

Perceptions of Papuan Students and Students regarding the Issue of the Expansion of Papua

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Abstract

This study aims to obtain a clear analysis of the driving and inhibiting factors for the formation of regional expansion in Papua Province according to the views and perceptions of Papuan students who are scattered at home and abroad. The method used in this study is a qualitative research method, namely research data that focuses on events in society by collecting data both primary and secondary which are then triangulated and obtain valid data to then be used to answer the problems raised. The output of this research is that Papuan students as the nation's young elite consider it important to make an in-depth study of the readiness of the indigenous Papuans when the territory is divided so that the indigenous Papuan community does not become a spectator in the development and the objectives of Papua's special autonomy are achieved with indicators of increasing the welfare of the indigenous Papuans.

Keywords

Issues; expansion; perception; students; students; papua



I. Introduction

The state in its government system implements various efforts in order to bring the span of control of services closer to the community or its people. Indonesia experienced several changes in the state power system after the collapse of the Suharto regime in 1998, especially the implementation of Law no. 22 of 1999 concerning Regional Government (revised by Law No. 32 of 2004) provides an opportunity for broad regional autonomy. Regional autonomy in its definition according to Law no. 32 of 2004 as an amendment to Law no. 22 of 1999 is the right, authority and obligation of autonomous regions to regulate and manage their own government affairs and the interests of the local community in accordance with statutory regulations. Since the enactment of Law no. 22 of 1999 concerning Regional Government, the orientation of development was changed from the principles of efficiency and growth to the principles of independence and justice. There has been a shift in development goals from centralization to decentralization. In the context of decentralization, it is necessary to change the perspective in the administration of government that it is necessary to expand the region so that services are closer to the community. This change of perspective is not wrong when the community is in a condition or precondition ready to carry out development with the government.

The issue of division is currently being faced by the Province of Papua, one of the easternmost provinces of Indonesia. Since a few months ago the issue of the division of Papua has been carried out by Papuan political elites and political elites in Jakarta and even the government has responded to this by establishing several new provinces in Papua province. This has resulted in various political frictions, arguments between the executive,

legislative and even the customary institutions of the Papuan People's Council. In the midst of the grassroots or the community, various opinions and opinions were developed as to whether it was true that the division of the region had even become several provinces at once, if so, what would the community, especially the indigenous Papuan people, get. This paper examines the opinion of the community, especially students and indigenous Papuan students who study in several regions in Indonesia and abroad. As young Papuan intellectuals, it is certainly important to get their views in order to contribute ideas for the sustainability of Papua in the future.

II. Review of Literature

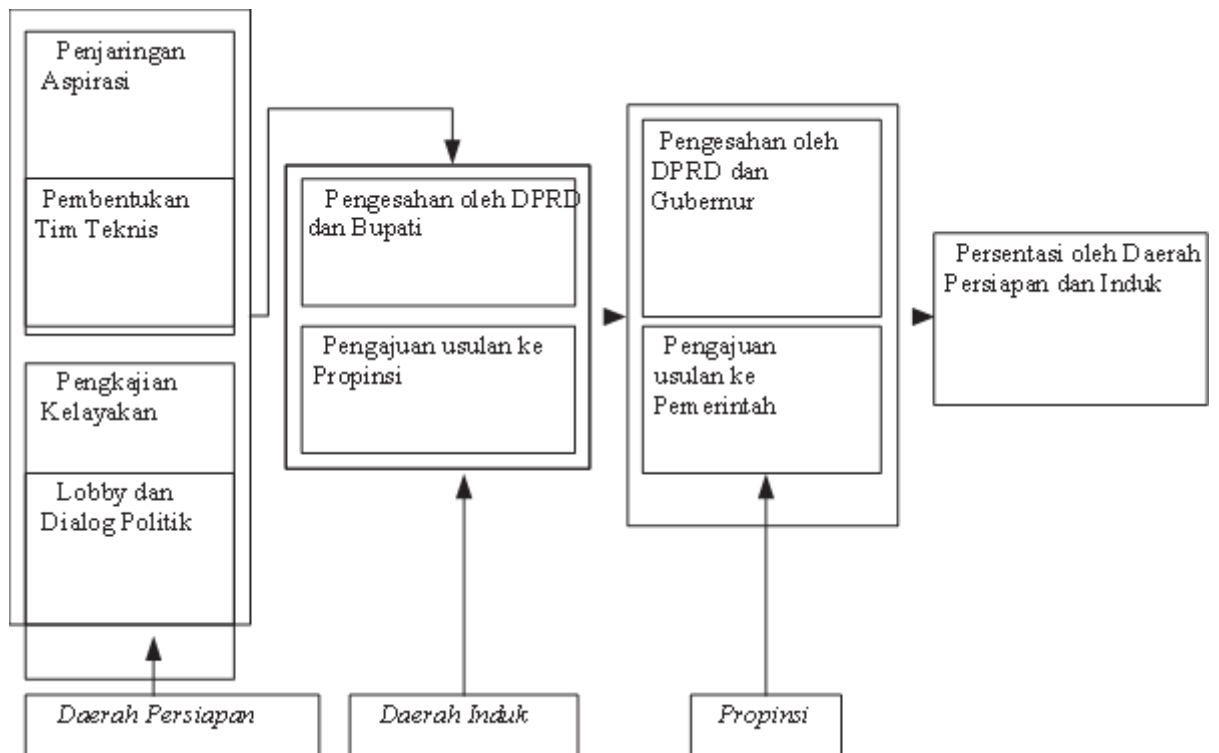
2.1 Theory and Concept of Regional Expansion

In Law no. 23 of 2014 in Article 33 paragraph (1) letter states that regional expansion is in the form of dividing a province or district/city area into two or more new ones. local government and improvement of public services, namely: 1. Desire to provide better public services within a limited/measured area of authority. The service approach through the new regional government is assumed to be able to provide better services compared to services through the parent regional government with a wider service area coverage, through the regional development planning process on a more limited scale, public services according to local needs will be more efficient. available. 2. Wider absorption of labor in the government sector and sharing of power in politics and government. This political reality has also received great support from civil society and the business world, because new economic opportunities both formally and informally have become more available as a result of regional expansion.

Regional expansion is expected to create regional independence. The purpose of the expansion as stated in various laws and regulations is intended to improve the welfare of the community through: a. Improved service to the community. b. Acceleration of the growth of democratic life. c. Acceleration of the implementation of regional economic development. d. Acceleration of regional management potential. e. Increasing security and order in harmonious relations between the center and the regions.

The expansion of regions (provinces, districts, sub-districts, and villages) is a dynamic of the political will of the community in areas that have a fairly wide administrative area. The enactment of Law no. 32 of 2004 and PP No. 78 of 2007 concerning Procedures for the Establishment, Abolition, and Merger of Regions, the government has provided space for regions to carry out regional expansion in the context of improving the welfare of the community evenly at every level. Based on these provisions, regional expansion can be in the form of merging of several regions or parts of adjacent regions or expansion of one region into more than one region. Meanwhile, in essence, regional expansion aims to improve government services to the community in the context of accelerating regional economic development, increasing security and in order to realize harmonious development between the center and the regions. In addition to the above, regional expansion can be used as a means of political education at the local level to suit the potential and ideals of the region¹³. The idea of regional expansion and the formation of a New Autonomous Region has a fairly strong legal basis. The juridical basis that contains the issue of regional formation is contained in Article 18 of the 1945 Constitution which essentially states that dividing Indonesia into large regions (provinces) and provincial regions will be divided into smaller regions. Furthermore, in Law no. 32 of 2004 concerning Regional Government which provides opportunities for the formation of regions within the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia, namely regions formed

From the central government's perspective, the process of discussing regional expansion coming from various regions went through two major stages, namely the technocratic process (technical and administrative feasibility studies), as well as the political process because apart from having to fulfill the technocratic requirements that have been regulated in Laws and Government Regulations, the expansion proposal must politically supported by the DPR. The following will describe the scheme for the process of proposing expansion at the regional level.



process. This aspiration screening is one of the important stages that must be carried out by the technical team. After the various stages have been carried out, the parent region will carry out the following stages, namely ratifying the proposed expansion by the DPRD and the Regent and then submitting it to the province. At the provincial level, the approval is carried out by the Provincial DPR and the Governor and then the submission of proposals is continued and presented to the central government.

2.2 Papua Special Autonomy

Law number 21 of 2001 which was issued due to the suffering felt by the indigenous Papuan community as one of the opinions of the Papuan elite figure Laksdya (ret).

Autonomy Because of the good heart of the Indonesian government, no. This is a long and bloody journey, Papuans, the birth of this special autonomy. So people don't think it's a gift from the Indonesian government, no. This is a long journey, starting with UN resolution No. 2504 (XXIV) 29 November 1969. With a special note: That the go in implementing its national development plan, is giving special attention to the peoples and their specific conditions. culture, culture etc. 84 countries agree that Papua belongs to Indonesia, abstain 30 countries, 12 countries did not attend, and they did not agree,” explained Vice Admiral TNI (ret) Freddy Numberi, who had also served as the Governor of Papua. The former Indonesian Ambassador to Italy and Malta as well as the former Minister of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, explained the problems that still occur regarding Papua Special Autonomy, including: OTSUS Papua. This is evident from the various perceptions, even erroneous policies from various parties (political elites, practitioners, academics, and the general public) regarding the substance of the law. There are contradictory government policies after the implementation of OTSUS in Papua”. Likewise, he continued, “the quality and quantity of legal instruments for implementing the OTSUS Law are still weak as a tactical and technical basis for implementing OTSUS Papua policies. During the 10 (ten) years of implementing OTSUS Papua, implementing legal instruments in the form of PERDASI and PERDASUS did not have an agenda for preparation. In fact, the Papua Special Autonomy Law mandates a minimum of 17 PERDASI and 11 PERDASUS.” The former State Minister for the Empowerment of State Apparatuses, expressed his hope in the future that in the 2019-2024 President Jokowi-Ma'ruf Amin period, problems related to Papua's Special Autonomy can be resolved. completed properly and the Special Autonomy for Papua Volume II can better accommodate the economic growth of the indigenous Papuans (OAP) with the growth of economic centers based on cultural-anthropology in the Land of Papua”.

The Papua Special Autonomy Law has undergone a second amendment in Law Number 2 of 2021 which was later revealed in PP number 106 concerning Authority and Institutional Implementation of the Special Autonomy Policy for Papua Province and Government Regulation Number 107 concerning Reception, Management, Supervision, and Master Plan for the Acceleration of Development. In the context of the implementation of the Papua Province Special Autonomy. Based on the Papua Special Autonomy Law, there are many mandates to be carried out by the government and also by the community in the context of increasing and growing the important sectors of Special Autonomy in Papua, namely education, health, the people's economy and infrastructure. In its implementation since 2001 until now in 2022, of course, many things have happened in its implementation, but whether this Law has provided welfare to indigenous Papuans is one of the important questions that will be explained in the paradigm of whether or not it is necessary to expand the province in Papua or not.

III. Research Method

This research applies a qualitative design, namely research that focuses on general principles that form the basis for the manifestation of a symptom of human life, or also patterns analyzed from socio-cultural indications through the culture of the community in order to get a representation of the ongoing examples. According to John W. Creswell in the book *Research Design*, qualitative research is: "Qualitative research methods are methods for describing, understanding, and developing meaning by several individuals or groups whose sources are social or humanitarian problems. Qualitative research efforts in the process involve efforts such as asking questions and procedures, collecting data from specific participants, themes from specific to general which are analyzed inductively and interpret the meaning of the data. This research has a flexible structure or framework in its final report. Participants in this study must apply an inductive model of perspective, focusing on individual meanings and translating the complexity of a problem."

Qualitative research according to Creswell (2002:19) is a research process that focuses on human or community problems. Researchers create complex whole pictures, analyze words, report detailed opinions of informants, and conduct research in natural environments.

According to Creswell, which states that the definition of qualitative research methods is a process of inquiry (questions/investigations) regarding the understanding of a matter to obtain data, information, texts of respondents' views using various methodologies in a social or humanitarian problem or phenomenon.

The data collected in the study were obtained through secondary data and primary data, namely google forms which were distributed to more than 65 samples of Papuan students and students studying in various cities at home and abroad.

The data collected is then triangulated and filtered to obtain its validity and obtain answers to the analysis carried out related to the issue of pemekaran in Papua.

IV. Result and Discussion

4.1 The expansion of Papua does not need to be carried out

The issue of the division of Papua which continues to plague the easternmost region of Indonesia has disrupted a lot of community activities in this province due to conflicts and various frictions that occurred. This is in the perception of students and students who have successfully gathered that the expansion of the Papua region does not need to be carried out because of several factors, including:

a. Regional Readiness

According to the perception of Papuan students and students based on the analysis results that the expansion of the Papua region does not need to be carried out in a hurry because it needs to consider the preparedness of the region will be expanded, whether the apparatus is ready to carry out the expansion, whether the potential of the region has been studied and known to be the strength of the region. When the government, in this case the civil service resources, is not ready to carry out the expansion, this process will result in the poorer and the backwardness of the Papua region. Indigenous Papuans will be spectators in the development of the new expansion area. So that regional pemekaran is deemed not necessary but on the contrary the parent provincial government in this case the technical preparation team should regulate the readiness of the apparatus, get a clear mapping of the current position of Papuan apparatus resources based on the level of educational and scientific qualifications so that they know when the expansion is carried

out then the absorption of the apparatus The number of indigenous Papuans will be how much and this provides a good comparative economic advantage for the indigenous Papuans so that the goal of the division of the region is achieved according to the intent and mandate of the law, including the Special Autonomy for Papua. There is no more poverty in the Papua region because everyone will work well for their welfare.

The importance of assessing the potential of the region that will be expanded to find out what sources of regional potential can be used to increase regional original income when the region is expanded and not just expect Papua Special Autonomy money where currently the Papua Special Autonomy funds given to Papua and West Papua are Jokowi providing Papua Special Autonomy Fund IDR 8.5 trillion in 2022. President Joko Widodo (Jokowi) provides a budget of IDR 8.5 trillion as special autonomy funds (otsus) for the provinces of Papua and West Papua in the 2022 RAPBN. Rp 7.6 trillion. With the large Otsus funds, has the money been absorbed by indigenous Papuans in the important Otsus sectors in the fields of Education, Health, People's Economy and Infrastructure, or has the money returned to Jakarta due to large government expenditures.

In day-to-day implementation, it can be seen how health services are provided in 29 regencies and cities in Papua, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic in almost two and a half years, it is difficult for people to get good services due to limited hospital facilities and infrastructure, including limited specialist doctors and nursing staff. thus giving a bad impact on services for indigenous Papuans. Moreover, hospital services in regencies, cities and even conflicted areas such as Nduga, Intan Jaya, Puncak, Puncak Jaya, must be very far from good health services due to security factors and inadequate health support infrastructure.



Source: [Health Services for the Intan Jaya Community Disrupted - Kompas.id](https://www.kompas.id)

Figure 2. Atmosphere in Sugapa District, the capital city of Intan Jaya Regency, Papua, on February 26, 2021.

Health services for the community in Sugapa District, the capital city of Intan Jaya Regency, Papua, are disrupted due to the non-operation of the Sugapa Health Center after the shooting incident of three residents on February 15, 2021. Health workers are still afraid to return to work, the community is traumatized. That is one example of the difficulty of service during the conflict in the Papua region.

Likewise in the education sector, the community has not yet received the infrastructure and educational resources that can provide good services to indigenous Papuans. The Regional Secretary of Nduga Regency, Namia Gwijangge said, the prolonged hunting of the TNI/Polri against a group calling itself the West Papua National Liberation Army-Free Papua Organization (TPNPB-OPM) prevented residents in Nduga, Papua, from accessing the right to education and health. "It's a pity that the people there do not receive basic rights (education and health)," said Namia after meeting DPR Speaker Bambang Soesatyo at the Parliament Complex, Senayan, Jakarta, Monday (5/8/2019). More than 700 children in refugee camps from Nduga have studied in volunteer tents due to the Nduga conflict since 2017 until now. These conditions are important to the government's attention so that it is able to overcome conflicts or resolve conflicts first before thinking about expanding. Is there a guarantee that with the expansion, the Papuan conflict area will be safe and prosperous due to the close span of control or will it become increasingly smoldering and the community will be poorer and more oppressed, especially Papuans because they are unable to compete with local migrants from other parts of Indonesia who enter the expansion area.



Source: <https://nasional.kompas.com/read/2019/08/05/15515821/sekda-nduga-sebut-masyarakat-difficult-access-education-and-health>

Figure 3. *Nduga Refugee Child (BBC Indonesia doc)*

Based on this situation, it is important to consider the team forming the expansion area to pay attention to these humanitarian aspects. Including two other aspects, namely the people's economy and infrastructure. If today we talk about the populist economy of indigenous Papuans, then try to take a walk in the city of Jayapura, the capital of Papua Province and ask the owner of the RuKo in this city area how many indigenous Papuans are the owners of the shop house, of course the result is less than 2%. What does it mean that indigenous Papuans today are spectators in the economic sector in the era of Otsus Papua and those who enjoy this are local migrants in this region who enter Papua and are facilitated in getting various accesses, including access to domicile certificates, so this is important to be noted by the government? to protect indigenous Papuans from the population sector. So that indigenous Papuans are able to exist and be economically independent.

b. Readiness of the Papuan Indigenous Community An

An integral part of the students' perceptions is the readiness of the indigenous Papuan community to face regional expansion. Seeing the condition of indigenous Papuan resources today, the human resource factor of indigenous Papuans from all lines and classes needs to be considered for regional expansion. Are the people in 29 regencies, cities in Papua Province ready to be included in the expansion area? What will be done when pemekaran occurs. Get involved or be a spectator. Involved with the precondition for indigenous Papuans to occupy all sectors in the governance bureaucracy of the new expansion area. Recruit and accept all indigenous Papuan children to become state civil servants in the expansion area with qualified and compatible scientific qualifications. So that this sector does not become a delicious cake for other qualified parties and finally Papuan children are marginalized again in the selection and acceptance of state civil servants in the expansion area later.

Another sector is whether the indigenous Papuans are ready economically to develop the expansion area. How many Papuan child entrepreneurs today. According to the data that was compiled in the news tapes three years ago, Chairman of the Indonesian Young Entrepreneurs Association (Hipmi) Papua, Dasril Sahari, said the number of entrepreneurs in Papua is only 1 percent of the total population in Papua. This is because many students or the working community do not want to have their own business, most of them still want to become State Civil Apparatus (ASN), enter NGOs, enter the world of politics and others. This is still not optimal. Whereas in a country or region the minimum number of entrepreneurs is 5 percent of the total population. "The number of entrepreneurs in Papua is only 1 percent of the total population. It should be able to reach 5 percent, so that Papua can be more prosperous," he said in Muscab IV Hipmi Jayapura City, which took place at the Aston Jayapura Hotel. If three years ago the data from Papuan entrepreneurs was less than 1 percent of the Papuan population, which currently stands at 4.30 million It can be analyzed that the expansion will not bring much positive impact to the indigenous Papuan people's economy because they are not yet able to be economically independent. It is important to pay attention to the Papua expansion team so that in the future the indigenous Papuans will not become eternal spectators of this development.

V. Conclusion

The division of Papua Province can be carried out when the readiness of the area to be expanded with all stages is carried out correctly according to the procedure so that the Papuan people in the area to be expanded do not become spectators of development but are able to participate so that welfare and all aspects of Otsus Papua can be achieved and become an indicator of the success of the principle Decentralization is getting closer to public services due to the easy span of government control and the people benefit from it and it shouldn't be a nightmare for the people who own these ulayat and land rights to continue to be poor and far from welfare. The government needs to be wise in doing this by sitting well with the indigenous people of Papua. Government exists for the people and the people need to be involved in all government agendas.

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