



Digitalization Of The DPRD's Main Thoughts Through SIPD Study In Palu City

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Abstract: This study aims to analyze digital transformation in the management of the Main Thoughts (Pokir) of Palu City as a strategic instrument for organizing public aspirations in regional development planning. Based on an analysis of problems in manual Pokir management, such as data duplication, administrative errors, information fragmentation, and minimal transparency that impact low public participation. In line with the national agenda of digital transformation and strengthening e-government, Palu City has begun adopting a digital system through integration with the SIPD-RI application. This is in line with the national agenda of digital transformation and e-government development. This study is qualitative, and data were obtained through in-depth interviews, observation notes during field visits, and document reviews. Data were analyzed thematically, with a focus on how digital transformation functions, and how system failures can help understand openness, accountability, and public participation. The findings indicate that computerization has great potential to bring many benefits to the Palu City DPRD in terms of administrative effectiveness (such as aligning existing data with planning documents), as well as reducing input or typo errors. The results of the study indicate that the implementation of Pokir digitalization in Palu City brings several benefits, including increased administrative efficiency, data synchronization with planning documents, and reduced potential input errors. However, implementation still faces obstacles, particularly in substantive aspects of democratization, such as limited public access, low digital literacy, and dependence on centralized systems. Therefore, local innovation is needed through the development of a Pokir Outcome Monitoring Dashboard that can strengthen transparency, accountability, and public oversight. In conclusion, the digital transformation of Pokir in Palu City is not merely technical modernization, but also a momentum to deepen the democratization of regional development. This study recommends strengthening human resource capacity, local system innovation, and multi-stakeholder collaboration so that Pokir digitalization can truly become a catalyst for improving the quality of representation and public participation.

Keywords: DPRD Main Ideas, Digital Transformation, E-Government, Public Participation, Regional Governance

INTRODUCTION

The Regional People's Representative Council's (DPRD) Main Thoughts (Pokir) are a strategic instrument in the regional development planning system in Indonesia. Pokir serves as a formal forum for the Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD) to channel community aspirations derived from recesses, working visits, and direct interactions with constituents (Hidayat, 2019). Through this mechanism, Pokir serves as a crucial bridge between community needs and development policies outlined in the Regional Government Work Plan (RKPD). Thus, Pokir not only serves as a representative political instrument but also makes a significant contribution to directing more responsive and participatory regional development priorities (Sutrisno & Pratiwi, 2020). However, in practical implementation, such as when conducted manually, several issues arise related to Pokir maintenance. The Pokir system input process is frequently disrupted in several locations, such as Palu City. These issues include repetition, typos, slow processing, and institutional fragmentation. This results in low levels of community participation in the development planning



process, with poor transparency and accountability (Mariana, 2021). This contrasts the ideal of Pokir development as a democratic instrument with its active operation on the ground.

The Indonesian government is in the process of implementing e-government and is working on programs to improve the efficiency, transparency, and quality of public services. This includes the accelerated impact of information technology and the country's digitalization program (Setiawan et al., 2021). For example, the integrated Pokir (Regional Information System) within the SIPD-RI system aims to simplify data collection and accelerate data processing. The synchronization results will be stored in a caching process synchronized with the Planning Document (Ministry of Home Affairs, 2022). This will bring a modern, accountable, and efficient type of governance to Pokir. However, several challenges remain in the digitization of Pokir. This process can be carried out with digital technology that is transparent, effective, and open to public review (Putra & Adisasmita, 2022). However, the effectiveness of its implementation in the regions is hampered by low digital literacy, limited public access to technology, and reliance on centralized regulations (Rosdiana, 2020). Therefore, in-depth research is needed to determine the extent to which the digital transformation of Pokir in Palu City addresses these issues and implements new innovations in governance within the region.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study uses a descriptive qualitative method to analyze the depth of implementation of digital-based management changes on Key Issues (Pokir) in the Palu City Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD). Data were collected from interviews with legislative members (DPRD), officials, the Regional Development Planning Agency (Bappeda), and community leaders; observations related to Pokir collection through the SIPD-RI application; and analysis of normative documents to fulfill the commitment of the research report on Pokir. Data were processed following the procedures proposed by Miles, Huberman & Saldaña (2014). This involved data simplification, graphical representation, and decision-making. The use of triangulation of sources and methods ensured the maintenance of truth (Denzin, 2017). This study also demonstrated the importance of collaboration with partners, particularly the Palu City DPRD and Bappeda, in enhancing the value of academic work and strengthening the Pokir digital system.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of this study indicate that the Regional People's Representative Council's (DPRD) Main Thoughts (Pokir) have been strategically implemented in regional development planning as a political tool to align community aspirations with government policies. Pokir can transform community aspirations discussed during leisure time and discussions with community leaders (during breaks) into development program proposals, which are incorporated into the Regional Government Work Plan (RKPD). This role has become even more critical since the earthquake, tsunami, and liquefaction in Palu City in 2018. The disaster damaged infrastructure, placed significant pressure on the local economy, and further deepened community vulnerability. In this context, Pokir stands out as a powerful tool for considering how quickly and seriously recovery can be realized (thus striving to develop an economy closer to the community), as well as encouraging consideration of risk reduction. Before the implementation of automation, Pokir management in Palu City was conventional, manual, and paper-based, with bureaucratic institutions still dominant. This led to several major problems: data duplication due to poor storage infrastructure, excessive time to verify proposals, and lack of clarity for the community, who did not understand how close or far the project was to its intended goal. There was no clear roadmap, and few people were involved in the process because the public didn't fully understand the extent to which their representatives from the Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD) had implemented the Pokir plan. This system was not only inconvenient for local authorities; it also undermined the DPRD's credibility in the eyes of the public.

In 2021, the Palu City Government and the Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD) began merging the Pokir administration with the SIPD. This was in line with national law establishing SIPD as a development planning tool. The primary goal of this digitization was to address the problems of the current manual system and establish a more efficient, integrated, and accountable system. SIPD also provided a feature for storing Pokir ideas in a centralized database, accessible and monitored by all government agencies. These ideas were previously only written on paper. This standardized digital channel also reduced the possibility of overlapping information and expedited the verification process. The digitization of the Pokir restaurant was part of



the DPRD's efforts to modernize and make the institution more accountable and transparent. This lacked the analog culture: in an organization, you could track data, enter it into forms, check for errors, and then decide on proposals. This will not only bring much-needed efficiency to governance but also pave the way for meaningful, responsive, and democratic governance processes. In this context, the post-disaster situation in Palu City demonstrates that digital transformation in this case is less about technocratic choices and more about addressing urgent needs: how to make the DPRD (Regional Representative Council) politically legitimate, regain the trust of the wider community, and how regional development actually means development for local residents.

Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD) Members Criticize the Digital Transformation of Pokir

In addition to complaints about limited public access, there were also complaints from members of the Palu City Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD) themselves. Several council members argued that the Pokir (Principal Thoughts) were a good and important tool because they provided a formal way for the public to express their hopes and dreams through a recess mechanism. However, when they attempted to manage digital information through the SIPD (Supporting Information System), they encountered significant problems with the Pokir results they had so diligently pursued. DPRD members stated that the main problem was the lack of a way to track how many Pokir ideas were actually implemented as regional development initiatives. Once the input process was complete and the documents were submitted to the Regional Work Plan (RKP), it was unclear what would happen next with the Pokir. There was no public information on whether the ideas had been incorporated into the Regional Budget (APBD), whether the relevant regional government agencies (OPD) had implemented them, or which community groups would benefit from the programs. For DPRD members, this was not just a technical issue; it also had significant political consequences. The public should be able to see how well their politicians are working by looking at the initiatives championed by Pokir on their behalf. Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD) members can tell the public that certain projects are the result of their recommended Pokir initiatives if they have clear evidence. On the other hand, DPRDs struggle to demonstrate political accountability to their voters without a way to track results. This can diminish their political legitimacy.

Furthermore, monitoring becomes increasingly difficult. The Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD) is the legislative body that oversees the functioning of local governments, particularly regarding development objectives. Furthermore, the SIPD system stops at the planning level and does not provide the ability to monitor Pokir outcomes. This means that the DPRD's internal control system is not functioning as well as it should. There is insufficient information available for DPRD members to verify whether Regional Implementing Organizations (OPDs) are implementing programs based on Pokir or neglecting them. Therefore, DPRD members' criticism states that the digitization of Pokir in Palu City has not been effective in terms of either output or oversight. And now, it seems that the DPRD's real needs as a control and development institution for the public interest are generally not being adequately accommodated by digitalization. This implies that digitalization is unlikely to bring significant changes to political accountability, local governance, and decentralization unless there is additional innovation leading to the establishment of a community-based system through which Pokir results can be monitored locally. To address criticism from the public and members of the Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD), the current SIPD system needs to be enhanced with new ideas. One way to improve Palu City is to build a dashboard integrated with SIPD but developed by the local government and DPRD. This dashboard is designed as an open space that can fulfill two purposes simultaneously.

1. Public Interest

- a) The public can view clear information regarding submitted Pokir proposals through the dashboard.
- b) The public can see how their proposals progress from submission to approval, inclusion in the Regional Development Plan (RKP), and then implementation in the Regional Budget (APBD).
- c) The public can also see actual results, such as who the program beneficiaries are, where the program is implemented, and how the budget is spent.
- d) This feature can help bridge the information gap between the public and the Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD), which will increase public trust in the development planning process.



2. DPRD Political Interests

- a) For DPRD members, this dashboard demonstrates to their constituents concretely that they have truly strived and even achieved the goals set during the recess period by implementing them into tangible initiatives.
- b) This dashboard also strengthens the DPRD's role in performance oversight. The DPRD can monitor the performance of Regional Apparatus Organizations (OPD) and ensure programs are running according to plan using real-time data on the results of the Pokir (Regional Budget Implementation Plan).
- c) This data transparency also provides council members with tangible evidence that they are doing the right thing in the public eye, while also stopping the practice of patronage that has damaged the credibility of the Pokir.

3. Dashboard Key Features

- a) Proposal Input & Tracking: a list of proposals submitted to the Pokir from the recess period.
- b) Monitoring Status: information on whether the proposal was accepted, rejected, or is being processed.
- c) Outcome & Realization: data on realized programs

Challenges in SIPD Implementation

The digital transformation of the Regional People's Representative Council's (DPRD) Main Thoughts (Pokir) is currently under implementation, implemented through the Regional Government Information System (SIPD), and has shown significant progress compared to previous years. In fact, implementation in Palu City has encountered complex issues that undermine its effectiveness and initial objectives. However, one of the most pressing issues is limited public access. The public, the source of hopes and dreams, cannot directly see how they have influenced or contributed to progress through their interventions in SIPD. Only the DPRD, the DPRD Secretariat, the Regional Development Planning Agency (Bappeda), and staff from other regional government agencies (OPD) are permitted access to the system. This reduces the possibility of substantial transparency; one criticism of public expectations is that this has led to bureaucratic red tape and monitoring of Pokir.

There is also a lack of leadership from the central government, which now faces deadlines. At the national level, SIPD sets the schedule for data collection and validation. This means the schedule cannot be adjusted to local conditions, such as in Palu City. Therefore, in these proposals, after a certain period during the DPRD recess or internal DPRD processes, the data is not entered into the system because the deadline has passed. "This coordination failure indicates that the local government lacks sufficient independent capacity to address its own social and political conditions."

A second concern is the number of people with available jobs. Most DPRD members are still unable to operate their digital devices and rely on DPRD secretariat staff. This creates chronological risks in the data collection process, and makes it difficult for DPRD members to assess community needs on their own. Reliance on operators can also raise suspicions that technocrats, rather than local representatives, are reviewing proposals and making decisions. And of course, there are real digital infrastructure challenges. However, the process is hampered by unstable access and several simultaneous system input issues nationwide from our site in several parts of Palu City. This can cause delays, ranging from temporary data loss to confusion regarding the status of submitted proposals. As a result, the DPRD and the public have lost trust in the system.

Criticism of the Digital Transformation of the Regional People's Representative Council (POKIR): Administrative Requirements Fulfilled, Substance Ignored

However, the administrative implementation process for transferring the Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD) Main Thoughts (Pokir) to SIPD has been smooth. POKIR entries through the new digital system are processed uniformly and now comply with national standards. Objectives formulated in the Meeting Plan can also be directly entered into the system during meetings, eliminating the risk of physical loss or transcription errors. In terms of administrative governance oriented toward procedures and documents, SIPD has passed the efficiency test. However, capturing the essence of "Pokir" does not necessarily translate into success for Pokir. The most meaningful bridge that between Pokir and "real life," as well as between community goals and program implementation efforts in practice and program outcomes has been neglected.



The response to the above is: "Digitalization under SIPD has done nothing to address the fundamental problems that existed in the old system."

First, which community are we talking about? Only the Regional Representative Council (DPRD), Bappeda (Regional Development Planning Agency), and/or other forms of local government can use SIPD. So, as members of the public who want it, there's no way for us to know: Are these requests progressing smoothly, or are they all stuck somewhere in the bureaucracy? And what about the promise of "transparency" so beloved by digitalization advocates? In reality, it's merely "internal transparency" and doesn't involve any openness to the public at all.

Second, there's the issue of political accountability for DPRD members. Some council members expressed disappointment that after their proposals were submitted to the SIPD, they didn't know to what extent the ideas were considered in the RKPD (Regional Work Plan), the APBD (Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget), or whether they were implemented or even incorporated into community programs. "All of these things are actually very important for the DPRD, because data and facts will be needed later in oversight activities, even when achieving political achievements that can be accounted for to the public. And finally, there's the problem of bureaucratic elitism. The SIPD is centrally determined by the central government, so the schedule and structure are rigid. So, there's no choice... for the regions. And this top-down digitalization doesn't always allow for innovation on the ground that gives Palu City residents exactly what they want.

My real criticism is that while SIPD has addressed the 'administrative' aspect, it hasn't truly encompassed the content. The existing digital system serves only for procedures, not democracy. To make Pokir a functional platform for the public, much work needs to be done at the local level. For example, a public dashboard for Pokir results needs to be developed. Only when such innovations are in place can we achieve accountability and engagement, not just mechanical administration dictated by the digitization of the values underlying Pokir." Based on the opportunity assessment of previous studies and the TSM assumptions regarding gradual change, digital transformation provided by the DPRD can change traditional practices, identified as lack of access, lack of accountability, and elitism. However, digitalization should not simply mean shifting from manual use to electronic applications or platforms. Digital transformation should be understood as a new way for the public to share information, participate, and hold the government accountable.

The digitalization of Pokir should make it easier for the public to understand:

1. The process stages, from inputting proposals from DPRD recess results, verification by Bappeda, to discussion in Musrenbang and budgeting.
2. The status of proposals, whether they have been accepted, rejected, or still in progress, so the public can directly monitor the hopes and dreams they have submitted.
3. Monitoring outcomes, ensuring that approved concepts are implemented in real programs and also helping identify those who will benefit from them.

Digitalization is simply "new packaging" for old systems that remain closed if transparency is lacking. A digital platform that provides information to the public not only meets accountability requirements but also makes the Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD) more legitimate in the eyes of its citizens. For the public, open access provides a platform to monitor political promises made through the Regional Information System (Pokir). For the DPRD, transparency is crucial for politics because it demonstrates a true track record of meeting and implementing the community's needs. Therefore, the digital transformation of Pokir in Palu City must not stop at entering data into the Regional Information System (SIPD), which is only visible to those within the organization (DPRD, Bappeda, and Regional Apparatus Organizations). Local innovation is needed in the form of a public Pokir portal integrated with SIPD while still allowing the entire community to access information. This stage will ensure that digitalization is truly beneficial. It not only streamlines the process but also serves as a tool for openness, participation, and makes local politics more democratic.



CONCLUSION

This research also shows that the DPR/DPRD's Main Thoughts (Pokir) can play a strategic role as a political tool to align community interests with regional development policies. "After the 2018 disaster, Pokir in Palu City became even more important because it had to help accelerate infrastructure recovery, revitalize the local economy, and prepare for future disasters." Since 2021, the Pokir system has been digitized using the Regional Government Information System (SIPD). In some ways, this is a good thing: more integrated data and disciplined management in planning. Electronic processing also allows for regular application monitoring, reduces the risk of data loss, and ensures data input complies with national legal requirements. However, several studies have shown that this digitization also has drawbacks. First, the system's objectives are difficult for the general public to track due to strict access restrictions, thus hindering true transparency.

Second, the national standard timeline may have prevented regions from properly adjusting the input process and rejecting some central government suggestions. Third, DPRD members and the secretariat previously lacked understanding of the digital system, so they relied on us as technicians. Fourth, digital infrastructure issues persist, ranging from lack of internet access to malfunctioning systems. Finally, the Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD) has no way of knowing how much of the Pokir (Regional Elections) has been realized, nor does it monitor accountability in politics due to the lack of a results monitoring system. However, digitalization administration and procedures have been implemented perfectly in SIPD, only minor aspects related to Pokir, such as transparency, public participation, or the quality of achievements, are estimated to be at a less favorable stage. Integrating local innovation into the digital transformation, such as providing a public dashboard for monitoring Pokir results, is expected to make Pokir not only an update management tool, but also a connected, accountable, and responsive tool in Palu City for more democratic development planning.

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