

Powers and Functions of the DPD RI: Performance Evaluation for the 2019–2024 Term

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Abstract: The Regional Representative Council is an upper house institution in the bicameral system, but its authority as a legislative institution is very limited and its existence is almost considered non-existent. This existential crisis has caused the Regional Representative Council to receive a lot of criticism as an institution that only spends the State budget because its functions and roles are considered unclear. This research aims to determine the performance of members of the Regional Representative Council of the Republic of Indonesia, Central Java Province amidst the limitations of their function and authority as an upper house institution in a bicameral system. In this research analysis, the researcher collected data using qualitative and quantitative methods where the researcher took data through a literature review in previous research and conducted direct interviews with members of the Regional Representative Council of the Republic of Indonesia, Central Java Province. This research contributes to introducing and understanding the performance of each committee of the Regional Representative Council of the Republic of Indonesia, Central Java Province amidst the limitations of its function as a legislative institution. This study has limitations, including a focus on a single region, meaning the findings cannot be directly generalized, and a reliance on internal interviews, which may introduce reporter bias. For future research, a multi-province comparative study is recommended, employing a mixed-methods approach with public surveys and independent data.

INTRODUCTION

Existence of the DPD RI as a High State Institution has a role to carry out its functions in the legislative body together with the DPR. The DPD and DPR are combined in a forum called the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR), as stated in Article 2 paragraph 1 of the 2002 amended Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, which states that the MPR consists of members of the DPR and DPD. The Regional Representative Council, as a legislative or parliamentary institution, has the role and function of drafting, creating, and discussing laws that will form the legal basis and policy decisions within the state government system. The addition of the DPD RI to the legislative body is a manifestation of the hope of each regional representative to improve the quality and quantity of policies regulated in applicable laws. This is in line with the decentralization system that applies the principle of regulating their respective government policies as a form of regional autonomy policy. This means that regions can determine the direction of policies tailored to the problems that exist in the region, which of course concern issues of customary law, traditions, and local culture (Nuradhawati, 2019). The Regional Representative Council (DPD RI) was formed with the hope of becoming one chamber in a bicameral system as a new format in political representative institutions.

Role of the DPD RI as a regional representative has thus far remained unclear, failing to fully demonstrate its adequate authority in parliament. The presence of the DPD RI seems to be half-heartedly accepted, its existence considered to be somewhere between real and non-existent due to its limited authority in parliament. The authority and functions of the DPD RI are limited to powers related to regional autonomy policies, regional expansion and formation or merger, the relationship between the central government and the regions, the discussion or balancing of the state budget and the management of natural resources and regional economic potential policies (Iskandar, 2020). However, the DPD does not have full authority over the enactment and approval of government regulations, unlike the DPR. This is in accordance with Article 22

paragraph 2 of the 1945 Constitution after the Amendment, which reads: "Government regulations must be approved by the People's Representative Council in the following session. If they are not approved, the government regulations must be revoked." Meanwhile, the DPD RI only acts as a supervisor and submits considerations to the DPR.

Process of forming laws or legislation, the DPD has absolutely no authority to decide or play a role in the decision-making process. This is despite the fact that there are supporting requirements to become a member of the DPR. This means that the legitimacy of DPD members is not matched by their authority as representatives of the people in the regions (Fandy Gultom, 2025).

Regional Representative Council (DPD) of the Republic of Indonesia, as a high state institution in the bicameral system, has a constitutional mandate to represent regional aspirations and interests in the national legislative process. However, limitations on its authority and legislative functions often cause an existential crisis, rendering its role almost invisible in the drafting of laws that directly impact the regions. Criticism of the DPD, which is considered to only spend the budget without making any real contribution, has grown stronger as the DPD's participation is limited to providing input rather than final approval of bills. In this context, this study seeks to evaluate the performance of DPD RI members from Central Java Province for the 2019–2024 period through a qualitative approach, combining literature review and in-depth interviews, to understand the extent to which each committee can optimize its legislative, budgetary, and supervisory functions in order to strengthen regional representation in the realm of national policy-making.

Various literature on the performance role of the Regional Representative Council (DPD RI), such as a 2017 study written by Elisabeth Kristiani Panjaitan, 2017 entitled "The Implementation of the Legislative Functions of the Regional Representative Council of the Republic of Indonesia for the 2009-2014 period" reveals that the authority of the DPD RI is limited to submitting bills to the DPR and participating in discussions on bills, but only at the first level or the level of general consideration of the various views of members and related institutions. Meanwhile, the authority of the DPR is broader and its existence is more visible, ranging from drafting laws, discussing laws if there are many considerations, to approving and deciding on valid policies.

Indonesia's constitutional structure, the DPD RI acts as a national legislative body that joins the DPR within the framework of the MPR (Article 2 paragraph 1 of the 1945 Constitution). The DPD RI is expected to strengthen the decentralization mechanism by representing regional interests in public policy-making. The bicameral approach itself is generally adopted to realize such functions: according to International IDEA, a bicameral parliament can represent sub-national governments and provide additional scrutiny of legislation. On this basis, the establishment of the DPD RI was originally intended as an effort to create a bicameral parliament in Indonesia, in which the DPD functions as a revising chamber that accommodates regional aspirations in the legislative process.

However, various studies show that these expectations have not been fully realized. The draft amendment to the Constitution after the Reformation did place the DPD in the legislative branch, but in realities our parliamentary structure is not fully bicameral, as the DPD does not have the authority to formulate laws like the DPR. Normative research findings indicate that the DPD has been ineffective and inefficient within the Indonesian constitutional mosaic, with an unequal position that seems to merely complement the DPR. In practice, the DPD's legislative authority is very limited; it can only propose and discuss bills at an early stage without final authority, while the DPR has full control over the drafting and ratification of laws. repo.jayabaya.ac.id. This situation has resulted in the DPD's effectiveness in fighting for regional aspirations remaining low. A recent study found that although the DPD "has contributed to opening up dialogue between the central and regional governments, its effectiveness in the legislative and oversight processes remains limited due to its constitutional limitations."

This issue is the reason why the authority of the DPD RI is very limited and not as broad as that of the DPR. This is why the DPD RI does not have full authority to propose bills for immediate discussion without first submitting them to the DPR, which is the institution that holds

full authority in the formation of laws. Given these circumstances, the author wishes to conduct research on the performance of DPD RI members in Central Java Province and their contribution to regional development.

This study uses Institutional Theory to explain the dynamics and position of the Regional Representative Council (DPD RI) in the Indonesian constitutional system. Institutional theory emphasizes that the behavior, role, and effectiveness of an institution are greatly influenced by the formal rules, norms, and authority structures that bind it. According to W. Richard Scott, institutions are not only shaped by formal organizational structures, but also by regulatory, normative, and cognitive pressures that limit or shape the institution's scope of action. This means that the strength or weakness of an institution is not solely determined by the individuals within it, but by the system of rules and structures that govern it.

In the context of the DPD RI, this theory is relevant to explain why this institution is often perceived as having a weak role. Constitutionally, the DPD has functions in the areas of legislation, budgeting, and oversight, especially those related to regional interests. However, these powers are limited because the DPD does not have full authority in the final decision-making process on laws and budgetary policies. These regulatory limitations constitute a form of institutional pressure that limits the DPD's capacity to influence the national political process.

According to the latest literature, the institutional role of the DPD RI as a representative of the regions is indeed very limited. For example, Mustari and Ruslie (2025) note that although DPD members are directly elected, their legislative authority is merely advisory; Article 22D of the 1945 Constitution uses the word "may" to propose and provide opinions on bills (Muhamad Iqbal Ansori Firdaus, 2025). Empirical research in West Sumatra also confirms that the DPD has no power to enact laws; its primary role is merely to propose bills reflecting regional aspirations (Daswar Utama, 2023). Similar findings were presented by Nurlia et al. (2024), who noted that Indonesia's bicameral system creates a dominance of the DPR that severely limits the DPD's legislative role (Elly Nurlia, 2024). Overall, these studies indicate that, to date, the DPD has functioned merely as a component of the checks and balances system, resulting in its contribution to national policymaking remaining weak. Furthermore, several other studies also confirm that although DPD members are directly elected by the public in each province, this democratic legitimacy is not accompanied by equivalent legislative authority in the lawmaking process.

Namun demikian, sebagian besar penelitian sebelumnya cenderung berfokus pada analisis normatif terhadap ketentuan konstitusi dan desain kelembagaan DPD, sehingga masih terbatas dalam menjelaskan bagaimana kewenangan tersebut dijalankan dalam praktik politik sehari-hari. Berbeda dengan penelitian-penelitian tersebut, penelitian ini mencoba memberikan perspektif yang lebih komprehensif dengan menganalisis kinerja anggota DPD RI secara empiris pada periode 2019–2024 melalui pendekatan kualitatif yang menggabungkan studi literatur dan wawancara mendalam dengan para aktor terkait. Dengan pendekatan ini, penelitian tidak hanya menyoroti keterbatasan kewenangan DPD secara normatif, tetapi juga mengeksplorasi bagaimana anggota DPD berupaya menjalankan fungsi legislasi, pengawasan, dan penganggaran dalam kondisi kewenangan yang terbatas. Oleh karena itu, kebaruan penelitian ini terletak pada upayanya untuk menghubungkan analisis kelembagaan dengan praktik kinerja representasi daerah, sehingga dapat memberikan gambaran yang lebih jelas mengenai efektivitas peran DPD dalam memperjuangkan kepentingan daerah dalam proses politik nasional.

RESEARCH METHODS

Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif karena ingin menggali konteks sosial-politik yang memengaruhi kinerja anggota DPD RI Jawa Tengah. Data primer dikumpulkan melalui wawancara mendalam dengan informan kunci: yaitu staf khusus internal DPD RI serta anggota DPD RI Jateng dari Komite I, II, dan IV (hasil magang penulis). Pemilihan informan ini tidak sembarangan, mereka terlibat langsung dalam tugas legislasi dan penyampaian aspirasi daerah. Dengan berbicara kepada stafsus dan anggota komite tersebut, peneliti memperoleh gambaran konkret tentang bagaimana DPD Jateng bekerja di tengah keterbatasan fungsi yang

dimilikinya. Wawancara ini juga menangkap aspek-aspek kinerja DPD (misalnya koordinasi antar-komite, strategi advokasi) yang sulit tergali lewat data sekunder saja.

A qualitative approach is considered appropriate because it aligns with the institutional theory framework used by the researcher. Theories of institutional pressure (veto players, checks and balances), for example, emphasize the importance of understanding the institutional context and internal dynamics of an institution before assessing its effectiveness. Using qualitative methods, the researcher can explore how members of the Central Java DPD address the limitations of their formal authority (such as limited bill-initiation rights) and how they strive to perform their legislative, budgeting, and oversight functions to the fullest extent possible. Analysis of interview transcripts and policy documents is then conducted thematically, linking field findings to existing institutional theory. This approach is expected to yield a comprehensive understanding of the Central Java DPD's performance within the context of the national political system, in line with the research objectives.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

DPD RI Institution in the Constitutional Structure



Figure 1. Structure of Constitutional Institutions

The existence of the DPD RI indirectly changed the structure of parliament into a bicameral system. A bicameral system is a two-chamber system, with each chamber filled by a parliamentary institution. The first chamber is filled by the DPR RI as representatives of the people, while the second chamber is filled by the DPD RI as representatives of the regions or territories. The existence of the DPD RI gives rise to the principle of checks and balances as a counterweight to the power between the two institutions to avoid various problems related to the abuse of authority and power. However, the principle of checks and balances of the DPD is hampered by its limited authority. As a result, the power of the DPR is very dominant or powerful, creating a significant imbalance between the two institutions. The functions and authority of the DPD are regulated in Article 22D of the 1945 Constitution:

1. The Regional Representative Council may submit to the People's Representative Council draft laws relating to regional autonomy, central and regional relations, the formation and expansion and merger of regions, the management of natural resources and other economic resources, and matters relating to the financial balance between the central and regional governments.
2. The Regional Representative Council shall participate in the discussion of draft laws relating to regional autonomy; relations between the central and regional governments; the formation, expansion, and merger of regions; the management of natural resources and other economic resources, as well as the financial balance between the central and regional governments; and provide considerations to the House of Representatives on draft laws on state revenue and expenditure and draft laws relating to taxation, education, and religion.
3. The Regional Representative Council may supervise the implementation of laws concerning: regional autonomy, the formation, expansion, and merger of regions, central and regional

relations, the management of natural resources and other economic resources, the implementation of the state revenue and expenditure budget, taxation, education, and religion, and submit the results of its supervision to the People's Representative Council as material for consideration for follow-up.

4. Members of the Regional Representative Council may be dismissed from their positions, the conditions and procedures for which are regulated by law.

Indonesian constitutional structure, in Article 22 C paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4 and Article 22 D paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, regulates the existence of the DPD with the aim of, among other things, strengthening regional ties within the framework of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia and to strengthen national unity throughout the archipelago, to increase the aggregation and accommodation of regional aspirations and interests in the formulation of national policies relating to the state and the regions, and to encourage the acceleration of democracy, development, and regional progress. In addition, the DPD RI is expected to bridge the interests of the central and regional governments in national policy and support the interests of the community and regions in national policy (Yenny AS, 2014).

Concept of decentralization, which refers to a system of regional autonomy, is actually very suitable when each region is given its own power to determine the direction of its respective policies. The DPD RI institution acts as a counterbalance or check and balance and oversees policies from the central to regional levels. The different cultures of each region require representation from each region. If the DPD RI is abolished or removed from the legislative body, it will result in arbitrariness on the part of regional governments and regional representative councils (DPRD) in determining policy directions. Central policy decisions must involve the DPD RI as the representative of the regions.

Based on the constitution and the decision of the Constitutional Court, the DPD must be involved in the discussion of bills related to regional interests. If this is overlooked, the legislative process can be considered formally flawed. The presence of the DPD is actually intended to bridge regional aspirations and voice the specific interests of the regions, so that without the participation of the DPD, the voices and needs of the regions are not absorbed into national policy. As a result, the resulting policies tend to be less adaptive to the diverse conditions of the regions. For example, if the DPD is not involved in the drafting of Law No. 17 of 2023 on Health, specific regional issues such as the shortage of medical personnel and health facilities in remote areas, or traditional local approaches to health care may not be taken into account. This situation risks suboptimal implementation of health services in the regions because the enacted legal norms do not reflect the diversity of regional needs.

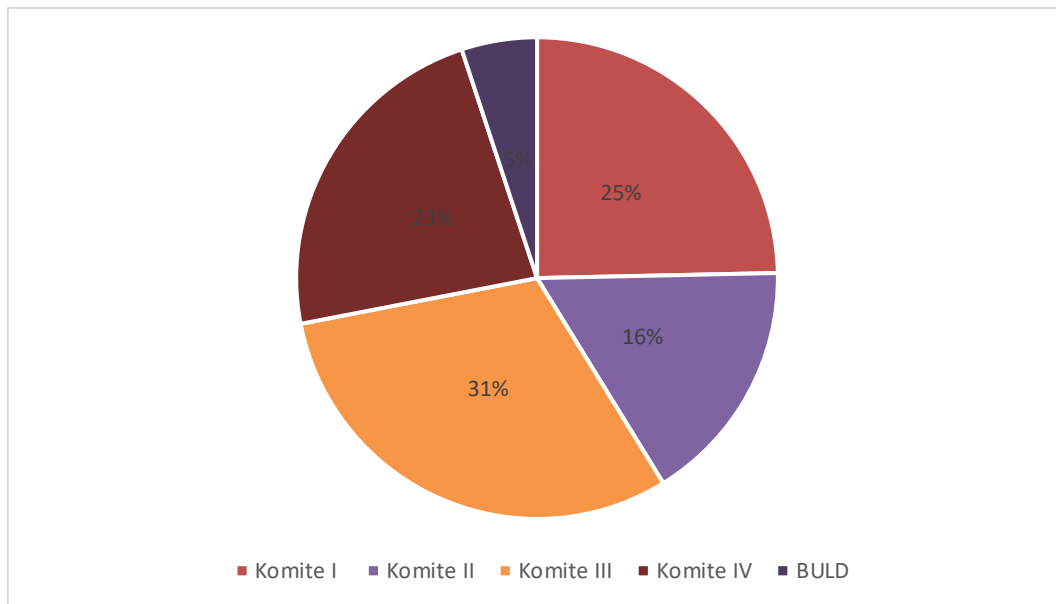
Based on Article 22D paragraph (2) of the 1945 Constitution, the DPD has the authority to "participate in discussing draft laws related to regional autonomy" (JDIH, 2023). If the DPD is not involved, regional aspirations and interests are not represented and the legislative process is considered unconstitutional, thus giving rise to formal defects. For example, in the formal review of Health Law Number 17 of 2023, it was stated that because the DPD was not involved, the law "must be considered invalid" because it did not comply with the law formation procedures according to the 1945 Constitution (Pujianti, 2024). Role of the DPD RI is evidenced by several sessions that discuss all issues arising from the absorption of regional aspirations. The session period will be formed following the DPR RI after the recess period as the direction of discussion in the session. The session and recess periods were held four times a year from 2004 to 2013 and five times a year from 2014 to the present, with a predetermined schedule.

Table 1. Schedule of the DPD RI Session Period 2023-2024

FIRST SESSION		SECOND SESSION		THIRD SESSION	
Session Periode	Activities in the Region	Session Period	Activities in the Region	Session Period	Activities in the Region
16 Agust 2023 s.d. 29 September 2023	30 Sept 2023 s.d. 29 Oktober 2023	30 Oktober 2023 s.d. 1 Desember 2023	Sabtu, 2 Des 2023 s.d. Senin, 1 Januari 2024	2 Januari 2024 s.d. 2 Februari 2024	3 Februari 2024 s.d. 3 Maret 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 53 calendar days • 38 working days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 calendar days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 39 calendar days • 33 working days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 calendar days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 44 calendar days • 31 working days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23 calendar days
FOURTH SESSION			FIFTH SESSION		
Masa Persidangan	Kegiatan Daerah di	Masa Persidangan	Kegiatan Daerah di	Masa Persidangan	
4 Maret 2024 s.d. 5 April 2024	6 April 2024 s.d Mei 2024	6 Mei 2024 s.d 12 Juli 2024	13 Juli 2024 s.d. 11 Agust 2024	12 Agustus 2024 s.d 30 September 2024	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 calendar days • 23 working days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 calendar days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 67 hari kalender • 47 working days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 33 calendar days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 47 calendar days • 47 working days 	

The proceedings conducted by the DPD RI in order to compile a List of Issues (DIM) on Draft Legislation and Supervision of the implementation of policies in the regions. The discussion covers the authority of each committee of the DPD RI, which is divided into four committees. Each committee discusses policies that will be formed or changes to previous policies when it is impossible for regulations to be established as regional policies. During the 2023-2024 recess, the DPD RI received 946 aspirations. Of the total, 295 came from the priority agenda of each committee. Meanwhile, 651 aspirations came from the agenda covering the committee's duties.

Aspirations from the priority agenda covering the committee and the Regional Legislation Agency (BULD) totaled 295 aspirations, which came from the merger of each committee during the recess period. Committee I had 73 aspirations, Committee II had only 49 aspirations, Committee III had 91 aspirations, and Committee IV had 68 aspirations. BULD only received 15 aspirations. BULD is the Regional Legislation Agency, which aims to promote regional legal products as a legal framework liaison between the central and regional governments. (puskada, 2024)



Graph 1. Percentage of Aspirations for the Committee and BULD Priority Agenda

Graph shows that the absorption of aspirations during the recess period does not only collect suggestions from the community regarding regional policies. However, after aspirations are obtained during the recess period, the DPD RI will follow up on the aspirations that have been absorbed. First, aspirations must be conveyed in a plenary session. Second, aspirations that have been absorbed must be recommended to the relevant institutions or parties regarding the aspirations. Third, the absorption must be completed within the authority of the provincial internal level.

Every aspiration that has been absorbed in this case cannot be left unattended without taking any action. For example, DPD Regulation Number 2 of 2019 concerning Rules of Procedure, Article 180, stipulates that the DPD must consider these aspirations when proposing a bill. According to UUMD3 Article 300 Paragraph (3), the DPD rules of procedure must regulate the mechanism for community involvement, both directly and indirectly. Personal, group, or local government submissions can participate During this recess period, it is possible to disseminate these aspirations directly through hearings during the recess period and through electronic media, all of which must be accepted and monitored by members of the DPD RI. The DPD RI and local governments do not appear to be connected in the constitutional system. There are no provisions in Law Number 23 of 2014 concerning Regional Government that regulate the duties and obligations of the DPD in cooperating with local governments. According to Article 285 of the law, the DPD is entitled to central government transfer funds to local governments. This decision must be given by the DPD to local governments. (Optimistic Putra Kasih Gulo, 2023)

Institutional Analysis and Representational Functions of the DPD RI in Central Java Province

According to the Indonesian constitution, the DPD RI has key functions in legislation, oversight, and budgeting, which are carried out within the framework of regional representation. Thus, the DPD is expected to be a channel for regional aspirations at the national level. In-depth interviews with members of Committees I, II, and IV of the DPD RI Central Java were the main source of data for evaluating the extent to which these functions are actualized amid the limitations of this institution's formal authority.

Constitutionally, the DPD RI is positioned as a separate legislative body in Indonesia's bicameral system. Article 22D of the 1945 Constitution affirms the three constitutional functions of the DPD RI: legislation, oversight, and budgeting. Specifically, the DPD has the authority to propose and participate in the discussion of draft laws related to autonomy and the formation of

regions as well as the management of local resources. The DPD also supervises the implementation of laws in the areas of regional autonomy, taxation, education, and others. With this framework of functions, ideally the DPD would serve as an instrument of checks and balances that bridges regional aspirations in the national legislative process. However, in practice, the implementation of the DPD's institutional role is often limited by its narrow authority; every DPD initiative must be facilitated through the DPR or the central government. Therefore, the DPD's representative function is largely realized through intensive coordination with the DPR and local stakeholders to voice the interests of Central Java at the national level.

Interview Results & Performance of the DPD RI for Central Java Province for the 2019-2024 Period

Questions	Dr. Abdul Kholik, M.Si (Komite I)	Denty Eka Widi Pratiwi, S.E., M.H. (Komite II)	Casytha Arriwi Kathmandu, S.E., M.Fin (Komite IV)
Amidst the limitations of the DPD RI's institutional functions, what has each committee done in the last period?	First, the perspective of limited roles is actually just a perception that is not always true because these roles depend on what we do in the context of representation. I am one of those who has always believed in the authority of the DPD. The DPD can do a lot. In the past five years, I have continued to perform various functions, ranging from the legislative function in the field of law formation, I was involved in the law on job creation and the law in Central Java. In both cases, we were able to convey our views, which were then included as proposals from the DPD in the discussion of the law. So, even in the current situation, we can still play a role in the discussion of laws in the Indonesian House of Representatives (Dr. Abdul Khalik, 2024)	Establishing political communication with the House of Representatives and relevant parties regarding the DPD RI's proposal. (Denty Eka Widi Pratiwi, 2024)	In fact, despite the limited scope of the DPD RI, Committee IV actively carries out various oversight initiatives and policy collaborations in the economic field. We regularly hold working meetings (Raker) with relevant institutions to gather input and oversee the implementation of pro-people economic policies. For example, in the last Plenary Session, Committee IV members reported their focus on overseeing the implementation of the State Finance Law (APBN) and the OJK Law. We also promoted financial stimulus packages during the pandemic. In the May 2020 working meeting, Committee IV supported the OJK's credit relaxation program, which prioritized the MSME sector. (Casytha Arriwi Kathmandu, Amidst the limitations of the DPD RI's institutional functions, what has Committee IV done in the last period?, 2024)
What is each committee currently doing and planning to do to enhance its role and function?	Committee I currently continues to emphasize concrete initiatives. For example, in the field of regional government, we are actively overseeing the election process to ensure it is conducted honestly and fairly. We have asked Bawaslu to ensure that the elections in Central Java are clean. Going forward, Committee I is also pushing forward a number of strategic legislative programs. One of them is the Urban Bill	Committee II always strives to strengthen the DPD RI institutionally so that it has a role equal to that of the DPR. We understand that the parliamentary system in Indonesia is different from that in the United States, where the DPD RI is like the Senate and the DPR RI is like the House of Representatives. To enhance the role and function of the DPD RI, Committee II performs legislative functions,	Going forward, Committee IV will continue to strengthen its oversight and advocacy functions in order to expand its benefits. We are focusing our attention on current economic issues, such as the digitization of MSMEs and cooperatives, as well as policy synergies in the political momentum. For example, during a working visit to East Java in

	<p>initiated by Committee I, which is now nearing completion and undergoing substantive validation, involving input from various parties in major cities such as Surabaya and Denpasar. In addition, even though the division of tasks in the DPD is based on committees, I emphasize that in absorbing aspirations in the regions, Committee I is not limited to the committee alone. We are open to handling any issues that are relevant to the interests of our constituents. This means that if there are urgent issues in the regions, members of Committee I will be ready to help even if it is not our main area of work. (Dr. Abdul Kholik, 2024)</p>	<p>namely drafting laws by submitting specific bills to the DPR, participating in discussions on specific bills, and providing considerations on specific bills. The draft law that has been discussed by Committee II, the DPR, and the government (tripartite) is the draft law on amendments to Law No. 5 of 1990 on the Conservation of Living Natural Resources and Their Ecosystems, which was previously drafted by the DPD. Secondly, the supervisory function, where Committee II supervises the implementation of Law No. 17 of 2008 on Shipping, supervises the implementation of Law No. 6 of 2003 on the enactment of Government Regulation in Lieu of Law No. 2 of 2022 on job creation into law (Denty Eka Widi Pratiwi, What is each committee currently doing and planning to do to enhance its role and function?, 2024)</p>	<p>November 2024, the Chair of Committee IV emphasized the importance of government support for small-scale cooperatives and MSMEs, which are the backbone of the people's economy. He also proposed that the 2024 Simultaneous Regional Elections be directed to have a positive impact on strengthening the local economy, for example through increased trading activity during the regional head elections. We are preparing a similar initiative: utilizing the momentum of the elections to stimulate the village economy and MSMEs. (Casytha Arriwi Kathmandu, 2024)</p>
<p>What does each committee do when they return to their districts during recess?</p>	<p>During the recess period, Committee I held various meetings and direct dialogues in the regions. I took advantage of the recess to return to my electoral district and meet with the people directly. We held hearings, public discussions, and field visits in various subdistricts. There, we engaged in dialogue with residents, community leaders, village officials, and local government officials. All suggestions and complaints collected during the recess were systematically recorded by DPD staff. These aspirations were then compiled and analyzed to formulate policy recommendations or concrete input for the central government. In this way, Committee I ensured that the voices of the people in villages and cities were heard in the legislative and oversight processes at the central level. (Dr. Abdul Kholik, 2024)</p>	<p>During recess, we, the Members of Parliament, work in our respective constituencies by meeting with constituents in our electoral districts. The duties of Members of Parliament in their electoral districts, which include gathering and accommodating the aspirations of constituents and performing oversight functions, are known as working visits. These working visits can be conducted by Members of Parliament individually or in groups. (Denty Eka Widi Pratiwi, 2024)</p>	<p>During recess, Committee IV took advantage of the time to visit their constituencies and listen to the aspirations of the people. We usually held open dialogue meetings, inviting representatives of MSMEs, cooperatives, regional banks, and village/subdistrict officials. For example, during the March 2021 recess, I held an "MSME Meeting" event at the Sragen Regional Secretariat Hall. There, our team listened to the complaints and needs of business actors—ranging from access to capital to marketing their products. We also observed untapped local potential; during the meeting, we even discovered wig craftsmen in Sragen and then encouraged the Sragen Regional Government to pay attention and provide facilities so that this unique industry could develop, including for the export market. The results of these discussions and feedback were meticulously documented by my team.</p>

			We will bring these insights back to the National Parliament as concrete input for formulating recommendations and overseeing central government policies. (Kathmandu, 2024)
How did the people of Central Java respond when you visited the region?	In general, the people of Central Java have responded positively every time I and members of Committee I have visited the field. They are enthusiastic about expressing their aspirations and supporting our initiatives. For example, a community leader in Wonosobo, KH. Khairullah Al-Mujtaba (Gus Itab), expressed his support for our idea to reactivate the Purwokerto–Wonosobo railway. Gus Itab said that the idea has great potential for the local economy and responded positively to the various regional development proposals that we brought. I greatly appreciate this kind of support. In my opinion, the positive response from the ulama, women's religious study groups, farmers, and other elements of society shows that their aspirations are being heard and appreciated. It is the enthusiasm and trust of the people that drives Committee I to continue fighting for regional issues. (Dr. Abdul Kholik, 2024)	The community is enthusiastic and hopes that the aspirations expressed will be followed up. Not many people are familiar with the DPD RI, but we always strive to raise awareness about the DPD RI. (Denty Eka Widl Pratiwi, 2024)	The response from the people of Central Java has generally been very positive. Many residents, including MSME actors and local figures, are pleased that their representatives in the DPD are willing to come directly to them to listen to their problems. As stated by the Chair of the Sragen PDI-P DPC, my visit was described as a rare moment because members of the DPD RI came directly to listen to the complaints of MSMEs in the region. They feel that the problems in the region can reach the ears of the central government. Even local officials expressed their appreciation. For example, the Regent of Magelang expressed his gratitude for the visit of Committee IV, which focused on improving the capabilities of MSMEs in his region. In general, residents were enthusiastic about providing input because they knew that the results of their aspirations would be fought for at the central level. From such dialogues, I saw an increase in public trust. They are increasingly convinced that the aspirations of the people will be taken into account by Committee IV and the DPD RI. (Casytha Arriwi Kathmandu, 2024)
How do you gather feedback?	The process of gathering aspirations in Committee I is carried out in a structured manner. Each member of the DPD, including myself, collects community aspirations during recess and session periods. According to the Deputy Chair of the DPD RI, Mahyudin, “every aspiration that is absorbed and received by members of the DPD RI, both during recess and session periods, is the latest	Through face-to-face meetings, dissemination of information, mass media, and other activities that accommodate community aspirations, the community can convey their aspirations to the DPD representative office in the region. Every aspiration received in the region is reviewed by Committee 2 and used as material for recommendations to relevant institutions. Committee 2	We conduct the process of gathering input from Committee IV in a systematic manner. First, we hold open discussions and hearings with various parties in the region. One of the objectives of these working visits is to obtain information and input directly from stakeholders in the region. Our team records every important

	<p>empirical data that must be followed up through the appropriate means." This means that we report and discuss all of these aspirations in Committee I. The Committee team then processes the aspiration data into policy recommendations, considerations, or even DPD-initiated draft laws if necessary. After that, we submit the recommendations or results of our discussions to the DPR RI and the Central Government. With this mechanism, the voices of the people of Central Java that are gathered in the field can become concrete input in the formulation of national policies. (Dr. Abdul Kholik, 2024)</p>	<p>conducts institutional working visits or recesses. (Denty Eka Widi Pratiwi, 2024)</p>	<p>issue or suggestion that is conveyed. For example, in Magelang in 2021, while overseeing the PEN program, in addition to numerical data, we also collected input from farmers, business actors, and cooperatives about the obstacles they faced. All of these aspirations are then brought to Jakarta and discussed internally by Committee IV. In accordance with the DPD RI mechanism, every aspiration gathered during the recess period is used as the latest empirical data that must be followed up by the relevant committees. These aspirations will be formulated into policy recommendations or considerations in a plenary session, then forwarded to the DPR and the President. So, with this organized process, every complaint and hope of the people of Central Java can reach the central decision makers. (Casytha Arriwi Kathmandu, 2024)</p>
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Interviews with members of Committee I confirmed the committee's focus on issues of regional autonomy and regional development. Senators from Committee I explained that although the DPD's formal powers are limited, it actively performs its legislative function by proposing and influencing the drafting of laws related to Central Java (for example, providing input in the discussion of the Job Creation Law and special provincial bills) so that the DPD's proposals can be accommodated in the DPR's discussions. In its budgeting function, Committee I encourages the more effective use of regional transfer funds (such as DAU, DAK, village funds) for the development of Central Java. In addition, it emphasizes the need for provincial expansion: Central Java is proposed to be divided into several new provinces to promote equitable development and reduce poverty. These strategic efforts reflect Committee I's orientation towards strengthening autonomy and serving regional interests through structural and fiscal policies.

Members of Committee II stated that this committee focuses on legislative and oversight functions related to central government policies. They explained the role of Committee II in drafting bills, including participating in discussions on bills related to Biological Resources and New and Renewable Energy with the DPR and the government. In terms of oversight, Committee II actively monitors the implementation of laws (e.g., the Shipping Law, amendments to the Job Creation Law) as well as strategic local issues such as food price increases, illegal mining, and food self-sufficiency in the regions. He emphasized the importance of institutional synergy between the DPD and the DPR RI, the government, and other stakeholders so that the aspirations of Central Java constituents are channeled into the policy process. The practice of recess and working visits by Committee II members in the regions was also described as the main means of accommodating public complaints and monitoring the implementation of local public policies.

Committee IV interview described the role of the DPD in empowering the local economy, particularly MSMEs and banking. Committee IV members reported on MSME assistance activities

in Central Java through cooperation with financial institutions (Bank Indonesia, OJK, local banks). For example, the coffee SME development project in Wonogiri successfully penetrated the international market through the guidance of Committee IV. Committee IV also promotes fiscal policies that facilitate people's business capital, such as the People's Business Credit (KUR) program with low interest rates (around 3%) and entrepreneurship training. It emphasizes coordination with local governments to improve access to financing and marketing networks. These steps demonstrate the economic representation function of the DPD RI Central Java, namely translating aspirations for improved community welfare into local economic policy recommendations.

Results of the interviews above show that members of the DPD RI for Central Java Province are making every effort to carry out their constitutional functions despite facing formal limitations. Each committee emphasizes different priorities according to its domain of responsibility: Committee I focuses on issues of autonomy and regional expansion initiatives; Committee II focuses on the national legislative process and oversight of laws; Committee IV focuses on regional economic development and support for MSMEs. Overall, these results indicate that Central Java representatives actively coordinate across institutions (with the DPR, central government, and financial authorities) to channel the aspirations of their constituents through policy formation. The main implication of these findings is that although the effectiveness of the DPD often depends on cooperation with the DPR and the executive, the DPD remains an important channel for regional interests in national politics. To optimize this representative function, institutional strengthening (e.g., increasing the formal authority of the DPD) and more intensive coordination are needed so that regional voices have a greater impact on the policy-making process.

From several tasks carried out by the DPD RI in the last year of 2024, the following are some of the performances, decisions, and results of supervision carried out by the DPD RI, First, Decision of the Regional Representative Council of the Republic of Indonesia Number 40 / DPD RI / IV / 2023-2024 concerning the Views and Opinions of the Regional Representative Council of the Republic of Indonesia on the Draft Law on the 2025-2045 National Long-Term Development Plan Decision of the Regional Representative Council of the Republic of Indonesia Number 38/DPDRI/IV/2023-2024 concerning the Results of the Regional Representative Council of the Republic of Indonesia's Supervision of the Implementation of Law Number 32 of 2009 on Environmental Protection and Management as Amended by Law Number 6 of 2023 on the Stipulation of Government Regulation in Lieu of Law Number 2 of 2022 on Job Creation into Law in the Context of the Implementation of the 2024 Simultaneous Elections

Second, Decision of the Regional Representative Council of the Republic of Indonesia Number 36 / DPD RI / IV / 2023-2024 concerning the Results of the Regional Representative Council of the Republic of Indonesia's Supervision of the Implementation of Law Number 7 of 2017 concerning General Elections Related to the Stages of Implementation of the 2024 Simultaneous General Elections. Third, decision of the Regional Representative Council of the Republic of Indonesia Number 41 / DPD RI / IV / 2023-2024 concerning the Results of the Regional Representative Council of the Republic of Indonesia's Supervision of the Implementation of Law Number 20 of 2008 concerning Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. Fourth, decision of the Regional Representative Council of the Republic of Indonesia Number 32 / DPD RI / III / 2023-2024 concerning the Considerations of the Regional Representative Council of the Republic of Indonesia on the Summary of the Results of the Audit of the Supreme Audit Agency of the Republic of Indonesia for the First Semester of 2023 (JDIH, 2023)

In carrying out its overall functions, Article 22D and Article 23 paragraph (2) of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia stipulate the constitutional responsibility of the DPD RI to carry out three functions: legislation, budgeting, and oversight. In addition to fulfilling its constitutional obligations, the DPD RI has three functions. These functions reinforce the principles and spirit of kinship that unite all people in Indonesia. According to Parlindungan Purba, the role of the DPD RI is very important; the law governing the existence of the DPD RI is stipulated in Article 22D, which states that members of the DPD RI should focus more on oversight, conducting oversight of infrastructure development in the regions. The DPD RI serves

as a channel for the aspirations of the people in the regions and provides input to the government on what needs to be built in the regions. Although present as representatives of each region, in reality the DPD RI does not have special authority to carry out legislative functions in the regions. However, the role performed by the DPD RI must be to act as a representative of the regions. Therefore, communication, creativity, and agility are essential.

CONCLUSION

Conclusion, the DPD RI of Central Java Province for the 2019–2024 period has shown active performance in carrying out its constitutional functions of legislation, oversight, and representation, despite being limited by its formal functions and authority, which are only advisory in nature. In practice, DPD members utilize political work, inter-agency coordination, and oversight initiatives to promote regional aspirations into policy recommendations; each committee showed a different focus (Committee I on autonomy/expansion, Committee II on the legislative and oversight processes, Committee IV on local economic empowerment/MSMEs), so that the tangible achievements were mainly in the form of technical recommendations, advocacy for the MSME sector, and increased absorption of aspirations through a structured recess mechanism, but the conversion of these recommendations into national policies or legal products was still limited. The results of the study confirm that the effectiveness of the DPD is highly dependent on the quality of coordination with the DPR and the government (central/regional) as well as the internal capacity of members and staff in formulating technical and implementable recommendations. Regional Representative Council needs to be strengthened in terms of regulations and working methods so that recommendations from the regions can be followed up more quickly. The first way to do this is to prepare clear legal studies and proposals so that the authority of the DPD is clarified. Second, establish joint working procedures between the DPD, DPR, and central/regional governments so that there are concrete steps to follow up on recess recommendations. Third, reorganize the way aspirations are recorded (e.g., DIM format and electronic database) so that data from the community can be processed quickly. Fourth, improve the skills of members and staff through training in policy analysis, technical recommendation drafting, and monitoring, and be more active in publicizing work results and engaging the community in dialogue so that recommendations gain public support.

This study has several limitations. First, the study was conducted only in Central Java Province, so the results may not necessarily apply to other provinces. Second, the primary data came mainly from internal special staff and committee members (Committees I, II, and IV) during their internships at the DPD RI, resulting in a lack of external perspectives and a risk of reporter bias. Third, performance has not been measured using clear quantitative indicators, and there is no systematic tracking to determine whether recommendations actually become policy. Fourth, the study design is cross-sectional, so changes over time are not visible. Recommendations for further research, expand the scope to include several provinces to ensure the findings are more broadly applicable; include external informants (central legislature, local government, and the public), including interviews with the House of Representatives and local stakeholders; develop a policy-tracking system to track each recommendation through to its final status, and conduct a longitudinal study or case study (process-tracing) to understand why some recommendations succeed while others do not.

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