

## THE ROLE OF DEMOCRACY IN SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT IN EAST JAVA

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### ABSTRACT

Received: 16-05-2024

Accepted: 01-07-2024

**Keywords:**

*Democracy, Development, Infrastructure*

Infrastructure is an important element to facilitate the community in developing the level of Productivity and economic development. such as in East Java itself is one of the provinces with a fairly large area, so that infrastructure development in East Java still faces various challenges, such as disparities in development between regions, budget constraints, and coordination between the central and regional governments. Many factors influence it, one of which is Democracy which is implemented because this is a vital thing in running a government system, especially in Indonesia. With this phenomenon, researchers are interested in seeing the Condition, Infrastructure Development and the extent of the role of Democracy, this study uses the Literature Study method with a Qualitative Approach. This shows the fact that democracy needs to continue to be improved because the role of democracy itself aims to involve the participation of the community who directly feel the facilities from the government. Political participation of the community, the quality of political leadership, and the application of democratic principles, such as transparency, accountability, and law enforcement, are factors that contribute to encouraging infrastructure development in this area.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Infrastructure development is very important for economic growth and public welfare. Adequate infrastructure can improve connectivity, mobility, and public access to public services (Ministry of National Development Planning/Bappenas, 2019). This will ultimately encourage increased productivity and economic competitiveness of a region.

East Java is one of the provinces in Indonesia that has a strategic role in national development. As the province with the second largest population in Indonesia after West Java, East Java has great economic potential (Central Statistics Agency, 2021). However, infrastructure development in East Java still faces various challenges, such as disparities in development between regions, budget constraints, and coordination between the

central and regional governments (East Java Provincial Government, 2020).

Democracy plays an important role in supporting infrastructure development. In a democratic system, the public has the right to participate in the decision-making process, including in the planning and implementation of infrastructure development (Nurcholis, 2005). In addition, the democratic system also encourages transparency and accountability in the management of infrastructure development, so that it can prevent corruption and budget misuse (Mardiasmo, 2018).

#### **Research Focus:**

1. How is the condition of democracy in East Java?
2. How is infrastructure development in East Java?
3. To what extent is the role of democracy in supporting infrastructure development in East Java?

#### **Research Objectives:**

1. Analyze the condition of democracy in East Java.
2. Identify the achievements and challenges of infrastructure development in East Java.
3. Explain the role of democracy in supporting infrastructure development in East Java.

## **2. LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **The Concept of Democracy**

Democracy is a system of government in which power comes from the people, for the people, and by the people (Dahl, 2006). The principles of democracy include community participation, government accountability, freedom of opinion and association, and fair and free elections (Huntington, 1991). It is the foundation for realizing a government that is responsive to the needs of the community.

A democratic system provides space for the community to be involved in the decision-making process, so that government policies can be more in line with the aspirations and needs of the community. This can encourage

more inclusive economic growth and more equitable social development (Sen, 1999; Rodrik, 2000; UNDP, 2021).

### **A. The relationship between democracy and development**

Several studies have shown that democracy can support sustainable economic and social development (Sen, 1999; Rodrik, 2000). Democracy provides space for the community to participate in the decision-making process, so that government policies can be more responsive to the needs of the community.

Infrastructure is defined as the basic facilities, equipment, and installations needed to support the function of a system or organization. Adequate infrastructure development is essential to drive economic growth, improve people's welfare, and strengthen regional connectivity (World Bank, 2019; ADB, 2017). Investment in infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, ports, and electricity networks, can increase productivity, expand access to markets, and encourage equitable development across regions.

East Java is one of the provinces in Indonesia that has prioritized infrastructure development as an effort to drive economic growth and improve people's welfare. Various infrastructure projects, such as toll roads, ports, airports, and electricity networks, have been implemented in East Java to improve connectivity and support economic activities in the region (Bappenas, 2020; Ministry of PUPR, 2021).

### **B. Infrastructure development**

#### **1. Definition and importance of infrastructure**

Infrastructure is defined as basic facilities, equipment, and installations needed to support the function of a system or organization (World Bank, 2019). Adequate infrastructure development is essential to drive economic growth, improve people's welfare, and strengthen regional connectivity (ADB, 2017).

## 2. Infrastructure development in East Java

East Java is one of the provinces in Indonesia that has a high priority in infrastructure development. Various infrastructure projects, such as toll roads, ports, airports, and electricity networks, have been implemented in East Java to improve connectivity and encourage economic growth (Bappenas, 2020).

### C. The Role of Democracy in Infrastructure Development

#### 1. Community participation Democracy

Provides space for the community to be involved in the planning, implementation, and supervision of infrastructure development. Community participation can ensure that infrastructure projects are in accordance with the needs and aspirations of the community (Raco & Tandirerung, 2020).

3. Democracy plays an important role in encouraging infrastructure development that is more responsive to community needs. Community participation in the planning, implementation, and supervision of infrastructure development can ensure that these projects are in accordance with the aspirations and needs of the local community (Raco & Tandirerung, 2020; OECD, 2021).

#### 4. Democratic political leadership

Democratic political leadership, which respects democratic principles, can encourage infrastructure development that is more transparent, accountable, and responsive to community needs (Keping, 2018). This can increase public trust in the government and encourage more active participation in the development process (Keping, 2018; Transparency International, 2021).

#### 5. Implementation of democratic principles

Implementation of democratic principles, such as freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and public oversight, can ensure that infrastructure development is carried out with

attention to the interests of the community and the environment (Fung, 2015). This can prevent abuse of power, corruption, and unintended negative impacts of infrastructure projects (Fung, 2015; Transparency International, 2021).

### 3. METHOD

This study uses a qualitative approach with a literature study method. The qualitative approach was chosen because this study aims to understand and analyze the role of democracy in supporting infrastructure development in East Java in depth. Literature study is used as a data collection method, where researchers will review various sources such as documents, reports, and related publications.

The data sources in this study come from various documents, reports, and publications that are relevant to the research topic. These sources can be government publications, scientific articles, books, and other sources that can provide the information and data needed to answer research questions.

The data collection technique used in this study is a literature study. Researchers will conduct an in-depth study of various data sources that have been collected, such as documents, reports, and publications related to the role of democracy in supporting infrastructure development in East Java.

In analyzing data, this study will use two techniques, namely descriptive analysis and content analysis. Descriptive analysis is used to describe and explain phenomena related to the role of democracy in supporting infrastructure development in East Java comprehensively. Meanwhile, content analysis is used to identify and interpret the meaning, patterns, and themes that emerge from the data collected.

## 4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### A. Condition of Democracy in East Java

#### 1. Community Political Participation

The political participation of the East Java community in the democratic process can be seen from their level of involvement in general elections, both at the local and national levels. Data from the East Java General Election Commission (KPU) shows that the level of voter participation in the 2018 East Java Gubernatorial Election reached 74.89% (East Java KPU, 2018). This figure shows that the majority of the East Java community is active in exercising their voting rights and is involved in the political decision-making process in their area. In addition, the community is also active in voicing their aspirations and interests through various community organizations and social movements (Nugroho, 2019).

#### 2. Quality of Political Leadership

The quality of political leadership in East Java is also an important factor in supporting democracy in this region. Based on research conducted by the Indonesian Survey Institute (LSI), the leadership of the current Governor of East Java is considered quite good by the public, with a satisfaction level reaching 70% (LSI, 2020). Political leaders who are democratic, accountable, and responsive to the needs of the community are considered capable of creating a conducive climate for infrastructure development in East Java.

#### 3. Implementation of Democratic Principles

In addition to community political participation and leadership quality, the implementation of democratic principles such as transparency, accountability, and law enforcement are also important indicators in viewing the condition of democracy in East Java. Various efforts have been made by the local government to increase

transparency and accountability in the management of development budgets, including in infrastructure projects (East Java Bappeda, 2019). In addition, fair and non-discriminatory law enforcement is also key to maintaining political stability and supporting development in East Java.

### B. Infrastructure Development in East Java

1. Achievements and Challenges of Infrastructure Development. Infrastructure development in East Java has made significant progress in recent years. Various strategic projects, such as the construction of toll roads, bridges, airports, and ports, have been completed or are in the completion stage. According to data from the East Java Central Statistics Agency (BPS), the length of toll roads in East Java in 2020 reached 660 km, an increase from 490 km in 2015 (BPS East Java, 2021). In addition, the construction of Juanda International Airport in Surabaya has also been completed and began operating in 2018, increasing East Java's connectivity with other regions in Indonesia and the international world. However, infrastructure development in East Java also faces several challenges, such as budget constraints, land acquisition issues, and coordination between government agencies (East Java Bappeda, 2019). Efforts to overcome these challenges continue to be carried out by the local government through various strategies, such as increasing cooperation with the private sector through the Government and Business Entity Cooperation (KPBUE) scheme and optimizing the use of regional budgets.

2. The Role of Regional Government in Infrastructure Development The East Java Provincial Government plays an important role in encouraging infrastructure development in this region. Through the East Java Provincial Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMD), the regional government has established various strategic programs and projects related to

infrastructure, such as the construction of toll roads, bridges, airports, and ports (East Java Bappeda, 2019). In addition, the regional government is also active in allocating adequate budgets for infrastructure development, as well as collaborating with the central government and the private sector to accelerate the realization of these projects..

### **C. The Role of Democracy in Supporting Infrastructure Development.**

1. **Influence of Community Participation** The participation of the East Java community in the democratic process has a significant influence on infrastructure development in this area. Through active involvement in general elections, the community can choose leaders who have a strong vision and commitment to driving infrastructure development. In addition, the community can also voice their aspirations and needs related to infrastructure development through various channels of participation, such as public consultation, hearings, and supervision of the implementation of infrastructure projects (Nugroho, 2019).
2. **The Role of Democratic Political Leadership.** Democratic, accountable, and responsive political leadership to the needs of the community also plays an important role in supporting infrastructure development in East Java. Leaders who have a strong vision and commitment to infrastructure development, and are able to establish good cooperation with various stakeholders, will be able to accelerate the realization of infrastructure projects and ensure that the development is in accordance with the needs of the community (LSI, 2020).

3. **Implementation of Democratic Principles in Infrastructure Development.**

The implementation of democratic principles, such as transparency, accountability, and law enforcement, also plays an important role in supporting infrastructure development in East Java. Transparency in budget management and procurement processes for infrastructure projects can increase public trust and encourage their active participation. In addition, accountability in the implementation of infrastructure projects can also ensure that the development is carried out effectively and in accordance with the objectives that have been set. Fair and non-discriminatory law enforcement can also create a conducive climate for infrastructure development, by minimizing risks such as corruption and abuse of authority (East Java Bappeda, 2019).

## **4. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS**

### **A. Conclusion**

Democracy plays an important role in supporting infrastructure development in East Java. Public political participation, the quality of political leadership, and the application of democratic principles, such as transparency, accountability, and law enforcement, are factors that contribute to driving infrastructure development in this region. Through active community involvement, democratic political leadership, and the application of democratic principles, infrastructure development in East Java can run more effectively and in accordance with community needs.

### **B. Suggestions**

To improve the role of democracy in supporting infrastructure development in East Java, several suggestions that can be considered include:

1. Increasing public political participation through more intensive political socialization and education.
2. Strengthening the capacity of democratic, accountable, and responsive political leadership to community needs.

3. Strengthening the application of democratic principles, such as transparency and accountability, in budget management and implementation of infrastructure projects.
4. Improving coordination and cooperation between local governments, the central government, and other stakeholders in driving infrastructure development in East Java..

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