

## **The Function of the Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD) of Gorontalo Regency in Environmental Supervision**

**Cindrawati Umar<sup>1</sup>, Apris Ara Tilome<sup>2</sup>, Muh. Firyal Akbar<sup>3</sup>**

Universitas Muhammadiyah Gorontalo

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### **Abstract**

*This study examines the function of environmental supervision by the DPRD of Gorontalo Regency with a focus on three main indicators: data and information transparency, coordination with the Environmental Service (DLH), and community involvement. The research method uses a qualitative approach with a descriptive research type. The primary data sources in this study consisted of eight informants, namely DPRD members, DLH representatives, and community leaders. The results of the study indicate that transparent data and information access presented by the DPRD of Gorontalo Regency has not been maximized and open either through social media or other information media that can be accessed directly by the community. Coordination between the DPRD and the Environmental Service of Gorontalo Regency has been well established between the two institutions by conducting RDP (Hearing Meeting) from the Environmental Service followed by programs run by DLH under supervision from the DPRD. For the involvement of the community that plays a role in environmental supervision, it has been formed well in villages/sub-districts but is considered ineffective, thus creating challenges for the DPRD and DLH in handling environmental problems, especially the level of public awareness which is considered still lacking in responding to environmental problems that arise due to the actions of the community itself.*

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### **Corresponding Author:**

**Cindrawati Umar**

Universitas Muhammadiyah Gorontalo

Email: [cindrawatiumar373@gmail.com](mailto:cindrawatiumar373@gmail.com)

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

As a democratic country, the existence of the Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD) or legislative body is a necessity, because the legislative body is the people's representative in making laws or regional regulations that will be enforced for the people. Entering the reform era until the revision of Law Number 22 of 1999 to Law Number 32 of 2004 concerning Regional Government is the first phase of the implementation of regional autonomy, and then amended again by Law Number 23 of 2014 concerning Regional Government. The basic consideration for the birth/revision of the regional government law, that the people's representative body and regional representative body are democratic vessels to fight for the aspirations of the people, and legislative power (legislatio from Roman law) is the power to form laws (leges). (Muchlas, 2018).

Law No. 23 of 2014 concerning Regional Government places the Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD) in a highly strategic and decisive role in the implementation of regional autonomy and the administration of regional government. The DPRD is a regional people's representative body and serves as an element of regional government administration, with legislative, budgetary, and oversight functions. This

oversight function of regional regulations is crucial, providing the DPRD with the opportunity to be more active and creative in addressing various obstacles to the implementation of regional regulations.

Through the supervision of the council, the executive as the implementer of the policy will be protected from various deviations and abuses, from the results of the council's supervision will be taken corrective actions to improve the implementation of the policy. To avoid various administrative errors in the implementation of regional government bureaucracy, without realizing that it can lead to allegations of corruption or conflict against the community for public officials who handle public affairs. With the supervision of the DPRD will be able to provide quite effective protection for the executive in implementing the optimal implementation of government bureaucracy. (Praptomo, 2016).

The Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD) plays a strategic role in defending the people, channeling their aspirations, receiving complaints, and facilitating resolution. However, it is not uncommon for these functions and authorities to fail to materialize, ultimately leading to a decline in the DPRD's image. This is because the DPRD is not a technical institution that enforces regulations, but rather oversees the performance of the regional government. It is precisely in the implementation of regional work programs that conflicts of interest arise between the people and the government or those in power. (Ridwan, Achmad, 2015).

Environmental issues are caused by many factors, one of which is population growth. Higher population growth rates lead to rapid economic activity. High economic conditions/or development can lead to environmental pollution and damage, thus destroying the ecosystem that supports life. This poses a challenge for humans, namely, how to protect the surrounding environment. Development activities, which are industrialization activities, can lead to excesses, namely waste produced when disposed of into the environment can damage the environment and the survival of people living around it. Environmental problems that are widely discussed are environmental damage and pollution. These things cause a decline in environmental quality. If such problems are not addressed promptly, they can threaten and endanger the continuity of national development and the sustainability of the environment. (Santoso 2021).

Environmental issues are constantly evolving and evolving. One environmental issue that is deeply intertwined with everyday life is waste. Every human being has the potential to produce waste. To ensure their well-being, humans engage in various activities and produce food, beverages, and other goods from natural resources. These activities also produce waste materials known as waste (Chandra, 2007).

Gorontalo Regency is a regency in Gorontalo Province. The capital of this regency is located in Limboto District. Since its establishment as a regency in 1959 until now, Gorontalo Regency has experienced three divisions. The first division in 1999 gave birth to Boalemo Regency, the second division in 2003 gave birth to Bone Bolango Regency, and the last in 2007 gave birth to North Gorontalo Regency. Gorontalo Regency has an area of 1,750.83 km<sup>2</sup> with the largest population in Gorontalo Province, namely 355,988 people or 34.22% of the total population in 2010. The population of Gorontalo Regency in mid-2023 was 415,198 people.

It is estimated that waste production in Gorontalo, particularly in Gorontalo Regency, reaches an astonishing 60,000 to 70,000 tons per day, or even more. Piles of plastic waste visible on several roads not only damage the beauty of the surrounding environment but also disrupt residents' daily activities due to the pungent stench. The increase in waste volume during Ramadan and Eid al-Fitr 1445 Hijri in 2024 is a serious concern. Syarifudin Pulukadang, Head of the Green Open Space and Natural Resources

Cleanliness Division of the Gorontalo Regency Environmental Agency, confirmed this phenomenon.

As a government institution responsible for various public sectors, the Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD) is a regional people's representative institution that is positioned as an element of regional government administration that has a role and responsibility in realizing efficiency, effectiveness, productivity and accountability through the implementation of the rights, obligations, duties, authorities and functions of the Regional People's Representative Council in accordance with the provisions of the Laws and Regulations. In carrying out its roles and functions, the DPRD carries out relations with the executive in the form of cooperation or in the form of differences that are combined in different levels and remain within the framework of achieving common goals. As an element of regional government administration, both have equal standing. The DPRD, as an institution that functions to supervise the Department and its apparatus in the implementation of regional government, especially in supervising the handling of environmental problems must have support and resources in carrying out checks and balances. (Dadang, Akmal 2016).

Despite its important role, the Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD) oversight is not without challenges. One major challenge is the lack of accurate and transparent data from the government. In some cases, the DPRD struggles to obtain the information necessary for effective oversight. This can hinder the DPRD's efforts to optimally carry out its oversight function. Furthermore, there are challenges in communication between the DPRD and the local government. Sometimes, information provided is incomplete or untimely, preventing the DPRD from providing accurate recommendations. To address this, improvements in the reporting and communication systems between the two parties are needed (Dadang Suwanda, 2016).

## 2. RESEARCH METHODS

The research approach used is a qualitative approach to understand the function of the Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD) of Gorontalo Regency in environmental oversight. The type of research used is descriptive research. The purpose of this study is to describe complete information about the function of the Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD) of Gorontalo Regency in environmental oversight.

This study uses 3 methods of data collection, namely 1) Observation. This technique is carried out through systematic observation of an ongoing activity, the individuals involved, and the behavior that appears based on the perspective of the individuals involved to obtain data that must be collected in the study. The direct data collection technique is to go directly to the Gorontalo Regency DPRD office through participation (participant observation) in the field, 2) Interview This interview was conducted to obtain data or information related to the research problem by conducting direct questions and answers with informants, 3) Documentation The documentation technique carried out in this study by taking pictures or photos at the Gorontalo Regency Regional Secretariat office related to the research and aims to clarify and support the research process.

In this study, the researcher used research/data collection through direct observation, through informants, and other documents to facilitate the research by the researcher. The data sources are as follows: Commission C of the Gorontalo Regency DPRD, Head/Secretary of the Gorontalo Regency Environmental Service, and the community.

Field data analysis in qualitative research is conducted before entering the field, during the fieldwork, and after the fieldwork. In qualitative research, data analysis is more

focused during the fieldwork process, concurrent with data collection. Data analysis activities are carried out in three stages: 1) Data reduction, 2) Data presentation, 3) Conclusion drawing and verification.

### 3. RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### 3.1. Research result

The research found three main aspects in the implementation of the Gorontalo Regency DPRD's supervisory function regarding environmental management: (1) transparency of data and information, (2) coordination with the Environmental Service (DLH), and (3) community participation.

First, data transparency remains limited. Environmental monitoring information is not yet publicly available through digital media. Second, coordination between the Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD) and the Environment Agency (DLH) is well-established through public hearings (RDP) and program monitoring, but is not yet supported by an integrated database. Third, community involvement in environmental monitoring remains low due to a lack of public awareness. This hampers policy effectiveness and reduces active citizen participation.

These findings align with the principles of good governance, which emphasize transparency and public accountability. To improve oversight effectiveness, the Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD) needs to strengthen its digital-based environmental information system, build institutional synergy with the Environment Agency (DLH), and encourage public participation through environmental education and regional regulations that support sustainability.

#### 3.2. Discussion

The oversight function carried out by the Gorontalo Regency DPRD is an implementation of one of the main functions of the regional legislative body as stipulated in Law Number 23 of 2014 concerning the Regional Government. This function is not only administrative, but also serves as an instrument to ensure the realization of the principles of good governance, especially in the context of accountability and transparency of environmental management at the regional level.

##### 1. Transparency of Environmental Data and Information

Transparency is a key element of good governance. Research shows that public access to environmental data remains very limited. The Gorontalo Regency Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD) does not yet have a digital-based public information system that is directly accessible to the public. However, according to Law Number 14 of 2008 concerning Public Information Disclosure, the legislative body is obliged to provide access to information relating to the public interest, including the results of environmental policy oversight. This limited transparency has implications for low public participation in the oversight process. The public cannot directly monitor the results of the DPRD's evaluation of local government performance in waste management, pollution, and environmental permits. In line with Bahrudin's (2015) opinion, effective oversight can only be achieved if information is openly accessible, as transparency builds public trust in the legislative body.

##### 2. Coordination between the DPRD and the Environmental Service (DLH)

Inter-agency coordination is one of the keys to successful oversight. The results of the study indicate that coordination between the Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD) and the Gorontalo Regency Environmental Agency (DLH) has been running well through the implementation of Public Hearings (RDP) and direct monitoring of DLH activities. However, this coordination is still formal and is not

supported by a structured evaluation mechanism or a data-based reporting system. According to Mintzberg's contingency theory (1979), the effectiveness of coordination is largely determined by the suitability between tasks, the environment, and leadership style. In this context, the DPRD needs to adapt its coordination model to the complex dynamics of the regional environment, such as problems of urban waste, flooding, and water pollution. Effective coordination is not limited to formal meetings, but also includes a follow-up mechanism for monitoring results in the form of written recommendations and the establishment of regional policies.

### 3. Community Participation in Environmental Monitoring

Community participation is a crucial aspect of community-based monitoring. Research shows that community involvement in Gorontalo Regency has been implemented through cooperation activities, village forums, and cleanliness programs such as Clean Friday. However, the level of participation remains low, as communities are not yet aware of their important role in protecting the environment, and there is no clear reporting mechanism to the Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD). According to Arnstein (1969), in his Ladder of Citizen Participation, the level of community participation in Gorontalo Regency is still at the level of 'tokenism' or symbolic participation, where communities are only involved in activities without having power in decision-making. To achieve true participation (citizen control), policies are needed that provide space for communities to submit proposals, assess policies, and report suspected environmental violations.

### 4. Implications for Regional Environmental Governance

The research findings indicate that the Gorontalo Regency Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD)'s oversight function still needs to be strengthened in terms of transparency, coordination, and participation. Effective oversight will create sustainable environmental governance that is responsive to community needs. Furthermore, increasing the capacity of DPRD members in the environmental sector is crucial, ensuring that the legislative body serves not only as an administrative supervisor but also as a policy advocate for environmental protection. Efforts to enhance oversight must also be supported by adequate budgetary policies. The DPRD, together with the local government, can allocate priority funds to support waste management, pollution control, and public education programs. This aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) mission, which emphasizes a balance between economic, social, and environmental aspects.

## 4. CONCLUSION

Transparent data and information access presented by the Gorontalo Regency DPRD has not been maximized and open either through social media or other information media that can be accessed directly by the public. Coordination between the DPRD and the Gorontalo Regency Environmental Service has been well established between the two institutions by conducting RDP (Hearing Meeting) from the Environmental Service followed by programs run by DLH under supervision from the DPRD, for community involvement that plays a role in environmental supervision has been formed well in villages/sub-districts but is considered not yet effective, thus creating challenges for the DPRD and DLH in dealing with environmental problems, especially the level of public awareness which is considered still lacking in addressing environmental problems that arise due to the actions of the community itself.

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