Rural Community in Indonesia in their Fight for Governance Transparency through Radio

Comunidad rural en Indonesia y su lucha por la transparencia de la gobernanza a través de la radio

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ABSTRACT

The existence of PASS Community Radio or Radio Komunitas PASS (Rakom PASS) in Katapang District, West Java, Indonesia is unique. This article aimed to analyze how Rakom PASS as a communication medium between the local government and Katapang District of Bandung Regency created governance transparency. The case study method was used. As a result, it was discovered that the existence of Rakom PASS succeeded in promoting the creation of transparency and good governance in the Ketapang District. Furthermore, Rakom PASS has proven to be able to encourage a healthy, dialogical and constructive public space in the local community life.

Keywords: Local governance, *Rakom* PASS, rural community, transparency.

RESUMEN

La existencia de PASS Community Radio o Radio Komunitas PASS (Rakom PASS) en el distrito de Katapang, Java Occidental, Indonesia, es única. Este artículo tuvo como objetivo analizar cómo Rakom PASS como medio de comunicación entre el gobierno local y el distrito de Katapang de Bandung Regency, creó transparencia en la gobernanza. Se utilizó el método de estudio de caso. Como resultado, se descubrió que la existencia de Rakom PASS logró promover la creación de transparencia y buen gobierno en el distrito de Ketapang. Además, Rakom PASS ha demostrado ser capaz de fomentar un espacio público saludable, dialógico y constructivo en la vida de la comunidad local.

Palabras clave: Gobierno local, comunidad rural, Rakom PASS, transparencia.

INTRODUCTION

Since its initial broadcast by the Solosche Radio Vereeniging (SRV) in 1933 (Wiryawan: 2011), the world of radio and television in Indonesia faced a storm of trials in the form of intervention from the ruling New Order government. Various licensing instruments and extraordinary self-censorship tightly controlled all ownership of radio and television (Doliwa: 2019, pp.83-98). The world of press and broadcasting changed completely along with the wind of political reform in the era of 1988. The press and broadcasters enjoyed a spring of freedom, along with the political freedom which was also blowing hard in the country. To bridge the stagnation of communication, a group of youth activists who care about their environment, set up a radio station that aims to bridge the dialogic communication between the government and the people of the Katapang District. The birth of community radio was initiated by activists and supported by various local and foreign aid agencies and would be a prototype or a model of government involvement, community radio, and the community in the creation of a more open, dialogic and participatory life together.

The PASS Community Radio or Radio Komunitas PASS (Rakom PASS) as an alternative radio developed by the Katapang District community of Bandung Regency was one of the community radios who registered at the Indonesian Broadcasting Commission of West Java, Indonesia in 2010. This radio has regularly been broadcasting with a series of programs aimed at educating people's lives. Rakom PASS is one of the community radio profiles that are relatively "serious" in conducting alternative broadcasting activities, which is shown among others, by a series of adequate preparations before they broadcast on air. The seriousness of the Rakom PASS crew is indicated, among others, by their efforts to involve many elements of society and government in managing the community radio.

Interesting is, Rakom PASS as one of the leading broadcasting institutions is also considered from the broadcasts presented by its managers. If most communication radios present broadcast programs such as the private radio which is dominated by entertainment (songs) originating from compact disks, Rakom PASS tries something different, by offering an event with the purpose to answer community needs with a very local approach.

The position and unique characteristics of Rakom PASS attracts the attention of researchers to explore more about the work performed by community radio managers in striving for their vision in creating public services in particular, and the creation of good local governance in general. Like the previous researchers, efforts to uncover the role of the community radio in various improvements in the condition of society will open up multiple opportunities and are expected to enrich further opportunities for us to encourage better social, political and cultural situations following the mandate of the reform. This research was conducted at Rakom PASS at Sangkan Hurip Village, Katapang District, Bandung Regency, West Java Province, Indonesia. The relatively close location of this village to the district capital has caused it to be quite open to innovations that might come to the region. This article aimed to analyze how Rakom PASS as a communication medium for the local government in Sangkan Hurip Village, Katapang District, Bandung Regency, West Java Province, Indonesia in struggling for governance transparency.

The community radio is essentially a radio station that is established, owned and operated by a group of local people who are not profit-seeking oriented but serve their communities. A similar view is also expressed in Article 21 paragraph (1) of the Indonesian Law Number 32/2002 concerning broadcasting that community radio is a broadcasting institution established by a particular community, independent, not profit-seeking and intended to serve the interests of its population.

The existence of community radio in Indonesia is inseparable from the struggle of the pro-democracy society for the supremacy of information that has been held tightly by a handful of people called the media conglomerates. The pro-democracy society mobilizes various forces to create a more democratic Indonesian broadcasting world. Initially, all governments were established with the aim of serving the common interests of the people. In all government systems, this goal is closely held as a philosophy of developing a government bureaucracy. This was discussed in various settings politically, socially, and scientifically (Srinivasan &

Diepeveen: 2018; Villalobos et al.: 2018; Rincón et al.: 2019; Annía et al.: 2019). However, in its development, there have been many irregularities committed by the ruling government regime, where the bureaucracy violates its original function. They no longer act as public servants but instead work to serve the authorities and themselves. Therefore, the term bureau-crazy is known to describe the condition of government that is corrupt and oppressive to society.

In the treasury of the Indonesian government in the past, it was known as the pangreh praja to describe government officials who were corrupt and pressured the people with various tax burdens. In the New Order era, this term was used to compare with the name pamong praja, namely the government bureaucracy that guided the people (mengemong-Jv) and served their interests. However, even though the term has changed, complaints about the corrupt behavior of government employees never subside. In many stages of the bureaucracy, government officials cannot leave their old characters that tend to be corrupt and ask to be served by the public.

While entering the era of political reform, expectations began to grow to improve the performance of the government in a revolutionary manner. In addition to fixing various existing legislation, the government launched different programs to enhance the bureaucratic system which aims to bring bureaucracy closer to the public in the various management of common interests. Declaring a cleaner, more open and accountable government bureaucracy, where people can participate optimally in the development process. Ideally, the concept is often referred to as the concept of good governance.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Theory of Symbolic Interaction in mass media

The Symbolic Interaction theory of Herbert Mead turned out to invite various diverse responses from communicators throughout the world. Among the pro and contra views, a group of scientists indeed conducted studies using the framework of Symbolic Interaction, among others in the form of research or mass media management based on community interests (Strauss: 2018, pp.21-48; Wang et al.: 2019, pp.60-81).

In this framework, it is interesting to observe the optimistic thinking from Robert E. Park, a journalist who studied philosophy with John Dewey and Georg Simmel in Germany. After studying philosophy, in addition to working as a very creative journalist, Park also became an activist, teacher, researcher and defender of civil rights for Afro-Americans. In the view of Park, an urban community is a group of communities that interact with each other. According to Park, in this city new cultures are created dynamically through connectedness among community members. Another result of this connection between members of the community, innovations are created. In the view of Baran and Davis (2010), Park built a very optimistic perspective on urban areas which they described as a storehouse of various problems.

His profession as a journalist might influence Park's opinion which states, newspapers (as well as other mass media) play a significant role in connecting small urban communities to a larger town called metropolitan area. Reports from the Hutchin Commission on freedom of speech report that extensive local coverage opens up opportunities for different communities to learn about other communities in the same city.

Park especially highlighted the role of news in the mass media. According to him, news has two essential functions, namely 1) enabling the occurrence of communication within the local area, and 2) integrating these individuals into a larger area. Taking the analogy of the Americanization process of the Afro-American society, Park said that the press had destroyed the old joint ties with the origin area, and integrated them into the new society.

Park appreciates that the metropolitan press also performs similar functions. Park understands that the metropolitan press also performs similar functions. Public opinion on the news, about people who talk about current events, are made possible by the newspaper. Although the report is usually local, the real power of the press and various other means of mass communication is to provide a basis for public opinion and political

action. By its location and permanent movement, metropolitan newspapers are an essential tool for uniting urban organisms consisting of different parts (Goist quoted by Baran & Davis: 2010).

Park's Symbolic Interaction theory is used to analyze the role that community radios can play in the midst of its listeners in the framework of forming a more democratic, transparent and accountable village community as stated earlier.

J. Habermas' Theory of the Public Sphere

Jurgen Habermas is a leading German philosopher who is very influential in social thoughts in the postmodern world. Habermas' views are inseparable from the tradition of critical thinking developed by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. Furthermore, in the opinion of Littlejohn & Foss (2009), Habermas was also linked to the Institute of Social Research founded by Mark Horkheimer, Theodor Adorno and Herbert Marcuse in the city of Frankfurt which was eventually known as the famous Frankfurt School (Ahmad & Ahmad: 2018, pp. 44-49; Littlejohn & Foss: 2009).

Habermas started the Public Sphere theory by arguing about the existence of 3 (three) interests that have their rationalizations. The first interest is the provision of natural resources related to aspects of practical life. Habermas calls it a "technical interest". The second interest is interaction. Habermas argues that social cooperation is needed by humans to survive, so this interest is referred to as "practical interest"; while the third interest is related to power. It is in this context of technical and potential benefits that Habermas conveys his thoughts regarding the existence of public sphere as stated in his book The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere published in 1962 (McQuail: 2011).

Still, in the view of McQuail (2011), the public sphere refers to the idea of "spatial" which provides open access or an independent forum for public debate. Access to the public sphere must be guaranteed free from the pressure of various interests so that the community can use it constructively and rationally.

To achieve a generally accepted rational consensus, Habermas proposes three communication prerequisites. First, participation in discourse is only possible if people use the same language and consistently adhere to the logical and semantic rules of the word. Second, equality in obtaining opportunities in discourse can only be realized if each participant has the intention to reach a consensus that does not take sides and views other participants as autonomous individuals who are sincere, responsible, equal and do not consider them as mere means. Third, there must be rules that are generally obeyed which secure the discourse process from pressure and discrimination. These rules must ensure that people reach consensus due to "the unforced force of the better argument." Habermas believes that the risk of disagreement leading people to disintegration can be stemmed through a reasonable discourse with analytical communication procedures (Perbawasari et al.: 2019, pp.1201–1211; Ahmad & Sahar: 2019, pp. 1540-1543).

Habermas's opinion on the Public Sphere is inseparable from another concept, namely Deliberative Democracy. The word deliberative comes from the Latin word deliberatio (in Indonesian deliberasi) which means consultation, deliberation, or weighing. Democracy is deliberative if the process of giving public policy is tested first through open discussion or public discourse. Deliberative democracy wants to increase the intensity of citizen participation in the process of forming aspirations and opinions so that the policies and laws produced by the governing parties are closer to the expectations of the governed party. The intensification of the deliberation process through public discourse is a way to realize the concept of democracy of Regierung der Regierten (government by the governed). Deliberative democracy has an implicit meaning, namely rational discourse, the formation of political opinions and aspirations, and people's sovereignty as a procedure.

In connection with the discourse on the Public Sphere and Deliberative Democracy, it also discussed the role that might be played by the mass media in it. Dahlgren (McQuail: 2011) writes that mass media can play a role in increasing direct relations between the government and citizens. Also, according to Dahlgren, the

mass media also provided a stage and channel for lawyers and activists, held public forum debates for debates and discussions.

Finally, McQuail (2011) summarizes the role of the media in supporting the existence of the public sphere as Habermas has conceptualized it. According to McQuail, the mass media can (1) expand the sphere for debates, (2) circulate information and ideas as a basis for public opinion, (3) connect each other with the government, (4) provide dynamic information, (5) eliminate government monopolies in political discourse, and (5) expanding freedom and diversity of publications. Habermas's theory of Public Sphere, Deliberative Democracy, and McQuail's opinion on the role that might be played by the mass media in the public sphere will underlie the thinking of community radio's differences in the creation of an open dialogue for good local governance as stated in the objectives of this study.

Radio Community

Community radio is a broadcasting institution engaged in broadcast services established by certain communities, independent, and not commercial, low-power, limited area coverage, and to serve the interests of its community (Mohammed: 2018, pp.67-78; Shahzalal: 2019). What is meant by community is a community group in a certain area or region geographically (geographical community), not a professional community such as the journalist community, bird fan community, and so on. Community radio is adapted to the conditions of the community, but generally the community like radio listeners in general - requires entertainment, information, means of expression, and discussion forums to understand and overcome a problem (Van Rooyen: 2019, pp.146-155).

Community radio serves to promote creativity, contribute to the expansion of insights and good relations between community members, campaign standards for social behavior for the sake of positive harmony and dynamism of the community, conduct social supervision so that there is no unlawful behavior among community members in the local government and bridge good relations between leaders and citizens (Copeland: 2018, pp.209-223; Moylan: 2018, pp.283-299; Fombad & Jiyane: 2019, pp.47-58). The community radio (CR) Program refers to the interests or needs of the community. In terms of format and type of program, the CR broadcast program is the same as the radio broadcast program in general, namely broadcasting music and words, such as news broadcast programs, music, drama, talk shows, features, documentaries, air magazines and so on. In terms of content, CR broadcast material is local or emphasizes local content (Galarza et al.: 2018, pp.1055-1064; Alhassan & Shehu: 2019, pp.57-62). The scope of coverage or issues emphasizes issues that develop in the local community. In terms of broadcast style, broadcasters can use local languages and dialects and speech styles that apply in the community. The stages of the Community Radio Program include knowing what the target audience likes and wants. Field observations and interviews with leaders and community members, for example through chat in coffee shops, patrol posts, or other community gathering places. Asking for broadcast programs that are of interest and the right broadcast hours so that the majority of citizens can listen.

The program design stage includes drafting a program concept, giving a title/name, and socializing the broadcasting plan to listeners. After that the broadcast test is carried out. Evaluate the broadcast program then evaluate it. If a response is received, the program is continued, but if the response of the residents is not good, the program is stopped and replaced with another program based on subsequent observations. Unloading programs is not a taboo, managers can do it flexibly depending on the results of studies, observations and input from residents. Broadcast schedule, clock format, HR announcer, collection of songs, scripts, broadcast material, funds, and the person in charge (producer) of each broadcast package.

METHODS

The main method of this research is the linguoculturological one, in terms of which the detailed analysis of "student" concept transformation in Russian linguoculture of XIX – XXI centuries was carried out. In order to describe the selected factual material, - collocations, winged words and sayings that are common in the language, precedent texts that exist in the conceptual picture of the Russian language speakers' world (songs, contexts from fiction literature, films) in particular – different methods were used: field method, descriptive and diachronic methods, method of component analysis etc.

The chosen complex of methods allows us to trace the history of quite long existence of "student" concept in Russian linguoculture (descriptive method), make conclusions about its transformation depending on the cultural realities of one or another era (diachronic method, method of component analysis), analyze the verbalization of given concept (field method). At the same time, linguoculturological orientation of the research, most importantly the analysis of the concept within its components such as conceptual, figurative and valuative, points out the reality of "student" concept existence in Russian conceptual picture of the world.

RESULTS

Good local governance is an ideal concept that was born from the demands of political democratization that were blowing in the country. Following the opinion of a political expert, Dede Mariana (2008), good local governance is a necessity when the government imposes a decentralized political system following the mandate of the reform. The political system of decentralization requires the readiness of regional governments to be able to recognize the various potentials of their respective regions to develop themselves into prosperous areas. Also, the decentralization system also requires the existence of optimal services from the government to serve its people to realize excellent public services (Mariana: 2008).

Following the original concept, good governance has several requirements. Some of these requirements include:

1. Active participation from the community;
2. Law enforcement in governance;
3. Transparency in carrying out governance;
4. Responsive to various community problems;
5. Oriented to deliberation to reach consensus;
6. Justice and equal treatment for everyone;
7. Effective and economical;
8. Can be accounted for.

The local government of Katapang Sub-district, especially the surrounding village governance, is conducting many efforts in trying to implement various provisions regarding Good Governance. As acknowledged by the former Sangkanhurip Village Chief Wilson Fisher, attempts to make the village bureaucracy more participatory could be possible if there were intensive dialogues between the government and the community. To bridge this, Wilson Fisher and his colleagues made Rakom PASS as a medium that connected interests among the interest groups.

This study conducted by the researcher in Katapang Sub-district, Bandung Regency, found several positive indicators of the presence of Rakom PASS as a medium that accelerated the realization of good local governance in the region. The following was a description of some of the positive indicators.

Rakom PASS encouraged citizens' active participation

The community radio is not just serving the surrounding community. It is also not just an alternative media that provides access to information for the community. However, more than that, it reflects the community that founded it. Therefore, the reflection of the people who actively participated in encouraging the birth of social change in society can be seen through the role of community radio as a place for them to democratize. Similar events also occurred in Sangkanhurip Village. Good governance in Sangkanhurip Village was characterized by such as the efforts to increase community participation optimally within the framework of implementing local development. Theoretically, community participation is an essential part of development, because it will be an acceleration of social change as much theorized by development experts and the mass media. As was conducted by Wilson Fisher, Head of the Sangkanhurip Village, community participation was carried out through various forms of socialization and developmental information dissemination through multiple media, including community radio media.

As the Head of Sangkanhurip Village, Wilson Fisher emphasized efforts to increase public participation by optimizing the role of Rakom PASS as a medium to motivate the Katapang District community, especially Sangkanhurip Village. In his various endeavors, Wilson Fisher was relatively successful in attracting public attention to the efforts to achieve the Sangkanhurip Mandiri Village in 2021. The SangkanhuripMandiri Village in 2021 is one of the activities highlighted by various government agencies and NGOs as one of the prototypes of local development based on community participation. Another attempt by Wilson Fisher was the effort to transparency in running the wheels of local government, which is the third indicator of the UNPD version. The governance transparency in the Sangkanhurip Village style was carried out through various dialogues conducted by the Village Head (and his staff) in dealing with the different problems faced by the community every day. Sangkanhurip village successfully overcame various obstacles of poor rice cutting, damaged culverts, floods and the collapse of PLN installations, and conflicts between believers through the transparency of their government.

The transparency of the Sangkanhurip village local governance was acquired through the use of various communication media, specifically Rakom PASS. To further emphasize efforts to expand transparency, various community activities were also carried out through the use of online media and Rakom PASS websites. Thus, various activities of the Sangkanhurip Village community were easily accessed by the public outside the village area. The evidence of accessibility to the village activities were the responses from different regions in the country responding to the development of the community of Sangkanhurip Village.

The increased public participation in government was also followed by efforts to solve problems faced by the community through rapid and measurable responses (Yahya et al.: 2018, pp.1-14). As is known, a fast and appropriate response to community problems is the fourth variable proposed by UNPD to create good governance in developing countries. Government communication systems developed by the Sangkanhurip Village Government could be seen as an effort to recognize, follow up and resolve the daily problems faced by the community quickly and precisely. Then it would strengthen efforts to create good governance, as conceptualized by the UN Development Agency.

The researcher highlighted one aspect of the three indicators mentioned previously, namely the characteristic of the Sangkanhurip Village Government when using Rakom PASS or other communication media in the dialogues with its people was that they always focused on efforts to listen to people's aspirations, rather than talking to them. As was performed by the village heads in the Baceprot Kuwu or RT/RW program, as presenters, they claimed to have received positive input from listeners regarding various problems faced by the people. Likewise happened, when the village government had a dialogue with economic actors made more efforts to recognize their potential, and then to find a way out of the problem at hand. The researcher found that at least three of the eight UNDP indicators were used to create good local governance in Sangkanhurip Village. These three indicators were closely related to efforts to involve public participation through the use of Rakom PASS, and the creation of more open and accountable government

communications. While to see the existence of five other variables as the UNDP concept, further research is needed.

There was another perspective that the researcher used to analyze the phenomenon of synergy between the Government of Katapang District, especially Sangkanhurip Village, and Rakom PASS. This perspective is stated by Jurgen Habermas, a critical German philosopher who influenced the thought of Social Sciences, including in Indonesia. As is known, Habermas conveyed his famous theory of the Public Sphere.

Habermas argues that to create a democratic society must ensure the existence of new social orders that are free of dominant ideologies. To anticipate this, Habermas suggests a rational debate between citizens about their shared life. This open and constructive debate is referred to by Habermas as a public sphere, where the all-pressing power will not distort the communication.

Habermas's opinion was also shared by Denis McQuail (2001) who stated that the public sphere is autonomous and free of political pressure. Therefore, McQuail told, it is essential to guarantee that there is an opportunity or access that is unlimited to the public entering the sphere for rational and constructive debates. Proponents of the Public Sphere theory practically introduce an optimal public test for decision makers before the legal product is released to the public.

The synergy between the Government of Katapang District, especially Sangkanhurip Village, with Rakom PASS could be seen in the context of the provision of public spheres, namely the deliberately provided sphere for citizens to discuss the various problems they were facing daily. One of the media used by the Katapang community to address issues was the program presented by Rakom PASS so that discussions could be held openly and constructively. The use of the public sphere through radio media contains various advantages and disadvantages for the listeners. The first advantage is the nature of the radio medium that is audible so that it is familiar to the ear. Listeners will feel they are invited to talk, so they feel involved in the ongoing discussion. The second advantage is being able to speak directly with the village head who is the highest leader of the community so that every problem can be solved through the leadership's policy. While the disadvantage of using the public sphere through radio media is the nature of the message which is only fleeting, so it is necessary to repeat the discussed problems. The Bacepot Kuwu and RT/RW programs suppressed the weakness of the radio medium through scheduled conversations every week to address the various issues facing the community.

From observations by the researcher, it proved that the collaboration between the local government and the community through Rakom PASS encouraged the active participation of citizens in various problems faced as a result of community life. The participation in question included ideas, energy donations, and financial contributions in several community activities in the working area of Katapang District.

Portraits of citizen participation in ideas were contained in various dialogues delivered through Rakom PASS, including the Baceprot Kuwu and RT/RW programs. As stated above, diverse programs packed by Rakom PASS managers succeeded in arousing the attention and participation of the residents of Katapang District towards various problems faced by citizens/residents. The typical packaging in local style and presence of competent speakers was the exact recipe delivered by Rakom PASS managers in generating various ideas from the public. This idea originating from the public would be a guideline for the local government in better governance and public services.

As stated by former Village Chief Wilson Fisher, numerous ideas from broadcasts on radio encouraged various programs for the achievement of Mandiri Village in 2021. The famous extracting of the Citarum River and Biotop program was part of the successful participation of residents of Sangkanhurip Village and surrounding villages, which unfortunately was stalled due to various changes in the government regime.

The community participation in the form of labor and financial contributions was very obvious when floods and landslides hit the Sangkanhurip village. Due to the Rakom PASS broadcasts, the community was moved to participate directly or through material assistance in the landslide area. Perhaps because of the constant reporting, the higher government bureaucracy (district) was also moved to help carry out compensation and

rehabilitation quickly. As Supriatna's testimony, it was imposing when the Katapang people came to the disaster area in droves and spontaneously delivered assistance in various forms. In the middle of the evacuation tent, a public kitchen was automatically set up, which involved all elements of the Katapang District regardless of the area of their respective villages.

DISCUSSION

Rakom PASS and its effort to realize transparency in governance

Government transparency is a noble ideal that has always been an essential indicator of the creation of good governance everywhere. Therefore, there must be a variety of precise ways for government transparency to be created through the construction of a more orderly system. The creation of the Public Information Disclosure Act and Information Commission (KI) at various levels is evidence that the Government and Parliament are pushing for transparency in governance in the country. Although it is acknowledged that there are still numerous obstacles due to the attitude of some bureaucracies that do not want to adapt, however government transparency has begun to become a political attitude taken by some community leaders.

At the local level, through various Rakom PASS broadcasts, the government tried to encourage the existence of government transparency through various public dialogues. This effort was acknowledged by the former village head of Sangkanhurip, Wilson Fisher who was very fond of discussing and arguing with the community about various problems faced by the Katapang District community. Wilson tried to convey several programs, as well as arguing with listeners about various issues that were becoming controversial issues in his community.

Nevertheless, it must be admitted that creating a transparent and accountable government is not as easy as one might imagine. Transparency requires the system, and mental readiness of system implementers, so continuous efforts must be made to encourage an open and accountable government.

The Rakom PASS since its inception was determined to fill the public sphere with various weighted dialogues on the interests of the local community in Katapang District. This determination was then stated in various events delivered to the Katapang community, in the form of entertainment, information, and talk shows. The Baceprot Kuwu and RT/RW programs were one of the efforts of the PASS Community Radio manager to fill the public space with meaningful dialogues, not just entertainment and fun.

One of the most supportive of the success of Rakom PASS managers in filling the weighted public space is the support from the local government of Katapang, whose role is to fill the public sphere actively with the information they have. This situation is somewhat different from the case in various regions in Indonesia, where the community radio tends to distance itself from the government bureaucracy, in many cases even opposing regional authorities. It turned out that in the case of Rakom PASS of Katapang, the government could play an active role in filling information in the local public space with the resources and information they had.

The public sphere is a discussion of quality stakeholders regarding problems faced together. The Katapang District community discussed the daily issues faced by them in the public sphere. The day-to-day issues in question coveraed pervasive problems, including public services to various conflicts that are present as a consequence of community life.

Tolson (2006) claims that the broadcast talk, which is scheduled on radio, including community radio, is public talk which can bring various social problems into the public discourse. Therefore, what is presented on the community radio can get attention from the government to take remedial steps to the problems of residents (Tolson: 2006). This is in line with one of the guidelines that emerged in the government in the modern era, namely the demand for excellent public services. The community is increasingly diligent in demanding various government services to the various problems they face in shared life, nation, and state. Many of the public

demands were raised in various forums or channeled through several mass media that reached many people. Therefore, the Reader's Letter in the newspaper was flooded with numerous community proposals. Television and radio were overwhelmed by a variety of public complaints about many things. Elite communities conveyed their different aspirations through social media such as Facebook, Twitter, BlackBerry Messenger, and others. In other words, we have entered into a new era where people's aspirations become an integral part of the life of the nation and state. (Ahmad & Ahmad: 2019, pp. 746-778; Ferguson & Greer: 2018, pp.126-141)

Based on observations, the social problems that were complained about in the mass media and social media included issues that were very widespread. Starting from neglected garbage, electricity that often went out, damaged roads, to the making of Identity Cards (KTP). The speed of the government in responding to various community aspirations will be an indicator of the success of the bureaucracy itself. Moreover, it is very reasonable if all governments place it in one of the political considerations.

The local government in Katapang is aware of this, and it always attempts to respond to the complaints of its people. To create a responsive government, the local government of Katapang then asked for the help of Rakom PASS to listen to the aspirations of the community through feedback delivered at interactive dialogue events. In this way, the government functioned as an institution by responding quickly and accurately to various problems faced by the people.

There were several community problems which then received a rapid response from the local government due to the help of community radios. The issue of pollution of a bakery in Cilampeni Village, for example, was resolved through deliberations and consensus with the plant manager. Furthermore, the issue of poor rice distribution (Raskin) and direct cash assistance that was considered unfair could be resolved without generating significant turmoils. Environmental problems related to the Citarum River, such as sodetan (a way for normalizing the river), could be overcome through voluntary work involving community members.

The existence of community radios, including Rakom PASS, becomes a medium for services for the civil society. Through this community radio, the civil society can freely express their opinions and aspirations to strengthen the growth and development of the democratization process in society. The presence of Rakom PASS through its regular broadcasts showed that it was able to help the local government of Katapang always to be responsive to the problems faced by the community.

The community radio in this context became a forum for aspirations for the community. Besides, Rakom PASS listeners were made aware of their existence as subjects or actors and participants. Thus, the role of the social control of society towards the administration of the government can be performed well (Lewis & Booth: 1989). Dragon in Pavarala & Malik (2007) argues, community radio is a potential and effective electronic media in growing and building social changes in society. The community radio was considered to be a forum to ensure the establishment of participatory communication in rural communities (Perbawasari et al.: 2019, pp.1201–1211).

The role of Rakom PASS to optimize local resources for independence

Conceptually, an excellent governance type of government is always mandated to achieve successful development by utilizing available local resources. The opposite of this type is that this government is a bureaucracy that is highly dependent on government assistance, or dependent on foreign donors.

Sangkanhurip Village in Katapang District has proven to endeavor to carry out the vision of the Mandiri Village in 2021 by not relying on the APBD (Regional Revenue & Expenditure Budget)/ APBN (National Revenue & Expenditure Budget) assistance or other foreign donors. The village performed this concept by optimizing village income sources in the form of business units such as village markets, micro-crafts and agribusiness, garbage recycling, biotop manufacturing, and local tourism, as well as other efforts aimed at encouraging village independence.

Although these various efforts sometimes experienced rising tides, depending on the motivation of the government ranks, nevertheless the progress of the Sangkanhurip Village community began to show its

momentum. In its development, Rakom PASS demonstrated its active role through mediating the interests of the government and the Sangkanhurip community. Moreover, the community radio broadcast many programs such as public dialogues, various training, comparative studies, and motivations delivered through the mediation of Rakom PASS to create the autonomy of the villagers. This active role should be carried out continuously so that the independence of citizens can be achieved soon, following the vision of Desa Mandiri (Independent Village) in 2021.

The active role of PASS Radio in the effort of independence was a determination to maintain the existence of community radio as an alternative media born from the local community, by the community, and for the community. The effort to build community independence can be beneficial for Radio PASS station itself. In the view of Peters (2018), it is referred as the ability of community radios to create a sustainable listening community so that in the future it can have implications for the sustainability of the community radio as an institution (Peters: 2018, p.812).

Rakom PASS and transparency in organizing government

One of the ideals declared by Indonesia's political reformers is a modern government that is transparent and accountable. This ideal emerged as a response to the New Order government which tended to be autocratic, thus closing the public sphere to control the regime and its bureaucracy. A modern government should open up to the public about the various problems they are facing, and also be open to numerous inputs and suggestions from the audience. On several occasions, a regional leader uses diverse media to communicate directly with his people, discussing many things. In this way, the transparency and accountability of the government will be more prominent.

In Katapang, a group of community leaders tried to promote transparency and accountability in government and encourage dialogue in the public sphere regarding various issues faced in the life of local communities. A leadership characterized by public openness as occurred in several villages in Katapang would become a model for future community development. Whatever achievements the government and the Katapang community made could not be separated from the contribution of Rakom PASS which opened up a sphere for public information disclosure by the mandate of the reform.

There were various processes of effort in the creation of good local governance in the neighboring villages of Katapang District by using Rakom PASS as mediation between the government and the community. The process of creation could be seen through 7 (seven) indicators of the creation of local communities with good governance. Nevertheless, the process did not reach the peak due to the various obstacles as follows: firsly, The consistency of the local government in achieving its vision and mission, which is sometimes disrupted by the leadership relay change that occurs naturally. Secondly, the ability of local government officials to achieve good governance is relatively limited, hence requiring further guidance from the upper government. Thirdly, public awareness in encouraging an open and accountable government is also still low, so the mass media need to be more aggressive in promoting community participation.

Based on this description, the existence of community radio, including the Rakom PASS, played a role in encouraging transparency in governance in Indonesia. Such a function is called by Lewis & Booth (1989) as the role of community radio in performing social control in society.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, first, the presence of Rakom PASS in the development of the community of Katapang District has relatively succeeded in encouraging a dialogic interaction process between the government and community to achieve mutual success, namely creating transparency and good local governance. This success can be seen from various problems, which in turn, lead to efforts to solve the common problems faced by the people of Katapang District. Secondly, Rakom PASS has proven to be able to encourage a healthy, dialogical and constructive public sphere in life with local communities in Katapang District. This robust public sphere then encourages the attempts to create good local governance at an early stage, which holds the potential for improvement in the face of the Indonesian government bureaucracy that is oriented to public services as aspired by a decentralized government system.

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