



THE ROLE OF VILLAGE GOVERNMENT IN IMPROVING PUBLIC WELFARE THROUGH THE VILLAGE FUND PROGRAM

Amara Yovitasari,¹ Rendie Meita Sarie Putri,² Uly Fatana³

¹Faculty of Law, Universitas Lampung, E-mail: amarayovita65@gmail.com

²Faculty of Law, Universitas Lampung, E-mail: rndmeitaa@gmail.com

³Faculty of Law, Universitas Lampung, E-mail: ulyfatanaa10@gmail.com

Abstract: The village government as a state institution has the right to guarantee the implementation of community rights. Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages states that village governments are tasked with administering government, implementing development, developing communities, and empowering communities to realize the welfare of village communities. Village Funds are a government program that aims to support the creation of welfare for village communities. As a government organization, the village government plays an active role in improving community welfare.

Keywords: Village Government, Public Welfare Village Funds

I. INTRODUCTION

Juridically, the existence of villages is regulated in Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages. Article 1 number 1 of the Village Law defines a village as a legal community unit with territorial boundaries that has the authority to regulate and manage government affairs and the interests of local communities based on expertise, community, origin rights and/or traditional rights, recognized and respected within the system. Government of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia. The issuance of the village law means that the people in the village have the opportunity to declare and express their identity as well as the management and administration of the village with the city government.¹

¹ Kiki Endah. 2020. Pemberdayaan Masyarakat : Menggali Potensi Lokal Desa. *Jurnal Moderat*. Vol. 6. No. 1. p.136.

Based on the village law, at the district/city level a village government apparatus is formed which includes the village government and village deliberative bodies. The village government itself includes the Village Head and village officials as elements of village government. The village government is responsible for implementing village development, community development and community empowerment.

In this case, village communities also take part in the implementation of regional government. Therefore, the welfare of village communities is very important. Moreover, currently many rural communities are still trapped in a cycle of poverty. Based on data from the Central Statistics Agency, the percentage of poor rural residents in March 2022 was 12.29% and rose to 12.36% in September 2022.² This means that the level of welfare of village communities still needs to be given more attention by the local village government.

The central government really hopes for the welfare of village communities and provides full attention. The great attention given to this village is based on the fact that most of the villagers live in the village. In an effort to improve the welfare of rural communities, the government provides large amounts of aid to villages. One of the supports from the central government is currently in the form of village funds which are well managed and used for the benefit of village communities. Since 2015, the government has issued a policy in the form of the "Village Fund" program. This program will improve the welfare of the village community itself. Village Funds are a government social program that seeks to make people happy in their lives.³

Utilization of village funds must be carried out effectively and on target. The village fund program is one of the implementations of the third Jokowi-Jk government's Nawacita "Developing Indonesia from the outskirts by strengthening regions and villages within the framework of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia".⁴ The priority use of village funds is to finance development and community

² Badan Pusat Statistik. 2022. <https://www.bps.go.id/pressrelease/2023/01/16/2015/persentase-penduduk-miskin-september-2022-naik-menjadi-9-57-persen.html> accessed on date 12 March 2023, 14.35.

³ U Nain dan A. Agustang. 2020. Analysis On The Utilization Of Village Funds In Cash for Work Program in Bulukmba Ragency, South Sulawesi Indonesia. *International Journal of Advanced Science and Techology*. 29(7s), p. 2811-2818.

⁴ Muh. Amin H. 2022. <https://www.cnbcindonesia.com/opini/20221115104547-14-388052/pemanfaatan-dana-desa-dan-kesejahteraan-masyarakat-indonesia> accessed on date 12 March 2023, 15.55 WIB

empowerment aimed at improving the welfare of village communities, improving the quality of human life and alleviating poverty.⁵

The use of village funds must meet the needs of villages and cities, so that they have a direct impact on the city itself. Proper use of village funds through a good planning process will certainly reduce the poverty rate in village communities and improve community welfare. Village funds can also be used for village development, which can start from small things in daily life by helping underprivileged communities to create strong ties between communities and improve the welfare of village communities. In social and state life, the role of government is of course very necessary. Especially regarding social issues, the government's role is needed to regulate society, protect society and fulfill society's needs. With the existence of a village government, all regional factors can be monitored and controlled. Therefore, it is very important to know the role of village officials in improving community welfare through village fund programs.

In this research, the method used is descriptive qualitative research, which can also be called naturalistic research.⁶ The nature of the data collected is qualitative and does not use measuring instruments. The data collection technique used is through literature review from several literature sources to look at the problems to be discussed.

II. DISCUSSION

The Role of Village Government in Improving the Welfare of Village Communities.

As explained in Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages, the Village Government is defined as the Village Head or what is called by another name, assisted by Village officials as an element of Village Government administration. The village government is part of the state apparatus and has obligations that must be implemented, namely:

- a. Manage village finances which are the village's rights and obligations,
- b. Obligated to mobilize community participation in the implementation of village development,
- c. Obligated to mobilize community participation in creating village order and security, and

⁵ Kementerian Keuangan. 2021. <https://dipk.kemenkeu.go.id/?ufaq=bagaimana-penggunaan-dana-desa> accessed on date 12 March 2023, 13.34 WIB.

⁶ Nasution. 2003. *Metode Research (Penelitian Hukum)*. Jakarta : Bumi Aksara. p.18.

- d. Obligation to empower the community and improve the welfare of village communities.

With the authority and potential of the region it has, the village government should be able to plan and implement development to achieve the welfare of its community. Welfare is a condition where a person can fulfill basic needs, both basic needs for daily life as well as the opportunity to continue their education and have adequate work that can support the quality of their life so that their life is free from poverty, ignorance, fear or worry so that their life is safe and peaceful. both physically and mentally.⁷

As one of the government institutions that has quite close interaction with the community, it is highly hoped that the regional government will be able to implement and run the wheels of village government and be able to raise the standard of living and welfare of the village community. Village governments are required to be able to provide good services and empower their communities so that prosperity is created for the lives of their communities.⁸ Community welfare is a system that includes programs and services that help other people to meet the social, economic, educational and health needs that are very basic for maintaining society. The indicators that serve as benchmarks for the welfare of village communities are:⁹

- a. A sense of security;
- b. Public facilities;
- c. Income;
- d. Access information.

The welfare of village communities can result from village development and empowering village communities in accordance with village needs. To realize sustainable village development, each village requires cooperation in various areas of village development that fall under the authority of the village, both between villages and collaboration with third parties. The general problem faced in implementing village development is that village communities have few assets and village communities have little access to use existing resources. On the other hand, low human resources (HR) and weak community institutions are also factors driving

⁷ Cicilia Ayu Wulandari Nuwa, dkk. 2023. *The Effect Of Village Fund Management On Improving The Welfare Of The Peopole Of Ilin Medo Village, Waiblama District. Management. Vol. 4, No. 2.* p. 706.

⁸ Sugiman. 2018. *Pemerintahan Desa. Binamulia Hukum. Vol. 7. No. 1.* p. 91

⁹ Dewi Kusuma Wardani & Ratih Ranika Putri Utami. 2020. *Transparansi Pengelolaan Keuangan Dana Desa dan Pemberdayaan Masyarakat Terhadap Kesejahteraan Masyarakat Desa Sidoharjo. Kajian Bisnis. Vol. 28, No. 1.* p.39.

the development of craft villages. Development carried out in a village must involve the entire village community in a spirit of mutual cooperation. In this case, the village government has the authority to monitor the implementation. This shows that the village government has fulfilled its stabilization role, meaning that all actions are carried out in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

Apart from village development, there is also community empowerment that the village government can carry out to achieve the welfare of village communities. Empowerment is one of the village government programs to be able to utilize all existing natural and human resources to be able to develop and advance the village and of course the results of community empowerment. Society is the result of social welfare. Empowerment focuses not only on the powerless, but on others as well. There are three stages of empowerment :¹⁰

- a. Identify community needs
- b. Identify potential, resources and opportunities
- c. Processes and efforts for more profitable ways to utilize existing potential and resources.

Empowerment is essentially the process of generating the potential that exists in a person or group by giving *support* or encouragement of the potential that is possessed and then developed.

Community empowerment can be said to be an effort to provide strength or strengthening to the community. Through community empowerment, people are required to create independence and of course reduce poverty rates in rural communities. The orientation of community empowerment itself is to achieve happiness for someone who can fulfill their life needs, as well as the opportunity to continue their education and get suitable work that can support their quality of life. his life, so that his life is free from poverty, ignorance, fear or anxiety, so that his life is peaceful physically and mentally.¹¹

Use of the Village Fund Program for Community Welfare

The central government has of course made efforts to provide financial assistance to support activities aimed at the welfare of village communities. The Village Law defines Village Funds as funds sourced from the State Revenue and Expenditure Budget (APBN) intended for Villages which are transferred through the Budget.

¹⁰ Kiki Endah. 2020. Pemberdayaan Masyarakat : Menggali Potensi Lokal Desa. *Jurnal Moderat*. Vol. 6. No. 1. p. 139.

¹¹ Fahrudin, Adi. 2012. *Pengantar Kesejahteraan Sosial*. Bandung : Refika Aditama. p. 23.

Regency/city Regional Income and Expenditures (APBD). The Minister of Finance of the Republic of Indonesia Number 93/PMK/07/2015 mandates that the main priority of village funds is to finance development and community empowerment. What is meant by community empowerment here is an effort to develop community independence to achieve community welfare. In general, the use of village funds is to carry out government, development, community and community empowerment. In 2023, there is a priority principle for the use of Village Funds which is based on:¹²

- a. Principles of Humanity, which means that village funds are prioritized to fulfill basic human rights, honor and dignity;
- b. Principles of Justice, every village receives the same treatment and fulfillment of rights without distinction;
- c. Principle of Diversity, continue to uphold the recognition and respect for existing cultural diversity as a form of social piety based on human values;
- d. Principle of Balance, caring for the earth as a sustainable nature must be sustainable for human life;
- e. Principles of National Strategic Policy, based on village authority as stated in the 2003 Government Work Plan while still taking into account village authority;
And
- f. In accordance with the Village Objective Conditions, the situation that actually occurred is in accordance with factual data and information.

The allocation of village funds received by each village government is 30% for village government operations and 70% is intended for community empowerment in the construction of infrastructure, empowerment in the fields of education, health, community economic empowerment, especially to eradicate poverty and so on which aim to improve community welfare. village.

In principle, to obtain Village Funds, villages must first include the Village APBD which is strengthened by village regulations or village regulations. The process of disbursing village funds of course begins with creating an account, submitting applications for storage, use and so on, which have been regulated in the Regent's Decree concerning Technical Guidelines for Management of Village Fund Allocations. There are two stages of distribution of village funds, namely the APBN transfer mechanism stage from the State General Treasury Account (RKUN) to the Regional General Treasury Account (RKUD) and the APBD transfer mechanism stage from RKUD to the village treasury.

¹² Website Kementerian Desa, Pembangunan Daerah Tertinggal dan Transmigrasi Indonesia.

The mechanism for disbursing funds and distributing village funds is as follows:

- a. Disbursement of village funds is carried out in stages with a predetermined percentage, namely:
 - 1) Phase I, by 40% in April;
 - 2) Phase II, by 40% in August;
 - 3) Phase III, amounting to 20% in October.
- b. The first search is first submitted by the Village Head to the Regent or Mayor via the sub-district head accompanied by the specified administrative requirements
- c. The second stage of disbursement is carried out if the funds from the first disbursement have been used and accounted for administratively, technically and legally.
- d. The disbursement of the first and second stages is carried out by transferring funds from the village treasury to the village account.
- e. Distribution of village funds from the village head's treasury to the activity perpetrator (leader of the activity implementer).

The process of disbursing village funds to the activity implementing leader is as follows:

- a. A Payment Request Letter or SPP is submitted by the village treasurer to the village head through the village secretary, accompanied by a Village Needs Plan and other evidence of expenditure.
- b. Verify the completeness of the Expenditure Request Letter by the village secretary and if it is declared complete, a Payment Order will be issued signed by the village head.
- c. The treasurer receives a payment order and a letter of recommendation from the sub-district head to disburse it to the village cash holder at the designated bank.
- d. The funds that have been disbursed by the village treasurer are then recorded in the General Cash Book and then handed over to the activity leader, which of course includes proof of payment.

Based on the mechanism explained above, this is in accordance with Article 16 paragraph (3) of Minister of Finance Regulation Number 93/PMK/07/2015 concerning Procedures for Allocation, Distribution, Use, Monitoring and Evaluation of Village Funds, distribution of village funds from Cash Accounts State General Affairs (RKUN) to the Village Financial Account (RKUD) is carried out by the Village Fund User Authority (KPA).

The use of village funds received by each village government is 30% for village government operations and 70% is intended for community empowerment in the construction of infrastructure, empowerment in the fields of education, health, community economic empowerment, especially to eradicate poverty and so on which aim to improve community welfare. village. The use of village funds must follow the principles *Good Governance*, that is :

- a. Participative, in this case all elements of village society must take part in the management and use of village funds, both village officials and the village community itself;
- b. Transparent, all elements of society must know the entire process openly. This aims to ensure that village communities can receive information regarding the goals, targets, results and benefits obtained from each management of village funds.
- c. accountable, From the beginning of the planning process to the implementation of the program from village funds, the results must be accountable to all parties, especially the village community.
- d. equality, All parties involved in managing village funds have the same rights and positions.

The existence of a village fund program is a breath of fresh air for every village government, because villages have extensive opportunities in managing village development, governance and social affairs. Village funds given to each village come from central and regional government financial balance funds received by the Regency/City, as regulated in Government Regulation Number 72 of 2005 concerning Villages explaining that the Implementation of Village Government Affairs which is the Village's Authority is funded from the Revenue and Expenditure Budget Villages and Village Government Assistance.

Village funds distributed to various villages in Indonesia as a whole have reached 400.1 trillion rupiah since the first year of the village fund program, namely 2015. Of course, these fantastic funds are used to improve and build village infrastructure and empower communities to create village community welfare. From 2015 to 2020, village funds have produced various kinds of village changes in the form of infrastructure that are very beneficial for the community itself, namely :¹³

- a. Village roads (261,877 km)
- b. Bridge (1,494,804 m)

¹³ Kementerian Keuangan RI. <https://djpb.kemenkeu.go.id/portal/id/berita/lainnya/opini/3840-membedah-potensi-dan-tantangan-dana-desa-tahun-2022.html>, accessed on date 12 March 2023, 21.20 WIB.

- c. Village market (11,944 units)
- d. Village-Owned Enterprises or BUMDES (39,844 activities)
- e. Boat moorings (7,007 units)
- f. Reservoir (5,202 units)
- g. Irrigation (76,453 units)
- h. Sports suggestions (27,753 units)
- i. Clean water (1,1281,168 units)
- j. MCK facilities (422,860 units)
- k. Polindes (11,599 units)
- l. Drainage (42,846,367 meters)
- m. Village preschool (64,429 activities)
- n. Posyandu (40,618 units) and
- o. Resident's wells (58,259 units).

III. CONCLUSION

Village governments have a very important role in improving the welfare of their communities through village fund programs. The role of the village government is persuasive, namely creating, planning and improving the community's ability to use existing resources, especially supported by government programs, namely village funds. If the program is used correctly and in accordance with what the village needs, community welfare will be created.

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