

International Journal of Science and Research Archive

eISSN: 2582-8185 Cross Ref DOI: 10.30574/ijsra Journal homepage: https://ijsra.net/



(RESEARCH ARTICLE)

Check for updates

# The form of regional autonomy implemented by the governor of Gorontalo province

Arifin H. Jakani<sup>1,\*</sup>, Ansar Arifin<sup>2</sup>, Mahmud Tang<sup>2</sup> and Muh. Akmal Ibrahim<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Anthropology, Graduate School of Hasanuddin University, Jl. Perintis Kemerdekaan Km 10. Tamalanrea Hasanuddin University, Makassar, South Sulawesi, 9024, Indonesia.

<sup>2</sup> Department of Anthropology, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Hasanuddin University, Jl. Perintis Kemerdekaan Km 10. Tamalanrea Hasanuddin University, Makassar, South Sulawesi, 90245, Indonesia.

International Journal of Science and Research Archive, 2023, 08(01), 060-065

Publication history: Received on 20 November 2022; revised on 31 December 2022; accepted on 03 January 2023

Article DOI: https://doi.org/10.30574/ijsra.2023.8.1.0347

### Abstract

Regional autonomy is an opportunity for regions to actualize and optimize the potential that exists in the regions. With all the existing authority in the regions that have been regulated in the applicable regulations, the regions must be able to carry out and carry out these authorities optimally with all the shortcomings and advantages possessed by each region. The purpose of this study is to describe the form of implementation of regional autonomy with a case study on the Gorontalo Provincial government. The type of research used is a qualitative approach with the type of Ethnographic research. The study was conducted in June-September 2022. This research was conducted in the DPRD of Gorontalo province. Data This research is supported by data derived from primary data through observation and in-depth interviews. The steps to analyze the data that have been obtained that have been conceptualized by informants are carried out by ethnography, the first is to transcribe the data obtained from in-depth interviews and focus group discussions (FGD) stored in recorded interviews and field notes. Step Two, read the entirety of the data. The results of the study obtained that the form of implementation of regional autonomy by the Governor of Gorontalo was based on the principle of real autonomy, the principle of responsibility, and the principle of regional autonomy as widely as possible. In addition, there are also dynamic principles, unity principles, dissemination principles, harmony principles, democratic principles, and empowerment principles. First, the principle of real autonomy. Gorontalo Province with the breadth of region and diversity in its people, ranging from the diversity of tribes, religions, cultures, and traditional values.

Keywords: Regional autonomy; Authority; Fiscal; Government; Gorontalo

### 1. Introduction

Regional autonomy is the right, authority and obligation of autonomous regions to regulate and take care of their own government affairs and the interests of local communities in accordance with current laws and regulations [1]. Regional autonomy is an opportunity for regions to actualize and optimize the potential that exists in the regions [2]. With all the existing authority in the regions that have been regulated in the applicable regulations, the regions must be able to carry out and carry out these authorities optimally with all the shortcomings and advantages possessed by each region [3]. Despite various adjustments, the implementation of autonomy in an area hasbrought several benefits. These include: simplifying the administrative arrangements of government; there is no centralization of power at the center; increase supervision of local residents carrying out activities or activities; policies made, can be adapted to the interests of the community in an area; the central government is more efficient in carrying out its duties; and local products such as goods and services are increasing, both in quality and quantity at the best prices and production costs that Affordable. According to [4, 5], the best situation for leaders is if they have personal power and at the same time have office power. Meanwhile, [5, 6] argues that leadership needs a means to be able to streamline its leadership. One of those means is

<sup>\*</sup> Corresponding author: Arifin H. Jakani

Copyright © 2023 Author(s) retain the copyright of this article. This article is published under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution Liscense 4.0.

power or authority. Without this the leader could not be recognized by his followers. According to [7] stated, management is related to efforts to deal with complexity. Instead, leadership has to do with change. The leader determines the direction by developing a vision of the future; then bringing people together by communicating this VISION and inspiring them to overcome various obstacles.

Therefore, strategic leadership factors which include the ability to determine and achieve performance standards, the ability to create and maintain relationships, the ability to utilize technology to support the creation of strategic needs development and maintenance of a proactive and dynamic role for management, effective utilization and development of people are absolute requirements that must be met by the leader in order to improving organizational performance.

Economically, the granting of autonomy is intended so that each region can manage responsibly and fairly the various resources available for the welfare of its citizens. Sociologically, the granting of autonomy is intended so that political arrangements really reflect and accommodate the plurality of regions and residents of Indonesia. Culturally, the granting of autonomy is intended as a political instrument to maintain, appreciate and promote diversity and cultural excellence, as well as identity as a nation of diversity. Meanwhile, technically administrative, the granting of autonomy is intended to achieve efficiency and effectiveness in the administration of government and public servants as well as the processing of resources.

## 2. Material and methods

### 2.1. Types of Research

This research uses ethnographic methods that seek to study cultural events and present changes in the attitudes, behaviors and ways of thinking of local governments towards regional autonomy and political practices in the DPRD of Gorontalo province. The ethnographic method is very interesting and can provide added value in the study of imiah because it describes the diversity of the complex conceptual structure of political phenomena in the Gorontalo Provincial DPRD as it is. Ethnographic methods are very effectively used and explore the events or contexts represented in the narrative that are situations that actually happened, or in other words, are contextual in nature that aim to decipher culture holistically regarding changes in attitudes, political behavior and ways of thinking of rulers in conditioning the consciousness and actions of dprd members.

### 2.2. Research Location

This research was conducted in the DPRD of Gorontalo province. This arena was chosen because of the huge political tensions during the budget discussion. However, there are overlapping programs, so the programs that dprd members in their area want to carry out are always not carried out because they prioritize patronage politics by the Governor, which forces the leadership of political parties to direct their subordinates who are in the DPRD structure to follow and approve the Governor's program. The impact of such a political model has an impact on the demise of democracy in the form of regional autonomy which implicitly puts forward the aspirations of the people which are then discussed by the DPRD.

#### 2.3. Data sources and Collection Techniques

Data This research is supported by data derived from primary data through observation and in-depth interviews. First, observation is carried out by direct observation and systematic recording of the object to be studied. When making observations, the instrument is in the form of a camera to capture the activities of DPRD members in budget discussions and produce political decisions. Second, in-depth interviews were conducted to find out how to think, behave and behave politically in the DPRD. The interview will use a variety of data collection instruments in the form of interview guidelines in the form of questions developed during the study, recording conversations using a mobile phone and using field notes to briefly describe the context of the informant's behavior, feelings, reactions to the experiences passed and brief reflections on the personal meaning and meaning of the events. In addition to primary data, this study also uses secondary data as supporting data to understand research problems related to the way of thinking, attitudes, political behavior of DPRD members sourced from research books and journals that have been carried out by previous researchers and published online and published in printed form.

#### 2.4. Data Analysis Techniques

The steps to analyze the data that have been obtained that have been conceptualized by informants are carried out by ethnography, the first is to transcribe the data obtained from in-depth interviews and focus group discussions (FGD) stored in recorded interviews and field notes. Step Two, read the entire data then detect the themes that arise and sort

them into sections as conceptualized by the informant to be used as a topic of discussion. Third, a detailed analysis of the theme segments that refer to the systematic testing of something to determine its parts, the relationship between the parts and the whole and interpreting them in order to make it possible to find various problems and find the meaning of the political culture used by members of the DPRD related to the topic under study. Fourth, describe it holisticallyintegratively in order to get a native's point of view of everything found on the topic, the focus of research and combine it with the domain of theoretical ideas.

### 3. Results and discussion

#### 3.1. Forms of regional autonomy

Regional autonomy is a condition that allows regions to actualize all the best potential they have optimally. In the opinion of Widjaja (2002), the notion of regional autonomy is a form of decentralization of government which is basically aimed at meeting the interests of the nation as a whole, namely efforts that bring closer the goals of governance to realize the ideals of a more just and prosperous society. Regional autonomy is the right, authority and obligation of the region to regulate and manage its own household in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. The essence of regional otonoini is the existence of greater authority than the region to manage its own territory. With regional autonomy, regions no longer simply carry out instructions from the center, but really have the flexibility to increase creativity in developing the potential that during the autonomy era can be said to be shackled. The household system of local government became maximally employed, both legislative and executive. The objectives of regional autonomy policies include: developing democratic life, equity, justice, encouraging in empowering the community, increasing community participation, developing the role and function of the DPRD as well as maintaining good relations between the central government and local governments.

Based on an in-depth interview with Mr. "JD" as the Chairman of the PKS Faction about the form of regional autonomy given by the state to Gorontalo Province. The results of the interview are as follows: "The state has given Gorontalo the opportunity through regional autonomy to manage all its resources for the benefit of Gorontalo itself. That's what we're fighting to separate from North Sulawesi first."

The results of the interview above show that in the early days of reform, in addition to the desire for the province to separate from the republic, there were also aspirations from various regions that wanted the expansion of the province or district. In this effort to create new provinces and districts, the tug-of-war between groups that agree and disagree with regional expansion as a result of regional autonomy increases the local political temperature. This indication is reflected in the emergence of threats from each group that are pro and con to the formation of new areas, mass mobilization with tribal sentiments, even to death threats. Gradually, the expansion of the territory was realized with its ratification by the President of the Republic of Indonesia through law. As of October 2002, four new provinces were born in the country, namely Banten, Bangka Belitung, Gorontalo, and Riau Islands. According to [8], the ruler can often act out an authoritative practice that he calls "hegemony" that combines power with consensus. Such power is veiled by claims of legitimacy based on the existence of a majority consensus so that it can be accepted as universal knowledge. This claim of universal truth then becomes a map of meaning, unwittingly supporting the dominant social group from the State to the far corners of the country

Regional autonomy is the right, authority, and obligation of autonomous regions to regulate and take care of their own government affairs and the interests of local communities in accordance with laws and regulations. Autonomous regions, hereinafter referred to as regions, are legal community units that have territorial boundaries that are authorized to regulate and manage government affairs and the interests of local communities according to their own initiatives based on community aspirations in the Unitary State system of the Republic of Indonesia. In the system of regional autonomy, the terms decentralization, deconcentration, and auxiliary tasks are known. Decentralization is the handover of government authority by the central government to autonomous regions to regulate and manage government affairs in the Unitary State system of the Republic of Indonesia, while deconcentration is the delegation of government authority by the central government to the governor as a representative of the central government in the regions and/or to vertical agencies in certain regions. Meanwhile, the task of assistance is the assignment from the central government to the regions and/or villages from the provincial government to the regencies/cities and/or villages and from the regency/city government to the villages to carry out certain tasks [9, 10]. As a consequence of the implementation of the regional autonomy system, a set of laws and regulations was also formed that regulates financial balance between the central and regional governments. In addition, the mandate of the 1945 Constitution states that the Governor, Regent, and Mayor respectively as heads of provincial, district, and municipal governments are democratically elected. The implementation of the regional autonomy system has brought political changes at the local level, this has both positive and negative impacts. Supporting an area in several ways, such as economic capabilities,

regional potential, and so on is the main cause of a region wanting to break away from its parent region. This is what causes the expansion of the territory. The principle of application of regional autonomy, consists of: the principle of broad, real and responsible autonomy. Broad autonomy, it is intended that regional heads are given duties, authorities, rights and obligations to handle government affairs that are not handled by the central government. So that the content of the autonomy of a region has many varieties. Autonomous regions are also given the flexibility to handle the government affairs handed over, in order to realize the purpose of forming a region. And the main purpose of giving otoda is to provide services to the community according to the potential and characteristics of each region. Broad autonomy is the flexibility of regions to administer government which includes the authority of all areas except foreign policy, defense, security, judicial, monetary, fiscal and religious authorities and other field authorities, which are stipulated by government regulations. In addition, the flexibility of regional autonomy also includes complete and unanimous authority in the implementation starting from the implementation, implementation, supervision and evaluation.

In the future, governments at all levels should focus on their basic functions, namely: the creation and modernization of legal and regulatory environments: the development of an atmosphere conducive to an efficient resource allocation process; development of the quality of human resources and infrastructure; protecting physically and non-physically vulnerable people; and improving and conserving the carrying capacity of the environment [11]. According to [12] that political decentralization or decentralization of democracy means that officially elected local governments are directly accountable to their people. Administrative decentralization authorizes the government to appoint employees and dismiss employees in the regions without referring to/requiring references from the government above them. Administrative decentralization making moves to local (Provincial) governments, and local governments (Regencies/Cities).

Theoretically, autonomy and decentralization are like a coin of a currency, each other inseparable. "Without regional financial autonomy there is never autonomy for regional governments [13]". Fiscal decentralization will be successful if there is a popular voice in controlling regional financial accountability. Decentralization (without) fiscal and fiscal (without) decentralization both hurt democracy [14]. Meanwhile, at the empirical level, decentralization has proven to be positively related to the quality of government. Furthermore, according to [12] that fiscal decentralization as a major component in centralization, in addition to handing over part of the authority of the central government to the regions, must also ensure that the regions get adequate financial resources to carry out their authority and functions.

#### 3.2. The principle of regional autonomy

The principle of autonomy is as wide as possible in the sense that the regions are given the authority to manage and regulate all government affairs outside of those that are government affairs stipulated in the law. Regions have the authority to make regional policies to provide services, increase participation, initiatives, and community empowerment aimed at improving the welfare of the people. The purpose of implementing regional autonomy is in order to improve public services, and improve the welfare of the community through the granting of greater authority to the regions. On the other hand, through the implementation of autonomy, local governments are expected to be more creative in developing the potential in their respective regions so that they will be able to carry out regional development. In addition, regional autonomy also aims to encourage the growth of local initiatives and creativity, so that regions are more independent in a healthy competence. Community initiatives are incorporated in the business world initiatives and can develop in conditions that are conducive to a safe situation and obtain legal certainty. In the pattern of broad autonomy, it is formulated that the affairs carried out by the central government are limitative and the rest (residual affairs) become the authority of local governments. Whereas in the principle of ultra vires are regional affairs that are determined limitatively and the rest (residual affairs) become central authority. Regions are given the flexibility to utilize the wisdom, potential, innovation, competitiveness and creativity of the regions to achieve national goals at the local level which in turn will support the achievement of overall national goals. Real autonomy is a duty, authority, and obligation to handle government affairs that actually already exist and have the potential to grow and develop according to the potential and characteristics of each region. Thus, the content and types of otoda for each region are not always the same as for other regions. In other editors, real autonomy is the flexibility of the regions to exercise government authority in certain areas that are real and necessary and grow and develop in the regions.

The results of the interview with Mr. "JD" as chairman of the PKS faction and other members of the Gorontalo DPRD faction are almost in line with the response of the Governor of Gorontalo, Mr. Mr. "HHN" as follows: "First, I have only served in Gorontalo for two to three months. During that time I saw that the autonomy prevailing here was no different from other regions. We are given the authority to be able to govern this area ourselves. And with otoda, society seems prosperous. Perhaps my judgment is subjective. But the reality is like that.

The results of the above interview show that responsible autonomy is the embodiment of accountability as a consequence of granting rights and developing in the regions. Autonomy is responsible, that in the implementation of autonomy must be in line with the purpose of granting autonomy, which is basically to empower regions, including improving the welfare of the people. One of the objectives of implementing local government is directed at accelerating the realization of community welfare through improving services, empowerment, and community participation, as well as increasing regional competitiveness by taking into account the principles of democracy, equity, justice, and the peculiarities of a region in the Unitary State system of the Republic of Indonesia. The participation of society in state life is one of the manifestations of democracy [15].

Although there are interests among the legislature and the executive because of their prestige, the public interest or the welfare of the community is above all else. The public interest is a term to refer to the general public welfare or the common welfare. The public interest is usually countered by the term self-interest that has a different orientation. The notion of public interest is the interest of society as a whole that has certain characteristics, among other things, it concerns all the common means for the passage of civilized life.

Well-being can be observed from the aspect : first, by looking at the level of physical development, such as nutrition, health, life expectancy, and some of it. Secondly, by looking at his mental level, such as education, work, and so on. Third, by looking at integration and social standing. The level of well-being of a person can be related to the level of satisfaction and pleasure that can be achieved in his life in order to achieve his desired level of well-being. So a behavior is needed that can maximize the level of satisfaction in accordance with the available resources. The well-being of a person's life in reality, has many indicators of success that can be measured. The welfare of the lower middle class can be represented from the level of life of the community characterized by poverty alleviation, better health levels, obtaining higher levels of education, and increasing community productivity. All of these are a reflection of the increase in the income level of the lower middle class.

# 4. Conclusion

The implementation of regional autonomy by the Governor of Gorontalo is based on the principle of real autonomy, the principle of responsibility, and the principle of regional autonomy as widely as possible. In addition, there are also dynamic principles, unity principles, dissemination principles, harmony principles, democratic principles, and empowerment principles. First, the principle of real autonomy. Gorontalo Province with the breadth of region and diversity in its people, ranging from the diversity of tribes, religions, cultures, and traditional values. Therefore, regional autonomy has real principles, which are in accordance with the situation and objective conditions of each region. Second, the principle of responsibility. The granting of authority and duties from the central government to local governments must be properly implemented in accordance with its objectives. Thus, the principle of responsibility must be upheld by local governments carrying out duties and obligations. Local governments play a role in regulating the process of governance and development in the regions and are responsible for all dynamics that occur. Third, the principle of regional autonomy as widely as possible. This means that outside of the affairs of the central government, local governments are given the widest possible authority. Regions have the authority to make their own regional policies according to applicable regulations. The most important thing is that broad authority is exercised in accordance with applicable rules with full responsibility for the benefit of society. The authority of the local government includes all government affairs except foreign policy, religion, security, finance, justice, and national fiscal. The results of this study show that regional development in the era of regional autonomy in Gorontalo Province has spread development actors proportionally, both political actors, government actors, stakeholders, and local actors and other informal actors.

### **Compliance with ethical standards**

### Acknowledgments

Thank you to the Head of the Department of Anthropology, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Hasanuddin University, for their permission to carry out research, and thank you also to all staff who helped carry out this research to the published.

### Disclosure of conflict of interest

No Conflict of Interest by Author,

### Statement of informed consent

All information obtained from informants in this study has received approval from the informant and is an important part of this research.

### References

- [1] Alderfer, H.F. Local Governments in Developing Countries. NewYork: Mc. Graw-Hill. 1964.
- [2] Antoft, K. and Novack, J. Grassroots Democracy: Local Government in Maritime. Nova Scotia: Henson College, Dalhousie University. 1998.
- [3] Harold F. Alderfer. Local Government in Developing Countries. Burning Hill: MC Graw. 1964.
- [4] Hanscombe, Richard and Philiph Norman. Stratrgic Leadership: The Missing Link. International edition. Singapore: Mc Grawhill Books Co. 1989.
- [5] Thoha, Miftah. Government Bureaucracy and Power in Indonesia. Yogyakarta: Thafa Media. 2012.
- [6] Tichy, N. M., & Devanna, M. A. Transformational leaders. New York: Wiley's transformational leadership. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications. 1986.
- [7] Robbins-Judge. Organizational Behavior. Jakarta: Salemba Empat. 2011.
- [8] Gramsci, Antonio. Selection From Prison Notebooks. New York: International Publishers. 1971.
- [9] Rondinelli, Dennis A. Decentralization of Government in a Comparative Perspective: Theory and Practice in Developing Countries. International Review of Administration Technical Cooperation Economic Assistance. No. 2 of1982.
- [10] Azhar, Muhammad Ali. Decentralization and Conflict of Authority (Case study of authority conflict between the Provincial Government of Southeast Sulawesi and the Kendari City Government in the case of granting an investment permit for PT. Volume III, Number 1, June 2012.
- [11] Mardiasmo, M. Regional Autonomy and Financial Management. Yogyakarta: Andi. 2004.
- [12] Brodjonegoro, Bambang. Regional Fiscal Risks, Maintaining Fiscal Health and Sustainable Development. Solo: The Era of Adicitra Intermedia. 2013.
- [13] Ismail, Munawar. The Role of PAD in Regional Revenue. Journal, http://www.fe-unibraw.ac.id. 2001.
- [14] Tjandra, W. Riawan. State Financial Law. Jakarta: Gramedia Widia Sarana Indonesia. 2014.
- [15] Balandier, Georges. Political Anthropology. Jakarta: Rajawali. 1986.
- [16] Pinem, Eine Yamitha, Widiono, Septri, & Irnad. Structural Poverty of Fishing Communities in Sumber Jaya Village, Kampung Melayu District, Bengkulu City, Journal of Nusantara Sociology, Vol. 5, No. 2, 2019.