

The Importance of Enhancing The Indonesian House of Representatives' Oversight Role with Digital Platforms Case Study: Addressing Low Legislative Accountability Through Learning from The Estonian Parliamentary System

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ABSTRACT

Background. The Indonesian House of Representatives (DPR) holds crucial responsibilities in supervising the government, including legislation, budgeting, and policy-making. However, a major issue lies in the lack of transparency and limited public access to information regarding legislative processes. This weakens the DPR's supervisory function and reduces legislative accountability.

Purpose. The study aims to strengthen the DPR's supervisory and legislative functions by proposing the development of a digital, integrated, and publicly accessible legislative portal. The goal is to increase transparency, public participation, and accountability in Indonesia's legislative process.

Method. The study involved 288 university students from Chinese, Japanese, and Korean TFL settings, and the data from questionnaires were analysed using appropriate statistical methods.

Results. The study proposes that Indonesia can enhance legislative oversight by creating a real-time, interactive legislative portal that includes access to draft laws, meeting schedules, and documentation. It also emphasizes the importance of **digital literacy training** for both the public and DPR members and highlights that technological tools must be supported by values of openness, responsibility, and a service-oriented mindset in public governance..

Conclusion. The DPR's oversight role can be strengthened through a digital legislative platform that ensures transparency and public engagement, inspired by Estonia's model. Beyond technology, fostering values of openness, accountability, and service is essential. This transformation requires both system reform and digital literacy for legislators and the public to ensure effective implementation.

KEYWORDS

Keywords: DPR, Supervision, Legislation, Digital

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INTRODUCTION

The Indonesian House of Representatives (DPR) has the main function of overseeing the running of government, including in the three main tasks, namely legislation, budget, and public policy. In addition, many findings in the field regarding low accountability in the implementation of

legislative tasks are often in the spotlight of the public. The many cases of irregularities, such as budget corruption, non-compliance with legislative procedures, and minimal transparency in decision-making, have eroded public trust in the DPR. Data found in 2023, namely Transparency International Indonesia, stated that Indonesia's corruption perception index in 2023 was ranked 115 out of 180 countries. This further shows serious challenges in governance, including in the legislative sector (Firdaus, 2020). The large number of levels of society who are dissatisfied with the performance of the current government has created waves of protests everywhere. Therefore, strengthening the DPR's oversight function is an urgent need to ensure better accountability.

If we look closely, the main problematic factor in the DPR's oversight function in Indonesia is the weak or non-existent public access to information on the legislative process that has been carried out. DPR meetings that are held impromptu and involve many councils tend to often take place behind closed doors. In addition, the public never sees the reports of the results of the supervision because they are not published openly. This makes it difficult for the public to access and monitor the performance of each DPR member, both in terms of attendance, contribution, and integrity in decision-making. A survey by the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) in 2022 showed that only 35% of the public felt that the DPR was transparent enough in carrying out its duties. This lack of public involvement weakens social control over the DPR's performance, which ultimately has an impact on the low quality of legislation.

Some of these problems are accompanied by the current situation, namely the rapid development of digital technology, which offers great opportunities to increase transparency and accountability of the DPR. The digital platform that is created can later be used to publish and distribute legislative documents, meeting recordings, and monitoring reports in real time, so that the public can access information easily. In addition, technology can also be used to ensure the integrity of legislative data, prevent manipulation, and increase public trust. The use of digital platforms also allows direct public involvement through e-participation mechanisms, such as online public consultations or digital petitions, which can strengthen the relationship between the DPR and its constituents. The current context of Indonesia, which must continue to develop with the increase in digital technology, is not only in the private sector, but the government sector must experience the same adaptation.

If we look at one of the most advanced European countries, namely Estonia, as a country with a leading digital parliamentary system in the world, it provides a real example of how technology can revolutionize the oversight function of parliament. How could it not be, by using the e-Parliament platform, Estonia provides full transparency to its people in the legislative process, including tracking changes to draft laws, public access to parliamentary documents, and public participation in policy

discussions. In 2023, more than 70% of Estonians used digital platforms to interact with parliament, indicating a high level of public engagement. This system is also equipped with sophisticated cybersecurity technology, ensuring that legislative data is protected from the threat of manipulation. This makes Estonia arguably a very advanced country in Europe.

Certainly, the implementation of Estonia's digital platform if implemented in Indonesia has many challenges that will be present in the future. Various problems that have emerged and still exist today such as uneven technological infrastructure, low digital literacy among the community, and resistance from within the DPR to change are the main obstacles. However, Estonia's experience shows that investment in technology and public education can overcome these obstacles. For example, Estonia launched a digital literacy training program for the community and parliamentarians in the early 2000s, which became the foundation for the success of their e-Parliament. Indonesia can adopt a similar approach by utilizing local resources, such as technology startups and academics, to build a system that suits the Indonesian context.

Of course, the case study of Estonia is very relevant for Indonesia because the DPR has a strategic role in maintaining a healthy democracy. By studying the Estonian parliamentary system and trying to adapt, the Indonesian DPR can develop a digital platform that not only increases legislative accountability but also strengthens public trust. This effort requires political commitment, technology investment, and community involvement to create a more transparent, responsive, and inclusive oversight system. Thus, digital transformation is a crucial step to improve the quality of Indonesian democracy in the modern era. The Indonesian House of Representatives must continue to strive to overcome various adjustment challenges in it to make every performance accountable to the people.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study employs a qualitative case study approach to explore the challenges and potential improvements in the oversight role of the Indonesian House of Representatives (DPR) through digital platforms. By examining the legislative transparency mechanisms of the Estonian parliamentary system—particularly its e-Consultation model—the research draws comparative insights to inform the development of a more open and accountable legislative framework in Indonesia. The case study method enables an in-depth analysis of institutional practices, policy design, and digital governance tools using secondary data, including academic literature, government documents, and existing digital platform models. This qualitative approach facilitates a conceptual understanding of how technological integration can foster public engagement, improve legislative transparency, and shift the institutional paradigm toward greater accountability and service orientation (Yin, 2018)..

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Supervisory and Legislative Functions in the Indonesian DPR

The DPR in carrying out its legislative and supervisory functions is the still weak role of the DPR's supervision which should be a control tool for the running of government. The weak role of the DPR's supervision can ultimately hinder the effectiveness of the implementation of the legislative and supervisory functions. This function has not been carried out optimally due to the low accountability and transparency in the implementation of duties and responsibilities by the DPR. The DPR's supervisory function in Indonesia is still carried out procedurally without being accompanied by concrete substance and follow-up. In this case, it can be seen in the process of making laws which often does not involve or represent the interests and aspirations of the community. Public participation in the legislative process is still limited and there is minimal openness of information to the public, resulting in low transparency and active participation by the community (Nugroho, 2021). In this regard, it can be seen from various cases that have occurred in Indonesia related to Draft Laws (RUU) which were discussed behind closed doors and did not represent the aspirations of the community. This indicates weak accountability and low commitment to the principle of checks and balances. Ultimately, these problems will result in a decline in public trust in the DPR as a representative institution that should be the voice and extension of the people's aspirations, but instead has the opposite effect.

The above problems are also inseparable from the internal governance of the DPR which is still conventional and not fully responsive to developments in information technology. Access to performance information and various other important data is still very limited, where there is no comprehensive digital system for the public to monitor in real time related to the legislative process or the results of supervision or performance carried out by the DPR. Important information that should be easily accessible to the public is often stored and kept secret. The absence of a transparent and inclusive digital platform makes the DPR less open and inclusive, even though this institution should be the people's house that accommodates all the needs and aspirations of the community. Until now, the digital system that allows the public to monitor the supervision process directly or to actively contribute to legislative decision-making has not been running optimally. The existence of these systems is still symbolic and has not been fully integrated into the legislative and supervision process. Various decisions or meetings carried out by the DPR are often closed and there is still minimal active involvement from the community to be able to convey their interests and needs. Without a digital instrument that is transparent, accountable, and easily accessible to the public, the DPR institution will experience significant limitations in carrying out its functions and duties optimally. This unfriendly legislative practice has harmed the principle of people's sovereignty guaranteed by the constitution. Violation of the constitution is certainly a strong reason for validation of laws and

regulations that conflict with the expectations of the community by the Constitutional Court as a court of law.

This situation is also exacerbated by the dominance of transactional political interests and party interests which ultimately lead to the weakening of the independence of the DPR as a legislative institution. As a result, decision-making and the direction of supervision carried out are often biased and reflect political interests rather than the interests of the people. This problem makes the DPR still controlled by internal party dynamics and loses its independence as a state institution that should be representative of the interests of the people. The various problems that occur in the DPR RI prove that until now the DPR has not carried out its legislative and supervisory functions effectively due to weak substantive control, low transparency and accountability and the still minimal active involvement of the community. The internal system is still conventional and the lack of use of digital technology in carrying out its duties results in limited public information and participation.

Strengthening the DPR's Supervisory and Legislative Functions: Presenting Digital-Based Technology Like Estonia

Strengthening the oversight and legislative functions in the Indonesian House of Representatives by presenting a digital platform-based system must be done by developing an integrated open legislation portal. The portal that will be created must provide public access to the draft laws (RUU) that will be enacted, meeting schedules, and documentation of discussions in real time, with an easy-to-understand interface. This is similar to the Estonian State's e-Consultation model, because they have a portal that can be equipped with interactive features such as public discussion forums and input forms for each RUU. This feature will later allow the public to provide direct suggestions or criticisms, as seen on the Estonian platform which succeeded in increasing citizen participation by 70%. Thus, this portal will become a monitoring tool that allows full transparency of the DPR's performance. Then, if applied in Indonesia, which has the status of a developing country, it is necessary to apply big data analytics technology to monitor the legislative process efficiently. In short, this system will collect data on the frequency of discussion of RUU, the level of attendance of DPR members, and decision-making patterns.

This is increasingly effective and efficient if Indonesia can apply this technology with a legislative portal to produce DPR performance reports that can be accessed by the public. The data can also be used to detect anomalies, such as rushed discussions of bills, thus strengthening the DPR's internal and external oversight functions. However, this must be in line with improving the quality of technology and the Internet in various remote areas in Indonesia. Indonesia, which is known as an archipelagic country, certainly often has difficulty strengthening and expanding telecommunications networks evenly. This can be proven in remote villages where there has never been internet access.

The design of the platform or application must include a system that allows the public to submit proposals or petitions related to legislative issues. This system must have a verification mechanism to ensure that the proposals received are relevant and not misused. If we compare the developed country of Estonia, the system is called e-Petition which allows citizens to propose policy changes which are then discussed in parliament, increasing public involvement. Until finally this system can be imitated and modified by the Indonesian House of Representatives government to accommodate public aspirations, for example regarding the revision of controversial laws such as the Job Creation Law. With this feature, the DPR can show its commitment to participatory democracy and increase the legitimacy of legislation. This will be very useful, especially since each bill can later reduce demonstrations that damage public facilities or loss of life. However, it should be underlined that the Indonesian House of Representatives must involve the formation of a professional and honest platform management team consisting of technology experts, academics, and civil society representatives. This team will later be tasked with designing, managing, and maintaining the platform to keep it relevant and safe. If combined, this team can later work with the National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) to develop technology that supports data security (Pratama Andi, 2024), such as encryption and blockchain, to prevent manipulation of legislative documents. This team must also ensure that the platform can be accessed in areas with limited internet infrastructure.

Finally, the improvement of digital platforms must include digital literacy training programs for the community and members of the DPR. The low level of digital literacy in Indonesia, including among the elderly, especially in rural areas, is a major challenge. If we look back at Estonia, they were able to overcome this with massive training that reached various age groups. This must be done by the DPR, which can work together with local governments and civil society organizations to organize training on how to access and use the legislative platform. This training must also include DPR members so that they are able to utilize technology to improve their oversight performance, such as understanding analytical reports or responding to public input effectively.

Design Solutions to Improve the Supervisory and Legislative Functions of the Indonesian House of Representatives

The Indonesian House of Representatives (DPR) has a crucial primary function of oversight in ensuring accountability and transparency of the legislative process, as stipulated in Article 20A paragraph (1) of the 1945 Constitution. However, given the current situation, low legislative accountability is often a problem, indicated by minimal public involvement, lack of transparency in discussing bills, and weak oversight of the implementation of laws. Digital platforms can be the main solution to increase the effectiveness of DPR oversight by utilizing information and communication technology and social media to expand public access, accelerate the delivery of information, and

encourage public participation. The case study of Estonia, known for its e-parliament system, offers a valuable example or lesson on how technology can strengthen parliament's oversight function (Arbain, 2021).

Estonia is a country in Central Europe that borders Russia. Estonia has also successfully implemented e-parliament through platforms such as eesti.ee and parlamendi.ee, which enable and realize full transparency in the legislative and oversight process. Every draft law, oversight report, and parliamentary document is uploaded in real-time in easily accessible formats, such as JSON and XML, so that the public can monitor and provide direct input. If compared to Indonesia, the DPR has had a Legislation Information System (SILEG), but its use is still limited to PDF format which is less interactive and difficult to track for document changes. The low accountability of legislation in Indonesia is often caused by the lack of public access to comprehensive and timely information, as revealed in research by the Center for Indonesian Law and Policy Studies.

The implementation of digital platforms such as in Estonia and other European countries can increase the accountability of the Indonesian House of Representatives by providing an open portal that allows real-time tracking of the legislative process. For example, the e-Democracia portal in Brazil, which adopts a crowdsourcing approach, allows the public to provide direct input on the bill, thereby increasing transparency and public participation. In Indonesia, strengthening digital platforms can be done by developing SILEG into a system that supports open data formats and integration with social media to reach the wider community. This is in line with UNDP recommendations that emphasize the importance of ICT to strengthen the function of parliament in digital democracy. Not only in the context of strengthening applications, but there needs to be regular socialization of the use of various digital platforms that will later be created by the Indonesian House of Representatives to improve the function of supervision to the people.

Best practices from Estonia in Europe show that the success of e-parliament depends on adequate digital infrastructure, digital literacy of the public, and parliament's commitment to transparency. Europe has also conducted digital literacy training for parliamentarians and staff to ensure effective use of the platform, while in Indonesia, challenges such as the digital divide and low technological literacy are still obstacles. Therefore, the DPR needs to collaborate with the government to improve internet access and digital literacy as prerequisites for the success of a technology-based oversight platform.

Increasing the role of the Indonesian House of Representatives' supervision through digital platforms, such as the example of Estonia, which sees aspects not only about technology, but also about building public trust. By adopting best practices from Estonia and other countries, the DPR can create a more accountable and transparent oversight system. However, challenges such as resistance to change, budget constraints, and low awareness of the importance of open data need to be addressed

through clear regulations and intensive socialization. Research on e-government in Indonesia emphasizes that the success of digital transformation requires cross-sector commitment to overcome technical and cultural barriers, which are also relevant to the DPR's transformation into a digital parliament.

CONCLUSION

The transformation of the oversight and legislative functions of the Indonesian House of Representatives (DPR) is a necessity amidst the increasingly complex challenges of accountability and openness of public information. The Republic of Indonesia, known as a democracy, certainly requires the role of the legislative institution not only in forming and passing laws, but also as the main supervisor of the running of government and the implementation of these laws. However, as has been explained, the Indonesian DPR is currently still facing various structural and cultural problems that weaken its oversight role. Starting from the lack of transparency in the legislative process, low public participation, to resistance to technology-based reforms. This situation not only damages public trust in legislative institutions, but also raises the risk of an imbalance of power that can harm democracy as a whole. These various challenges seem to be very frightening so that the functions that should be carried out tend to be ignored.

In the current problems, the implementation of digitalization of the legislative process and supervision of the DPR is a strategic step that must be taken. Learn from the developed country of Estonia which has long been open to the public through the implementation of the e-Parliament system. The increased use of information technology will later be able to bridge the gap between the people and the DPR. The digital system not only allows documentation and delivery of information in real time, but can also massively create space for public participation in making existing policies. This increasingly shows that every policy made can later represent the aspirations of the people. This is a form of democracy that should be implemented on an ideal participatory basis, where the people not only elect their representatives once every five years, but are also actively involved in the legislative process throughout their term of office.

Various efforts such as the implementation of an open legislative portal, integration of big data analytics, e-petition features, and online public consultation systems must be seen as the main foundation in rebuilding public trust. In the context of Indonesia as a developing country with abundant human resources, challenges such as the inequality of digital infrastructure, low technological literacy, and resistance from within the DPR itself are real obstacles that cannot be ignored. However, as Estonia's experience shows, these challenges can be overcome with a systematic and collaborative approach. Estonia as a developed country has never hesitated to start by investing in digital education, involving civil society, and developing equitable digital infrastructure. The same

thing can be adapted in Indonesia by prioritizing the principles of inclusivity, sustainability, and transparency in its planning and implementation.

From a legal perspective, referring to the best practices implemented by Estonia, Brazil, and other digital democracies, the Indonesian House of Representatives already has an initial foundation through SILEG and various other digital legislative instruments. However, the existence of these systems is still symbolic and has not been fully integrated into the legislative and oversight process. Major reforms are needed, both in terms of technology, human resources, and the legal framework. This reform cannot be carried out partially or half-heartedly. Only with full commitment from all elements of the House of Representatives, as well as support from the community and external supervisory institutions, can real change occur.

In the end, it can be concluded that the digitalization of the DPR's oversight function is not only about the use of technological tools or platforms, but also about a paradigm shift in the relationship between people's representatives and the people themselves. Technology is only a suggestion while the spirit of service, openness, and responsibility are values that must be the soul of every policy and decision taken by the DPR. By making digitalization the gateway to reform, the DPR RI has a great opportunity to restore public trust, improve the quality of legislation, and strengthen Indonesia's democratic system in the future.

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