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Bureaucratic and Political Collaboration Towards a Good Governance System

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Abstract

This research aims to know how is the synergy of bureaucracy and politics in realizing good governance. More specifically, what are the factors that influence the relationship between bureaucracy and politics in realizing good governance system. This study used a qualitative approach which is give description about the issues. The data collection technique used is literature study by examining and analyzing relevant literature such as books, journal articles, laws and regulations focusing bureaucracy, politics, and good governance systems. The results of the research showed that the synergy between bureaucracy and politics is absolutely necessary to realize good governance system. In addition, factors that affects relationships between them are aspect of authority/ power, human resources, and recruitment system. Bureaucracy and politics must be placed in the same stage to prevent superiority between bureaucracy and politics. A balanced relationship can be transformed into juridical restrictions. The empowerment of professionals in filling bureaucracy and politics must be prioritized in order to reduce corruption and nepotism that occurs in irrational recruitment systems.

Keywords: Bureaucracy; Good Governance; Politics.

Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui bagaimana sinergi antara birokrasi dan politik dalam mewujudkan pemerintahan yang baik. Lebih khusus lagi, apa saja faktor yang mempengaruhi hubungan antara birokrasi dan politik dalam mewujudkan pemerintahan yang baik. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif dan teknik pengumpulan data yang digunakan adalah studi literatur dengan memeriksa dan menganalisis literatur yang relevan seperti buku, artikel jurnal, undang-undang dan peraturan yang berfokus pada birokrasi, politik, dan sistem pemerintahan yang baik. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa sinergi antara birokrasi dan politik mutlak diperlukan untuk mewujudkan tata pemerintahan yang baik. Adapun faktor yang berperan dalam hubungan keduanya terdiri dari aspek kewenangan/ kekuasaan, sumber daya manusia, dan sistem rekrutmen. Birokrasi dan politik harus ditempatkan pada kedudukan yang sama untuk mencegah superioritas antara keduanya. Hubungan yang seimbang antara birokrasi dan politik dapat diubah menjadi pembatasan yuridis. Pemberdayaan profesional dalam mengisi birokrasi dan politik harus diprioritaskan agar dapat mengurangi korupsi dan nepotisme yang terjadi dalam sistem rekrutmen yang irasional.

Kata kunci: Birokrasi; Pemerintahan yang Baik; Politik.

Introduction

Indonesia, born out from distinctive history bounded in the formation of its culture, society, economy, and polity system, gives a concrete example of how public reform on bureaucracy has been recontextualized based on Indonesia's particular contextual characteristics (Gaus, Sultan, Basri, 2017). Good governance is the main prerequisite for realizing the aspirations of the people in achieving the goals and ideals of the nation and state. In this case, development and application of an appropriate, clear and tangible system of responsibility is needed so that the implementation of government can take place effectively, successfully and responsibly and free from corruption, collusion and nepotism (Uar, 2016). Bureaucracy in Indonesia does not develop into more efficient, but on the contrary inefficiency, convoluted and many rules are not obeyed. Bureaucracy is demanded to be a public servant for the community, that it have a role in regulating, serving, surveilancing, maintaining a good relations between governments and society (Rohayatin, 2017). Bureaucracy not only be seen as apparatus which is servant the public and state but also as a very complex system in the government (Napir, 2018). Empirically, the central government of Indonesia introduced a uniform bureaucratic model to the entire territory of the country. While each region has a distinct community characters and each character has an influence on the bureaucracy (Purwoko, 2016). Various attempts have been made in improving the quality of government bureaucracy. Resulting in a hope that good quality bureaucracy will create good governance as aspired.

Implementing good governance, the bureaucracy is faced with various problems such as poor quality of national education, poverty that is still rampant, bureaucratic morals, especially corruption that happened in many cases in this country, the weakness of law enforcement in achieving a welfare state. Corruption in Indonesia is a phenomenon of chronic and widespread that good governance, erodes the rule of law, hindering efforts to economic growth, increasing social inequality, and distorts the nation's competitiveness in the global economy (Yusriadi, 2018). Politicians, for instance, are used to seek political campaign fund from bureaucrats in exchange for protection and from big companies in exchange for offers of business opportunities such as government contracts and procurement, mining, logging and plantation permits (Kasim, 2013). Therefore, the government bureaucracy is not only dominated by bureaucratic officials who pursue careers in it, but also there are other parts occupied by political officials. Furthermore, in the government bureaucracy is not only owned by political leaders from political parties, but also professional career bureaucracy leaders.

Bureaucratic does not only concern technical and administrative capacities but also involves political aspects such as leadership, political will, and influential tactics (Krisnajaya, Suropto, Dewi, Sulistiyani, Laksana, 2019). Implementation of political activities includes social activities, seminars, studies, socialization and training, and coaching (Suparno, Karmais, Sunaryo, 2020). Politicians and bureaucratic officials hold the main key in the development of a

country. Politicians have a role in voicing the aspirations of their constituents, formulating and endorsing policies.

The role of politicians (legislators) is vital in overseeing the running of the government. While bureaucratic officials have a role in the implementation of policies in which success or failure in carrying out the implementation of a policy is also influenced by the bureaucracy, politicians, and society as the targeted group. State administration/ bureaucracy is a continuation of the political process, and so the political process will result in an administrative bureaucracy. Public administration will not exist if there is no politics and politics cannot work if there is no administration (bureaucracy). Politics and administration are two sets of mechanisms that are supposed to reconcile and not contradict each other since both start from the same process. Government bureaucracy must not be disturbed by political activities, because it will obviously damage the bureaucrats and bureaucracy, especially that government employees must be free from political elements which have become a provision that government employees are not permitted to participate in elections, except resigning from government as employee. This paper discusses how is the synergy of bureaucracy and politics in realizing good governance. More specifically, what are the factors that influence the relationship between bureaucracy and politics in realizing good governance.

Research Methods

This study used a qualitative approach which is give description about the issues. The data collection technique used is literature study by examining and analyzing relevant literature such as books, journal articles, laws and regulations focusing bureaucracy, politics, and good governance systems.

Discussion

1. Synergy of Bureaucracy and Politics in Realizing Good Governance

The political influence in the bureaucracy is very clear, it cannot be separated. As an illustration, public administration (bureaucracy) is the executor of political groups and in the same side, political groups can produce public administration groups. The circumstances is not much different from what happens in the government process. Government can arise due to political processes, political processes lead to government. That is, every political celebration, we will choose leaders, then the leaders will later become leaders of government bureaucratic administrators. The relationship between administration and politics has been recorded in many ways like the model revealed by Thomas J Davy in his book "Public Administration as a field of study in The United States". Davy openly said that the Public Administration literature in the US views the field of Public Administration as a study of the processes and conditions of maintaining the capacity of the executive branch of government. In addition, according to Davy political orientation in public administration treats the executive branch of government as an element in the government process. The aim is to show the characteristics of the role of the bureaucracy in its

relations with government institutions and other social institutions, as well as the basic values that support the political system.

State administration is a continuation of the political process, and so the political process will result in an administrative bureaucracy. Public administration will not exist if there is no politics and politics cannot work if there is no administration. Politics and administration are two sets of mechanisms that are supposed to reconcile and not contradict each other since both start from the same process. State administration exists to regulate the political process, while the results of the political process should mature the bureaucratic apparatus in this country. One example from the implementation of elections will be held if the election administration process is complete and in accordance with applicable regulations for example from the start of administration or the requirements of the candidates to be elected, election equipment to the requirements of the committee itself whether it is in accordance with the provisions or not. Government bureaucracy must not be disturbed by political activities, because it will obviously damage the bureaucrats and bureaucracy, especially that government employees must be free from political elements which have become a provision that government employees are not allowed to participate in elections, except resigning from government as employee.

The situation is indeed not much different from what is done by most political leaders in this country. Where they are as if the administrative orientation that they do other than to maintain their capacity as bureaucrats and if viewed in political interests, namely to maintain and maintain the position in their respective institutions (executive, legislative, judicial). Then another different view regarding the relationship between administration and politics according to Riswanda in Harbani Pasolong that bureaucracy should involve 3 (three) propositions. The first proposition is to develop in line with the political and economic development of a society, in the sense that the more democratic and prosperous the economic level, the more new demands will be. The second proposition is that the bureaucracy is not completely neutral from politics. Bureaucracy is created due to the functional complexity of modern society. So that in the bureaucratic body created various interests that develop in society, each competing interest becomes the most important. Therefore, to occupy a bureaucratic role or to implement a policy must get political support. The third proposition, bureaucracy works in two constraints namely the administrative system and the political system. Between these two systems that most influence the appearance of the bureaucracy is the political system. As a result, the form or form of bureaucracy is closely related to the prevailing political configuration.

The thing that is worried is that if the bureaucracy is controlled by people who have political activities agenda, then the effect will be on the poor process and results of the bureaucracy of public services. As we know, political parties and each political party carry a different vision and mission and will continue to maintain and mutually undermine each other's power. That will make our bureaucracy divided with each other because of the impact of different

backgrounds and political cultures. Therefore, bureaucracy and administration should no longer be influenced by political interests, both personal and group interests, this not only has an impact on the interests of the public, but on national and state development. The link between public administration (bureaucratic) and politics will be a relationship that will never end because both of them express the cause and effect of each other.

Good Governance requires that every public official (politician and public bureaucracy) must be able to take responsibility for all his attitudes, behavior and policies to the public in carrying out what is the duty, authority and responsibility. The principles of good governance are clean from corruption, collusion and nepotism such as accountability which is provide openness and transparency. Then, Compliance to the rule of law (A strong commitment to work for the interests of the nation and state, and not for groups or individuals. Further, commitment to include and give opportunities to the community to participate in state development (Wibisono, 2014). The participation of the community in voicing their aspirations which is executed by the representative institutions must be fairly. Further, the justice system in enforcing the law to provide justice without differentiating social status. It is the responsibility of the state to the people.

2. Factors that Influence Bureaucratic and Political Relations in Realizing Good Governance

Influence is a word that everyone seems to understand intuitively. In general, the effect can be interpreted as a result one target to another. However, this understanding is not enough, because if we look closely, it shows ambiguity and complexity even in simpler cases. In the process of an agent resulting in targets can be done in various forms and ways. Possible influences can occur on people, things, or events. For the events of influence that befall on humans, then the influence can take the form of attitudes, behaviors, perceptions, or a combination of these things. The consequences of agent influence can occur as desired by the agent or may not be as desired by the agent (Thoaha, 2014). Bureaucracy and politic were the inseparable sides of the coin. Bureaucracy and politic were two institutions with different characters but each was complement to other. These two different characteristics gave positive action to each other, thus creating a synergy (Mu'adi, 2016).

Government bureaucracy today and ancient long ago can never be separated from political factors. The more complex the political situation, the more complex the structure of the bureaucratic system in a country. The main function of the bureaucracy as a service institution and community service is often not realized optimally. In fact, democratic performance often experiences disorientation from its main task. Unoptimal and disoriented are caused by several factors, both those that exist within the internal bureaucratic institution and factors that exist outside the bureaucratic institution/ in the environment where the bureaucracy is located. Furthermore, the authors divide into 3 (three) factors that affect the synergy between bureaucracy and politics, namely:

a. Authority/ Power

A balanced relationship between bureaucracy and politics can be transformed into juridical restrictions. Juridical restrictions on power are basically caused by power politics that tend to be corrupt (Syamsuddin, Aris, 2014). According to Talcot Parsons, power is the general ability to guarantee the implementation of binding obligations by collective organizational units in a system which are obligations to the achievement of their collective goals and if there is a denial of obligations it may cause sanctions (Safriani, 2017). Authority/ power is one factor that plays an important role in the relationship between bureaucracy and politics. This is because the bureaucracy and politics have inherent authority and power in carrying out their respective duties and functions. The authority/ power possessed is given by law which is codified through the legislative powers of the central and regional governments.

b. Human Resources

Indonesian bureaucracy stalwart lies in the human factor, human resources which are the drivers or executors of the power held by the bureaucracy and politics are the key to the success of the successful relationship between bureaucracy and politics. Awareness, morality, and attitude of trust from people who have the authority and power in creating a good government system. Humans as legal subjects in the implementation of government systems do not have honesty and integration, the failure and bureaucratic and political systems can certainly occur easily and quickly. Therefore, the empowerment of professionals in filling bureaucracy and politics must be prioritized. This can also reduce the transition to corruption, and the nepotism that occurs in irrational recruitment systems.

c. Recruitment System

According to Dennis Wrong, the bureaucracy by Max Weber is seen as a manifestation of sociology from the process of rationalization. Wrong noted that the organizational bureaucracy was fully appointed to achieve a certain goal from various objectives; it is organized hierarchically with a strict chain of command from top to bottom; it creates a clear division of labor that assigns each person to a specific task; general rules and conditions that guide all attitudes and efforts to achieve the goal; employees are chosen primarily based on their competence and training (Santosa, 2012). A good recruitment system in filling government bureaucratic positions and people in political parties will also realize good governance. As chosen people are those who truly have the capacity, ability, integrity, professional, responsible, honest, and fight for the interests of the community at large.

Good governance is also related to the application of general principles of good governance. This relates to the institutional functions, duties and authority of the government in the state structure. Each element of government must carry out government functions that meets the principles of the rule of law and the

principles of democratic governance (Jurdi, 2019). General principles of good governance are included in the Government Administration Law Number 30 of 2014.

Conclusion

Bureaucracy and politics are two interrelated things. Collaboration between good bureaucracy and responsible politics will result in a good government system. And vice versa, bad bureaucracy and bad politics will destroy the government system and bring harm to the people. To realize a good governance system, the responsibility for conducting bureaucracy and politics based on the purpose of the state and the general principles of good governance. Bureaucracy and politics must be placed in the same stage to prevent superiority between bureaucracy and politics. A balanced relationship between bureaucracy and politics can be transformed into juridical restrictions. The empowerment of professionals in filling bureaucracy and politics must be prioritized. This can also reduce the corruption and the nepotism that occurs in irrational recruitment systems. A good recruitment system in filling government bureaucratic positions and people in political parties will also realizing a good governance system.

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