
The Consistency of Local Elites in the Stages of the Expansion of Central Luwu Regency into a New Autonomous Region

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ABSTRACT

The expansion of Central Luwu Regency is an effort of the Luwu community, especially the local elites of Luwu Regency as a representative, the Walenrang-Lamasi area as a candidate for a new autonomous region is geographically separated from its parent district, the idea of dividing Central Luwu Regency began in 2005 when the division of two sub-districts into six sub-districts in the Malenrang-lamasi region. This study aims to see how consistent local elites are in overseeing the expansion process and how the stages have been achieved. In writing this article, the method used is qualitative method, determination of selected informants with purposive techniques, data collection is carried out using interview techniques. The result of this research is that since the beginning of the entrenchment process, the local elites of Luwu Regency have several times formed a structured work agenda in accordance with the stages of expansion in the law, the process achieved is the fulfillment of administrative requirements, the acceptance of hearings in the DPR-RI and as an initiative in the plenary meeting to be forwarded to the president.

Keywords: Elite Consistency, Territorial Expansion, Central Luwu.

INTRODUCTION

The expansion of Central Luwu Regency into a new autonomous region is one of the efforts built by and based on the encouragement of the Walmas community (walenrang-lamasi) who expect equitable development (AN & Munasto, 2024; Syahrir et al., 2022). Looking at the geographical location of Walmas (walenrang-lamasi) which is separated from its parent city, Luwu Regency. Walmas itself is located in the north of Luwu Regency which is about +70 KM and crosses the administrative area of Palopo City. So Palopo City is halfway between Walenrang Lamasi and its capital (Luwu Regency). In addition, the fundamental reason for the expansion of Central Luwu Regency is that the public service system is less efficient because of the long distance (Syahrir et al., 2022; Tangke et al., 2021).

There are several efforts made by various groups that care about this expansion, for example, students who are members of the IPMIL organization (Luwu Indonesian student association) which has been protesting every year since 2007 which is always clashed with police officers and often ends in chaos (AN & Munasto, 2024). The status of the expansion of Central Luwu Regency is currently getting a moratorium from the center, because it is not clear when the moratorium will be lifted angering the Walmas community in particular (Witno et

al., 2023). This can be seen from the issues raised in the demands brought by students and the community when carrying out demonstration actions (Sulaiman, 2017; Syamsu et al., 2020).

In May 2005 the aspiration for the expansion of Central Luwu Regency was rolled out when the people of Walenrang-lamasi complained about the distance that had to be passed due to the area separated by Palopo City (Arfan et al., 2021; Sari et al., 2021). For a dozen years, the people of Walmas have demanded the expansion of Central Luwu Regency by means of protests (Nawawi, n.d.; Syamsuddin et al., 2023). To support this aspiration, the Regent of Luwu at that time (Basmin Mattayang) planned the expansion of Central Luwu Regency by expanding the sub-districts in the northern region of Luwu from 2 sub-districts to 6 sub-districts, namely Walenrang, West Walenrang, North Walenrang, East Walenrang, Lamasi and East Lamasi (Iqbal et al., 2019; Manaf et al., 2022).

Actually, the expansion of Central Luwu Regency apart from the encouragement of the community is based on the applicable regulations on regional expansion and the Regional Autonomy Law (Akbar & Alhadif, 2021). There are several fundamental aspects of regional autonomy, namely (1) providing opportunities (decrees), (2) implementing and making policies, (3) there are initiatives and initiatives to explore and develop regional potential, (4) in accordance with the aspirations and interests of the community, and (5) in accordance with the laws in force within the corridors of the unitary state of the Republic of Indonesia (Gultom, 2018; Ramadhan et al., 2023).

If we look at the DOB candidate area of Central Luwu Regency in the principle of the public service system, then of course there is no reason to maintain the moratorium or delay the expansion because basically regional autonomy is how to improve equitable development and community welfare (Istania, 2022; Suaib et al., 2020). This has led to mixed speculation and is quite wild among observers of Central Luwu County. For example, in the Luwu Regency community, it simply sees dynamics as a process of tug-of-war between the provincial government and the district government (Abdillah et al., 2022; Ridha, 2024).

Such a perspective is a conclusion from a step-by-step process that has been running for several years and meets the conditions that result in a moratorium. Before being given a moratorium, the stages and process of expansion of Central Luwu Regency were carried out continuously from year to year by the severe elite of Luwu Regency, both formal and non-formal elites. In a process of territorial expansion, of course, based on laws and government regulations as a basis in which procedures and conditions are regulated for an area to be bloomed. Apart from this, the division of territory is always in line with the political efforts made by its elites. As a writer, I would like to explain how the local elite oversaw the stages of the process of dividing Central Luwu Regency into a new autonomous region.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research uses a qualitative descriptive approach. Data were collected by observation and structured interviews with informants involved in the Central Luwu District

expansion process. As well as conducting studies on several literature (manuscripts, books and journals that have gained legitimacy). Which is related to the process of expansion and expansion of Central Luwu County. Data analysis is done by editing, classification, data tabulation and interpretation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

After the formation of 6 districts, namely Walenrang, West Walenrang, North Walenrang, East Walenrang, East Lamasi and Lamasi. Local political leaders held a declaration on the establishment of Central Luwu and abolished the Joint Management Forum for the Acceleration of Subdistrict Expansion (FBP2K) inviting community leaders, both sub-districts, sub-districts and village heads to attend a meeting at the SMPN 2 Lamasi Hall on May 27, 2006. The agenda in the meeting. First, the forum's accountability report. Second, the dissolution of the Walmas (FBP2K) forum. Third, the declaration of central luwu county. Fourth, the establishment of the central luwu county forum.

As a policy plan, the process of forming Central Luwu District to this day invites many questions. Normatively, the eligibility requirements for the expansion of Central Luwu Regency from Luwu Regency as its parent district have been fulfilled as stipulated in Government Regulation No. 78 of 2007 concerning procedures for the formation, elimination and merger of regions. There are 6 factors identified as the background to the expansion of an area; (1) the existence of policy instruments, (2) historical factors, (3) inequality in development, (4) difficulty in accessing services, (5) resources, and (6) elite interests.

Since 2001, the regional expansion policy process has been bottom-up and dominated by the political process rather than the administrative process. The manifestation of bottom-up policy implementation is reflected in the issue of expansion that ignores administrative aspects, such as area area, availability of resources and regional potential. Simultaneously, the issue of expansion is dominated by certain political impulses and motives. The process also varies greatly. Starting with the support of community aspirations, proposed by the regional head and the parent DPRD, then asked for approval from the regional head and superior regional DPRD, then proposed to the central government involving the minister of home affairs, regional autonomy advisory council (DPOD) and DPR / DPD RI. This policy began at a time when the weak legitimacy of the government faced political pressure from the people and local politicians

In an administrative context, the establishment of autonomous regions aims to create efficiency and effectiveness in the administration of local government and public services. The government's control plan that is too broad and the range of services that are too far will clearly have consequences on the weakening of the control function and at the same time result in the low quality of public services. In this perspective, the formation of new regions through the pemekaran process is the right instrument to cover the weaknesses of the problem of span of control and service coverage, but not a few have also succeeded in organizing local

governments through decentralization.

Here are some local elites involved in the affairs of the expansion of Central Luwu Regency:

Table 1. List of local elites

No	Name	Department
1	Andi Abdul Muarrir, SE	DPRD Chief Kab. Luwu (DOMISIONER)
2	Ir. H. Bukhari Kahar Muzakkar	KKL Raya Chief
3	Amsal Sampe Tondok Pong Bure	Wal-Mas community leaders
4	Hafida Rauf Basyuri, ST	Wal-Mas heroines
5	Andi Maradang Mackulau	Datu Luwu
6	H. Amru Saher, ST	Wal-Mas Community Leaders
7	Syukur Bijak, SE	Head of FOPKALT luwu
8	Listan CR	Wal-Mas Youth Figures

The table above shows the intensity and consistency of the local Luwu elites who participated in escorting this process to the central government, especially conveyed to the Minister of Home Affairs to follow up on the condition of Central Luwu which is administratively feasible to be a new autonomous region. These elites have participated in escorting the expansion of Central Luwu Regency since 2006 when the Central Luwu Regency Formation Forum (FOPKALT) was formed which became a forum with local elites to continue the struggle for expansion until now. Significantly, the local elites of Luwu Regency have brought the expansion process to the central stage and all existing affairs in the area have been completed.

The consistency of the Luwu Regency elite in the struggle for the expansion of Central Luwu Regency is not only in the formation of 6 sub-districts and also in the establishment of the Central Luwu Regency Formation Forum (FOPKALT). However, after that the efforts made were to increase the escort of administrative requirements to the central level, for example in 2013, a letter about the results of verification of administrative requirements for the proposal to establish a DOB by the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia for the Luwu district government. Which should be confirmed and attended by the Luwu Regency Government together with the Luwu Regency DPRD according to the contents of the letter addressed by each of these institutions.

Previously, the local elite movement of Luwu Regency can also be seen in the issuance of the Decree of the Luwu Regency DPRD Number 22 of 2008 concerning "approval of the establishment of Central Luwu Regency" in which it is contained (1) approving the formation of candidates for Central Luwu Regency as a result of the expansion of Luwu Regency. (2) the location of the prospective capital of Central Luwu Regency (Walenrang). (3) Release 6 sub-district areas formed under Luwu Regency Regional Regulation Number 2 of 2006 as coverage areas for candidates for Central Luwu Regency. This decision was conveyed to the minister of

home affairs, the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia, the regional autonomy advisory council and the governor of South Sulawesi.

Basically, the division of the central Luwu Regency area into a new autonomous region is a matter of geographical position. There was an imbalance in the initial process of the expansion of Luwu Regency which divided the southern region and the northern region, the northern region was separated from the parent district (enclave), which was separated by the administrative area of Palopo City so that it became a special discussion among the regional political officials of Luwu Regency. Therefore, 6 districts were formed.

The following are the results of an interview with one of the speakers who participated in overseeing the expansion process on June 17, 2023;

"The initial idea of pemekaran was the expansion of regional autonomy of Luwu Regency and several districts in Indonesia, why the idea arose because Luwu Regency is in the Walenrang area and its surroundings one district and on the other hand is limited to the Palopo City Autonomous Region. That is a strange question why the central government expanded Central Luwu Regency but it was limited by Palopo City."

Regional expansion in regional autonomy seems to have its own charm, so it is not surprising that it continues to be a discussion in various circles. The strength of the discourse also strengthens controversies and debates between elites, community groups and even policy makers. Not to mention the diverse community responses that more or less enlivened the controversy. Listen to current national and local political developments. The issue of territorial expansion is likely to continue to be a political discourse that will not fade. This is because it is related to the main concern of local people who are involved in various political pressures such as feelings and desires to be independent. Another reason that is no less important is the reason for the welfare of the people because usually the area that is bloomed lags far behind other regions. The result of the issue of expansion so far has become much is the answer to the problem of feelings of injustice and not being noticed.

Furthermore, this consistency can be seen in the evaluation of the achievement of the expansion of Central Luwu Regency after the expansion of 6 sub-districts in the Walenrang-Lamasi region in the following table:

Table 2. Activities and Evaluation of the Achievements of the Struggle for the Establishment of Central Luwu Regency

No	Activity Description	Information
1	Registration and submission of documents for the formation of districts. Central Luwu at OTDA DEP. DAGRI	March 18th, 2008
2	Registration and submission of documents for the formation of the district. Luwu is in the secretariat of commission II of	March 19th, 2008

	the DPR-RI	
3	Submission of the proposed district formation document to OTDA DEP. DAGRI	July 2008
4	Submission of the proposed document for the formation of districts to the secretariat of commission II of the DPR-RI	July 2008
5	Submission of FOROM application for audition to DPR-RI	July 2008
6	Central Luwu community audience with members of the DPR-RI	July 2008
7	Audition of the Central Luwu Regency Expansion Acceleration Committee at the Grand Menteng Hotel Jakarta	October 11th, 2008
8	Adm. The establishment of Central Luwu Regency was declared complete by the secretariat of Commission II of the DPR-RI	October 2008
9	Signatures/approvals of 14 members of the DPR-RI, Deputy commissions	December 2008
10	Scheduling of KUNKER and implementation of KUNKER Commission II of the DPR-RI	Dec. 2008 – Jan. 2009
11	Submission to the leadership of the DPR-RI to be discussed in the DPR-RI RAPIM	February 2009
12	The LUTENG document was submitted to BALEG for harmonization of the Bill	Maret 2009
13	The LUTENG document was submitted to BAMUS for the determination of the plenary proceedings	Agustus 2009
14	The Plenary of the DPR-RI was included as a proposal to be submitted as an initiative of the DPR-RI	29 Sept. 2009
15	Review of the DPR-RI leadership as a DPR-RI initiative bill to the president to obtain AMPRES	December 2009

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The struggle for the expansion of Central Luwu Regency actually concentrates on fulfilling administrative, technical, criteria and physical regional requirements, as stipulated in PP No. 78 of 2007 concerning the procedure for the establishment of a new autonomous region. These three conditions have been achieved and fulfilled even though in its development, related to the expansion of a region has undergone changes in Law No. 23 of 2014 which only specifies two requirements, namely, basic and administrative requirements only.

If we look at the dynamics of expansion in Indonesia, the number of autonomous

regions in Indonesia has increased fivefold, even almost 10 years since the decentralization policy was implemented. Regional expansion and the formation of DOBs continue to occur. The development of the formation of DOBs in 1999-2014 was recorded as many as 223 DOBs with details of 7 provinces. Counties numbered 181, and cities numbered 34. The growth in the number of districts/cities occurred on average 20 regions per year while the increase in the number reached 40%. In this process, Luwu Regency was included in the figure and discussed in the results of the Panja meeting for 13 DOB candidates held on April 23, 2010. In the results of the panja, the candidate for the DOB of Central Luwu Regency was declared complete.

CONCLUSION

The condition of the expansion of Central Luwu Regency should receive special attention from the South Sulawesi Provincial Government, the problem has dragged on and only caused ripples among the community and especially students who continue to be a reminder that seems to be ignored by the government, as if forgotten. Such a strong desire from various elements of the greater luwu community but did not get a good response. Looking at the consistency of the elite in the past 20 years, as well as in terms of the feasibility of the Central Luwu Regency area as a DOB candidate, there should be no more reason to delay the formation of the Central Luwu District. However, in the middle of the escort journey, the status of Luwu Regency was given a moratorium, until today there is no clarity regarding the status of the moratorium.

The consistency of the elite movement has actually resulted in significant achievements, starting from the establishment of 6 sub-districts as initial requirements to the receipt of the central luwu district file in the DPR-RI which will then be submitted to BAMUS for plenary session. In addition to these achievements in the previous journal written by Ruwinda Tangke et al., who wrote about the feasibility of the expansion of Central Luwu Regency, concluded that Central Luwu Regency as a DOB had met the requirements. Do not let the government only build opinions in the greater Luwu community that there is a conspiracy between the central government and the South Sulawesi provincial government. Because of the effect of the moratorium, it resulted in a demonstration movement from among the youth who were concerned about the continuation of the status of Central Luwu District, and it continues to this day. Also, in closing, hopefully, the case of Central Luwu Regency will not betray decentralization as a mandate of the law.

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