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# Public Dialogue and the Good Governance: How can the community be actively involved in legal reform and good governance?

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## ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research is to determine how the Friday Dialogue was analyzed in terms of good governance during the leadership of the Bojonegoro Regent during the Kang Yoto era in 2008-2018. In this study, the concept of good governance, which was echoed by Kang Yoto, was examined to see if it fulfilled all or part of the elements of the concept of good governance and how it was actually practiced. This research is

intriguing to investigate because it is still uncommon to find local government leadership models that apply the concept of good governance, particularly those that involve the people of the region directly. The descriptive qualitative approach was used in this study, with secondary data sources analyzed using interactive analysis. The Friday Public Dialogue is the result of this study, and it is a step taken by the Bojonegoro Regency Government to realize good governance in accordance with the mandate of Law Number 23 of 2014 concerning Regional Government. awards ranging from national to international levels. The public dialogue activity on Friday is essentially an activity that can support the synergy between the government, the private sector, and the community in order to achieve benefits for all parties and prosperity for all Indonesians, particularly those in the Bojonegoro area.

**Keywords:** *Friday Dialogue, Public Dialogue, Good Governance, Community Involvement, Law Enforcement*

## INTRODUCTION

Governance and government actually have almost the same meaning, but they are very much different. In a simple sense, governance is defined as a decision-making process that is implemented in the form of implementation. Meanwhile, government is more defined as one of the parties in the concept of governance. So, the meaning of governance is broader than the meaning of government because the government itself is one of the parties that can formulate and implement a policy.

In the arena of government, effective governance, according to G.H. Addink<sup>1</sup>, is a reciprocal relationship between the government and the nation. At least three parties, namely the government sector (public), the community (civil society), and the private sector, must collaborate and synergize in order to make and implement decisions (private sector). Meanwhile, the concept of good governance comprises various elements, including fundamental rights, efficacy and transparency, financial sector accountability, and the rule of law.<sup>2</sup>

The Government is one of the parties with policy-making authority. The government undoubtedly desires to carry out its responsibilities and authorities in regulating the regions under its control, and as one of the pillars capable of addressing existing problems. Good governance is a notion that can be used to help establish governance in a certain region. Since the introduction of Law No. 28/1999 on Clean and Free State Administration from KKN, Indonesia has started to implement the concept of good governance. Consequently, the spirit of implementing the concept of good governance can be seen in Law Number 23 of 2014 concerning Regional Government, which contains several good governance principles in Article 58.

The presence of the Local Government Law gives good government, which is one aspect of good governance, a breath of fresh air. The Law on Regional Government serves as a steppingstone for local governments to act as regulators in their respective regions and develop policies that differ from region to region. Each region's policies are inextricably linked to the problems that develop in their respective areas, which are represented by policies that must adhere to the principles set forth in the Regional Government Law. Legal certainty, orderly state administration, public interest, openness, proportionality, accountability, efficiency,

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<sup>1</sup> Addink, G. H., 2003, *From Principles of Proper Administration to Principles of Good Governance*, diktat *Governance*, Depok: CLGS-FHUI.

<sup>2</sup> Budisetyowati, Dwi Andayani, "Prinsip-Prinsip *Good Governance* dalam Pelayanan Publik", *Jurnal Hukum Universitas Tarumanegara*, t.t.

effectiveness, and justice are among the principles enshrined in the Regional Government Law.

The Public Dialogue on Friday was one method of execution of the principles outlined in the Regional Government Law carried out by the Bojonegoro Regency Government during the Kang Yoto era from 2008 to 2018. The openness and participation values, which are one of the principles enshrined in the Regional Government Law, are embodied in the public discussion. The discussion was a breakthrough in the execution of public involvement development by the Bojonegoro Regency Government during the Kang Yoto era, and it was employed as a superior program, especially for the Bojonegoro community.<sup>3</sup> The Friday Public Dialogue in Bojonegoro Regency is a sort of open government practice in the realization of transparency and accountability in Bojonegoro Regency. Bojonegoro Regency has been recognized as a pilot project open government in the globe for its innovation in public involvement development.<sup>4</sup>

The presence of the Friday Public Dialogue purportedly allowed the inhabitants of Bojonegoro to express themselves. It also expands participation and transparency opportunities in an effort to boost public confidence in the Bojonegoro Regency Government. The most important factor in this democratic era is participation<sup>5</sup>, which must be promoted to avoid government abuse of power. As a result, in order to generate ideas about good governance, the spirit of reform with decentralization must go hand in hand with active community participation.

In this article, we will discuss two main issues. There is the implementation of the Friday Public Dialogue in the era of Regent Kang Yoto and the analysis of the Friday Public Dialogue program in the era of Regent Kang Yoto fulfilled the principles of *Good Governance*. The

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<sup>3</sup> Habibah, B. A., 2017, *Efektivitas Dialog Jumat sebagai Model Pembuatan Kebijakan Publik Deliberatif di Kabupaten Bojonegoro*. Universitas Airlangga.

<sup>4</sup> Safarov, I. Dkk, 2017, *Utilization of Open Government Data: A Systematic Literature Review of Types, Condotions, Effect, and Users*, *Information Polity*, 22(1).

<sup>5</sup> Nawawi, J., 2009, "Membangun Kepercayaan dalam Mewujudkan *Good Governance*", *Jurnal Ilmu Pemerintahan*, Vol. II, Nomor 1.

researcher will describe the other side of the Friday Dialogue from a critical perspective, depends on the two issues raised above, by providing some constructive notes.

## METHOD

This is a qualitative study using a descriptive-analytical exposure method. Using library research data collection techniques, this study aims to be able to record traces and phenomena that occur in research subjects.<sup>6</sup> This study's analytical method is an interactive method of analysis that involves reducing the data that has been collected, presenting the data, analyzing and drawing conclusions. This study focuses on good governance, as evidenced by the Friday Dialogue activities that took place during the leadership of the Bojonegoro Regent during the Kang Yoto era from 2008 to 2018. The researcher focuses on analyzing several important elements in the implementation of good governance which is thick from these activities, such as transparency, public involvement, and accountability in accordance with the concept of good governance.

## RESULTS & DISCUSSION

### I. OVERVIEW OF THE CONCEPT GOOD GOVERNANCE

The concept of good governance has emerged since the 1990s after the Cold War to balance development and poverty alleviation in the world. Definively, governance itself is interpreted differently, which is essentially related to community management carried out by a person or authority

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<sup>6</sup> Mohajan, 2018, Munich Personal RePEc Archive Qualitative Research Methodology in Social Science and Related Subjects Qualitative Research Methodology in Social Science and Related Subjects, *Journal of Economic Development, Environment and People*, 7(1).

who has the authority to do so.<sup>7</sup> The concept can include not only the organization internally, but also external aspects, *outputs*, *outcomes*, and *impacts* that are felt by the community at large (Duadji, 2012: 201).

Another meaning is expressed by the UNDP, which defines *governance* as "*the exercise of political economic, and administrative authority to manage a nation's affairs at all levels*". From this understanding, *governance* includes aspects of the economy, politics, and administration. Governance in the economic field, for example, includes decisions taken by government authorities for economic activities in a country and the interrelationships between economic actors. Likewise, in the political field, which is formulated in the political decision-making processes of a country, and also in the administrative field, which is related to the implementation of policies that have been made.<sup>8</sup>

The definition of *good governance* itself, according to UNDP, is a synergistic relationship between *civil society* (society) and the *private sector* (private). The involvement of the private sector and the community is the answer that governance is not only the role of the government and the state, but the synergy between the three.<sup>9</sup> Meanwhile, according to the World Bank, *good governance* is defined as an effort to organize and manage development that is good, solid, and responsible while still referring to democracy, efficient markets, preventive efforts against corruption, and so on.<sup>10</sup> According to Udo E. Simonis<sup>11</sup>, the implementation of *good governance* has 3 key elements, namely:

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<sup>7</sup> Simonis, Udo E., 2004, "Defining good governance: The Conceptual Competition is on", *WZB Discussion Paper*, No. P 2004-005, Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung (WZB), Berlin.

<sup>8</sup> Rasul, Sjahrudin, 2009, "Penerapan *Good Governance* di Indonesia dalam Upaya Pencegahan Tindak Pidana Korupsi", *Mimbar Hukum*, Vol. XXI, Nomor 3.

<sup>9</sup> Widodo, Joko, 2001, *Good Governance: Telaah dari Dimensi Akuntabilitas, Kontrol Birokrasi Pada Era Desentralisasi dan Otonomi Daerah*, Surabaya: Insan Cendekia.

<sup>10</sup> Widodo, Joko, 2001, *Good Governance: Telaah dari Dimensi Akuntabilitas, Kontrol Birokrasi Pada Era Desentralisasi dan Otonomi Daerah*, Surabaya: Insan Cendekia.

<sup>11</sup> Simonis, Udo E., 2004, "Defining good governance: The Conceptual Competition is on", *WZB Discussion Paper*, No. P 2004-005, Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung (WZB), Berlin.

- 1) Based on cooperative and mutually beneficial relationships between the government, the public and the private sector;
- 2) Attached to the principles as a whole or a combination of several elements, such as participation, transparency in policy making, accountability, predictability, and law enforcement;
- 3) As a normative concept, whose values can be interpreted and implemented according to actors who have the authority to carry out their ideas.

The three key elements above, of course, it can be seen that *good governance* has several characteristics or principles. Unsurprisingly, UNDP provides an overview of the characteristics of *good governance* in 9 characters, namely:

- 1) Participation;
- 2) Law enforcement;
- 3) Transparency;
- 4) Responsiveness;
- 5) Consensus Orientation;
- 6) Equality;
- 7) Effektive dan Efficient;
- 8) Accountability;
- 9) Strategic vision.

*Asian Development Bank* (ADB) provides its own characteristics related to *good governance*, namely:

- 1) Efficient public services;
- 2) Transparent to the management of public finances;
- 3) Broad access to law and justice;
- 4) Participatory and responsive government; as well as,
- 5) A government that is committed to eradicating acts of corruption at all levels.

Several concepts of good governance, such as legal clarity, orderly state administration, public interest, transparency, proportionality, accountability, efficiency, effectiveness, and fairness, are also explained in Law Number 23 of 2014 concerning Regional Government. As a result,

while putting the concept of good governance into reality, it's crucial to examine whether the proposed concepts and principles have been implemented. The development of good governance will have repercussions for good government, which not only serves as a facilitator but also as a regulator. Good governance is defined by clear regulations that are accompanied by good cooperation with the private sector and civil society.

## II. IMPLEMENTATION OF FRIDAY PUBLIC DIALOGUE UNDER THE REGENT KANG YOTO

The Friday Public Dialogue is one of the innovation programs in the development of public participation in Bojonegoro Regency from 2008 to 2018, or more precisely during the leadership of Regent Kang Yoto. This action is an example of open government in the Bojonegoro Regency Government's application of openness and accountability.<sup>12</sup> The program is based on the Bojonegoro Regent's Decree No. 188/305/KEP/412.12/2008 concerns public conversation between the Bojonegoro Regency Government and its citizens. The public debate was held on Friday, immediately following the Friday Prayer at the Pendopo of Bojonegoro Regency, which was attended by representatives from the government, relevant agencies, the people of Bojonegoro Regency, and the private sector.

The Friday Public Dialogue Program aims to raise public knowledge of the good aspects or benefits of the Bojonegoro Regency Government's

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<sup>12</sup> Tyasotyningrum, Berlian, 2019, "Praktik *Open Government* melalui Partisipasi Publik di Kabupaten Bojonegoro dalam Mewujudkan Transparansi dan Akuntabilitas", *Mediasosian: Jurnal Ilmu Sosial dan Ilmu Administrasi Negara*, Vol. III, Nomor 1.



policies, in addition to providing transparent information and services.<sup>13</sup> The presence of this Friday's Public Interaction is also a form of deliberative democracy implementation that promotes a culture of conversation or dialogue between the government and the community in transmitting "*uneg-uneg*," concerns, opinions, and discursive community needs directly to the government.<sup>14</sup> Every Friday in the discussion, a new theme will be introduced, followed by a first presentation on the topic. The resource person gave a presentation in accordance with the theme discussed, and then there was a direct question-and-answer session for the community members who wanted to voice their wishes. The community's questions or ambitions will then be addressed one by one, in accordance with the Regency Government's authority and responsibilities, both from competent agencies and those with the authority to do so.

Berlian Tyasotyaningrum<sup>15</sup> disclosed in his article that the Bojonegoro Regency Government held various technical events in the public dialogue, including:

- 1) Participants in the dialogue filling out the attendance list;
- 2) A moderator appointed by the Department of Communication and Informatics opens the event;
- 3) Presentations or discussions on current themes or issues in the Bojonegoro Regency, as well as other types of presentations, such as program socialization, financial reports, and so on;
- 4) Individuals and community groups alternatively convey aspirations and criticisms during public dialogue. This activity will be continued with responses from public officials in accordance with the fields and authorities relevant to the community's objectives and complaints;

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<sup>13</sup> Artandi, Ahmad Irgi Riza, 2018, "Partisipasi Masyarakat dalam *Open Government Partnership* (OGP) di Kabupaten Bojonegoro (Studi Kasus Dialog Publik)", *Jurnal Mahasiswa Universitas Negeri Surabaya*.

<sup>14</sup> Supriadi, Yadi, 2017, "Ruang Dialog Publik dan Pers Menurut Habermas", *Jurnal Kajian Jurnalisme*, Vol. I, Nomor 1, ISSN: 2549-1946 (online) ISSN: 2549-0559 (cetak).

<sup>15</sup> Tyasotyaningrum, Berlian, 2019, "Praktik *Open Government* melalui Partisipasi Publik di Kabupaten Bojonegoro dalam Mewujudkan Transparansi dan Akuntabilitas", *Mediasosian: Jurnal Ilmu Sosial dan Ilmu Administrasi Negara*, Vol. III, Nomor 1.

- 5) The last process is the closing which is carried out by the moderator who previously the Regent will provide remarks and directions regarding the aspirations expressed by the community to the public officials concerned.

Based on the technical components of the event, it can be inferred that the dialogue was two-way in character, in the sense that the community first expressed their desires, followed by the comments and responses of the public officials involved. This will undoubtedly improve communication between the community and government officials, allowing them to meet in a mutually agreed-upon location. Not only achieving a point of convergence between community expectations and public officials' beliefs, but also being able to share knowledge that the community may not have previously understood, so providing a political education component to the event.

The Friday Public Dialogue activity had a positive effect on the people of Bojonegoro Regency. This can be seen in the level of public confidence in the performance of the Regency Government, reaching 44% believing, 35.35% ordinary, and 5.4% not believing.<sup>16</sup> In addition, the level of community participation every month is also quite a lot, which is in the range of 400 to 500 more participants. The number of participants in October 2017, as many as 523 participants, in November 2017 as many as 385 participants, and December 2017 as many as 481 participants. The public can take part in the dialogue by not only going to the Pendopo of Bojonegoro Regency in person, but also by listening to Radio Malowopati FM, which broadcasts it live. The community was so enthusiastic about the program that it was continued during Kang Yoto's two terms as Regent of Bojonegoro to see how the people's goals and opinions towards the Regency Government he led had changed.

Friday's Public Dialogue is undeniably capable of delivering an aspect of utility to the larger community as part of Kang Yoto's political policy. The District Government is responsible for presenting and

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<sup>16</sup> Putra, Moch Ade Rachman, 2018, "Peningkatan Kepercayaan Publik melalui Pemerintahan Partisipatif", *Jurnal FISIP Universitas Airlangga*.

communicating with the public, and the Public Dialogue can take place on a good Friday to achieve the desired outcome.<sup>17</sup> Friday's Public Dialogue provides an opportunity for the community to actively participate in local policymaking in Bojonegoro Regency, as well as the Regency Government's increasing openness to political access to the community, where the community's wishes and expectations can be discussed and finally followed up by the Regency Government. The collaboration between the Bojonegoro Regency Government, the Bojonegoro community, and the corporate sector has become a method of putting the notion of good governance into practice in the Regency of Bojonegoro.

### III. ANALYSIS OF FRIDAY'S PUBLIC DIALOGUE PERSPECTIVE ON CONCEPT GOOD GOVERNANCE

The Public Dialogue was one of the innovative projects implemented by the Bojonegoro Regency Government under Regent Kang Yoto's tenure (2008-2018). The discussion can be seen of as the implementation of community participation in the district's administration. Apart from being a way of involvement, this activity also serves as a means of socializing the government's program and as a type of open government for the people of the region. The answer to the concerns of the Bojonegoro community who want to express their objectives and views about the administration and execution of the Bojonegoro area is public discourse. These initiatives have the potential to open the floodgates of public participation, resulting in a democratic government.

The principles used in the Friday Public Dialogue can be analyzed, and they are as follows:

- 1) Transparency

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<sup>17</sup> Prasetyo, Dicky Eko, 2020, "Dua Sisi Dialog Publik: Antara Kebijakan Politik dan Polemik Keberlanjutannya", *ResearchGate*.

Public Participation in Dialogue Friday is a day when the Regional Government makes available to the public as much information as possible. This can be observed in the event's activities, which include socializing Regency Government projects so that they can be implemented and supported by the community. Other topics that were discussed included financial information and understanding about it. The goal of submitting financial data is to inform the public about the rules, administrative procedures, and financial reports produced by the government. Public services, from the planning process to its evaluation, are presented in the public discussion in no less essential ways.

## 2) Public Participation

Participation The goal of the public dialogue event is to increase participation. The communication that takes place between the community and the private sector with the local government becomes a type of direct engagement in government management. Community participation in the event was diverse, ranging from offering criticism or suggestions to evaluating and monitoring the performance of the government at all levels, from the Regency to the Village, as well as community promotional events, such as MSME products, village tours, and other activities. The community's ambitions and views will subsequently be taken into account by the Bojonegoro Regency Government when making decisions or public policies that are aligned with what the community expects.

## 3) Accountability

The Public Dialogue on Friday is also an opportunity for the government to accept responsibility for the performance that will be, is being, or has already been delivered. The strategy used is direct delivery or questions from the public about the results of the officials' performance. Not only in terms of government performance, but also in terms of public service accountability, as they are responsible for all aspects of service delivery, from policy development through planning, implementation, and assessment. This accountability

generates a symbiotic mutualism between the government, the community, and the private sector in terms of the community's and private sector's satisfaction with the Regency Government's service and management.

When studied, some of the aforementioned concepts are included in the UNDP's list of characteristics for good governance. The three principles listed above, if developed further, can include all of the features that will constitute the UNDP's version of good governance's standard. The genuine example is the openness component of Friday's Public Dialogue, which, of course, is only valid if it is based on the concept of equality, which does not discriminate between people in their ability to express their desires. Aside from equality, with this participation comes the hope of the existence of a strategic vision that is planned or implemented by the Bojonegoro Regency Government to address problems at the grassroots or in the Bojonegoro community. Another factor to consider is effectiveness and efficiency, so that problems that arise or community ambitions do not have to wait a long time for a response from the public official in charge but are addressed instantly at the location and time specified, saving time, effort, and money.

The execution of Friday's Public Dialogue not only appears to be lovely in the shadows, but it also faces a number of problems and impediments, both from within the Bojonegoro Regency Government and from the Bojonegoro community and commercial sector. Some of the challenges and obstacles in the implementation of Friday's Public Dialogue are as follows:

- 1) In Friday's Public Dialogue activities, public figures who are still stuttering. This is due to the fact that the program is being implemented for the first time, and there is no prior experience with these activities, particularly among public officials in Bojonegoro Regency. Another issue that occurs is the loss of public officials' privileges, which produces dissatisfaction among public officials and local figures involved in the Public Dialogue.
- 2) The reaction from public authorities who accept community input and aspirations is still quite low. This is a roadblock to the Public Dialogue's

outcomes, because the public authorities involved appear uninterested and unwilling to learn about the community's problems. The needs of the community can sometimes feel unfamiliar to the official, giving the sense of neglect under the guise that it can't be handled or for other reasons.

- 3) The people who take part in the Friday Public Dialogue are not evenly distributed, because most of the participants who directly attend the event are only representatives of certain communities or individuals who are concerned in certain fields. On the other hand, this activity was widely highlighted by the people of Bojonegoro and was followed indirectly through radio. People who do not directly participate in the event, of course, cannot express their aspirations, but can only comment from a "far" about what they are listening to on the radio.

## CONCLUSION

The Bojonegoro Regency Government's Public Dialogue on Friday is a step toward achieving good governance, as mandated by Law Number 23 of 2014 on Regional Government. The features of the Bojonegoro Regency Government in the Kang Yoto era, such as transparency, accountability, and community participation, can be stated to be attributes that lead to good governance. Friday's Public Dialogue was a watershed moment in the process of becoming Bojonegoro Regency and District open government, winning numerous national and international honors. Friday's Public Dialogue activity is essentially an activity that can assist the synergy between the government, private sector, and community in order to achieve advantages for all parties and prosperity for all Indonesians, particularly those in Bojonegoro area.

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All authors declared that this work is original and has never been published in any form and in any media, nor is it under consideration for publication in any journal, and all sources cited in this work refer to the basic standards of scientific citation.

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