



Screening Aspiration Through Hearing in Handling Covid-19 Pandemic of DPRD Blitar Regency

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ARTICLE INFORMATION

Received: April 04, 2022
Revised: July 24, 2022
Available online: October 30, 2022

KEYWORDS

Aspiration, Covid-19, Hearing, DPRD

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A B S T R A C T

Hearing is a significant point that should be practiced by the Regional Government and DPRD through involving the community in gathering information in the field. The purpose of this study was to determine the effectiveness of efforts to acquire aspirations in the DPRD Blitar Regency. The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative. Data collection techniques were interviews, observation, and documentation. The results showed that the Blitar Regency DPRD was very proactive to acquire aspirations in handling COVID-19 pandemic of Blitar Regency. Further, through hearings, the aspiration screening is more effective. This shows that hearing is very important for the DPRD to absorb people's aspirations in handling COVID-19 in Blitar Regency. In this regard, the DPRD needs to increase its role and function as people's representatives. Likewise, the Regional Government must be responsive to various community inputs so that COVID-19 pandemic in Blitar Regency can be handled properly.

INTRODUCTION

Since the reform era, the role of the Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD) in voicing the aspirations of the community has been questioned. Various interests and aspirations of the people are not channeled properly. One of the problems is that the function of the DPRD cannot run properly because it rarely conducts aspiration screening and hearings with the community. In fact, in the era of the pandemic, aspirations and input from the community are very much needed. Therefore, it is very important to conduct an aspiration searching through a hearing conducted by the DPRD. Democracy provides guarantees to the people in giving their aspirations. But in reality, the media in conveying people's aspirations is still very limited (Azmi et al., 2021). The screening aspirations done by the DPRD is the key to the success of members of the council who are the representatives of society (S.A et al., 2019). DPRD becomes an intermediary for the community so that the aspirations and complaints of the community can be given the best solution for all parties. DPRD is a representative institution at the regional level that is required to carry out its function as people's representatives. DPRD also has an obligation to capture, accommodate, and follow up on the aspirations of the community. Because basically, the delivery of aspirations by the community is a form of community participation (Setiyowati & Ispriyarso, 2019).

The community has the right to know all forms of activities done by DPRD members in carrying out their duties and functions as people's representatives. In carrying out its duties and functions, the DPRD cannot be separated from the community because in a democracy, the community becomes the priority in policy and decision making (Marwan S. Wanto, Muhammad Ihsan Mattalitti, 2021). In screening the aspirations of the local community, one form of strategy that is often taken by the DPRD of Blitar Regency is to conduct hearings. The community must have involvement in every policy-making process made by the government, which is, the main thing is

regarding to the community (Hindom & Tamher, 2021). Hearing is one of the supervisory functions possessed by the DPRD in capturing aspirations or reports on several problems faced. Hearings are held to hear opinions and explanations from parties who have the authority regarding the implementation of activities contained in their duties and authorities (Miranti, 2020). A series of activities carried out by the leadership of the DPRD, the Commission, the Joint Commission, the Special Committee with Institutions, companies/individuals, and community organizations (Ilmu & Widya, 2019).

Hearings are conducted in connection with alleged deviations from the implementation of laws and regulations and regional regulations that are considered to be detrimental to the community and the state (Anam & Anwar, 2020). In addition, hearings can also be held if there are people who want to convey their aspirations/complaints to the DPRD of Blitar Regency. The hearing is not only able to capture aspirations, but also aims to find out information on the field and what problems are being faced by OPDs in the field. Hearings can be carried out in the process of forming legislation (making public policies) as an effort to accommodate the aspirations or inputs of several parties related to the formation of laws and regulations (making public policies) (Sholihah, 2017). Community participation is a very important factor in running democracy, by opening up space to contribute and participate in the running of government (Sholihah, 2017). According to Hoessein (2009: 8), democracy as the goal of decentralization has the consequence of placing the DPRD in a central position in the administration of regional government (Ma'ruf, 2019).

The hearing was carried out with good communication by bringing in related parties and the community so that problems that occurred could be followed up more clearly in the demands given by the community at the time of realization. Proper and effective communication is one of the main things needed in conducting a hearing (Hidayah, 2021). The DPRD is required to be able to actively and effectively socialize with the community

in a series of activities for conducting aspirational screening and hearings. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the implementation of the aspiration screening through hearings became a concern for the Blitar Regency DPRD. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it greatly affects the condition of small communities who feel the direct impact of COVID-19. The community can express their aspirations and complaints at the hearing held by the DPRD (Apriliansyah et al., 2020). Such as the implementation of the screening of local community aspirations in the form of hearings held by the Blitar Regency DPRD with the People's Empowerment and Advocacy Institute (EL-BARA) regarding the clarity of handling the COVID-19 pandemic in Blitar Regency, EL-BARA proposed a hearing to the DPRD because according to EL-BARA, the handling of the COVID-19 pandemic in Blitar Regency had not been carried out optimally. In terms of controlling and preventing COVID-19, it must have a top priority in government policy. Because covid-19 has had an impact on various aspects, namely the economy, public health, social, and government (Azmi et al., 2021). So, it must have maximum and effective handling.

Thus, hearing was held to hear aspirations and complaints from the community through EL-BARA regarding the handling of COVID-19 in Blitar Regency by bringing in relevant parties related to the problem. The hearing is a deliberation between citizens and the government to find the best way or to solve a public problem, including in solving problems in the public policy formulation process by communicating directly between the parties related to the policy (Sholihah, 2017). The hearing proposed by EL-BARA involved the Head of the Blitar Regency Health Office, the Blitar Regency Village and Empowerment Service Head, the Blitar Regency Covid-19 Task Force Head, and the Blitar Regency DPRD Commission 4 Chairperson. Through a hearing held by the DPRD of Blitar Regency, relations between citizens and the government can be developed into a closer relationship, and have a good relationship because they are equal and need each other.

This research was conducted because of the unresolved problems in handling COVID-19 in Blitar Regency and the need for transparency in handling them. So, the Blitar Regency DPRD provides space for the community to express their aspirations and complaints through the EL-BARA intermediary. With this hearing, the public can find out the efforts and allocation of funds used for handling COVID-19 in Blitar Regency by related agencies.

METHOD

The method used in this research is descriptive with a qualitative approach. Sources of data in this study are primary and secondary data sources. Primary data sources were obtained from interviews, observations, and documentation. Meanwhile, secondary data sources were obtained from references, literature, previous research, mass media, laws and regulations, and books. Data collection techniques through interviews, observation, and documentation. The subjects in this study consisted of the Chairperson of Commission 4 of the DPRD of Blitar Regency and the staff of the Commission in the Regional People's Representative Council. The research was carried out on August 9, 2021 to October 8, 2021. The research was conducted at the Regional House of Representatives. Data analysis techniques used in this study consisted of planning, implementation, and evaluation. This research was conducted at the DPRD Blitar

Regency located at Jl. Kota Baru, Kec. Kanigoro, Kab. Blitar, East Java, 66171.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Community aspiration is the hope that the community has to support success related to life in the future, both individually and in groups (Supratman et al., 2019). Through previous research conducted by (Sonni et al., 2021) entitled argues that the definition of community aspirations has a close relationship with public opinion, human attitudes, namely attitudes that humans have personally and as members of a group. He further stated that what shapes people's aspirations is the personal attitude of a person or the attitude of his group. Community aspirations are a collection of opinions held by individuals on certain issues that can affect a group of people who represent an agreement that begins with community attitudes towards issues that are still not accurate.

People's representative institutions have an important position in a democracy. The potential at the regional level is considered not maximally developed so that representative institutions at the regional level have an important position (Zainudin, 2021). The DPRD of Blitar Regency has the obligation to accept, accommodate, and follow up on the aspirations of the community, and has a position as an element of implementing government at the regional level. One of the tools owned by the DPRD in screening the aspirations of the local community is the Commission. The DPRD Commission is a permanent DPRD tool and is formed by the DPRD at the beginning of its membership term (Anam & Anwar, 2020). The composition and membership of the commission is determined in proportion to the number of members from each faction. The Blitar Regency DPRD Commission has 4 commissions, namely Commission 1 in charge of government, law and land, Commission 2 in charge of finance and economy, Commission 3 in charge of development, and Commission 4 in charge of social welfare. One of the tasks of the Blitar Regency DPRD Commission is to hold hearings.

Hearing is a form of supervision owned by the DPRD which is carried out because of problems that occur related to government policies (Hasim Hartono, 2021). The process of seeking aspirations through hearings is carried out if there are parties who propose hearings to the DPRD. The hearing is implemented by the first procedure that the public/parties who wish to convey their aspirations/complaints through a hearing must send an incoming letter of submission to the Blitar Regency DPRD, then the letter will be disposed of to the Head of Section and will be continued to the Commission whose field is in accordance with the theme of suggestions and complaints. After the relevant Commission has received the incoming letter, a special Commission meeting will be held to discuss whether the complaint needs to be followed up or not. Then, if it is necessary to follow up, the hearing can be held by bringing in the relevant community organizations, institutions, companies/individuals, relevant agencies, and members of the Commission in charge of (Ningsih, 2020).

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the government certainly has an interest in dealing with the pandemic. One of the things done by the DPRD of Blitar Regency is to carry out supervision by practicing hearings (Saraswati, 2020). The COVID-19 pandemic requires effective handling by observing health protocols. In this case, the community demands transparency in policy making and follow-up on the handling of COVID-19 in

Blitar Regency. The need for transparency so that there is no misunderstanding between the community and the government (Hadi, 2020). Hence, through the Institute for People's Empowerment and Advocacy (EL-BARA), aspirations and complaints from the people of Blitar Regency regarding the handling of COVID-19 in Blitar Regency were conveyed through a hearing. The hearing was held at the Blitar Regency DPRD on August 10, 2021. The hearing discussed the handling of the Covid 19 pandemic in Blitar Regency proposed by EL-BARA. Covid-19 has an impact on various aspects, namely economic, social and community welfare aspects (Wahidah, 2022).

Furthermore, in this case, discussions must be conducted in handling in the fields of economy, social assistance, health, as well as improving public policy (Roulani et al., 2020). First, EL-BARA sent a letter of submission to conduct a hearing to the DPRD of

Blitar Regency on July 29, 2021, which was addressed to the Chairman of the DPRD of Blitar Regency and then it was assigned to the Head of the Commission Section which was then continued to be given to the Commission 4. This is because EL-BARA will channel his aspirations regarding the handling of COVID-19, namely the health sector. Commission 4 is a tool owned by the DPRD of Blitar Regency which is in charge of the social welfare sector, one of which includes the health sector. Therefore, the right to hold the hearing is Commission 4 of the Blitar Regency DPRD. After the EL-BARA hearing submission letter was received by Commission 4, Commission 4 held a special Commission meeting to discuss whether the incoming letter should be followed up or not. After being approved by the chairman of Commission 4, the hearing proposed by EL-BARA was then held on August 10, 2021 at the Blitar Regency DPRD.

Table 1. Stakeholder Involvement in Hearing

Stakeholder	Role	Involvement
Directorate of the Institute for People's Empowerment and Advocacy (EL-BARA)	As the party who submitted a hearing on August 10, 2021 at the Blitar Regency DPRD and who became the Chair of EL-BARA	Conveying that the handling of the COVID-19 pandemic in Blitar Regency is related to Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in handling it. According to EL-BARA, there is a budget for funerals for victims of COVID-19 of IDR 1,800,000
Blitar District Health Office	As a provider of answers to questions and complaints from EL-BARA in the field of Health.	Provide answers submitted by the Chair of EL-BARA. In the Regent's Regulation, people who died due to COVID-19 can claim burial using their original Blitar KTP. The funeral process applies health protocols and is in accordance with government standards.
Head of the Blitar Regency Village and Empowerment Service	As an answer to EL-BARA's complaints regarding village budgets and funds	Convey that the distribution of village fund BLT continues to be monitored and in accordance with the regulations from the central government.
Head of the Blitar Regency Covid-19 Task Force	As a party related to the EL-BARA complaint. Because basically, EL-BARA proposes a hearing by discussing the handling of COVID-19 in Blitar Regency	The head of the Blitar Regency Covid-19 Task Force explained that the vaccine had been provided in rotation in each village. Each village has facilities for isolation for people who are infected with COVID-19. The head of the Covid-19 Task Force gave an appeal to the public to always comply with the Health protocol and report if there were people who were infected with Covid-19
Chairman of Commission 4 DPRD Blitar	Preside over the hearing proposed by EL-BARA on 10 August 2021	The chairman of Commission 4 of the Blitar Regency DPRD gave his appreciation and support to the People's Empowerment and Advocacy Institution (EL-BARA) which had expressed its aspirations and concerns regarding the handling of COVID-19. And hope that EL-BARA can socialize to the public so that they always comply with the Health protocols and applicable rules.

Hearing as an Effort of Screening Aspirations for Covid-19 Pandemic Solutions

The DPRD of Blitar Regency has obligation to accept, accommodate, and follow up on the aspirations of the community, and has a position as an element of implementing government at the regional level. One of the supervision carried out by the DPRD can be in the form of Commission work meetings with hearings and public complaints (Sonni et al., 2021). In conducting the hearing, of course, there are parties who are related to the aspirations/complaints submitted to the Blitar Regency DPRD. Like the hearing submitted by EL-BARA, namely regarding the handling of covid-19 in Blitar Regency. EL-BARA has a question related to the handling of the Covid-19 pandemic in Blitar Regency whether it is in accordance with the SOP and the budget for funerals. So, the Blitar Regency DPRD presented the Chair of EL-BARA, EL-BARA Members, Head of Blitar Regency Health Service, Head of Blitar Regency Community and

Village Empowerment Service, and Head of the Blitar Regency Covid-19 Task Force.

In response to this question, the Head of the Community and Empowerment Service explained that the distribution of BLT village funds was continuously monitored and in accordance with the rules (SOP) from the central government. The Blitar Regency Government has also invited the community to implement health protocols and form a COVID-19 task force at the village level (Sandhi & Iskandar, 2020). The Head of the Blitar District Health Office responded that under the Regent's Regulation, people who died from COVID-19 could claim burial using their original Blitar KTP. People who died as a result of being exposed to Covid 19 received assistance for funeral costs of 1,800,000 which included body bags, coffins, burial of corpses, disinfectant for corpses, plastic bodies, hearses and disinfectants for corpses as well as for hearse disinfectants. The funeral process must pay attention to health protocols that are in accordance with government standards. In addition, the Head of the Blitar Regency Covid-19

Task Force explained that vaccines had been provided in rotation in each village. Each village has facilities for isolation for people who are infected with COVID-19. The head of the Covid-19 Task Force gave an appeal to the public to always comply with the Health protocol and report if there were people who were infected with Covid-19 (Amin et al., n.d.).

With the implementation of aspiration screening carried out by the Blitar Regency DPRD Commission through hearings held by Commission 4, the People's Empowerment and Advocacy Institute (EL-BARA), and related agencies, at the end of the hearing, Commission 4 of the DPRD of Blitar Regency, which is in charge of the theme of the hearing, provides solutions. The commission is Commission 4 DPRD Blitar Regency. Commission 4 gives full appreciation and support to the Institute for People's Empowerment and Advocacy (EL-BARA) which has expressed its aspirations and concerns regarding the handling of COVID-19 in Blitar Regency. EL-BARA is urged to socialize to the public regarding Governor Regulation No. 24 of 2021 so that people do not misunderstand the funeral costs for Covid-19 victims who died. Basically, Commission 4 of the Blitar Regency DPRD is a liaison between EL-BARA and related agencies related to COVID-19, so the Health Office and the Covid-19 task force are also urged to continue to pay attention to the needs of the people of Blitar Regency so that the transmission rate of COVID-19 in Blitar Regency is high and the the covid-19 case in Blitar Regency may decline. The chairman of Commission IV, Sugeng Suroso, emphasized to the public to always work together and collaborate which can be the key to Indonesia's success in getting through the difficult times of the pandemic.

CONCLUSION

The screening of aspirations in handling COVID-19 in Blitar Regency carried out by Commission 4 of the Blitar Regency DPRD with EL-BARA went quite well and effectively. EL-BARA has several questions about how the government is handling the Covid-19 patients in Blitar Regency, absorption of the budget, assistance provided by the government related to covid-19, both from the central and regional governments, absorption of the covid-19 handling budget from village funds, acceleration of vaccination efforts to the community for covid-19 family immunity, the government's budget for the funeral of patients who died as a result of being positive for COVID-19, and encouraging the effectiveness of the performance of the task force (covid-19 volunteers) formed at the village and sub-district levels.

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