# The Capability and Electability of Local Government in improving Administration Development

*by* Andries Lionardo

# The Capability and Electability of Local Government in improving Administration Development

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## Abstract

This study aims to see the flexibility and capability of regional heads in carrying out their governance performance in serving public problems after becoming elected heads. Research. This research methodology is a quantitative method with the population of Palembang City which is spread over 16 Districts and 107 Sub-Districts and taken according to the existing regulations. The research findings explain that in Palembang, regional heads have autonomous rights to develop their own regions. This is in accordance with the local government administration system in Indonesia. Regional Autonomy is implemented based on the principle of decentralization in the form of a broad, real, and responsible autonomy. In the framework of implementing such broad, real and responsible autonomy, the regional head has a very strategic role in the field of governance, development and community service and is fully responsible for the running of regional government. This study tries to identify some formulations of the level of electability and capability of regional heads before and after regional development contestation.

**Keywords:** ocal Government, Capability, Sustainable Development

## 1. Introduction

The aim of regional government is to better implement the principles of democracy, community participation, equity and justice and to pay attention to the potential and diversity of the region. Thus it can be interpreted that regional autonomy is expected to prosper the people and revive democracy which is reflected in the program, performance and figure of a directly elected regional head. In a democratic government system, the role and ability of the Regional Head in running the government is the most important element in addition to other elements. This ability also concerns the ability to make pro-community policies. This is in line with the fulfillment of sovereignty or power in the hands of the people. It is the people who are sovereign and at the same time the main owner of this supreme power within the framework of a democratic system. Glass and Newig (2019) explains that the difference between a democratic system to achieving democratic system, such authority and power are built and maintained based on the agreement of the people. Thus, democracy can only work if the achievement of goals in society is carried out by the Regional Government of the regional legislature in an aspirational and transparent manner. The importance of democracy is also strengthened by democratic activities. The essence of democracy, as expressed by Lionardo et al. (2020a); Zhuravleva (2015) is a process of deepening democracy that has benefits for the continuity of government and society.

In the context of democracy above, the City of Palembang has held a democratic party, namely the election of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor. Political participation carried out by a number of candidates can be seen from the number of billboards scattered in every corner of the city as a real effort to image themselves to the community, as it is stated that political participation is an act, not a mere desire or limited to a conversation (Weinschenk et al.). Every candidate for mayor must have various strategies in an effort to win the election, such as visiting various remote areas to gather support, using various media for imaging and socialization, and so on. Surveys are one of the methods commonly used by both research institutions or winning teams in an effort to see and measure the opportunities and electability of candidates taking part in elections. The survey is used to determine the winning strategy for candidates.

To find out how to map the distribution of support and preferences of voters to candidates based on various aspects and to find out how the candidate's popularity level in society, both in the pre-campaign period and during the campaign period before the election. Through the survey, at least it can package the image of the candidate according to the ideal expected by the voters and can use the right campaign media to identify strategic issues that develop in the community as candidate campaign materials and can compile campaign programs according to the wishes of the voters. This article tries to describe the level of elasticity and capability of regional heads in facing local democracy in Palembang City.

## 2. Literature Review
### 2.1 The Concept of Democracy
Democracy explains the meaning of political power or government that is exercised by the people, from the people and for the people (Gagnon and Fleuss, 2020), citizens who have been conceptualized as citizens. Thus, seen from the meaning of the original word, democracy means government by the people. Even though it is as clear as that the meaning of the term democracy is according to the sound of its original words, in practice democracy is understood and carried out differently.

A democratic country has three main understandings which include the essence, process and goals of democracy. The general approaches of democratic namely: sources of authority for government. Democracy is a system that shows that public policy is determined on the basis of a majority by representatives who are effectively supervised by the people in periodic elections based on the principle of political equality and held in an atmosphere of guaranteed political freedom (Guedhami et al., 2017; Nasirin and Lionardo, 2020a). In other words, democracy is a system of government formed through general elections to regulate life together based on legal rules that are pro-people.

The characteristic of local democracy in governance is basically the involvement of the community in regional policies. So it is understandable that public participation is the main prerequisite for the creation of democracy in *strong local governance*. The choice of a particular participatory approach will greatly determine the quality of democracy and governance in the regions, so building democracy at the local level requires an adequate understanding of the participatory approach. In the new perspective of public administration which was initiated by (Anouar, 2014) political participation it can be found that the participation of citizens in every public policy is the fundamentalist basis for the creation of democracy. This perspective begins his view from the recognition of citizens and their position which is very important for democratic governance.

In this theory, *new public service* is emphasized that the real owner of the public interest is the community. Therefore, the government must have the courage to act in serving the community and should also involve the community in every formulation of public policies. If this condition is realized, it will create participatory government with local characteristics. Community participation in regional governance is an interpretation of democracy (Nasirin, 2020; Nuti and Seghieri, 2014). Thus, it is only natural that the decentralization provided by the central government is a means of providing solutions for every community in various localities.

Strong local governance will be realized if the linkage between the democratization process and regional governance becomes a model for local government accountability in implementing participatory governance and becomes the minimum standard for local governments in making regional policies. In this understanding, *local governance* which is characterized by local democracy requires more capacity and capability in actualizing the power and resources it has. In fact, this is where synergy between the government, the private sector and the community is needed in the

process of implementing government functions in the regions. Local government will not be able to work alone without the role of the private sector and local communities in the creation of *local governance* .

## 2.2 The Concept of Decentralization

Decentralization is the transfer of government authority by the central government to autonomous regions within the framework of the unitary state of the Republic of Indonesia. Regional autonomy is the authority of an autonomous region to regulate and manage the interests of the local community according to their own initiatives based on the aspirations of the community which includes all areas of government, except the authority in the fields of foreign policy, land security, education, monetary and fiscal, religion and other fields of authority determined by laws and regulations.

The concept of decentralization can be explained in many perspectives with several different approaches. In general, the understanding of decentralization tends to be interpreted as an instrument of regional government in realizing regional autonomy. Referring to the opinion of the notion of decentralization can be divided into two terms (Akilli and Akilli, 2014). First, decentralization means ", which means devolution" that political authority is legally determined and locally elected. Second, the definition of decentralization in the concept of "deconcentration" which refers to the understanding of the administrative authority given to representatives of central government agencies and regional governments within a country. Further, the definition of decentralization in a different context, namely decentralization can be a means of overcoming the severe limitation of centrally controlled national planning by delegating greater authority for development planning and management to official who are working in the field, closer to the problems. Furthermore, Rondinelli (1983) divides decentralization into several forms. First, in the form of "deconsentration". This concept explains decentralization as a form of administrative redistribution in the transfer of some administrative authority or responsibility to a lower level or level of government. Second, in the form of "delegation to semi-autonomous. Decentralization can also be understood as the delegation of authority to take decisions and manage management functions not under the direct command of the central government. This delegation of authority concerns the responsibility of certain functions to organizations outside the bureaucratic structure provided by the central government. Third, in the form of "devolution". The meaning of decentralization refers more to the formation and strengthening of sub-national government units with activities that are substantially outside the control of the central government.

## 2.3 The Concept of Credibility and Capability

Figure of a leader in carrying out his obligations as a leader is very influential on his subordinates. This influence sticks out in each group member by placing the credibility of the leadership of a leader. Many studies that examine the credibility of leaders, which are characteristics that must be met and demanded by its members. The credibility of a leader is largely determined by strong leader's. Likewise with honesty (Fries et al., 2020; Nasirin and Lionardo, 2020b) also emphasizes the aspects of charisma, image, and prestige. Each of these terms refers to the meaning of Parson's usual attitude towards others which means a lot to the perceptions of each group member towards the leader Lionardo and Nasirin (2020). credibility is related to the authority of a leader.
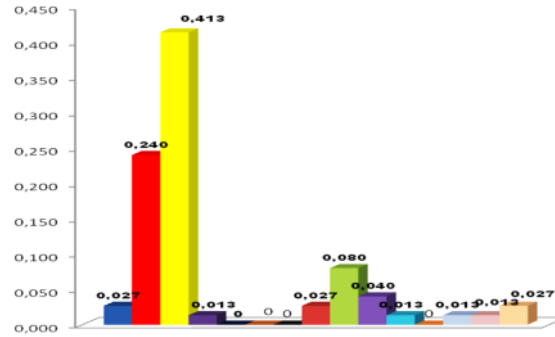
The capability concept emphasizes the candidate's ability to lead the country and government. This dimension is one of the dimensions measured to see the personal quality of the candidate, the capability dimension emphasizes the ability of government bureaucracy to work for the welfare of society.

## 3. Method

Operational definitionin this study will be directed at several indicators, namely the electability and the capability of the regional head. The population of this research is the population of Palembang City, which is spread over 16 districts and 107 sub-districts, totaling 1,708,413 people. However, in terms of the validity of the research data, the main population is seen in the number of the Permanent Voters List of Palembang City, which is 1,200,000 people. To find the minimum sample size in each complex and heterogeneous population, it is determined using the Slovin formula. The distribution of this questionnaire was aimed at the respondents who had been determined, several questions were made to find out the choices and general views of the respondents towards the Mayor of Palembang. The questionnaire statement has a five-level answer category which is commonly referred to as a Likert Scale which has a gradient from very negative to very positive on a scale of 1 to 5.
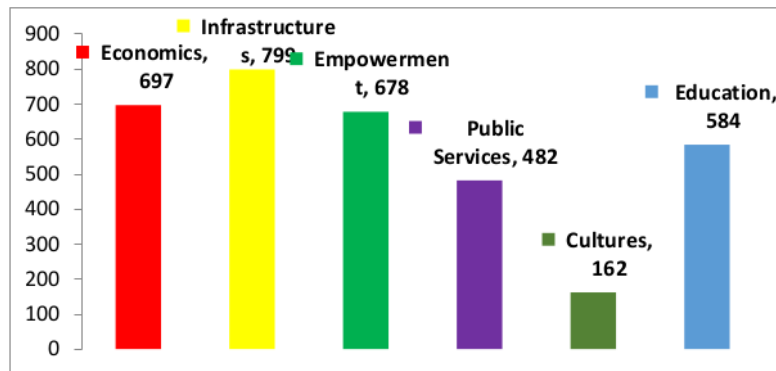
## 4. Results and Discussion

To see the electability level of the regional head of Palembang City, it can be seen in the work program in each district.



**Graph 1:** Electability of the Mayor of Palembang
**Source:** Primary Data, 2020

The graph above depicts a survey research conducted by the level of electability of regional heads currently raising issues that have arisen in various regions. Thus it is in line with the aim of the research to describe the issues that have arisen in various regions as program priorities to be realized. This effort was made to provide insight to regional heads so that program priorities were right on target and had a positive impact on the community. Issues that arise in each sub-district and program recommendations that can be options for realization, for example the issue of flooding caused by the government's lack of attention to environmental problems.

One resident who lives in the sub-district of Bukit Sangkal said that Palembang residents desperately need a leader who is not only highly intellectual but also has a passion for the environment. Attention to the problem of flooding must be taken seriously. The regional head must learn a lot in overcoming the problem of flooding, for example increasing the absorption or drainage areas. Another problem that often arises is regarding road damage caused by the large amount of standing water during the rain caused by the trenches around the road being clogged with garbage. This problem has become a subscription for people in this area, of course the people really expect help from the Government to provide a solution to this problem.



**Graph 2:** Development Program Priorities
**Source**: Primary Data, 2020

Judging from the graph of the results of the survey conducted above, the recommended program to regional heads is to offer solutions to flood problems experienced by residents around rivers, revitalizing rivers and improving residential areas can be the main programs that must be realized. Palembang City as a whole is an area with densely populated settlements, poor urban planning causes several urban villages to look messy, many houses on stilts made of wood are built very close to each other, this can trigger large fires, besides that there are also many settlements. which was built very close to the Musi river basin, this problem has resulted in frequent flooding due to the overflow of the Musi River around this area. The public policy needed is massive urban planning (Lionardo et al., 2020b). The chaotic public housing management and many street vendors selling around the road, causing congestion around this area is very necessary. The expectations of the community are of course that the Government will take real action for the community in an effort to overcome the problems in the environment.

From the results of a survey conducted by researchers in this area, the desire of the local community is real action from the government on the problems that are being faced by the community, reflecting on the information given by the local community where often the regional head visits the location but there is no their follow-up, this is what makes people disappointed. According to the researcher, the priority program that can be realized for this area is the rearrangement of residential areas to become a source of problems for the community, relocation of street vendors seems to be the main choice that must be realized.

The capacity of the regional head can also be measured by the ability to overcome areas prone to high congestion points, this is of course very disturbing the orderliness around the environment, security and comfort in this area are deemed to have received less special attention because there are still many crimes that occur in this area. Flooding is also one of the problems that often occurs, densely populated settlements and the location of the area adjacent to the river are the causes of frequent flooding. The economic aspect also requires special attention, especially in terms of revitalizing the Karya Jaya Terminal by directing public transports back into the terminal so that economic activities such as traders in the terminal area are resumed.
Most of the people of Palembang City, the majority of the population, live in the area on the banks of the river and work as fishermen. Residents very often complain about poor sanitation, the processing of waste in the form of garbage around the riverbanks, and the provision of clean water for residents in this area. The handling of waste problems is of course not only applied on land alone, of course the rubbish that pollutes the waters must also be cleaned to avoid problems that are certain to occur, for example the problem of flooding

Strategic issues in an area must be raised and of course must be realized later, the impact It can be estimated that by raising strategic issues, especially with regard to the welfare of the community, the flow of support can be politically increased, therefore in this study we will try to look at potential issues to be raised, statements from several people who want project development MUSI III street that has been made at this time. The economic impact can be predicted that if the road construction will build various kinds of businesses so that the level of the community's economy can increase (Ivana et al., 2020). As a newly blooming district, of course there are many aspects that need to be improved. From the results of the review carried out in the sub-district. Sub-district has several experience similar problems in other sub-districts, namely the problem of flooding which has become a routine agenda every year. The public is asking for concrete efforts from the government to overcome this problem. Citizens feel that the residents have provided assistance to install pumps in flood-prone areas such as sub-district to be a good alternative to solve this problem. The residents really expect a leader who concentrates on solving problems that routinely occur in this sub-district, especially environmental problems, so that residents do not have to dwell on the same problems. Once again, leaders who care about the environment are needed to make Palembang a better city.

Another important thing in measuring the elasticity and capability of the regional head of Palembang City is to overcome the problem of blackouts that often occur in Palembang, especially in their area, in one day there can be 5 blackouts. This problem certainly has to get special attention from the government because it is related to the development sector of Palembang city, namely in terms of improving the public service sector. From the results of a survey conducted in this area, the community complained about the frequent blackouts so that their activities were disrupted, they hoped that the government would immediately solve this problem, because they considered that the provision of electricity to the community was one of the services provided to the community, they also revealed that it always pays for electricity on time, but the electricity supply is often unstable, therefore the public is expecting improvements in the public service sector.

In the agricultural sector, it is necessary to optimize the Corporate Social Responsibility program from an area that has the potential for a company to be developed into a satellite city for the city of Palembang. Public welfare needs to be improved by targeting the development of natural resources, one of which is the agricultural sector. The development and fostering of farmer groups in this region is a vital issue for candidate candidates to raise. The agricultural sector is a central issue that has the potential to be developed, considering the characteristics of areas located in the suburbs where some of the people work as farmers, this can be developed by providing assistance with seeds, farming equipment and counseling on agriculture. So that it can improve the economy of the people in the region. The solution to revitalizing agricultural irrigation canals can be the main option that can be done as well as a medium for public policy for the community. Thus the economic development program has become a priority issue, the characteristics of the area close to the Musi river flow are a very suitable place as well as a fish farming area that has the potential for community economic development, it is predicted that the community will enthusiastically accept this development program. The economy in the agriculture and fisheries sectors will be a strategic policy indicator for regional heads to realize.

## 5. Conclusion

From the results of the data analysis, it can be concluded that the indicators of the electability and capability of a regional head are largely determined by the ability to overcome public problems that are happening in the community. The mayor's capability is considered good when he has the capacity to become a public leader armed with experience so as to attract public sympathy. Regional heads must also have great competence, experience in politics and government, making their popularity and capacity believed to be capable of making superior public policies. Meanwhile, the low electability in each sub-district shows the lack of seriousness in developing the region by answering issues that arise such as the need for economic development programs for farmer groups, infrastructure development solutions to deal with flood problems as a priority, routine environmental hygiene programs and provision of adequate sanitation facilities. so that trash is not littered. Another thing that is no less important at this time is the ability to overcome raising agricultural issues, infrastructure development for solutions to flood problems as a priority program that is delivered to the community and for other candidates who still do not have electability in this region, they must conduct more intensive socialization by offering solutions. to the problems faced by the community as a priority program.

Electability must be built by realizing adequate sanitation facilities so that the provision of assistance in making large trash bins placed in various strategic places in this district is a solution that can be done to overcome this problem. In the riverside area, the need for regional settlement arrangement, assistance for the construction of school buildings and construction of clean water installations can be a solution in this area. Electability will strengthen regional heads who are able to create clean residential areas based on public health, maintain security stability, and programs related to infrastructure, including school construction, roads, waste management, health and security for several areas mentioned above.

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