between stakeholder groups. The drafting process of the Local Medium-Term Development Planning is essentially a process of negotiation to obtain a collective agreement. Through participatory development planning realized through deliberation process, the end of the ratification of the Local Medium-Term Development Planning will run through a political process to be made in the local regulations with the approval of the Assembly at Regency Level.

Participatory approaches in various contexts, including development planning deliberation, are always linked to the democratization process, in which society as the greatest element in is expected to participate in the process of determining the direction of development. Thus the efforts of community empowerment in the era of reform and decentralization, the demand for openness and citizen participation in the development planning process are a consequence and commitment to the principles of democracy, because the planning instrument is an effort to empower and increase public awareness of social, economic and political as a harmony. In the process, the space of freedom in conveying aspirations should deliver the principles of mutual openness and complete each others. The deliberation process can explain a degree of ideal participation, that will impact on equal and directed participation.

Introduction to Identity Groups

Implementation of the concept of participatory planning in the implementation of Local Medium-Term Development Planning for Anambas Islands Regency is realized with the implementation of Development Planning Meeting by involving the community and all stakeholders elements in Anambas Islands Regency. In this deliberation the stakeholders present consist of various elements of society such as community organizations, professional associations, Assembly at Regency Level, district delegates, mass media and others. In the terms of determining or selecting stakeholder that participate in the deliberation process there is a criteria following of government using their own initiative or past

experience and with unilateral considerations according to their interests.

The stakeholders who attended the deliberation process are the parties or elements that closed with the Local Government of Anambas Islands Regency. As an illustration of the prevalent conditions in the selection of stakeholders representing the academics, the Local Government of Anambas Islands will choose academics and community organizations that already have affiliation with the Local Government of Anambas Islands. The conditions will certainly influences the process of citizen participation.

Integrative Planning

Local development planning is tiered for a period of 20 years, 5 years and years. Based on the systematic and tiered planning concepts, the content or content of the existing types of planning should be linked and consistent. Integrated or interrelated in regency development planning includes inter-regional, inter-sectoral, and sectoral links, as well as between programs and activities.

The Local Medium-Term Development Planning of Anambas Islands Regency has conditioned this by referring to current legislation on the procedures for integrating existing planning from village, district, regency, provincial and National levels. This activity as a step to ensure consistency of existing planning documents in order to create good synergy between existing government.

The cooperation and integrity enables a predetermined development planning and creates a condition whereby all aspects of community needs and expectations can complement with each other. Those required to be able to read and translate all aspects and components of planning of Anambas Islands Regency into an integrated regional planning document, having good consistency on other planning documents available at central, provincial, sub-district, village or village levels. The objective of this process will emerge a synergy of equitable development in Anambas Islands Regency.

CONCLUSION

Open government and citizen participation are like two faces of the same coin. It represented the position of government in increasing public accountability and citizen roles in other side. Principles of good governance, democratic participation, introduction to identity groups, and integrative planning are evidence of open government and citizen participation in Local Medium-Term Development Planning of Anambas Islands Regency.

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