



Political Communication: Differences in the Orientation of Executive and Legislative Interests in the Discussion of the West Sulawesi Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget Revised

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Abstract

Political communication is a means used to equalize perceptions between the legislature and the executive in decision making. Decision-making, in this case, changes in the Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget, which often result in conflicts due to the political interests of each party. Qualitative methods were used in this study, primary data sources were obtained from interviews and focus group discussions with informants and supported by secondary data from document processing related to this study. Data analysis uses an interactive model with a data analysis cycle starting with field data collection, the data is then reduced, then the data is presented in certain forms such as synopsis sketches, matrices or other forms to facilitate presentation and confirmation of conclusions. The last activity is drawing conclusions. This study aims to look at the dynamics of political communication in the discussion and determination of the Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget changes between the executive, in this case the Governor and the legislature, namely the Assembly at provincial West Sulawesi. The results of this study indicate that even though there is a mutual agreement regarding regulatory aspects in the system, there are still conflicting discourses regarding the effectiveness of the programs contained in the revised Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget that have been agreed upon, ultimately causing increased pressure from both the executive and legislative branches. Political interests are becoming more orientated, which has a significant impact on the effectiveness of the discussion of the Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget changes in West Sulawesi. It is hoped that the discussion of the Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget changes will be carried out in accordance with the needs of the public, not for the benefit of certain groups.

Keywords: *Communication; Politics; Budgeting; Program Effectiveness*

Introduction

Political communication activities occur within the political sphere which according to Kaid (2010) covers various matters, such as; with regard to the objective reality of a politics by comparing

ongoing political events, the subjective reality of politics as interpreted by actors and society, and the social construction of political reality carried out by the media.

According to Suharti (2014: 69) Elements in political communication include all elements in communication, namely, communicators (source persons), messages, channels (media), targets and the resulting effects or effects. In political communication, the elements of communication contain political elements. The communicator in political communication is a political communicator. The message is a political message, the channel is a political channel, the target audience is a political audience and the goals and results are for political purposes and influence the political system.

Studies related to budget politics reviewed by Moh. Eddy D. Soeparno (2022) entitled *Budget Political Dynamics: Executive-Legislative Interaction in Budget Policies for Handling COVID-19 in Indonesia and Singapore*. His research results show that budget politics in crisis budget policies (withdrawal of national reserves and issuance of Perppu) shows that crisis conditions will encourage the emergence of common interests and cooperation between the executive-legislative agencies to protect their constituents from the threat of the Covid-19 pandemic. However, there are different incentives for the cooperation formed between the executive-legislatures in the two countries.

On a local scale, the complexity of political and budgetary communication can be found in Marno Wance and Suranto's research in 2015, the research found that there were three patterns of interaction (accommodation, domination, compromise) in budget policy discussions, but among the three interaction patterns it was found that there was a process predominate compared to other processes.

Research conducted by Zainul and Yusuf Wibisono (2015) regarding conflict in the discussion of the Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget in Jakarta. shows that the political conflict in the determination of the Jakarta Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget for the 2015 fiscal year had an impact on the public service sector including budgets for the basic needs of Jakarta residents such as education, health and other basic services.

This is what is interesting to study in more depth, bearing in mind that according to the mandate of the law, the Governor and the Assembly at provincial must be in the same direction and in line in establishing every public policy. The political conflict between the two not only has an impact on local political stability, but more importantly than that is the neglect of community services, especially basic services which must be timely.

In preparing the Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget, priority programs must be taken into account, which are the needs of the community. As for the discussions on the Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget, the executive and legislature jointly discuss and stipulate regional regulations and jointly discuss and approve the draft regional regulations regarding the Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget as well as the amended Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget.

This is a cooperative relationship between the two state institutions that have an equal position and are partnerships in the local government system. That is why in carrying out their functions, the two of them jointly make Regional Regulations including the formulation of Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget policies. This means that the two of them have a mutually supportive relationship, not rivals or competitors to one another. As for the preparation of the Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget, this must be guided by Minister of Home Affairs Regulation 13/2006 concerning guidelines for regional financial management and Minister of Home Affairs Regulation 33/2019 concerning guidelines for preparing the 2020 Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget.

The Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget that has been determined also allows budget adjustments to be made through discussion of the amended Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget. Conceptually it is also in line with the term rebudgeting. Rebudgeting is a way for the government to revise and update the implementation of the budget as a continuation of the annual budget process, rebudgeting should be a means by which the government can meet various and even conflicting objectives of budgeting, including continuity and control, change and accountability, and flexibility and predictability (Wildavsky, 1988).

In the short term, needs may change, but in the long term, what is initially thought of as a goal may then turn into compatible competition (Lyden, 1975). In this case, the approved budget can become the basis for the financial plan for each agency's operations during the fiscal year (Junita, 2015).

Data for the last 3 years shows the inconsistent timing of the determination of the main Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget and the revised Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget in West Sulawesi Province. In fact, the determination of the main Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget for 2021 must enter January 2021. Even though it usually must be determined a year earlier. From problems, this shows that there are dynamics in the discussion of the Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget/Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget changes in the province of West Sulawesi.

The dynamics of discussing and determining the Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget changes are largely determined by the meeting point of political communication between the executive, in this case the Governor and the legislature, namely the Assembly at provincial West Sulawesi. This phenomenon is interesting to study, because generally a complicated discussion lies only in the discussion of the main Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget, because in the discussion of the Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget changes no longer have the authority to change the use of the budget on a large scale but rather on budget adjustments which are considered less effective and not in line with the urgent needs of society. However, discussions on the Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget for changes in West Sulawesi Province are still dynamic and it is difficult to find common ground between the legislature and the executive. The dynamics of the prolonged discussion led to delays in the determination of the budget, which occurred in almost every year of the discussion budget.

Methods

In this study the authors used qualitative research in which the research conducted was descriptive in nature, namely to find out or describe the reality of the events studied so that it was easier for the authors to obtain objective data in order to analyse and understand Legislative-Executive Political Communication in the Determination of the Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget Changes in West Sulawesi Province. Sources of data obtained from the results of interviews, observations, as well as documentary studies which will then be analysed into a theory. Case studies will understand, examine, and then interpret the meaning derived from the phenomenon under study. Informants from this research are: Governor of West Sulawesi, Head of Regional Financial and Asset Management Agency of West Sulawesi Province, Regional Government Budget Team of West Sulawesi Province, Chairman of the Assembly at provincial West Sulawesi, Chair of the West Sulawesi Regional Budget Revenue and Expenditure Committee, Chair of the Assembly Budget Agency at the provincial West Sulawesi, Leaders of the Assembly at provincial West Sulawesi, Leaders of Political Parties at the Provincial level of West Sulawesi, Non-Governmental Organizations Legislative Watch and Community Leaders (Former Members of the legislative and Experts). Field studies were conducted to obtain primary and secondary data. Primary data was collected through interviews, observation or observations and focus group discussions. While secondary data obtained from documents that can clarify the primary data.

Qualitative data analysis in this study refers to an interactive model of collection and/or data collection with data analysis according to Huberman and Miles (1992). The data analysis cycle starts with

field data collection. The results of the data collection are then reduced by sorting the data into certain conceptual units, certain categories or certain themes. Furthermore, data presentation is carried out in certain forms such as synopsis sketches, matrices or other forms. This is very necessary to facilitate the presentation and confirmation of conclusions. The final activity is drawing conclusions. According to Lincoln and Guba (1985), Nasution (1996), and Moleong (2005) that to determine the validity (trustworthiness) of the data inspection techniques are needed. The implementation of inspection techniques is based on a number of certain criteria which include the degree of trust (credibility), transferability, dependability and certainty (confirmability).

Results and Discussion

Political activity in the form of joint discussions on budgeting involving the West Sulawesi executive and legislature to create a legal product in the form of a Regional Regulation is what the Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget for West Sulawesi's changes is all about. Political activity in the form of joint discussions on budgeting involving the West Sulawesi executive and legislature to create a legal product in the form of a Regional Regulation is what the Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget for West Sulawesi's changes is all about.

This is consistent with Piliang's view (2005) that political activity is a concrete activity that encompasses a series of political actions in the form of physical interactions involving various political actors. In addition to political activity, political communication is a key variable to support consensus performance in discussing changes to the Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget. The discussion process for the revision of the West Sulawesi Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget was complicated in terms of political communication because of the political communication model used. Instead, the model refers to communication in which the executive and legislature play dual roles, as both communicators and communicators. The Regional Government Budget Team as an extension of the Provincial Governor will establish dynamic political communication with the West Sulawesi Assembly at provincial, as well as the leadership structure, both in Bangar and individual members of the Assembly at provincial to reach an agreement, as mandated by law, but determine the Revenue Budget and Previous Changes in Regional Expenditures. It is agreed that there are different dynamics in political communication

In the transactional political communication model, the communicator is a very crucial item in interpreting political messages, when referring to the classification carried out by Prof. Damsar, members of the Assembly at provincial and regional heads are included in the category of politicians, politicians are actors who carry out political communication. The dynamics of political communication in the discussion of the Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget Changes made by the Executive and Legislature in West Sulawesi are due to the different orientations of the political interests of the political communicators (executive and legislative).

The transactional political communication model, the communicator is a very important factor in the interpretation of political messages. Referring to the classification made by Professor Damser, members of the Assembly at provincial and regional leaders are included in the category of Politicians, and Politicians are Actors. Someone who does political communication. The dynamics of political communication in discussing changes to the Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget by the West Sulawesi executive and legislature is caused by differences in the coordination of political interests between political communicators (executive and legislature).

A politician communicates on behalf of a group, and a politician's message is intended to promote and/or protect political gain purposes. Collectively, politicians try to exert influence through communication, because political communicators represent group interests (Ariannie, 2010).

"The aspect that causes it is willingness or each of these 2 devices has not found the expected target point, the Assembly at provincial thinks there are constituents, there are people whose programs have not been approved, there are programs proposed by regional heads that we have not approved because according to the Assembly at provincial it is not direct contact with society. From the point of view of the Regional Government, if you really don't agree, you have to give us input, because a document has to be in sync. At the beginning, we made a plan at the beginning, everything had to be in sync. If for example the aspects that cause delays are more specifically program activities that have not accommodated the programs/interests of the people, even though on the other hand the Regional Government already exists, maybe from a legislative perspective it is not enough, that's all."

The results of the interviews with these informants indicated that the different directions of political communicators' interests had a significant impact on the process of political communication that took place in the discussion of the Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget changes in West Sulawesi. The executive branch, in this case the governor, has more implications for carrying out the vision and mission which are then updated through the programs contained in the body of the changing Regional Budget.

"The basic principle is that the Assembly at provincial does not have a vision and mission, the Regional Head has a vision and mission, because of that the Assembly at provincial in fighting for the project is really ensured that it is an activity that we are proposing as part of the endeavor. The Assembly at provincial is to support achievement the Governor's vision and mission, it is a form of support for the Assembly at provincial, which is struggling for the attainment of the governor's vision, we see 45 Members of the Assembly at provincial no one wants to sweat the mission down to the community, but we have to do it, we see, we dissect the KUA PPAS policy , we saw that there were programs that were out of sync, for example the Governor's vision and mission to reduce poverty but we saw that the program at SKPD was not optimal in reducing poverty, but through our Pokir, we saw various programs that could support the governor's vision and mission "

Based on the results of the interviews above, it shows that the pattern of interests that lead to the interests of the community is actually realized differently, even though there is a mutual agreement regarding regulatory aspects within the framework, there are still conflicting narratives regarding the effectiveness of the program contained in the amended Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget that has been agreed, which led to increased pressure from both the executive and legislative branches. Political interests are becoming more orientated, which has a significant impact on the effectiveness of the discussion of the Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget changes in West Sulawesi.

Conclusion

The conclusion of this study is that any decision taken for the Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget changes in the Assembly at provincial West Sulawesi should be a decision based on the needs of the community. The changes in the Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget are implemented with the aim that the effectiveness of the planned programs can run effectively, but legislative pressure on the executive for program effectiveness will create a tense atmosphere between the two. Finally, political interests will be more dominant, so that the impact on the effectiveness of the program will only be a mere discourse. It is hoped that the political communication used by the legislature and the executive is simpler and not concerned with each party in reaching an agreement in deciding the Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget changes in the Assembly at provincial West Sulawesi. Because the final goal to be achieved from the Revised Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget is a program based on community needs.

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