

# **PARTICIPATION IN ABSORPTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF ASPIRATIONS IN THE FRAMEWORK OF STRENGTHENING THE FUNCTION OF THE DPRD OF WEST NIAS DISTRICT, NORTH SUMATRA PROVINCE**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Thus, continuous efforts are needed to increase community participation in democracy and participate in filling development. The higher level of community participation in providing suggestions, opinions, input, constructive criticism and other forms of participation will indicate the level of quality of the development and governance process starting from planning, implementation / implementation, and control and supervision. The purpose of this study is to analyze the implementation of community aspiration absorption carried out by the West Nias Regency DPRD and analyze the participation carried out by the community in channeling their aspirations through the West Nias Regency DPRD. The research method used is a descriptive method with a qualitative approach. Descriptive research method is a method in examining a group of people in an object, a system of thought, or in a class of events in the present. The purpose of this descriptive research is to make a description, general picture or painting systematically, factually, and accurately regarding the facts, characteristics and relationships between the phenomena being investigated. The results of this study are 1) The absorption of community aspirations has not fully run well due to limited human resources, minimal facilities and budget, budget limitations and ineffective coordination and communication; 2) The absorption of aspirations is conveyed through formal activities such as the participation of DPRD members in the Musrenbang conducted by the West Nias Regency Government, Recess, Working Visits or sudden inspections and through informal activities carried out by council members on a daily basis (without a prior schedule). ; 3) Public participation in channeling their aspirations is conveyed through personal and/or group complaints, both directly and indirectly, such as through correspondence, mass media, social media and electronic media.

**Keywords: Community Participation, Absorption, Channeling of Aspirations, Strengthening the Function of the DPRD**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The development of political life and constitutional law in Indonesia following the amendments to the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia by the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR RI) during the period 1999–2002 has progressed significantly. One of the key dimensions of this development is the strengthening of democracy, which is marked by increasing public participation in expressing and channeling societal aspirations.

This development is in accordance with the mandate of the amended 1945 Constitution, particularly Article 1 paragraph (2), which affirms that sovereignty rests with the people and is exercised in accordance with the Constitution. Popular sovereignty is a direct consequence of the democratic system adopted by Indonesia, whereby state power is fundamentally vested in the people and exercised through their representatives in the House of Representatives (DPR) and Regional

People's Representative Councils (DPRD) at the provincial and district/city levels. Therefore, continuous efforts are required to enhance community participation within the democratic environment as well as in development processes. A higher level of public participation—manifested through constructive suggestions, opinions, input, criticism, and other forms of engagement—reflects the quality of governance and development processes, from planning and implementation to monitoring and supervision (Ristianah et al., 2024).

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## LITERATURE REVIEW

### 2.1 Government Science

Government Science examines the management and administration of public organizations, including legislative, executive, and judicial institutions, as well as other bodies responsible for carrying out state functions regulated by law. In general, governmental duties encompass administrative, managerial, organizational, negotiation, and political functions within public institutions.

The system of government consists of interrelated components that function collaboratively and influence one another in achieving governmental objectives. In a broad sense, governance refers to the exercise of authority by legislative, executive, and judicial bodies to achieve state goals. In a narrower sense, governance is the execution of governmental authority by the executive branch and its apparatus.

### 2.2 Participation

Participation may be interpreted as an activity that stimulates a sense of involvement and engagement in organizational or societal activities. In the context of development, community participation refers to the active involvement of citizens in determining development policies, implementing development programs, and benefiting from development outcomes.

Successful development requires initiative and creativity from community members, arising from awareness and responsibility as social beings who live within society and are expected to grow and develop as active participants (Munir et al., 2025).

### 2.3 Aspirations

According to the Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), aspirations are hopes and goals aimed at achieving success in the future. The channeling of aspirations involves the process of collecting, accommodating, and conveying ideas, expectations, opinions, criticisms, and suggestions from the community to improve quality of life and achieve shared goals.

Based on Law No. 2 of 2018, the DPR and DPRD are mandated to absorb, collect, accommodate, and follow up public aspirations. Aspirations encompass two dimensions: the idea level, which represents verbal expressions of societal needs, and the structural role level, which reflects direct individual involvement in social and political activities.

#### 2.3.1 Absorption of Aspirations

The absorption of community aspirations by the DPRD may be conducted directly through face-to-face meetings, seminars, workshops, focus group discussions (FGDs), work visits, and recess activities. It may also be carried out indirectly through print media, electronic media, and social media platforms.

Continuous updating of aspiration-absorption mechanisms is necessary to enhance community participation and ensure that public aspirations are effectively accommodated and distributed. Field visits and citizen meetings are among the most commonly utilized methods.

#### 2.3.2 Distribution of Aspirations

The distribution of aspirations refers to the dissemination of community ideas and expectations to relevant authorities. Although often equated with complaints, aspirations differ substantively. Complaints typically involve dissatisfaction related to supervisory functions or policy implementation,

whereas aspirations reflect broader societal desires conveyed through opinions, attitudes, criticism, and policy input related to the duties and authority of the DPR/DPRD.

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## **RESEARCH METHOD**

### **3.1 Research Design**

This study employs a descriptive qualitative research approach. Descriptive research aims to systematically, factually, and accurately describe phenomena, events, or conditions as they occur. The qualitative approach emphasizes data in the form of words, narratives, and observations rather than numerical measurements.

This research focuses on community participation in the absorption and distribution of aspirations in strengthening the functions of the DPRD of West Nias Regency, North Sumatra Province.

### **3.2 Data Collection**

The data collected consist of primary and secondary data. Primary data were obtained through interviews and field observations, while secondary data were collected from official documents, laws and regulations, books, academic journals, reports, and mass media sources.

### **3.3 Data Analysis**

Data analysis was conducted using descriptive analysis and the Miles and Huberman model, which consists of four stages: data collection, data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing. Policy analysis was also employed to evaluate public policies and their impacts on social and economic conditions.

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## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **4.1 The Role of the DPRD of West Nias Regency**

Institutionally, the DPRD of West Nias Regency serves as a representative body with legislative, budgetary, and supervisory functions. However, empirical findings indicate that the initiation of draft regional regulations (Ranperda) remains

predominantly dominated by the executive branch.

Despite this dominance, all draft regional regulations proposed by the DPRD during the study period were successfully ratified, indicating the DPRD's effectiveness in ensuring legislative approval for its initiatives.

#### **4.1.1 Representation**

Representation reflects the political right of citizens to oversee budget management and development implementation through their elected representatives in the DPRD. Although internal and external supervisory bodies exist, political oversight by the people—represented by the DPRD—remains essential to ensure that development serves public welfare.

#### **4.1.2 Advocacy**

Advocacy constitutes one of the DPRD's core roles in defending citizens' rights, particularly those of vulnerable groups. Through advocacy, the DPRD engages in persuasive communication with stakeholders, especially regional governments, to influence policy decisions in favor of justice and social equity.

#### **4.1.3 Administrative Oversight**

DPRD supervision is primarily political rather than technical or administrative. Normatively, this oversight is exercised through rights of interpellation, inquiry, and the expression of opinions, which function as instruments for controlling executive actions.

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## **CONCLUSION**

1. The absorption of community aspirations in West Nias Regency has not been fully effective due to limited human resources, inadequate facilities, budget constraints, and weak coordination and communication.
2. Aspiration absorption is conducted through formal mechanisms such as Musrenbang, recess activities, work visits, and inspections, as well as informal daily interactions

between DPRD members and the community.

3. Community participation in channeling aspirations occurs both directly and indirectly, including through letters, mass media, social media, and electronic communication channels.

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## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To enhance the effectiveness of the DPRD in absorbing community aspirations, it is necessary to strengthen the capacity of DPRD members through education and training programs.
2. Increased funding and frequency of aspiration-absorption activities—such as recess periods, work visits, and unannounced inspections—are required to ensure that public aspirations are properly followed up.

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