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Optimizing the Utilization of Development Funds for the Prosperity of Rural Communities in South Sumatra

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Abstract. The Village Fund is a fund sponsored by the government that aims to strengthen village communities so that the village economy and education can be improved as a whole. Optimization is an effort that is carried out optimally in accordance with the designation stipulated by government regulations. This study aims to determine the application of positive laws governing village funds in order to improve the prosperity of the people of South Sumatra. To achieve this goal, the writer conducted normative and empirical research, which made the system of legal norms as a study material and was associated with legal events. In this study the data used were secondary data, secondary data consists of primary legal materials containing statutory regulations and secondary legal materials that were the results of legal research, journals, books and related scientific works. Literature studies and field studies were used as techniques in obtaining data, and processed using descriptive analysis methods to obtain conclusions. The results of the study showed that there were differences in the various villages in South Sumatra in the use of village funds, so that a new policy is needed that can guarantee the use of village funds for prosperity so that the use of village development funds can be directed and have clearer uses which have an impact on the prosperity of rural communities, especially in South Sumatra.

Keywords. Public prosperity; optimization; rural; use of funds

Background

Village fund is a fund provided by the government intended for community empowerment in villages so that they can improve the economy and education of the community as a whole[1]. Optimization is an effort that is carried out optimally according to the designation stipulated in government regulations.

The government issued village funds continuously. The existence of village government in Indonesia has experienced dynamics that depend on the prevailing legal politics of government[2].

The Village Law which is a form of implementation of the provisions of the 1945 Constitution which stipulates that government in Indonesia is organized by local governments and village governments as spearheads dealing directly with serving the community.[3]. The Indonesian government has made massive efforts to increase prosperity participation for villages consisting of various tribes and islands. It led to the need for government efforts to seek optimal services to the community and reach all levels of society. The aim of the government

to distribute prosperity at all levels of society is to form policies in the form of Village Laws and various implementing regulations from the Ministry of Villages and Transmigration which are updated every year. The number of 73,000 Indonesian villages are a challenge for the government to serve so that every community can feel prosperity[4].

Regulation of the Minister of Villages, Development of Disadvantaged Regions, and Transmigration Number 21 Year 2021 concerning Quality Standards for Work Results and Guidelines for Assessment of the Quality of Work Outcomes of Non-Governmental Organization Functional Officials states that the amount of village development funds is not evenly distributed in all villages in Indonesia. The amount of village funds allocated by the central government with the State Budget (APBN) can guarantee that universality can be achieved. The government with a policy of equalizing the amount of funds given to villages is still experiencing obstacles in the implementation stage of achieving prosperity. Several villages in South Sumatra have not been able to optimize village funds for development, even though the amount of funds is almost the same. Each village gets village allocation funds which are used to improve prosperity and to support infrastructure for economic improvement, human resource education in the village. In fact, the use of village funds in South Sumatra is different in each district of Banyuasin, Ogan Ilir and Ogan Komering Ulu Selatan. The existence of the Village Government Law Number 6 Year 2014 concerning Villages, provides regulations on the authority of village government. The village is the lowest element of government in Indonesia that provides services to the community to achieve the prosperity of the village community. As the lowest government in serving the community, the central government provides funds to facilitate development in the community. The provision of funds from the central government is evenly distributed to villages, but the development achievements using these funds have not been evenly distributed in all villages in Indonesia. There are several factors that cause differences in the achievements of the use of village funds for the prosperity of rural communities, which are the village government apparatus, village heads, and their apparatus as well as village community institutions. Moreover, the village community itself does not have the same perception of awareness to build a village yet. Based on measurable programs starting from planning, programs, activities and budgets, as well as evaluation. In state administrative law, how important is the policy of the village government based on these factors, for the success of village development. and the village community itself does not yet have the same perception of awareness to develop the village. Based on measurable programs starting from planning, programs, activities and budgets, as well as evaluation. In state administrative law, how important is the policy of the village government based on these factors, for the success of village development.

The use of funds provided by the government to the village administration is very large which is provided by the government for village development every year. The Ministry of Village and Transmigration regulations regulate in detail the use of village funds. However, in reality the funds provided have not significantly increased the economy of rural communities. Based on this background, the problem statement is the implementation of the use of development funds for the prosperity of rural communities in South Sumatra.

Research methods

The object in this paper was the village including the village government and its apparatus which was determined by purposive sampling which was selected to be interviewed in a structured way as respondents in this study. The process of collecting data by direct interview which was carried out as primary data in the study, was complemented by secondary

data by taking data that already existed in research with the same object in three districts, namely: Banyuasin, Ogan Ilir and OKU Selatan. Furthermore, the data obtained were analyzed qualitatively based on the statements and answers of the interviewees, and the data obtained quantitatively was carried out to code the same data to be compared with each other. The data needed were qualitative and quantitative or primary data which were collected by purposive sampling with interviews with relevant parties obtained through interviews with various parties such as community representatives who understood the problem, the apparatus, developed the task of carrying out village development services and secondary obtained from the study on the results of research and library documents related to this problem. Then the data processing was carried out by analyzing qualitatively the statements of the respondents and quantitatively, namely by comparing the secondary data in various villages in the district that were selected purposively in using funds for village development.

Discussion

Infrastructure development is development intended for the construction of physical facilities to support the ease of doing business for rural communities[5] Development is a series of efforts to realize growth and change in a planned and conscious way carried out by a nation towards modernity in the context of developing the nation[6]. Development as a planned effort in realizing growth and change to achieve increased enjoyment carried out both from economic and political development[7]. Economic development is carried out to increase the use of natural resources in providing goods and services to meet the needs of life[8]. From the two previous opinions, it can be said that development is not only directed at political stability but also high economic development, and improving people's prosperity in terms of education, health and economy.

South Sumatra is a province that has seventeen districts/cities with a total of 3240 villages that manage funds provided by the government.

It turned out that the results of interviews with various respondents in the location revealed several important things related to village funds. First, the use of village funds is carried out by starting the development planning carried out at the Musrenbangdes meeting.

In the Musrenbangdes, the activities carried out are collecting things that are the main needs of the village community in using village funds based on the program. The purpose of using village funds in accordance with the program is that budget activities demonstrate the principles of using the budget in a transparent, accountable, participatory and disciplined manner.

The second step is to carry out development activities based on program activities and funds that have been jointly determined by the village head, village community institutions (LMD) and the community. Debates arise when determining priorities in determining funds for development priorities. Therefore, the presence of the three community components, village officials and LMD is very significant in providing input for making decisions.

What People Have Done and What Has Not Been Done For Comparison

Analysis of the use of village funds during the pandemic in Nigari Talang Anau, Lima Puluh Koto District, was in accordance with what was given to 138 family heads with direct cash assistance during the pandemic[9].

Community participation in the management and utilization of village funds in Keji village, Semarang district, that public knowledge was still very limited about the existence of

village funds, the use of village funds was focused on infrastructure development, such as paving roads, taluds and simple bridges[10].

In China and India, the success of village development is carried out with supervision from LMD[11]. In Indonesia, partners from the village government in forming village government policies are carried out jointly, namely between the Village Head and the Village Deliberation Institution (*Lembaga Musyawarah Desa*) by forming village regulations containing policies related to the village development plan which contains planning to build villages, starting from activities village deliberations as a benchmark for village development programs that are needed which are a priority in advancing the village[12]. Next, the planning is outlined in the implementation of the program that has been designed by the Village Head which is planned and already in the form of a draft budget for expenditures and village development costs.[13]. The evaluation carried out by the LMD apparatus is the existing budget in the regional government which is handled by the village government[14]. Finally, reporting on activities carried out by the village government in using the budget for development. This last stage is very important so that the use of village funds disbursed by the Ministry of Villages and Transmigration can be optimally efficient.

In the villages of OKU Selatam district, especially in Pematang Ribu Tengah sub-district and Banding Agung sub-district, several villages still use village funds mostly only for expenditures that have not been measured (Interview with community leader, Edy Hartono, in Simpang Sender sub-district, Pematang Ribu sub-district, OKU Selatan district, December 26, 2021). This is due to the absence of a good systematic planning

In the use of a performance-based budget, the measurement of the use of village funds based on the needs of the village community encountered problems, because the village apparatus and LMD did not understand the importance of planning, programs, implementation, and the budget was not significant for improving the prosperity of rural communities. There are findings from interviews with parties involved that human resources do not understand the importance of a budget program to measure village progress. The second obstacle is that human resources such as village heads and village officials, including the community, are very few who understand about the use of village funds in accordance with allotment government regulations and villages for community development have not been realized. This lack of knowledge is caused by the education factor of village officials and the community which is still below the national average. This factor is due to the need for local governments to provide understanding to village officials and the community regarding understanding the use of village funds for the prosperity of rural communities.

The third factor is a factor that is not less important is the factor of facilities and infrastructure owned by the government to empower village officials and the community, this can be seen in the funds fro, The Ministry of Villages for each village is still minimal or small provided by the government that can cover village affairs. This reason is acceptable because it is related to the main factor of lack of knowledge of village officials about efficiency and optimization of village funds for development.

Cultural and community factors, these factors are important to measure the ability of village human resources and the work ethic habits of rural communities. When compared with village communities in Banyuasin district, South Sumatra province, in Perigi village, Rambutan sub-district to accommodate the results of the local community's agricultural industry, with legal awareness the local community formed a business entity which was established at the initiative of the local community and with local community administrators formed a Village

Owned Enterprise. (Interview with Sunardi, consultant, activist who initiated the formation of the Village-Owned Enterprise in Banyuasin District, 28 December 2021).

. Village-Owned Enterprises in the village have a legal basis for establishing village-owned enterprises registered with the district government and/or at the South Sumatra Legal and Human Rights regional office so that from an organizational management perspective, Bumdes in Perigi village already has modern management like a legal entity that equated with the organic theory that each organizational management has the main task of functioning in accordance with regional regulations or village regulations established by the Village Head together with the local village Deliberative Institution. In contrast to the OKU Selatan district which is lagging behind, the community in Perigi village, Banyuasin district has been able to use the funds for community prosperity properly. They use the funds for local trading in developing the community economic prosperity.

The regent of Banyuasin district in 2020 received a prestigious national level award, namely the Bhumandala Award in the category of Geospatial Information Utilization Innovation in 2020 for the achievements of one of the regencies that utilize information technology in villages in the province of South Sumatra. This award is in line with a government program that can publish village agricultural products produced to increase the economy and income of rural communities, as a result of local economic agricultural products that can be enjoyed by the wider community. This movement was carried out by the Regent of Banyuasin district such as the Vegetable Planting Movement (Gertas), the Poultry Raising Movement (Genar Duty), the People's Fisheries Development Movement (Gerbang Perak), Fruit Island and other movements.

Conclusion

From the three research results that were taken purposively, the use of village funds was used for various needs, the main one being the fulfillment of physical development needs as a support for the achievement of prosperity. Among the three regencies, in Banyuasin district in Prigi village the local community has been able to manage local agricultural products in a modern way by forming a business entity to further form a new program to advance the village.

In Ogan Ilir district, the area adjacent to the provincial capital, the village community has creative business entrepreneurship such as handicrafts that are used to improve the community's economy. In Ogan Komering Ulu Selatan district, they still manage traditional agricultural products because no institution has been established to regulate modern management as an effort to improve the economy of rural communities. the formation of village organizations is not yet the main thing, such as the formation of cooperatives or village-owned business entities that can directly support the fulfillment of the main needs of fulfilling economic life for prosperity. This happens because the understanding of village officials and the community is still low to increase the economic income of rural communities.

Various villages in each district have different priorities for the use of village funds, the first is building infrastructure in order to facilitate the transportation of village agricultural products, and another one is forming village-owned enterprises for the development of the economic sector as an effort to improve the economy of rural communities. While the last priority is still managing village institutions.

Evaluating the villages in the Ogan Komering Ulu Selatan district, the use of village funds is still very far behind from other district villages in South Sumatra province. It can be seen from the institutional consolidation in the provisions of the law which is the first step for the speed of activities for the use of village funds. it proves from the achievement of awards

given by the provincial government of South Sumatra which is very minimal in the achievement of progress in the use of village funds in the Ogan Komering Ulu Selatan district. The Village Fund in the village of OKU Selatan district is used partially without measurable planning with the use of funds through planning that involves community leaders and the community itself, such as the provision of medical equipment that is not for long-term purpose to support the development its community.

Meanwhile, in Ogan Ilir district, besides being used for infrastructure, village funds are also used to improve the village economy in Meranjat Village, which has many village entrepreneurs. This is done by the people of Meranjat village because they have had an entrepreneurial spirit for a long time, such as aluminum crafts for household appliances, songket crafts and the existence of a tourist village that was established using village funds.

In Banyuasin district in Perigi village, Rambutan sub-district, the village community has been very advanced with the establishment of the village-owned enterprises (BUMDes) which conducts savings and loan cooperatives for rural communities who want to improve the village community's economy, so that the revolving funds collected by the Village Government are growing day by day with asset funds raised. The village-owned enterprise also encourages the creativity of rural communities to have more and more advanced businesses in supporting the family economy (Interview with Sunardi, consultant, activist, who initiated the formation of the Village-Owned Enterprise in Banyuasin District, 28 December 2021).

Finally, the village funds given by the Ministry of Villages and Transmigration should be used for optimizing rural development, both infrastructure and human resources and education as well as improving the economy of rural communities. There are differences in various villages in South Sumatra in the use of village funds, for example for physical infrastructure development, for making village-owned enterprises as a form of developing village economic enterprises, for managing their respective village government systems and for building villages simultaneously with the provision of facilities that are temporary but not permanent. This means that prosperity achievements with village funds have different levels of achievement.

Suggestion

The government, in this case is the Indonesian legislative assembly (DPR) and the President, the ministers and their staff should make new policies that can guarantee the use of village funds for the prosperity of the community, especially rural communities.

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