

Implementation of Institutional Local Representation In Regional Government Decentralization (Study of The Bandar Lampung City “DPRD”)

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Abstract: This paper looks into how representation is implemented in local representative department in Bandar Lampung City against the backdrop of regional government decentralization in Indonesia. The paper aims to analyze how the representation function is implemented more deliberatively and what factors influence it. The findings indicate that the Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD) does not function as a deliberative institution and displays a low level of responsiveness to the desires and opinions of the community. The resulting representation model is akin to that of corporate representation, wherein DPRD members, similar to corporate commissioners, serve as independent decision-makers, detached from the strong influences of community desires. The principal factors influencing the efficacy of the representation function include regulations and limitations, the amalgamation of offices, electoral processes, and the fiscal conditions in various regions.

Keywords: Representation; Deliberative; Representative Institutions; Decentralization.

I. Introduction

Decentralizing regional government is a significant initiative aimed at improving the quality of governance and democracy at the local level in Indonesia. A crucial element of decentralization is the establishment of local representative bodies, particularly the Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD), which serves as the representatives of the populace in regional governance. The DPRD is a political entity established through general elections, possessing significant authority in legislative, budgeting, and oversight functions at the regional level. The idea of representative democracy establishes the Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD) as an institution anticipated by the central government to effectively embody the will and aspirations of the populace through a deliberative approach, wherein public voices and opinions serve as foundational elements in the formulation of regional policy decisions. Nonetheless, the execution of this representative function within the DPRD frequently encounters a range of structural and contextual obstacles that diminish its authentic representation of the populace.

The objective of this article is to analyze the execution of local representative institutions in the context of decentralization, framed within the principles of deliberative representative democracy. To achieve this, we will initially clarify our definition of representation within the context of Indonesia. Subsequently, we will concentrate on the ways this concept is implemented within the local government of Bandar Lampung. We conclude that the deliberative aspirations of future local representative institutions should take into account not only the conditions for assimilating public will and opinions but also the effectiveness of representing public interests and the factors that influence them.

The Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD), as a representative entity, should ideally function as the principal intermediary between the citizenry and the regional executive in the development and supervision of public policy. Nevertheless, several factors—including the legislative election system, the

DPRD's institutional position, which does not hold equal standing with regional heads, the financial conditions of the regions, internal political consolidation, and the quality of human resources within the DPRD—present considerable challenges to the effective execution of this representative function.

Therefore, this journal aims to deliver a thorough empirical analysis of the dynamics surrounding the representational function of the DPRD within the framework of decentralized governance, in addition to presenting strategic recommendations to enhance the role of local representative institutions as foundational elements of effective and accountable regional democracy.

II. Literature review

Deliberative View of Representation

Rousseau contended that a legitimate government, emerging from democracy and representation, is founded on discourses with markedly diverse historical origins. Democracy traces its roots to the direct democracy practiced in the ancient Greek city-states, whereas the concept of representation is derived from the medieval Christian church and the feudal relationships that characterized the Holy Roman Empire, its monarchies, municipalities, and kingdoms (Pitkin 2004). Nonetheless, in contemporary discussions, the notion of political representation has evolved beyond this binary distinction, transforming into a phenomenon that is more intricate and promising than Rousseau's separation between the (democratic) interests of the populace and the (aristocratic) judgments of political elites.

According to political scientist David Plotke, representation embodies democracy, as the practices of representation are inherently constitutive of democratic principles. (Plotke, 1997; Näsström, 2006: 321–342; Urbinati, 2006b: 328; Urbinati and Warren, 2008b: 387–412; and: Disch, 2011: 100–114). Representation has evolved beyond simply depicting what is absent; it now also involves the construction of the demos along with its interests. In a similar vein, political theorist Sofia Näsström describes representative democracy as a "tautology", asserting that the demos can only be formed through representative structures and practices. (Näsström 2006).

Simon Tormey, In his book, *The End of Representative Politics*, the author contends that numerous political scientists overlook the challenges confronting representative democracy and are at ease with its established status as the predominant form of political governance (2015, p. 16). One method to assess if a political system fulfills the requirements of its populace is through the examination of voter participation. As Tormey articulates, "In contrast, a decrease in voter turnout is frequently regarded as a sign that there are underlying issues, thus warranting concern regarding the relationship between citizens and the political system" (2015, p. 17). He further underscores the absence of trust in politicians, asserting that without confidence in the system, the machinery of political participation cannot function effectively. "If we lack trust in our representatives, it is merely a matter of time before we begin to question the sustainability of the system." (Tormey, 2015: 21)

Democratic theorists perceived representative democracy "as a practical alternative to more robust forms of direct democracy." (Urbinati and Warren 2008), They increasingly regarded participation and representation as fundamental, complementary components of democratic practice. As Plotke (1997, cited in Urbinati & Warren, 2008: 388) argues, "Representation is essential in shaping democratic practice." This idea anticipates that representation and participation are mutually constituted and intertwined, allowing us to investigate how these relationships develop, not solely as a consequence of formal institutional roles, but also within a social context influenced by shared experiences of trust, duty, and reciprocity on one side, and exclusion, neglect, and disengagement on the other (see Dovi, 2011; (Urbinati and Warren, 2008). Utilizing this framework enables us to inquire into the ways various constituents converge at specific times and in connection with particular authorities. The concept of representation is vital, as it aids in our comprehension of how and via which channels opportunities for engagement are created and institutionalized as a standard aspect of political practice.

The theory of representative democracy proposed by political theorist Nadia Urbinati illustrates a comparable perspective. According to Urbinati, the process of deliberation conducted among a limited group of representatives is not only tantamount to but also exceeds the effectiveness of direct deliberation involving all citizens. This distinction arises from the fact that deliberation among representatives facilitates a reflective pause, allowing for a separation between the immediate expression of raw judgments and preferences, on one side, and the development of policy outcomes, on the other. Additionally, representation fosters a cyclic communication process between the representatives and the constituents they serve. Urbinati posits that representative democracy constitutes a more comprehensive form of democracy in comparison to direct democracy, as it permits a sustained discursive exchange over time between representatives and those they represent.

Representative democracy, as articulated by Urbinati, is a deliberative governmental framework characterized by two interdependent powers where will and opinion mutually influence one another and

collaborate without converging. The definition aims to encapsulate the relationship between will and opinion within a framework where both elements are separate and must remain so, despite the necessity for ongoing communication between them. (Urbinati, 2014). Will is closely associated with the election of representatives, formal procedures, authoritative institutions of democracy, and majority rule, which serve as mechanisms for structuring political representation. In contrast, opinion pertains to the extra-constitutional realm that encompasses citizen involvement in shaping public policy.

This model is founded on the premise that democracy guarantees freedom and employs legal and political equality to actualize that guarantee. Consequently, Urbinati perceives democracy and political liberalism as interconnected. In alignment with Italian political theorist Norberto Bobbio, he articulates that political autonomy cannot be achieved in the absence of civil and political liberties. (Bobbio, 2006). In other terms, the implementation of democracy is contingent upon the establishment of rules and procedures that govern and organize the active political engagement of citizens within a representative framework.

The mechanism of democratic representation constitutes the most fundamental element of contemporary governance structures (Urbinati, 2010). In order to comprehensively grasp the intricacies and tackle the obstacles that await representative democracy, it is imperative that democratic theory moves beyond the traditional understanding of popular sovereignty that has characterized democracy since the emergence of modernity. It should reconceptualize popular sovereignty to reflect the will and judgment of the populace, thereby recognizing it as a source of inherent tension between institutionalized and extra institutionalized power, or between governmental bodies and civic engagement.

In the context of this diarchic model, Urbinati identifies three potential distortions caused by a shift in the equilibrium between will and opinion. This can manifest either through the excessive emphasis on one at the detriment of the other, or by altering the intrinsic nature and operational dynamics of both. In his publication, Urbinati dedicates a discussion of each of these distortions to epistemic, populist, and plebiscitary considerations. The intention behind highlighting each of these distortions is to underscore the 'weak points' that may hinder a democratic regime from genuinely accomplishing its objective of realizing the ideals of civil and political freedom (Urbinati, 2014).

As stated by him, democratic diarchy is intrinsically linked to the concept of representative democracy. In contemporary democracies, citizens possess two political powers: will and opinion. This notion of representative democracy can be effectively illustrated through a metaphor. Much like the two wings of a butterfly, the dual powers of citizens represent two distinct procedural components that maintain the stability, adaptability, and progression of modern democracy. This analogy underscores the fragility of a butterfly's delicate wings, whereby the political channels corresponding to both will and opinion are perpetually at risk of being impaired, damaged, or entirely obliterated. Democratic diarchy is regarded as an ideal type. However, as Urbinati asserts, existing democracies invariably encounter damage, which remains a component of democracy and continues to pose a significant threat to its integrity.

Research methods

This study uses qualitative methods and explanative analysis methods by applying the document or literature analysis approach. The use of this method aims to obtain empirical material and data obtained through journals and scientific papers, reports, books, and other documents related to the research being carried out. Activities in data analysis according to Miles and Huberman include: a) Data collection, in the form of information obtained from primary and secondary data. The data that will be used by the author in this research are data obtained from literature studies such as from books, document journals, reports, and internet sources, b) data reduction, in the sense of making a summary, selecting the main things, focusing on the important things, and then determining the themes and patterns. Thus the data that has been reduced will provide a clearer picture and facilitates the researcher to carry out further data collection, and search for it if necessary. The data that will be used by the author is data that could specifically explain and accommodate the problem formulations and objectives in this research; and c) presentation of data in the form of descriptions that narrate data in the form of numbers and information to strengthen arguments.

III. Result and Discussion

The Execution of Representation Within The Functions of The Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD).

In the present execution of regional government decentralization in Indonesia, various channels of interest are established for the Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD) to facilitate the expression of public will and opinions to the DPRD in fulfilling its functions. These channels of interest commence with activities organized by the institutions or individuals representing the people.

The execution of the representative budget function is conducted by integrating the desires of the community through engagements during the recess period. This period is defined as the time when DPRD members perform activities beyond the session schedule, particularly outside the DPRD building, whether as

individuals or in groups, to visit their electoral districts and gather the aspirations of the community. The primary objective of the recess is to collect and respond to the aspirations and grievances of constituents, thereby enabling DPRD members to offer both moral and political accountability to their constituents in their respective electoral districts.

Table 1. Allocation and Realization of the 2020-2023 Bandar Lampung City DPRD Budget for the Selection and Delivery of Public Aspirations (Recess)

Year	Allocation (Rp)	Realization (Rp)	Percentage of Realization (%)
2020	2,957,500,000.00	2,833,820,000.00	95.77%
2021	5,495,134,000.00	1,120,162,000.00	63.26%
2022	2,518,028,891.00	3,992,500.00	1.20 %
2023	316,464,791.00	85,126,100.00	26.90 %

Source: Secretariat of the Bandar Lampung City DPRD

Expenditures for recess activities have substantially declined following the decision of the Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD) to forego community gatherings in favor of door-to-door visits. In comparison to other activities undertaken by the DPRD, the financial allocation for recess activities remains relatively modest. In 2020, it accounted for 8.6 percent of total activities; in 2021, it was 1.9 percent; in 2022, it was 0.005 percent; and in 2023, it was 0.009 percent.

Furthermore, in addition to their hesitance to conduct recesses with large gatherings, members of the Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD) have expressed feelings of being overwhelmed by the activities associated with these recesses. The budgetary allocations that have been made available frequently fall short of the necessary financial requirements. A contributing factor mentioned by DPRD members is the absence of a transportation budget for residents who are invited to participate. When DPRD members are invited but do not receive funding for transportation, they tend to voice their grievances.

The number of participants in the recess of the Bandar Lampung Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD) remains significantly disproportionate when compared to the voter population within a single electoral district. Data from the General Election Commission (KPU) indicates that the least number of voters in any one electoral district (dapil) in Bandar Lampung is 123,374 voters (Way Halim, Kedaton, and Labuhan Ratu Districts).

Simultaneously, during the recess period, if one member of the Bandar Lampung DPRD engages in meetings using the initial concept of gathering the community in a single session, it is possible for DPRD members to interact with approximately 2,200 individuals. Conversely, if the approach involves house-to-house visits, the number decreases to 450 participants. This illustrates the limited interactions between DPRD members and the community, which are conducted through meetings during the recess period, consequently leading to a significant number of community interests remaining unaddressed and unrepresented.

According to the information and data provided by informants, it can be concluded that the recess, intended to facilitate public engagement, is not being effectively utilized by the representatives within the Bandar Lampung City DPRD. The representatives view the recess as a burden, primarily due to the limitations and inadequacies of both the institutions and individuals representing the public in synthesizing the interests articulated during these sessions. Furthermore, the meetings do not serve their intended purpose, as they lack equitable and open discussion among citizens and a decision-making process that emphasizes deliberation.

Table 2. Number of Main Thoughts of the Bandar Lampung DPRD for 2021-2024

2021	2022		2023		2024		
	Jumlah Pokir	Realisasi APBD	Jumlah Pokir	Realisasi APBD	Jumlah Pokir	Realisasi APBD	
353	117	349	114	273	111	266	105

Source: Bandar Lampung City DPRD

The table presented above indicates that the representatives of the people did not effectively communicate the interests of their constituents concerning the Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget (APBD) programs. The analysis of the priority scale of recess proposals revealed that each member of the

DPRD proposed an average of 5 to 7 activities; however, only an average of 2 activities were feasible for inclusion in the APBD. The area and population represented by DPRD members in Bandar Lampung, with the smallest number of electoral districts, comprised three sub-districts and a total of 123,374 voters. This indicates that the actualization of the people's will through DPRD members is significantly disproportionate to the number of community interests that can be conveyed in the regional development process.

The legislative function of incorporating public will and opinion is enacted through mechanisms of public consultation. Public consultation with the Regency/City Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD) serves as a public participation mechanism employed by the DPRD to collect public input, opinions, and aspirations for the development of regional regulations (Perda) or other decision-making processes. The main aim of public consultation is to guarantee that the policies formulated are representative of the needs and interests of the community.

In 2021, the Bandar Lampung City Council (DPRD) conducted a single public consultation during the deliberations of the Draft Regional Regulation (Raperda), following the implementation of Government Regulation 45 of 2017. There were no additional consultations held in the subsequent year, leading up to the conclusion of the council's term in August 2024. Informants have indicated that the absence of public consultations during the DPRD's discussions on regulations stemmed from a lack of prioritization by members of the DPRD's Regional Regulation Formation Agency in their program.

The existing framework offers numerous instruments to the Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD) to facilitate the expression of public interests to the DPRD and to execute its oversight responsibilities. The DPRD fulfills its oversight role in addressing public sentiments and viewpoints through Hearings (RDPs). Regional Discussion Forums (RDPs) within the Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD) at the city or district level serve as a mechanism to gather and address the aspirations, feedback, and grievances of the public, organizations, and relevant stakeholders regarding specific issues or policies. According to Law Number 23 of 2014 pertaining to Regional Government, the provisions of this law empower the DPRD to exercise oversight, legislative, and budgeting functions. RDPs are integral components of the oversight and legislative functions.

Table 3. Number of RDPs of the Bandar Lampung City DPRD Commission for 2020-2023

Commission	Number of RDP Meetings per Year			
	2020	2021	2022	2023
1	30	31	22	18
2	3	2	4	4
3	12	4	7	9
4	3	5	7	5

Source: Secretariat of the Bandar Lampung City DPRD

The frequency of hearings conducted by the Bandar Lampung City DPRD across three sessions each year indicates that the number of RDPs held by various commissions is significantly low in comparison to the total number of DPRD meetings scheduled according to procedural regulations, which occur from Monday to Friday each week throughout the year. Commission 1, which is responsible for government affairs, legal matters, and licensing, is the most active in conducting RDPs with diverse stakeholders. Conversely, Commission 2, which oversees economic and financial issues, records the fewest RDPs.

IV. Discussion

At the heart of the concept of representative democracy lies the significance of electoral choice, which serves as a fundamental catalyst for the development of representation (Aalberg and Narud, 1999: 18-19). The Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD), functioning as a collective assembly of elected representatives at the local tier, is fundamentally a representative democratic institution within the region. The central government of Indonesia has implemented a range of regulations and policies designed to enhance the deliberative nature of local governments by incorporating community interests into their decision-making processes. It is anticipated that regional government policies will empower community interests to serve as a pivotal influence for people's representatives and regional leaders in formulating policies within local governance. This is governed through various mechanisms including regional development planning discussions (musrebang) and public consultations on the part of local government. Concurrently, the DPRD institution, in fulfilling its responsibilities related to budget, legislation, and oversight, engages in deliberative processes through activities conducted during recess, public consultations focused on the planning and drafting of regional regulations, hearings involving supporting bodies, and the core proposals from DPRD in the APBD planning

framework. These regulations exemplify the central government's policy intended to incorporate community interests as a key consideration in the formulation of regional development policies, as articulated by Urbinati.

The execution of the Bandar Lampung Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD) representation in the context of regional government decentralization has not been sufficiently deliberative, primarily due to the DPRD's inability to gather and express community interests, notwithstanding limited support from various influencing factors. The central government's aspiration for a more deliberative approach to regional governance has not been matched by the reinforcement and alignment of policies with these influencing factors. Consequently, the principle of two forces (will and opinion) in the framework of regional government decentralization necessitates substantial backing from additional influencing factors to be effectively implemented.

The representatives of the populace in Bandar Lampung City, embodying the principles of representative democracy, fail to regard the desires and perspectives of the citizens as a vital aspect of their budgetary, legislative, and oversight responsibilities. The notion of representation within the Bandar Lampung regional government framework positions the members of the Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD) akin to representatives of a company's board of directors. Members of the DPRD are empowered to make decisions on behalf of the community, akin to the role of a company's board of directors, which determines policy and sets strategic direction. In this regard, DPRD representatives act on behalf of the electorate as a collective entity. Our findings indicate that representatives within the representative bodies of both regions have evolved into elites who primarily prioritize the exploitation of the populace as mere instruments for garnering votes during elections. The responsiveness of political representatives, who communicate and act in the interest of the community, is superficial, aimed primarily at serving the interests of DPRD members and the regional head. The electoral interests of the regional head of Bandar Lampung City substantially influence the representational activities of the DPRD, owing to the regional head's considerable control over access to programs and budget allocations.

Electoral representation constitutes a critical component of the local democratic process, enabling citizens to elect individuals who will represent them or their communities. This mechanism allows citizens to engage in shaping the governance and future of their region (Stokes and Manin, 1999). While citizens may also partake in various other manners conducive to the democratic process at the local government level, the contemporary preference for conducting elections is an open proportional representation electoral system. Political theorists posit that such systems of proportional representation tend to yield more deliberative legislatures, as they typically do not result in the emergence of majority parties; consequently, parliaments functioning under these systems are inclined to cultivate a form of consensus governance. (Lijphart, 1999; Sartori, 1976; Powell, 2000).

Interviews indicated that the recent shift in the electoral system to an open proportional representation model is a hindrance to achieving a more deliberative democracy in both regions, especially in comparison to the previous closed proportional representation system. Proportional elections based on a majority vote have diminished representatives' interest in integrating the dual aspects of public will and opinion into the functions of the Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD). This electoral system also results in representatives exhibiting a more individualized approach. Furthermore, within the regional governance framework, decisions are made collectively, and the execution of duties is carried out collaboratively by the DPRD leadership and its members as a unified entity. This indicates that decisions are reached not on an individual basis, but as a consequence of deliberation and consensus among all members of the leadership or those involved. The open proportional representation system leads to an emphasis on individual contributions rather than collective efforts, whereas the budgetary, legislative, and oversight functions within the DPRD are more efficiently executed when undertaken collaboratively.

There has been a lack of consolidation among members of the DPRD, both at the faction level and within the council itself. Consequently, there is a disconnect between public opinion and the legislative agenda, particularly concerning community issues that transcend the electoral districts of individual representatives. Each DPRD member appears to prioritize personal interests in an effort to sustain their political power. As a result, regional leaders exploit their representatives as mere formalities to facilitate the implementation of regional programs, which carry electoral and financial consequences for future direct elections of regional heads.

In both regions, the implementation of a more deliberative representative democracy within the framework of regional government decentralization will be achieved by taking into account and reinforcing the influential factors. It is essential to enhance central government policies that will affect Bandar Lampung City, which can be accomplished by improving the legislative and regional head election systems, as well as strengthening the constraints placed on the Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD) in articulating community interests. Improvements in elections are designed to ensure that the representation work is integral to voters' evaluations of both punishment and reward in the selection of their representatives. This, in turn,

influences the motivation behind representation efforts. Additionally, it paves the way for innovative methods in the future to elect community representatives within the DPRD institution, potentially exploring alternatives to the conventional electoral system as a means of community representation.

Local strengthening can be achieved by both regions through the enhancement of internal regulations within procedural rules and by consolidating the Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD) to successfully align its position with that of the regional head. Support for fortifying the DPRD institution, both on a national and internal level, is focused on enhancing its representational functions in aggregating and articulating community interests. A misalignment within the institution may lead to the predominance of the regional head's interests. The current dominance of regional heads in both regions has resulted in the formulation of non-priority policies that serve to benefit the electoral interests of the regional head, rather than addressing the service issues that fall under the responsibility of the regional government.

The execution of the representation function by the Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD) within the framework of regional government decentralization encounters numerous structural and contextual challenges that impede the fulfillment of its intended representative role. The DPRD in Bandar Lampung City has not yet achieved its objective of becoming a deliberative institution, where the desires and viewpoints of the community are central to the formulation of regional policy decisions.

The phenomenon of representation within the Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD), akin to a corporate model, exemplifies a circumstance wherein DPRD members function akin to directors, enjoying strategic autonomy in the formulation of policies devoid of direct public engagement. This trend signifies that the DPRD favors internal institutional interests and its rapport with regional executives, thereby employing public aspirations merely for formal legitimacy rather than genuine participation.

The primary factors obstructing the optimization of this representative function are rooted in the legislative election system, which is inadequate in stimulating DPRD members to actively respond to public aspirations. The existing open proportional representation system tends to undermine the accountability mechanisms of DPRD members to their constituents, as the decisions they make while voting are not solely influenced by their representative duties. Additionally, the DPRD's unequal institutional status, frequently overshadowed by regional heads, results in a power imbalance that diminishes its effectiveness as a protector of public aspirations.

Regarding human resources, it is imperative to enhance the quality and capacity of the members of the Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD) to ensure they can effectively fulfill their legislative, budgetary, and oversight responsibilities. The current limitations in capacity have resulted in inadequate internal cohesion within the DPRD, which has prompted decision-making that prioritizes the interests of institutional elites and regional leaders over the needs of the community. Additionally, regional financial capacity plays a significant role, as municipalities with more robust financial resources, like Bandar Lampung City, provide the DPRD with greater opportunities to perform its representative duties.

This document emphasizes the necessity for significant reforms in the legislative election framework, enhancement of the internal regulations of the Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD), and the reorganization of the institutional role to guarantee that the DPRD operates in a deliberative and responsive manner. These measures will allow the DPRD to serve as a proficient intermediary between the community and local government, thereby enhancing the quality of local democracy and fostering transparent and accountable governance.

V. Conclusion

This paper concludes that the local representative body (DPRD) within the framework of the decentralized regional governance in Bandar Lampung has not achieved its role as a deliberative institution. The ideal function of representation, which centers on the will and opinions of the community in decision-making processes, remains unfulfilled. The DPRD mainly engages in formal and procedural activities, failing to substantively prioritize community aspirations.

Resulting representation model bears a closer resemblance to a corporate board of commissioners, wherein members of the DPRD autonomously dictate policy, largely devoid of genuine engagement from the community as constituents. This illustrates a disparity in power and an inclination towards prioritizing the institution's internal interests and its connections with regional executives.

The primary factors that affect the execution of this representation function encompass the regional financial capacity, a legislative electoral system that fails to promote accountability among DPRD members to the public, the institutional standing of the DPRD which is not yet equivalent to that of the regional head, an ongoing weakness in internal political consolidation, and the necessity for enhancement in the quality of human resources among DPRD members.

Consequently, it is essential to undertake a thorough reform of the legislative election system, enhance the internal regulations of the Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD), and reorganize the institutional standing of the DPRD. These measures are crucial for empowering the council to more effectively fulfill its

representative role, engaging in a deliberative and responsive manner to meet public aspirations. By implementing these initiatives, the DPRD will be positioned to serve as an effective intermediary between the community and the regional government, thereby fostering improvements in the quality of local democracy as well as promoting transparent and accountable governance at the regional level.

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