

THE ROLE OF LOKKI VILLAGE OFFICIALS IN IMPROVING INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT IN LOKKI VILLAGE, HUAMUAL SUB-DISTRICT, WEST SERAM REGENCY

Geral Matulesy^{1)*}, Andreas M.D Ratuanak¹⁾, Jurgen R. Litaly¹⁾

Universitas Pattimura Ambon Maluku, Indonesia¹⁾

*Email: geralmatu16@gmail.com**

Article History

Received: 28 June 2025

Accepted: 15 July 2025

Published: 31 August 2025

Abstract

This research aims to determine the extent of the role of Negeri Lokki officials in enhancing infrastructure development in Lokki Village, Huamual District, West Seram Regency. This study employs a socio-legal research method with a qualitative approach. Data was collected through observation and in-depth interviews with officials, the Village Consultative Body (BPD), and several community leaders in Negeri Lokki. The findings indicate that infrastructure development in Negeri Lokki has been quite significant for the community. However, there is still a lack of coordination between the Village Government and the Regional Government regarding recurring issues in the village, particularly land disputes and funding shortages. Consequently, the Village Government faces difficulties in implementing programs provided by the Regional or Central Government.

Keywords: infrastructure development, dispute, regional, government

A. INTRODUCTION

Indonesia faces complex challenges related to poverty and unemployment, which are crucial issues in national development (Maharani et al., 2024). Poverty in Indonesia has various dimensions and can be analyzed through three main approaches: natural poverty caused by limited natural resources, structural poverty due to injustice in the social and economic system, and inter-regional disparities showing differences between urban and rural areas (Lubis, 2017). This condition is acutely felt in rural areas, where weak development leads to high rates of poverty and unemployment (Umar et al., 2023). Factors contributing to these problems include limited access to education and healthcare, a lack of diverse job opportunities, reliance on the vulnerable agricultural sector, and inadequate infrastructure (Siregar L, 2024). The consequences of poverty and unemployment in rural areas are extensive, including a low quality of life, health problems, high urban migration, and the potential for social conflict (Ningrum et al., 2024).

Over time, Indonesia has undergone significant changes in its development approach. Through Law No. 22 of 1999 on Regional Government, the central government

transferred greater responsibility to local governments. This paradigm shift, known as regional autonomy and decentralization, aims to improve the quality of public services and address poverty by granting real, broad, and accountable authority to local governments. The principles of regional autonomy, such as democracy, community participation, justice, and efficiency, serve as the foundation for resource and financial management (Namlis, 2018).

National development is now centered on equitable distribution from the village to the central level. The majority of Indonesia's population (50.21% in 2010) lives in rural areas, making villages strategic assets for development. Therefore, village development, especially in the infrastructure sector, is key to supporting economic growth, improving quality of life, and reducing disparities (Posumah, 2015).

Law No. 6 of 2014 concerning Villages became an important milestone in village development, providing a stronger and more comprehensive legal framework. Article 78 paragraphs 1 and 2 of Law No. 6 of 2014 affirm that village development aims to improve the welfare of village communities, enhance human quality of life, and alleviate poverty through fulfilling basic needs, developing village facilities and infrastructure, developing local economic potential, and sustainably utilizing natural resources and the environment (Sibero and Sibero, 2017). Village development includes participatory stages of planning, implementation, and oversight.

Village development is further strengthened by Law No. 6 of 2014 on Villages. This regulation aims to improve welfare, quality of life, and alleviate poverty through the development of facilities and infrastructure, local economic development, and sustainable resource utilization (Sibero and Sibero, 2017).

In Negeri Lokki, infrastructure problems are very serious. Damaged roads hinder farmers from selling their produce, an abandoned speedboat port cuts off transportation access, and a lack of sanitation causes health problems. These conditions directly negatively impact the community's economy and quality of life. In this context, the Acting Village Head (Penjabat Negeri) plays a central role. As leaders at the village level, they are responsible for planning, implementing, and overseeing development, including infrastructure. The effectiveness of their role in improving infrastructure development in Negeri Lokki is the main focus of this research. Therefore, a more integrated approach to infrastructure development is needed, from planning to serving the community, to ensure synergy across sectors, regions, and areas (Posumah, 2015).

Negeri Lokki is currently facing serious infrastructure challenges. Severely damaged roads impede farmers' mobility to markets, leading to low selling prices for agricultural products and complicating the distribution of goods and services. The unmaintained speedboat port further worsens inter-island connectivity, hindering the economic activities of coastal communities and limiting their access to health and education services in other areas. On the other hand, the lack of adequate sanitation facilities creates health problems and pollutes the environment, ultimately degrading the quality of life for residents.

In this situation, the presence of the Acting Village Head (Penjabat Negeri) is crucial. They bear the responsibility for carrying out development at the village level, especially

infrastructure development. This task includes preparing plans, implementing activities, and supervising and managing the village's resources. The Acting Village Head is given the authority to make decisions regarding village development, although still bound by applicable legal provisions. Therefore, the effectiveness of the Acting Village Head's role in promoting infrastructure development in Negeri Lokki is the primary aspect examined in this research

B. LITERATURE REVIEW

Village Description

The concept of a "desa" (village) extends beyond mere administrative aspects and territorial boundaries. It encompasses social, cultural, economic, and historical elements that shape the identity and dynamics of local community life. R.H. Unang Soenardjo (cited in Nurcholis, 2011) describes a village as a community living under adat (customary law) within a defined geographical area. Villages are characterized by strong social and emotional bonds among their residents, often formed through familial relationships and shared interests in political, economic, social, and security matters. Other distinguishing features include a leadership system determined through deliberation (*musyawarah*), communal ownership of resources, and the right to independently regulate internal life, demonstrating a degree of autonomy for the indigenous community.

From Etymological and Territorial Perspectives

Maschab (cited in Wasistiono and Tahir, 2007) connects the word "desa" to the Sanskrit term *deca*, meaning "homeland" or "birthplace," emphasizing the emotional and historical ties between the community and its territory. Meanwhile, the Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia (KBBI - Great Dictionary of the Indonesian Language) defines a village as an area inhabited by a number of families with its own government led by a village head, reflecting its formal structure and local governance system.

The Rural Infrastructure Development Program (PIIP) is a strategic initiative that focuses on empowering communities to provide and improve basic infrastructure in rural areas. This program is part of the National Program for Community Empowerment (PNPM Mandiri), which emphasizes active community involvement throughout the development process.

Program Components: Facilitation and Community Involvement in Problem Identification and Planning Through Deliberation. One of the main aspects of PIIP is to facilitate and mobilize communities to collectively identify problems related to the availability of and access to basic infrastructure such as roads, bridges, clean water, sanitation, and irrigation. Once problems are identified, the community then develops development plans to address these needs. The type of infrastructure and the priority scale of development are determined through village deliberation forums, ensuring that the resulting plans are truly appropriate and accepted by the residents.

Mosse (1994), in his work *Authority, Gender and Knowledge: Theoretical Reflections on the Practice of Participatory Rural Appraisal*, emphasizes the importance of inclusive deliberation that reflects the diversity of the community. He argues that the success of a

ARTICLE

participatory development program is heavily influenced by the extent to which the needs and aspirations of various groups, including vulnerable or marginalized groups, are involved in the planning process.

C. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research utilizes a qualitative approach. It was conducted in Negeri Lokki, Huamual District, West Seram Regency. Data was collected through:

- Observation: Researchers directly observed the infrastructure development process in Negeri Lokki.
- In-depth Interviews: Researchers interviewed the Acting Village Head (Penjabat Negeri) of Lokki, village government staff in Lokki, and several community leaders.

The data gathered aims to identify issues related to infrastructure development in Negeri Lokki, Huamual District, West Seram Regency.

D. RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS

Overview and Geographical Location of the Research Site

West Seram Regency is a regency in Maluku Province, Indonesia. The regency capital is located in Piru City. The regency covers an area of 5,003.38 km², or ¼ of Maluku Province, and has a population of approximately 216,090.



Figure 1. Administrative map of West Seram Regency

West Seram Regency is divided into 11 sub-districts with 92 definitive villages/sub-districts. 27.74% of West Seram Regency consists of lowlands with flat topography, encompassing 8 sub-districts: Huamual, Mania Islands, West Seram, Kairatu, Amalatu, Elpapatih, Taniwel, and East Taniwel. Meanwhile, 72.26% of the highlands comprise 3 sub-districts: Inamosol, Huamual Belakang, and West Kairatu. Huamual District, with an area of 1,162.99 square kilometers, has five villages: Lokki, Ariate, Luhu, Iha, and Kulur.

East: Bordering Ariate Village

West: Bordering Iha Village
South: Bordering Allang Asaude Village
North: Bordering Luhu Village

The name Lokki Village comes from the word "Lo'i," meaning gathering place. Furthermore, the name "Lokki" is also believed to originate from the word "logi," meaning fortress referring to a group of people who lived within the Hena Lo'i Hena Latu Huamual fortress, which served as the administrative center of the Huamual Kingdom. The Dutch referred to the inhabitants of Lokki as "yana lo'i," a pronunciation shift due to the influence of local dialects. Lokki Village existed before the Huamual War, also known as the Hogi Tochten. This kingdom was led by a king with the title Upu Latu Lo'i Upu Latu Huamuale. The history of Lokki Kingdom is largely recorded in the context of the Huamual War, such as the attack on Lokki in 1652 (Anvaal op Loky), so the historical narrative is well preserved and not confusing. Various historical documents, such as maps of the attack on the Huamual Kingdom in 1652 (Anvaal op Laala and Anvaal op Loky), as well as the Baptism Register from 1601 and other documents, are still well preserved in the Lokki Kingdom government archives. In addition, important sites left by the Huamual Kingdom such as Hena Lo'i Fort and Hena Latu Huamual Fort which were once the residences of Gimelaha Majira—can still be seen traces of their glory, although some have been damaged by age. The Lokki Village area has an area of approximately 20.68 km², with a population of 1,762 in 2025, consisting of 867 men and 895 women. The number of hamlets in Lokki Village is 7 hamlets, which can be seen in the following table:

Table 1. Lokki Village

No	Village / Dusun	Number KK	Number of		Number of People
			People L	People p	
1	Lokki	490	867	895	1,762
2	Katapang	713	1,990	2,264	4,254
3	Olas	839	1,776	1,835	3,611
4	Ani	428	1,332	996	2,318
5	Tanah Goyang	493	1,281	1,324	2,605
6	Siaputih	215	395	505	900
7	La ala	201	473	533	1,006

Source: Lokki Village Profile

The Role of Lokki Village Officials in Improving Infrastructure Development

This study found that Lokki Village Officials play a crucial role in improving infrastructure development in villages. This role encompasses various aspects, from planning and implementation to monitoring infrastructure development. Furthermore, Village Officials are responsible for managing village resources to support infrastructure development. Based on the interviews conducted, the following conclusions can be drawn from this study: A February 5, 2025, interview with Reisen Salawaney, an official of Negeri Lokki, stated:

ARTICLE

"Infrastructure development in Negeri Lokki, throughout this leadership period, has been quite good, and there has been significant progress, although it has not yet reached all levels of society, either in the main village or in the hamlets within the village."

Furthermore, an interview with one of the respondents, Mr. Bryan Patty, on February 6, 2025, stated:

"Ade, regarding the opinions of village officials, frankly, we in Negeri Lokki are not very direct. Usually, when there is development, we only hear about it when we receive information from the village government or during small outreach events at the village hall. But, of course, as officials, we want our country to progress. Good infrastructure will certainly make everyone happy."

Based on the interviews conducted, the following conclusions can be drawn from this study: A February 5, 2025, interview with Reisen Salawaney, an official of Negeri Lokki, stated:

"Ade, regarding the opinions of village officials, frankly, we in Negeri Lokki are not very direct. Usually, when there is development, we only hear about it when we receive information from the village government or during small outreach events at the village hall. But, of course, as officials, we want our country to progress. Good infrastructure will certainly make everyone happy."

Based on the interviews conducted, the following conclusions can be drawn from this study: Reisen Salawaney, a Lokki Village official, stated:

"In every development activity or program each year, we strive to maintain development both within the village and in the Petuanan hamlets."

According to our observations at the Village Consultative Body (BPD), the village official has undertaken several efforts, including:

Proposal Submission: He actively submits infrastructure development proposals to the local government and relevant agencies. We frequently discuss this in village deliberation forums. Lobbying and Coordination: There are lobbying and coordination efforts with relevant parties at the district level to secure budget and policy support. Community Involvement: He also involves the community in several planning stages, although we need to continue to encourage broader participation. Use of Village Funds: A portion of village funds is also allocated for small-scale infrastructure development and repairs at the village level. As the BPD, we continue to encourage the village official to be more proactive in seeking alternative funding sources and forging broader partnerships for the advancement of Lokki's infrastructure.

The community will assess the village official's efforts from various aspects. Does the official actively seek funding from the local, provincial, or central government? Are there initiatives to involve community participation in development planning and implementation? Does the official coordinate with relevant parties such as the public works department, electricity companies, or telecommunications service providers? Concrete efforts such as submitting proposals, meeting with relevant parties, or disseminating development plans to the community will serve as indicators for assessing the official's seriousness.



Figure 2. Interview with Lokki State officials

Based on the interview results, it can be analyzed that infrastructure development in Negeri Lokki during the leadership of the village official is considered to have shown significant progress, although it has not evenly reached all levels of society, especially in the hamlets. Reisen Salawaney's statement as a village official is in line with the views of the community, which states that the official has a good understanding and commitment to the importance of development. Evaluation of infrastructure development in Negeri Lokki is formally carried out by the village government in every musdes and musrembang as part of budget planning and accountability. However, community participation in the evaluation process is still limited, as acknowledged by one respondent who stated that they were never directly involved and only assessed the results of development independently based on the physical condition of the infrastructure that had been damaged after construction. The BPD as an institution representing the people also emphasized the importance of evaluation to improve the quality of future development, although in practice it has not been fully carried out systematically and transparently. On the other hand, the community expects real positive impacts from infrastructure development, such as economic improvement through better market access, increased productivity, and the creation of investment and employment opportunities. This demonstrates the need for more inclusive, participatory, and sustainable evaluations to ensure optimal community benefits from development and to avoid budget waste due to short-lived development.

Factors Influencing Infrastructure Development in Negeri Lokki

Based on the results of the interviews conducted, the following conclusions can be drawn from this study: A February 5, 2025, interview with Reisen Salawaney, an official of Negeri Lokki, stated: "Factors that often influence development are related to the readiness of human resources, natural resources, and other factors that influence the weather, as well as other factors that can be implemented, or obstacles that arise outside the planning process."

Furthermore, an interview with one respondent, Mr. Bryan Patty, on February 6, 2025, stated:

"According to the people of Negeri Lokki, one important factor influencing infrastructure development is government priorities and budget allocation that aligns with their immediate needs. The people will see whether the government truly listens and delivers on the infrastructure development they most need to improve their quality of life and their daily economy, such as decent roads and drainage."

Furthermore, an interview with one of the respondents, Mr. Richard Purimahua, on February 6, 2025, stated that:

"Infrastructure development in Negeri Lokki is influenced by budget, government policy, geographic conditions, resource availability, community needs, planning, political stability, environmental impact, and governance."

Furthermore, an interview with another respondent, Mr. Alsen Sitania, on February 7, 2025, stated that:

"Community participation is also a factor influencing the success or failure of development undertaken by the village government. A transparent infrastructure planning and implementation process involving community participation is considered essential to ensure that projects align with their needs and aspirations."



Figure 3. Interviews with the Village Consultative Body (BPD) and the Community

Based on interviews with several respondents in Negeri Lokki, it can be analyzed that several factors influence infrastructure development in the region. Local official Reisen Salawaney emphasized the importance of human resource readiness, natural resources, and external constraints such as weather and unplanned conditions. This was reinforced by the views of community representatives Bryan Patty, Richard Purimahua, and Alsen Sitania, who stated that in addition to government budgets and policies, community participation, transparency of the planning process, political stability, geographical conditions, and good governance are crucial for successful development.

ARTICLE

The community recognized the importance of establishing development priorities that truly align with pressing needs, such as improving roads and drainage systems, to support their quality of life and economic growth. Therefore, collaboration between the government and the community is a key factor in achieving effective and sustainable infrastructure development. Although Negeri Lokki has human resources with basic skills, local labor involvement in large-scale infrastructure projects remains relatively low. This is due to limited training and mentoring provided to improve their capacity, resulting in out-of-town workers still dominating project implementation. However, government awareness, along with support from the Village Consultative Body (BPD), and community enthusiasm for participation, presents a strategic opportunity to encourage capacity building for the local workforce. By consistently implementing training and technical development programs, the participation and competency of local workers can be increased, making them better prepared to contribute and compete in infrastructure development in their respective regions.

E. CONCLUSION

Infrastructure development in Negeri Lokki has brought significant progress, improving the welfare and economy of the community, as well as improving accessibility and quality of life. However, this progress has not been evenly distributed and faces several major challenges, including limited village funds, a complicated budget disbursement process, lengthy bureaucracy, geographical constraints, land disputes, and suboptimal inter-agency coordination. Minimal community participation in formal evaluations and limited involvement of the local workforce are also key issues. Therefore, close collaboration between the village government, the Village Consultative Body (BPD), and the community, as well as increased transparency and participation at every stage of development, are absolutely necessary to ensure higher-quality, equitable, and sustainable infrastructure development in Negeri Lokki.

REFERENCE

- Ananda, A. 2012.* Peran Pemerintah Dalam Pembangunan Desa. http://fandisos.blogspot.com/2012/01/peran-pemerintah,dalam_pembangunandes.html diakses tanggal 20 Maret 2012.
- Arikunto, S. 2005.* Manajemen Penelitian. Jakarta: PT Rineka Cipta.
- Arsyad, L. dkk. 2011.* Strategi Pembangunan Perdesaan Berbasis Lokal. Yogyakarta: STIMYKPN.
- Asnuddin, A. 2009.* Pembangunan infrastruktur perdesaan dengan pelibatan masyarakat setempat. Smartek, 7(4). NIM, U. H., & Martoyo, H. 2019. Kepemimpinan Kepala Desa Dalam Pembangunan Desa Amboyo Inti Kecamatan Ngabang Kabupaten Landak. Publika-Jurnal Ilmu Administrasi Negara,
- Badan pusat Statistik. 2010. Data sensus penduduk Indonesia
- Budiman, A.1995.* Teori Pembangunan Dunia Ketiga. Jakarta: PT. Gramedian Pustaka Utama.
- Dardak, H. 2004.* Percepatan Pembangunan Infrastruktur.
- Effendi, L. 2004.* Pokok-Pokok Hukum Administrasi. Malang: Bayumedia Publishing.

- Hanjani, S. 2014.* Pelaksanaan Perda Kabupaten Sleman Nomor 11 Tahun 2004 tentang Penggunaan Fasilitas Pejalan Kaki (Trotoar) oleh Pedagang Kaki Lima di Sepanjang Kawasan UGM (Di Area RSUP Prof. Dr. Sardjito). Skripsi. Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta.
- Hardiyansyah. 2011.* Kualitas Pelayanan Publik Konsep, Dimensi, Indikator, dan Implementasinya. Ctk. Pertama. Yogyakarta: Gava Media.
- Harefa, M. 2015.* Keberlanjutan Pengembangan Infrastruktur Dalam Mendukung Percepatan Pembangunan Ekonomi Indonesia. Jakarta Pusat: P3DI Setjen DPR RI dan Azza Grafika <http://www.ekorakyat.org>
- Isnaini, H., dkk, 2017.* Hadis-hadis Ekonomi. Edisi Pertama. Medan: Kencana.
- Litualy, J. R., & Ratuanak, A. M. D. (2024). Pancasila sebagai landasan ideologis bagi pengembangan keilmuan pada komunitas akademik di Indonesia dan tantangan globalisasi. *Sosial: Jurnal Ilmiah Pendidikan IPS*, 2(2), 281-294.
- Lubis, H. (2017). Mengentaskan Kemiskinan: Multidimensional Approach. *Hermeneutika: Jurnal Hermeneutika*, 3(1), 1-9.
- Maharani, C., Ningrum, D. A., Fatmawati, A. E., & Fadilla, A. (2024). Dampak kemiskinan terhadap kualitas pendidikan anak di Indonesia: Rekomendasi kebijakan yang efektif. *Journal of Macroeconomics and Social Development*, 1(3), 1-10.
- Mardiasmo, M. B. A. (2021). *Otonomi & manajemen keuangan daerah: edisi terbaru*. Penerbit Andi.
- Namlis, A. (2018). Dinamika implementasi penyelenggaraan pemerintahan daerah. *Jurnal Kajian Pemerintahan*, 4(1), 40–47. Program Pascasarjana Ilmu Pemerintahan, Universitas Islam Riau.
- Ningrum, E. P., Sumarno, M., Nursyamsi, S. E., & Siregar, N. (2024). Faktor Terkait Kesenjangan Ekonomi dan Kesejahteraan. *PRIVE: Jurnal Riset Akuntansi dan Keuangan*, 7(2), 116-126.
- Pangkey, D. K. 2016.* Peran Kepala Desa Dalam Pelaksanaan Pembangunan Di Desa Tateli Satu Kecamatan Mandolang Kabupaten Minahasa. *Politico: Jurnal Ilmu Politik*, 3(1), 161096.
- Suruan, A. L., Rompas, W., & Tulusan, F. 2019. Upaya Pemerintah Desa Untuk Meningkatkan Partisipasi Masyarakat Dalam Pembangunan Desa Di Desa Upa Kecamatan Tobelo Tengah Kabupaten Halmahera Utara. *Jurnal Administrasi Publik*,
- Posumah, F. (2015). Pengaruh pembangunan infrastruktur terhadap investasi di Kabupaten Minahasa Tenggara. *Jurnal Berkala Ilmiah Efisiensi*, 15(2), 1–13. Universitas Sam Ratulangi Manado.
- Sibero, M. T., & Sibero, D. (2017). Tradisi Merdang Merdem Kalak Karo di Desa Juhar, Kecamatan Juhar, Kabupaten Karo, Sumatera Utara. *Sabda: Jurnal Kajian Kebudayaan*, 12, 91–100.
- Siregar, L. S. (2024). Efek Perubahan Iklim terhadap Produktivitas Pertanian di Asia Tenggara. *Circle Archive*, 1(5).
- Umar, D. A., Mukramin, S. U., Arifin, J., & Aziz, F. (2023). Kemiskinan masyarakat urban Makassar. *Jurnal Kajian dan Penelitian Umum*, 1(4), 12-25.
- Undang-undang (UU) Nomor 22 Tahun 1999 tentang Pemerintahan Daerah

ARTICLE

Weenas, N. A., Lengkong, D., & Mambo, R. (2015). Kepemimpinan Kepala Desa Dalam Pembangunan Infrastruktur Di Desa Karegesan Kec. Kauditan Kab. Minut (Satu Studi Di Desa Karegesan Kecamatan Kauditan Kabupaten)