

## Mapping Barriers to the Implementation of Public Policy Oversight Functions by the DPRD in Dumai City

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### Keyword:

Policy making;  
Regional policy;  
Policy oversight;  
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DPRD.

**Abstract:** This study aims to identify the main obstacles faced by the Dumai City Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD) in its supervisory function over public policy-making at the regional level. The research method used was secondary data analysis and a survey of members of the Dumai City DPRD. The findings show that the DPRD faces several monitoring obstacles, including dependence on local government, an imbalance of political power, limited resources, limited access to information, and a need for more awareness and skills in carrying out supervision. These findings imply the need for strategic action to minimize dependence on local governments, strengthen legislative control, more adequate resource allocation, and increase information disclosure and training for DPRD members. By overcoming these obstacles, the Dumai City DPRD can carry out its oversight role more effectively and contribute to good governance at the regional level.

### Kata Kunci:

Pembuatan kebijakan;  
Kebijakan daerah;  
Pengawasan  
kebijakan;  
Kebijakan publik;  
DPRD.

**Abstrak:** Studi ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi hambatan-hambatan utama yang dihadapi oleh Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat Daerah (DPRD) Kota Dumai dalam menjalankan fungsi pengawasan terhadap pembuatan kebijakan publik di tingkat daerah. Metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah analisis data sekunder dan survei terhadap anggota DPRD Kota Dumai. Hasil temuan menunjukkan bahwa DPRD menghadapi sejumlah hambatan dalam pengawasan, termasuk tingkat ketergantungan pada pemerintah daerah, ketidakseimbangan kekuatan politik, keterbatasan sumber daya, keterbatasan akses informasi, dan kurangnya kesadaran serta keterampilan dalam melakukan pengawasan. Implikasi dari temuan ini adalah perlunya tindakan strategis untuk meminimalkan ketergantungan pada pemerintah daerah, memperkuat kendali legislatif, alokasi sumber daya yang lebih memadai, peningkatan keterbukaan informasi, dan pelatihan bagi anggota DPRD. Dengan mengatasi hambatan-hambatan ini, DPRD Kota Dumai dapat menjalankan peran pengawasan mereka dengan lebih efektif dan berkontribusi pada tata kelola pemerintahan yang baik di tingkat daerah.

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## INTRODUCTION

Public policymaking is an essential process in government. Public policy embraces various aspects of people's lives, from health, education, and economics to the environment. This process involves selecting and formulating policies that affect millions of people to create positive impacts and improvements in society (Delreux & Keukeleire, 2017; Fenwick et al., 2017). Thus, public policymaking has urgency in overcoming complex social, economic, and political problems, as well as improving the quality of life of society as a whole (Field, 2019; Lehtonen, 2022; Wang et al., 2021). The importance of making public policies is also reflected in the main functions of

government, namely protecting the interests of society, maintaining social order, and promoting justice. Therefore, this process is the main foundation for carrying out the government's duties and responsibilities toward its citizens (Colfer, 2020; de Magalhães Santos, 2019; Putra et al., 2020; Utami et al., 2022).

Making public policy is not just an administrative task. However, it is also an essential instrument in achieving the government's vision and mission and creating a more just, sustainable, and developing society (Matheson, 2000; Mintrom & O'Connor, 2020; Stone & Ladi, 2015). Thus, a deep understanding of the urgency and importance of public policymaking is very relevant in the context of development and effective governance. The main challenge in making public policy is managing the diverse interests and different views of various stakeholders and ensuring that the resulting policies are effective and sustainable in the long term. Apart from that, rapid social, economic, and environmental changes are significant challenges that must be overcome in public policymaking (Field, 2019; Joy & Shields, 2018; Siddiki et al., 2015).

Oversight of policymaking is critical in maintaining accountability and transparency in the government decision-making process. This ensures that the resulting policies have been prepared, considering the interests of society at large and following the law and ethical principles (Danhassan et al., 2023; Guridi et al., 2020; Höchtl et al., 2016). With adequate supervision, society can ensure that personal interests or specific groups do not drive policies but aim to achieve general welfare (Baharuddin, Qodir, et al., 2022; Baharuddin, Sairin, et al., 2022). Oversight can also help identify and address potential problems or discrepancies in policies before they become more significant problems, thereby improving the quality and effectiveness of public policies produced by the government. Thus, oversight of policymaking is an essential mechanism in maintaining a government system that functions well and serves the interests of citizens (Heilmann, 2005; Rukanova et al., 2021).

The House of Representatives (DPR) monitors policy-making (Imran et al., 2020; Solechan, 2020). As a legislative institution that represents the voice of the people, the DPR has the authority to examine, assess, and monitor every step in the government's policy-making process. This includes reviewing and discussing draft policies, investigating policy implementation, and holding question-and-answer sessions and discussions to obtain clarification from relevant government officials (Anggono & Firdaus, 2021; Indriani, 2022). The DPR also has the right to approve or reject specific policies so that they can correct or even stop policies deemed not to be in the interests of society. Thus, the DPR is one of the primary guardians in maintaining the quality, integrity, and compliance of public policies with the principles of democracy and public service (Annas et al., 2019; Asrinaldi et al., 2022; Khair Wasahua, 2020; Syaifuddin & Toni, 2023).

The performance of the Dumai City Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD) in carrying out its oversight function in making public policy is essential in assessing the quality and effectiveness of this city government. As a people's representative institution at the regional level, the DPRD has the primary responsibility to ensure that the policies produced by the city government follow the interests of the community and are implemented transparently, accountably, and following democratic principles (Harmono et al., 2020; Syaripudin et al., 2021). Evaluation of the performance of the Dumai City DPRD's performance will provide insight into how much this institution can play an influential supervisory role in the public policy-making process, which will influence the quality of services and people's lives in the city.

This research contributes significantly by combining an in-depth understanding of the urgency and importance of public policy-making, its challenges, and the critical role of oversight by legislative institutions such as the Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD). In addition, this research notes the relevance of these concepts in the context of development and

effective governance. In addition, by focusing on the performance of the Dumai City DPRD, this research provides a more concrete understanding of how regional representative institutions play a role in monitoring public policy-making at the local level, which can be a helpful case study for other regions in improving governance. Transparent and responsive to community interests. Thus, this research has a potential impact on developing an understanding of the dynamics and critical roles in the public policy-making process at the regional level.

This research has two main questions. First, what is the role of the DPRD in overseeing public policy-making in Dumai City? The purpose of this question is to evaluate the role of the DPRD in overseeing the public policy-making process and the extent to which its implementation ensures that the policy is in line with the interests and aspirations of the people of Dumai. Second, what is the main obstacle the DPRD faces in carrying out its supervisory function over public policy-making in Dumai City? This question aims to identify the main obstacles that hinder the DPRD in carrying out supervision and their impact on the integrity and performance of the DPRD in carrying out their supervisory duties.

### **RESEARCH METHODS**

The research method used to evaluate the performance of the Dumai City DPRD in monitoring public policy-making is critical in producing valid and relevant findings. This research follows a qualitative approach because this approach allows researchers to gain an in-depth understanding of the role and performance of DPRD in policy oversight. The primary data source comes from interviews with the Dumai City DPRD. Interviews were conducted with DPRD members, government officials, and other stakeholders to obtain their views on the DPRD's decision-making and oversight processes.

The collected data was analyzed qualitatively. Analysis involves grouping data, identifying patterns, and organizing findings. The analysis tool that is maximized is Nvivo 12 Plus. The Nvivo 12 Plus analysis tool was chosen because it is useful in qualitative research, allowing authors to map relevant answers to support analysis. These findings are interpreted to evaluate the DPRD's performance in monitoring public policy-making, considering relevant standards or criteria. The research results are prepared in a research report, which includes an introduction, literature review, research methodology, findings, interpretation, recommendations, and conclusions. Recommendations resulting from this research can be used as a guide to improve DPRD performance in monitoring public policy making. Apart from that, the results of this research will also be disseminated to interested parties, including the Dumai City DPRD, the city government, and the general public, so that the findings and recommendations can contribute to efforts to improve more transparent and effective governance at the local level. Evaluation of research methods was also carried out to ensure the reliability and validity of the findings produced.

### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The role of the Dumai City Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD) in carrying out the oversight function of public policymaking is an essential aspect of observing the dynamics of government at the local level. The DPRD, as the people's representative institution in this area, has a significant role in ensuring that the policies produced by the city government follow the interests of the community and are implemented with transparency, accountability, and democratic principles (Mandey, 2016; Santoso et al., 2021). By carrying out its supervisory function effectively, the DPRD can be at the forefront of monitoring public policies that directly impact the citizens of Dumai City. Therefore, a deep understanding of the role of the DPRD in

overseeing public policymaking is essential in evaluating the quality of governance at the local level and its impact on services and the lives of the people of this city.

### ***DPRD: Oversees Public Policy Making***

The Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD) has a central role in overseeing public policy-making at the regional level, including in Dumai City. The DPRD is not only a law-making institution. However, it is also responsible for ensuring that the policies produced by the regional government follow the interests of the community. With this role, the DPRD has a big responsibility to ensure that the regional government's policies align with the community's needs and aspirations. They also act as people's representatives who must listen to the voices and aspirations of Dumai City residents and make them the primary consideration in the decision-making process. Through control, supervision, and representative roles, the DPRD plays a crucial role in maintaining transparent, accountable, and democratic governance at the regional level, contributing to the welfare of the people of Dumai City.

The role of the Dumai City DPRD in overseeing public policy-making is more comprehensive than its legislative function in drafting regional regulations. DPRD also has a vital role in ensuring that these policies can have a positive and relevant impact on local communities. They supervise the implementation of approved policies, ensure appropriate budget allocations, and prioritize people's aspirations in decision-making. Therefore, the DPRD must always be responsive to social, economic, and environmental changes that affect Dumai City. By carrying out its role effectively, the DPRD contributes significantly to maintaining good governance and community service orientation, which is the main foundation for the progress and prosperity of Dumai City as a whole.

Apart from that, the DPRD also acts as a monitoring mechanism for the implementation of policies by the regional government. They can monitor the extent to which the policies that have been designed are implemented following the stated objectives. If discrepancies or problems arise in policy implementation, the DPRD can take corrective steps or provide recommendations to the local government for improvement. In other words, the DPRD plays an important control role in ensuring accountability and transparency in local government actions. Apart from that, the DPRD also has a role as a forum for the aspirations and voices of the people of Dumai City.

The DPRD must listen to residents' input and complaints and use them as material for consideration in decision-making. This creates a close relationship between the DPRD and the community, increasing legitimacy and trust in local government. In its overall role, the Dumai City DPRD functions as a supervisor, legislator, and representative of the people who ensures that public policies produced and implemented at the regional level follow the interests, aspirations, and needs of the community. By carrying out this role well, the DPRD plays a crucial role in forming a responsive, accountable, and service-oriented government that positively impacts the quality of life of the people of Dumai City.

### ***DPRD: Obstacles in Supervision***

Adequate supervision by the Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD) is essential in maintaining transparency, accountability, and the quality of public policy-making at the regional level, such as in Dumai City. However, in carrying out its supervisory function, the DPRD often faces various obstacles that can affect the effectiveness of its role. In this context, we will discuss several obstacles the DPRD often faces in supervising public policy-making.

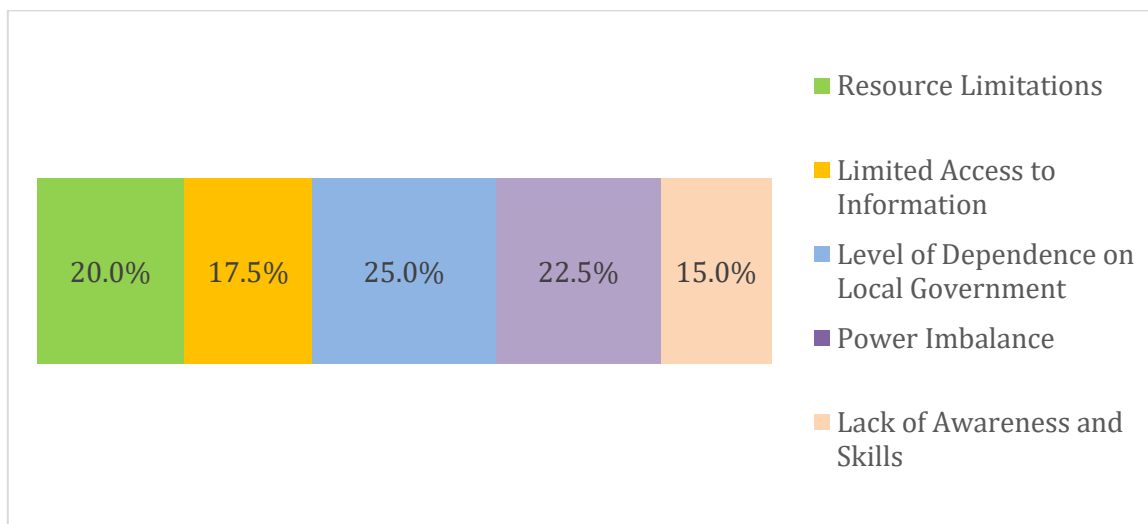


Figure. 1  
 Barriers identified in supervision  
 Source: Processed by researchers using Nvivo 12 Plus, 2023

In carrying out its oversight function of policy-making in Dumai City, the DPRD faces several obstacles that vary in impact and complexity. The level of dependence on the regional government (25.0%) is one of the main obstacles faced by the Dumai City DPRD, namely the level of dependence on the regional government. DPRD's highly dependent on local governments for budgets and resources may need help to exercise independent oversight. This can affect the DPRD's ability to carry out critical and impartial supervision of policies produced by regional governments.

The impact of the Dumai City DPRD's high dependence on local government regarding budget and resources can be felt in the effectiveness and independence of supervision. DPRD's that feel closely tied financially or politically to local governments may need help to exercise independent and critical oversight of policies produced by local governments. This has the potential to reduce the independence of DPRD's in carrying out their supervisory duties because they may be reluctant to confront or criticize local government actions outside the public interest. In addition, this dependence can also affect the DPRD's objectivity in carrying out supervision. They may be reluctant to take firm action or audit local government sharply because they are worried about the political or financial consequences that might arise.

With high dependence on regional governments, there is also the potential for an imbalance of political power that could affect the effectiveness of the DPRD in promoting accountability and transparency. The DPRD may feel less empowered or unable to influence the policies of a regional government with a solid political majority. This can hinder the DPRD's efforts to maintain good governance and be oriented towards better community services. Therefore, DPRD must ensure they carry out their oversight function independently, maintain objectivity, and remain focused on the interests of the community they represent.

Another obstacle is Power Imbalance (22.5%). The imbalance of political power between the DPRD and local government is also a significant obstacle to supervision. Suppose a local government has a solid political majority. In that case, a DPRD with weak opposition may find pushing for accountability and tight oversight of local government policies more challenging. The imbalance of political power between the DPRD and regional government in Dumai City can impact limited legislative control, lack of balance of power, and potential vulnerability to abuse of power.

When local governments have political solidities, DPRDs with weak opposition may encounter obstacles in implementing an effective and independent monitoring role on local government policies. This can threaten democratic principles and harm citizen participation in a fair and balanced policy-making process. Therefore, DPRD needs to look for ways to strengthen legislative control, promote cross-party cooperation, and focus on the interests of society as a whole in order to maintain democratic and accountable governance.

Another obstacle is limited resources (20.0%). More resources, both in budget and workforce, are needed. DPRDs with limited funds to carry out intensive supervision or insufficient staff to supervise all aspects of public policy can hamper their ability to carry out their overall supervisory function. Limited resources, both in budget and number of staff, are essential obstacles in carrying out the supervisory function of the Dumai City DPRD. The impact is genuine, where limited funds may make it difficult for the DPRD to supervise various aspects of public policy comprehensively.

These restrictions can hinder their ability to conduct in-depth searches and carefully analyze programs and policies implemented by local governments. In addition, if the number of available staff is too limited, the DPRD may need more human resources to manage the volume of work involving complex policy analysis, monitoring policy implementation, and conducting in-depth audits of local government programs. Therefore, allocating more adequate and efficient resources is the key to overcoming these obstacles so that the DPRD can carry out its supervisory role more effectively and positively contribute to good governance in Dumai City.

Another obstacle is the problem of Limited Access to Information (17.5%): Barriers to access to relevant information are also an obstacle in DPRD supervision. Sometimes, local governments may need more time to provide the information the DPRD needs. These limitations can hinder a complete understanding of the context and implications of the policy being monitored. Limited access to information is a critical obstacle in Dumai City DPRD's efforts to supervise public policy making. When local governments provide the required information promptly or even withhold relevant information, DPRDs can easily understand the context and implications of the policies they oversee.

This limited access can hamper the DPRD's ability to conduct in-depth analysis and accurately monitor policy implementation. Apart from that, it can also affect transparency and accountability in regional government because unavailable information can harm the DPRD's efforts to ensure that policies produced by regional government genuinely benefit the community. Therefore, ensuring greater openness and accessibility of information is essential in overcoming these obstacles so that DPRDs can carry out their oversight role more effectively and transparently.

Lack of Awareness and Skills (15.0%) is also a barrier. Lack of awareness and skills in adequate supervision is also an obstacle. DPRD requires a deep understanding of government policy and governance and strong analytical skills. Lack of training and capacity can reduce the DPRD's ability to supervise adequately. Lack of awareness and skills in carrying out adequate supervision can severely impact the Dumai City DPRD's role and performance in its supervisory function.

The impact is that DPRDs may need an adequate understanding of complex public policies and governance, which can hinder their ability to conduct in-depth analysis. Additionally, a lack of strong analytical skills and deep understanding can limit their ability to identify potential problems or policy discrepancies before they become more significant problems. Therefore, training and capacity development are essential to help the Dumai City DPRD improve its ability to carry out adequate supervision and ensure that public policies produced by the regional government align with the interests of society as a whole.

Barriers identified in supervision by the Dumai City DPRD include dependence on local government, imbalance of political power, limited resources, limited access to information, and lack of awareness and skills in carrying out adequate supervision. A high level of dependence on regional government can hamper the independence and objectivity of DPRD in carrying out supervision. At the same time, an imbalance of political power can reduce legislative control and balance of power. Limited resources, including budget and workforce, limit the DPRD's ability to carry out comprehensive supervision, while limited access to information hinders the DPRD's complete understanding of the policies being supervised. Lack of awareness and skills in supervision can also reduce the effectiveness of DPRD in promoting accountability and transparency. Therefore, recommendations that need to be considered include minimizing dependence on local government, strengthening legislative control, allocating more adequate resources, increasing access to information, and providing training and capacity development to DPRD members to improve the quality of oversight of public policy making in Dumai City.

### CONCLUSION

The Dumai City Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD) has a crucial role in overseeing public policy-making at the regional level. They are law-making institutions and people's representatives responsible for ensuring that policies made by local governments genuinely reflect the needs and aspirations of the community. In carrying out its role, the DPRD must maintain its independence, act as a control over the regional government, and listen to the voices and aspirations of Dumai City residents. Adequate supervision by the DPRD contributes to good governance and is oriented towards community services, ultimately improving the quality of life of Dumai City residents.

However, the DPRD also faces various obstacles that can hamper the effectiveness of its supervision. These obstacles include dependence on local governments, imbalances in political power, limited resources, limited access to information, and lack of awareness and skills in supervision. To overcome these obstacles, the DPRD needs to take strategic steps, such as minimizing dependence on local governments, strengthening legislative control, better resource allocation, increasing information transparency, and training its members. By overcoming these obstacles, the Dumai City DPRD can carry out its oversight role more effectively and significantly contribute to good and democratic governance in Dumai City.

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