



Lecture #3

The Role of State and Public Organizations in A Democratic Society: A Quest for Transparency

SPA 3541-IUP

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Elite-Commoner Relations in A State

Why elites / rulers must be responsible to the people / commoners?

1. Three conditions for a state: an area / jurisdiction, effective government, people.
2. The government legitimacy is determined by the people – *public office is public consent*
3. Resources and fundings for the government are from the people. The government activities are funded by the APBN/APBD, which funds are levied from taxes and service charges.

Why government agencies' performance is generally low?



1. Bureaucrats are mostly oriented to power and positions.

→ Shifting the pattern from “the rulers” to the “servants” is very difficult.

Paternalistic cultures, superior-oriented reports (Asal Bapak Senang), briberies, too much privilege to the authorities.

2. A big gap between the policy, its implementation, and the people's aspirations.

3. Politics vs. administration dilemma. → narrow interests are frequently given priorities.

TRANSPARENCY



1. Definition: precision, the accuracy for the people and the public when they access information on public policy-makers and the bureaucrats. When an activity is transparent, all the information on it would be available for everybody.
2. Barrington Moore (1967): Transparency means: 1) effective checks and restraints on power holders; 2) mechanisms for replacement of illegitimate rulers; and 3) the participation of ordinary people in the making of rules.
3. Four pillar of 'good governance' (UNDP): 1) accountability, 2) predictability, 3) public participation, and 4) transparency.

The Meaning of Transparency in Economic Terms



- The people's access for information is an important instrument for economic development. The economic theories (e.g. Harrod-Domar models) give too much emphasis on financial resources.
- The role of information as a resource is frequently overlooked, for some it was an intentional move to block information streams.
- Information must be perceived as a fundamental capitals or assets. Joseph Stiglitz says that there are economic defficiencies in countries due to digital gaps.

The Meaning of Transparency in Political Terms



1. It would ensure accountability of the decision-makers, the people can control politicians and bureaucrats.
2. The *checks and balances* so that there is no power monopoly among the politicians / and or bureaucrats.
3. There will be no power monopoly among decision makers.
4. Increase efficiency in public service management.



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THANK YOU

