

Capacity Building and Preparation of Village Regulations in Favor of the Community through Technical Guidance in Buluh Telang Village

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ABSTRACT

Capacity building at the village level is the key to optimizing local governance that is responsive in solving village problems that are more equitable and in favor of the community. The village government has a vital role in managing the administrative area and community activities, including village administration arrangements, village administration, deliberations, and regulations. Therefore, village regulations are significant in maintaining the order, harmony, and welfare of village communities and helping village governments carry out their duties and functions effectively and efficiently. Community Service conducted by the University of North Sumatra team in Buluh Telang Village, Padang Tualang, Langkat Regency, North Sumatra, aims to make efforts to strengthen capacity by organizing technical guidance to increase the knowledge and skills of village governments in preparing village regulations by applicable regulations. The activity results showed that capacity building and preparing village regulations in Buluh Telang Village emphasized the importance of community participation in decision-making. Through technical guidance, village officials and communities understand regulations responsive to local needs. Challenges such as lack of knowledge and participation can be overcome with inclusive deliberation. Community engagement and transparency in budget management are essential to creating self-reliant and prosperous villages, avoiding exploitative practices from increased investment.

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INTRODUCTION

Village government is an integral part of the lowest level of government in the unitary state of the Republic of Indonesia. According to Law No. 6/2014 on Villages, a village is a legal community unit with territorial boundaries that has the authority to regulate and manage government affairs and the interests of the local community based on community initiatives, origin rights, and traditional rights that are recognized and respected in the government system of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia (Nasution & Taher, 2020). In the Indonesian context, villages have three different meanings. First, sociologically, a village is a unit of society or community of people who live and settle in an environment where they know each other well and their lives are relatively homogeneous. Second, economically, a village is a community environment that tries to fulfill its daily needs from the surrounding natural resources. Third, politically, a village is an organization of government or power that has political authority (Maschab, 2013).

The village government is essential in managing the administrative area and community activities. The functions of the village government include managing the administration of the village area, village governance, village meetings and regulations, APBDes management, village government services, village community institutions, BumDes, village infrastructure, village authority, forms of village administration and governance, village government supervision, village head accountability, and village natural resource management. Village regulations also have an essential role in running the village government by regulating the life of the village community in various aspects. Through village regulations, the village government can make rules based on the needs and characteristics of the village community, including regulating spatial and environmental planning, social and cultural life, and encouraging local economic development (Putri, 2016; Setyaningrum & Wisnaeni, 2019).

In Buluh Telang Village, the village administration is equipped with a comprehensive village apparatus structure, including a village head, village secretary, village treasurer, heads of affairs, and section heads responsible for various aspects of governance. Village meetings are scheduled, with separate agendas based on discussion topics, such as APBDes appropriations and village musrenbang. This structure aims to ensure community participation and effectiveness in managing village governance. By involving the community in drafting village regulations, the village government creates conditions conducive to community participation and empowerment in decision-making related to village life. Therefore, village regulations have a vital role in maintaining the order, harmony, and welfare of village communities and helping village governments carry out their duties and functions effectively and efficiently.

This service examines capacity building and preparing village regulations that favor the

community in Buluh Telang Village. Through this approach, an effective strategy can be found in increasing community participation and the capacity of village officials, as well as creating village regulations that are more responsive to local needs. By involving various stakeholders, including the community, village government, and related institutions, this research seeks to identify existing challenges and opportunities. This participatory approach aims to strengthen the structure and function of village government and empower local communities to be more active in the decision-making process. The results of this service are expected to serve as a model for other villages to improve the quality of village governance and community welfare.

METHODOLOGY

This service was carried out on May 31, 2024, in Buluh Telang Village, Langkat Regency, North Sumatra Province. The participants in this activity were the village government apparatus and the Buluh Telang village community. Capacity-building activities and the preparation of village regulations that favor the community are carried out through the provision of discussion and dialogue materials with participatory methods so that training participants participate in every stage of the activities. These activities should be considered an integral part of the Village Regulation destruction activities, with time allocation arrangements. Communication should also be recognized as an essential part of the training pattern for preparing Village regulations.

To improve Capacity Building and the Preparation of Village Regulations in Favor of the Community through Technical Guidance in the Community Service program of the University of North Sumatra, several methods are needed to support the involvement of the Village Government and the Buluh Telang Village Community. Some of the stages that will be implemented are as follows:

1. Problem Identification: The team conducted discussions with the village government and local community to identify problems in preparing village regulations that favor the community.
2. Capacity Building: The team organizes technical guidance to increase the knowledge and capacity of village governments in drafting village regulations that are by applicable laws and regulations.
3. Community Participation: The team encourages active involvement from the community in drafting village regulations so that the resulting regulations are more relevant to the needs and aspirations of the local community.
4. Student Assistance: Students involved in this activity participated in the assistance of strengthening the material for drafting village regulations so that they could contribute to stimulating partners.
5. Collaboration and Partnership: The team developed collaborations and partnerships with various parties, such as public service units, local media, and training platforms, to support drafting village regulations.

6. Creation of Village Regulation Drafting Module: The team developed an updated village regulation drafting module, which will guide village governments in drafting pro-community village regulations.
7. Training and Implementation: The team organizes training and application of the village regulation drafting module to village governments and local communities so that they can better understand and implement village regulations.
8. Monitoring and Evaluation: The team conducts monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the village regulations that have been drafted, as well as their impact on the welfare of the local community.

By carrying out this work procedure, it is hoped that the Buluh Telang village government can develop better village regulations that favor the community and support the development and welfare of the village community.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

Community service conducted by the University of North Sumatra (USU) was held in Buluh Telang Village, Langkat Regency, North Sumatra Province, on May 31, 2024. Twenty-five participants attended this activity, including village government officials and local villagers. This activity aims to strengthen capacity and draft village regulations that favor the community through technical guidance in Buluh Telang Village to foster the increased capacity of village officials to increase community participation and draft village regulations that favor the community. This issue is influenced by village officials' limited knowledge and skills, low community participation, village regulations not responsive to community needs, and economic challenges and social dynamics in the Buluh Telang Village community.

Village Regulations (Perdes) have a legally binding force for all villagers and must be obeyed by all parties in the village area. Through Village Regulation, villages can independently regulate and manage their local interests according to the needs and conditions of the local community and within the framework of higher laws and regulations. So far, the effectiveness and success of village regulations in resolving local community issues can be assessed from several aspects, namely:

Table 1. Aspects of Effectiveness and Success of Village Regulations

No.	Aspects	Description
1	Obscuring the Basic Principles of Village Regulations	The design of village regulations should be based on basic principles and emancipatory goals aimed at changing the living conditions and fate of village communities. The use of these regulations can increase the effectiveness of village regulations in achieving economic and social goals.

2	Community Participation	Community participation in the preparation of village regulations can increase the effectiveness of village regulations. But unfortunately at the village level, village regulations are even made by the state apparatus itself, which minimizes the role and participation of the community. This has a very broad impact on people's lives, because after all it is the community that will later feel the direct impact of the regulation. By not involving the community, the analysis, assessment and solutions to problems that are formed tend not to be objective in accordance with the reality that occurs in the community.
3	Village Budget Management	The effectiveness of village revenue and expenditure budget management can increase the effectiveness of village government in achieving goals. Effective management can reduce costs and improve government performance (Widiyaningrum, 2021).
4	Responsiveness of Village Regulations	The accountability of village regulations enables effective coordination between the village government and the community. This allows the village government to operate professionally and improve the quality of life of the community (Kindangen et al., 2018).

Because village regulations are ineffective and unsuccessful in resolving local community issues, villages still lack the quality to formulate these regulations. This issue is not easy, especially now that villages with their rich natural resources are starting to be considered by investors and companies engaged in the plantation, mining, agriculture, fisheries, and other sectors. Therefore, it is essential to strengthen capacity and formulate village regulations that favor the community. Village governments should address these issues by conducting training and community empowerment programs, encouraging village economic growth, implementing climate change mitigation programs, providing technical assistance to village officials, allocating village funds appropriately, and forming village working groups. This aims to enable village communities to be more active in decision-making and create regulations responsive to local needs.

This service collaborates with the Village Government of Buluh Telang, Padang Tualang District, Langkat, to provide technical guidance and socialization to the community and village officials, hoping to increase community participation and create more effective and pro-community regulations. In line with this service, where the objectives are directed at providing an understanding of the importance of strengthening village capacity and drafting village regulations that favor the community, and all of the material is conveyed to service partners to increase awareness of the importance of village regulations as a solution to problems in Buluh Telang Village. The material presentation lasted for 60 minutes; the service team conveyed an in-depth understanding of the preparation of village regulations, legal and regulatory frameworks, mechanisms for drafting village

regulations, evaluation and clarification of village regulations, and techniques for drafting village regulations.

First, Village Regulation Drafting includes the definition and purpose of village regulations, the legal basis for drafting village regulations, the role and function of village regulations in village governance, and types of village regulations. Second, Legal and Regulatory Framework, including Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning villages, Regulation of the Minister of Home Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia Number 11 of 2014 concerning Technical Guidelines for Village Regulations, and Langkat District Regulation Number 21 of 2007 concerning Village Regulations. Third, the Mechanism for Drafting Village Regulations (Ranperda), including planning, preparation, discussion, determination, promulgation, and dissemination. Fourth, Evaluation and Clarification of Village Regulations, discussing the need for evaluation and clarification of the substance of the Village Regulation material by the Regent/Mayor. Fifth, Village Regulation Drafting Techniques, including naming, opening, body, closing, and appendices.



Figure 1. The dedication team presenting the material

Furthermore, the service team highlighted the importance of village officials and villagers in understanding the conditions that become problems that occur in their villages. Technically, the village is indeed the authority in determining the applicable village regulations, but understanding the substantial problems that occur in the village is the basis for the village regulations. By understanding the problematic conditions, village officials and villagers can be more critical and oriented towards the realization of justice. Problems as crucial issues that are conveyed are the regulation of investment in the village area, the impacts of investment on the village, and the full participation of the community in the spaces contained in the preparation of village regulations. The villagers seemed to have more enthusiasm to see the village problems they experienced, this was conveyed in the discussion and question and answer session which lasted about 30 minutes.

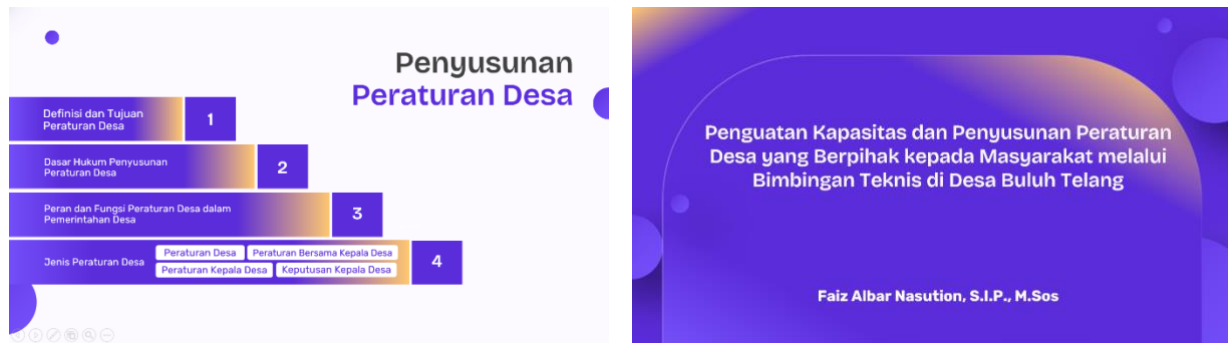


Figure 2. Exposure Material

Many villagers highlighted the village area's massive oil and red soil mining activities. Not to mention the narcotics issues that are considered by the community to be so mushrooming that even small children already understand what narcotic goods look like. Moreover, the most problematic thing is that they have not been able to formulate an ideal formulation of how Village Regulations can conceptually solve existing village problems. The discussion session went on by providing mutual feedback to the socialization participants, who were the targets of the service. In response, the speaker explained the importance of the Village Government structurally and functionally in regulating and determining Village Regulations. The speaker emphasized that the Village Government should be more aware of its authority in Village Regulations, an autonomous authority that is fully granted and its authority at the village level. Based on information submitted by several participants, Village Regulations are still inadequate and have not accommodated the problems that have existed in the community for a long time.



Figure 3. Submission of Village Problems by Buluh Telang Village Community in the Q&A Session

The speaker added that for Village Regulations that favor the community, efforts that can be made by the Law that describes the authority are:

1. Hold regular village meetings to hear the community's aspirations, complaints, and proposals.
2. Collecting specific data on village problems felt by the village community.

3. Involve various community elements in drafting village regulations, such as traditional leaders, youth, and women's groups.
4. Provide a complaint mechanism that is easily accessible to the community to provide input on village regulations.
5. Provide guidelines and training modules that village officials can easily understand.
6. Provide access to transparent information on village plans and budgets through announcement boards, village websites, or social media.
7. Collaborate with the district government, NGOs, academics, and the private sector for technical and financial support.
8. Provide access to justice for people who feel aggrieved by violations of village regulations.
9. Increase the capacity of village officials in law enforcement and fair dispute resolution.
10. Allocate village funds for the development of infrastructure and public services that support the economic and social activities of the community, such as health facilities, education, and adequate transportation access.

In the final session, the service activity was closed with a session with the village government apparatus; this session was delivered directly by the Head of Buluh Telang Village, Mr. Muhammad Yunus. The Village Head explained that they still lack human resources to formulate a Village Regulation that favors the community and does not strategically solve problems. The Village Head also continued by asking the presenters for appropriate suggestions on Village Regulations that are more effective in formulating solutions to village problems that the community has explained. Then, the Village Head also emphasized the presenters who came from the University of North Sumatra to help fight for their problems to be resolved. This activity succeeded in building awareness of the village community in responding and addressing the problems in the village through the preparation of village regulations to create village regulations that favor the community.

CONCLUSIONS

Capacity building and drafting pro-community village regulations in Buluh Telang Village, Langkat District, North Sumatra, demonstrated the importance of active community participation in the decision-making process. Through technical guidance, village officials and communities are invited to understand and implement village regulations that are more responsive to local needs. The service results with the Buluh Telang Village Government and the village community include understanding and implementing village regulations that are more responsive to local needs. There are challenges, namely the lack of knowledge and skills of village officials and low community participation; this effort has raised awareness of the importance of fair village regulations.

The service results recommend that activity participants understand the significance of inclusive village deliberations, which are critical in formulating regulations that align with community aspirations. In addition, transparency in village budget management and the involvement of diverse community elements will strengthen the accountability and effectiveness of village governance. The results of this study emphasize that the success of village regulations is highly dependent on community involvement and the capacity of village officials to respond to existing problems.

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