

## Reviewing the Term of Office of Village Heads: Between Political Interests and Legal Principles

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### Abstract

This research examines village heads' terms of office in the context of village government in Indonesia. The term of office of a village head determined by law has an important impact on local political stability, government effectiveness and community participation. Changes in terms of office and periodization, which are often influenced by political dynamics and government policies, have a significant impact on administrative stability, village management effectiveness and community participation. This research aims to find out what influences the changes in the term of office of village heads and to determine the optimal length of term of office for village heads. The research method used is normative juridical. The research results show that changes in the tenure of village heads are influenced Philosophical, sociological and juridical factors all play a role in influencing the formation of policies regarding the tenure of village heads.. Ideally, the term of office of a village head needs to consider a balance between providing sufficient time to implement development programs and providing opportunities for leadership regeneration. A term of office that is too short or too long can have a negative impact on the continuity of development programs and community participation. A term of office of five years and a moving period of two is considered sufficient to achieve sustainable village development goals and encourage healthy and dynamic leadership changes. Limiting the term of office of village heads can also be used as a tool to control influential village heads and ensure their loyalty to the central or regional government. Therefore, this research recommends establishing a balanced term of office and accompanied by a regular evaluation mechanism to ensure that village heads can carry out their duties effectively and accountably.

**Keywords:** *terms of office, village head, political interests and legal principles.*

### Introduction

As the smallest government unit in the Indonesian state structure, villages play an important role in national development as well as public services. The presence of villages has been recognized in The 1945 Constitution and supported by various other regulations including Law No. 6/2014 on Villages. This is where the role of the village head as the leader of the village government becomes very vital in determining the direction and quality of development and public services at the village level.<sup>1</sup>

During a number of year Finally , the discourse on the term of office of the village head has become a hot topic of debate in various circles, from academics, government

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<sup>1</sup> Sutiyo , S., & Maharjan , K.L. (2017). Decentralization and Rural Development in Indonesia. Singapore : Springer .

practitioners, to the general public. This discussion not only touches on the administrative aspects of village government, but also touches on fundamental issues such as local democracy, leadership effectiveness, and the balance between stability and change in the context of village government .<sup>2</sup>

The term of office of the village head is basically refers to efforts to provide standards and reshape the duration of the village head's term of office within one scope of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia. The idea was born on the basis of variations in the practice of organizing village head elections and the term of office of village heads in several regions of Indonesia . This arose in response to variations in the practices of village head elections and terms of office in different regions, partly due to differences in interpretation of existing regulations and partly due to long-standing local practices .

In One side , the term of office can increase legal certainty and prevent leadership stagnation <sup>3</sup>. Clear term limits can encourage leadership regeneration at the village level and open up opportunities for the emergence of new leaders with fresh ideas. In addition, this argument also emphasizes that the term of office can help create a more structured and uniform village governance system throughout Indonesia, which in turn can facilitate the coordination and implementation of national policies at the village level.

On the other hand, there are concerns that the normalization step could ignore local dynamics and limit the rights of village communities to choose their leaders. The importance of considering the diversity of socio-cultural contexts in various villages in Indonesia. Through "one size fits all" in terms of the term of office of the village head may not always be in accordance with the needs and preferences of the local community.<sup>4</sup> Furthermore, there is concern that overly rigid normalization may hinder the continuity of effective leadership in certain villages where the incumbent village head has proven competent and well accepted by the community.

From a legal perspective, efforts to normalize the term of office of village heads must be placed in context system more Indonesian law wide . Considering that regulatory changes, even though they are accommodating, must pay attention to the hierarchy of laws and legal regulations . applies . Therefore That , normality of term of office head village must in line with

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<sup>2</sup> Purwanto, E.A., & Pramusinto, A. (2018). Decentralization and Functional Assignment in Indonesia: The Case of Health and Education Services. *Policy Studies* , 39(6), 589-606.

<sup>3</sup> Sahdan , G., Mastuti, S., & Wibowo, MA (2019). Transformation of Village Government Institutional Model. Yogyakarta: The Indonesian Power for Democracy (IPD).

<sup>4</sup> Vel , J. A., & Bedner , A. W. (2015). Decentralization and village governance in Indonesia: the return to the village and the 2014 Village Law. *The Journal of Legal Pluralism and Unofficial Law*, 47(3), 493-507.

Spirit autonomy area and recognition to rights traditional society village as yes mandated in the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia and the Village Law .<sup>5</sup> Meanwhile, from a political perspective, the issue of normalizing the term of office of village heads cannot be separated from the dynamics of power both at the local and national levels. Decentralization and democratization in Indonesia are often colored by competition between local elites in competing for resources and power. In this context, efforts to normalize the term of office of village heads can be seen as an arena for contestation between various political interests, both from the center and the regions.<sup>6</sup>

Research that discusses tenure head village , of course Enough interesting and important For discussed . It is said important and interesting Because often changing terms of office head village . While That study around term of office head the village has also Once done . Based on search study , research conducted by Riza *Multazam Luthfy with Title of Term of Office Head Village in perspective constitution . In the research the to study that* Based on the constitutional approach, the norm regarding the permission for someone to serve as village head for three terms (18 years) in Law No. 6/2014 is contrary to the direction of legal policy in the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia and is considered unconstitutional.<sup>7</sup> Other research with title *Reformulation of the Regulations on the Term of Office of Village Heads in the Constitutional System of the Republic of Indonesia by Amancik Amancik , Ahmad Saifulloh's first son, Sovia Ivana Barus also discussed related to term of office head Village . In the research the more emphasize head impact of term of office head village that is too long, namely three period .*<sup>8</sup> This article designed For answer two question namely , what influences changed change of term of office head village as well as provide suggestions regarding the optimal term of office for village heads. Through two question said , it is expected capable produce recommendation strategic to all party , use strengthen effectiveness of term of office head village .

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<sup>5</sup> Saputra, AD (2020). Legal Position of Village Government Administration in the Regional Government System. QISTIE Scientific Journal of Law, 13(1), 32-47.

<sup>6</sup> Aspinall, E., & As'ad, M.U. (2016). Understanding family politics : Success and failures of political dynasties in regional Indonesia. South East Asia Research , 24(3), 420-435.

<sup>7</sup> Riza *Multazam Luthfy* , "Term of Office Head Village in perspective constitution " , *Journal Legal Issues* , Vol 48, No 4, 2019.

<sup>8</sup> *Safe Amancik , Putra Perdana Ahmad Saifulloh, Sovia Ivana Barus , " Reformulation of the Regulation of the Term of Office of Village Heads in the Constitutional System of the Republic of Indonesia "* , *Journal Law Vinding* , Vol 12 Mo 1 Year 2023.

## Method Research

This article uses method normative juridical. Normative juridical is study law bibliography conducted with method researching ingredients bibliography . In this method, all research data is obtained exclusively from library sources. These sources include various reading materials and information available in various media, both in traditional print form and those that can be accessed digitally through online platforms . This approach allows researchers to analyze and retrieve information from various written sources without the need for direct observation or interaction in the field.

## Results and Discussion

### Factor affecting changing terms of office Head Village

The changing tenure of village heads in Indonesia reflects the complex political, social, and administrative dynamics in the history of village governance. This evolution cannot be separated from the broader changes in decentralization and regional autonomy policies in Indonesia. In the New Order era, the term of office of the village head was regulated in Law Number 5 of 1979 concerning Village Government. According to this law, the term of office of the village head was set for 8 years and could be re-elected for one subsequent term. This rule reflects the centralistic approach of the New Order government, which aimed to create stability and control over village government .<sup>9</sup> After the Reformation era, there were significant changes in the regulation of village government. Law Number 22 of 1999 concerning Regional Government changed the term of office of the village head to 5 years and can be re-elected for one term. This change reflects the spirit of democratization and decentralization that characterizes the Reformation era .<sup>10</sup>

Furthermore, Law Number 32 of 2004 concerning Regional Government maintains the term of office of the village head for 6 years and can be re-elected for one term. However, this law provides flexibility to regions to regulate the term of office of the village head according to local socio-cultural conditions .<sup>11</sup> The latest changes occurred with the enactment of Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages. This law stipulates that the term of office of village heads is 6 years and can serve a maximum of 3 (three) terms of office, either consecutively or non-consecutive. This change is intended to provide wider opportunities for village heads to

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<sup>9</sup> Antl o v, H. (2003). Village government and rural development in Indonesia: The new democratic framework . Bulletin of Indonesian Economy Studies , 39(2), 193-214.

<sup>10</sup> Eko, S. (2015). New regulations, new villages: Ideas, missions, and spirits of the Village Law. Jakarta: Ministry of Villages, Development of Disadvantaged Regions, and Transmigration of the Republic of Indonesia.

<sup>11</sup> Vel , J. A., & Bedner , A. W. (2015). Decentralization and village governance in Indonesia: the return to the village and the 2014 Village Law. The Journal of Legal Pluralism and Unofficial Law, 47(3), 493-507.

implement long-term development programs, while also opening up opportunities for leadership regeneration . These changes reflect the government's efforts to balance various interests and demands, including the need for leadership stability, demands for democratization, and diversity of local practices. However, implementation in the field often faces challenges due to variations in interpretation and local practices that have been going on for a long time .<sup>12</sup>

In Indonesia, changes in the term of office of village heads have become quite a complex phenomenon. Some of the main factors that contribute to this change are: runaway philosophical , legal and sociological in formation policy related to term of office head village :

**Foundation Philosophical : interpreted as** a consideration or reason that illustrates that the regulations that are formed take into account the outlook on life, awareness, and legal ideals that include the spiritual atmosphere and philosophy of the Indonesian nation which originate from Pancasila and the Preamble to the 1945 Constitution. **Foundation Juridical : Meaning as** considerations or reasons that illustrate that regulations are formed to meet the needs of society in various aspects, and relate to empirical facts regarding the development of problems and the needs of society and the state. **Foundation Sociological : Meaning as** considerations or reasons that illustrate that regulations are formed to meet the needs of society in various aspects, and relate to empirical facts regarding the development of problems and the needs of society and the state.

Overall, these various factors interact with each other and have an impact on changes in the term of office of village heads in Indonesia. A deep understanding of these factors philosophical , sociological and legal it is very important to design policies that can increase the stability and effectiveness of leadership at the village level.

The dynamics of changes in the term of office of village heads cannot be separated from a broader context, namely the debate about the position and role of villages in the structure of Indonesian government. This involves considerations such as village autonomy, community participation, and the effectiveness of village government in the context of national development . Thus, the background to changes in the term of office of village heads in Indonesia reflects the complexity and dynamics in efforts to create a village government system that is effective, democratic, and responsive to the needs of local communities.

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<sup>12</sup> Aspinall , E., & Rohman, N. (2017). Village head elections in Java: Money politics and brokerage in the remaking of Indonesia's rural elite. *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies* , 48(1), 31-52.

## Interpretation of Normalization

Satjipto Rahardjo formulated that *law can function to control society and can also be a means to make changes in society*.<sup>13</sup> The connection has significant relevance in the context of reviewing the term of office of village heads in Indonesia. *First*, the law can function as a tool to control society in the sense of maintaining order and stability. Normalizing the term of office of village heads can be seen as an effort to ensure the stability of leadership in the village and prevent potential conflicts due to excessively long terms of office. *Second*, the law can also be a means to make changes in society. Normalizing the term of office of village heads can be seen as an effort to encourage positive changes in village governance, such as increasing the accountability and effectiveness of village government. However, it is important to remember that the law should not be used solely to control society without considering the aspirations or needs of the community. Given that it must and must be done by considering<sup>14</sup> fundamental legal principles such as the supremacy of law, equality before the law, good and correct legal processes, limitations on power, independent executive institutions, free and independent judiciary, state administrative courts, constitutional courts, protection of human rights, means of realizing state goals, transparency and social control, democratic in nature.

In relation to the review of the normalization of the village head's term of office, the word "normalization" has a complex and multidimensional meaning. However, in this study it refers to the interpretation : (1) *Returning to normal conditions*, this interpretation refers to efforts to return the village head's term of office to a duration that is considered ideal and in accordance with objective conditions in the village; (2) *Enforcement of the Rule of Law*, normalization is interpreted as being important to ensure equality ( *equality before the law* ) and legal certainty in the implementation of village government ; (3) *Balance of Interests*, that the normalization of the term of office of the village head needs to consider the balance between political interests and legal principles ; (4) *Preventing Conflict and Strengthening Local Democracy*, ideal normalization is expected to minimize the potential for conflict and strengthen local democratic values, so as to open up space for more active community participation; (5) *Contextual and Dynamic Considerations* , normalization is carried out by considering the context and dynamics of diverse villages. A “one size fits all” approach may not be effective and can cause injustice to villages with different conditions.

<sup>13</sup> Satjipto Rahardjo, *Legal Science* (Bandung: Citra Aditya Bakti, 2000).

<sup>14</sup> Pan Mohamad Faiz, “Legal State and Democracy,” *Constitutional Journal* 2, no. 1 (2016): 8–36, <https://pusdik.mkri.id/index.php?page=web.Download2&id=838>.



## Legal Event Notes on the Term of Office of the Village Head

The nuances of Indonesian democracy are like the turbulence of air masses that move irregularly in all directions and are able to cause shocks that have a wide impact, namely on society, because they are caused by legal events that occur, one of which is the change in the term of office of the village head in Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages (Village Law). The implementation of decentralization in modern governance today is a necessity. Larry Diamond, argues that decentralization is able to expand and strengthen democracy to the local level . This is possible because decentralization can increase community participation, accountability, and responsiveness in formulating policies that favor local interests, balance the distribution of centralized power, and open up space for local democratic channels.<sup>15</sup>

Regions have the right to autonomy with full authority for regions to regulate and manage their own regions. These rights have legitimacy from the function of the decentralization system, which includes authority, institutions, finances, and control that are handed over to the regions. With the intention that autonomy can run effectively as a democratic system, independence or full freedom is needed for the regions. It should be described that the essence of autonomy is the independence of the region itself.<sup>16</sup>Included in this independence is in the implementation of village government.

The constitutional position of the village is explicitly stated in Article 18b paragraph 2 of the 1945 Constitution which grants special status to villages, by recognizing their customs and traditional rights. This has implications for broader village authority within a state entity.<sup>17</sup>After the amendment to the 1945 Constitution, regulations related to the implementation of village governance have been stated in various laws and regulations. The latest regulation related to villages is Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages (Village Law), confirming villages as legal community units that have the authority to manage and regulate their own governance, as well as the interests of village communities based on community initiatives, original rights, and/or traditional rights that are recognized and respected within the framework

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<sup>15</sup> Mardiyanto Wahyu Tryatmoko, "The Problem of Democratization in Post-New Order Asymmetric Decentralization," *Indonesian Society* 38, no. 2 (2012): 269–96, <https://jmi.ipisk.lipi.go.id/index.php/jmiipisk/article/view/647>.

<sup>16</sup> Bagir Manan, *Welcoming the Dawn of Regional Autonomy* (Yogyakarta: UII Center for Law Studies, 2005).

<sup>17</sup> Ivanovich Agusta, "Ten Years of the Village Law," *Kompas.Id* , 2024, <https://www.kompas.id/baca/opini/2024/01/20/sepuluh-tahun-undang-undang-desa>.

of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia (NKRI).<sup>18</sup> In the previous Village Law, villages were regulated under the regional government.

As stated by Thomas S Kuhn , there is a normalization of the new paradigm into the immediate implementation facing the power of the exponents of the old paradigm.<sup>19</sup> Including in it village discourse , even after a decade of Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages (Village Law). This is a reflection and is still worth focusing on in further efforts to normalize the new authority of the village and village governance in particular. The reflection contains notes on legal events including those concerning:

*First*, Extension of the Term of Office of Village Heads. The matter of the term of office of village heads is regulated in Law Number 3 of 2024 (Law No. 3/2024) concerning the Second Amendment to Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages (Law No. 6/2014). Law No. 3/2024 is a legislative product that is full of accommodation of the subjective interests of village government officials. Along with the development of the times and the dynamics of village government, the term of office of village heads has undergone several changes. Since the reform era, there have been two changes to regulations related to the term of office. The following is a comparative table explaining the differences and changes that have occurred related to the periodization of the term of office of village heads in Indonesia:

**Table 1** : Comparison of Term of Office of Village Heads Based on Statutory Regulations

<b>Regulation</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Length of service</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Law Number 2 of 1999 concerning Regional Government	Not applicable	Article 965 (five) years; and Can be re-elected for 1 (one) subsequent term of office;	2 (two) periods or 10 years
Law Number 32 of 2004 concerning	Not applicable	Article 204 6 (six) years; and Can be re-	2 (two) periods or 12 years

<sup>18</sup> Hario Danang Pambudhi, "Discourse Review on Extension of Term of Office of Village Heads Based on Constitutionalism Teachings," *WIJAYA PUTRA LAW REVIEW* 2 (2023): 25–46, <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.38156/wplr.v2i1.82>.

<sup>19</sup> Mohammad Takdir and Masykur Arif, "The Scientific Revolution of Thomas S. Kuhn and Its Contribution to the Conflict Resolution Paradigm in Indonesia," *Journal of Dialectical Sociology* 17, no. 2 (2022): 147–58, <https://doi.org/https://dx.doi.org/10.20473/jds.v17i2.2022.147-158>.





Regional Government		elected for 1 (one) subsequent term of office	
Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages	Valid – changed	Article 39 6 (six) years; and Serve a maximum of 3 (three) terms of office, either consecutively or non-consecutive.	3 (three) terms or 18 years
Law Number 3 of 2024 concerning the Second Amendment to Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages	Valid	Article 39, 8 years for 1 period; serve a maximum of 2 (two) terms of office, either consecutively or non-consecutive.	2 (two) periods or 16 years

Source: Author's Analysis based on Indonesian Legislation

In the second amendment to Law No. 6/2014, namely Law No. 3/2024, it gives longer authority to village heads in running village government. The 8-year term of office is feared to trigger abuse of power or potential political deviation. Instead of being a solution to reduce post-village head election conflict, the extension of the 8-year term of office has the potential and is feared to create an oligarchic and corrupt village regime. The fear of feeling that they have become a respected person for a long time makes it very possible for someone to abuse their power to act, this will result in a government system based on oligarchy.<sup>20</sup>

*Second* , related to the periodization of the village head's term of office from table 1 illustrates the inconsistency of the law on Villages in the corridor of term limitation. The limitation of the Village Head's term of office should be a pillar of enforcing the principle of limiting power, because the principle of limiting power is a manifestation of the implementation of the principle of democracy as well as the spirit of the limitation desired in the 1945 Constitution. This is also in line with the spirit of limiting the term of office and the

<sup>20</sup> Muhammd Fathurrahman, “Urgency and Implications of Extending the Term of Office of Village Heads in the Dynamics of Village Government in Indonesia,” *Case Law Journal of Law* 5, no. 1 (2024), <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.25157/caselaw.v5i1.3766>.

periodization of the term of office of the President and Vice President as well as in the term of office of regional heads and deputy regional heads. Thus, deviations from the principle of limiting the term of office of the Village Head in Law No. 6/2014 and the second amendment to Law No. 6/2014, namely Law No. 3/2024, are both inconsistent norms against the mandate of the constitution regarding the principle of limiting power.

*Third*, the euphoria of Law No. 3/2024 is overshadowed by fears of maladministration by policy makers in the village. The second amendment to Law No. 6/2014, namely Law No. 3/2024, which was pushed by the village head organization, is feared to be more biased towards the interests of the village elite . This can be seen from Article 26, Article 50A, Article 62 in Law No. 3/2024 concerning budget affirmation for allowances for village heads, village officials, and members of the Village Consultative Body (BPD). Law No. 3/2024 does not show concern for the welfare of village communities. There are no provisions that require the fulfillment of basic rights of village communities in the allocation of village budgets. Law No. 3/2024 is more appropriately referred to as the Village Government Law, not the Village Law. This law does not reflect the village as a legal entity and socio-cultural community, especially the customary law community within the framework of the Republic of Indonesia.

### **Review of Legal Principles in Extension of Term of Office of Village Head**

The eight-year term of office in Law No. 3/2024 provides the Village Head with a fairly long opportunity to realize the vision and mission of village development through the Village Medium-Term Development Plan ( RPJMDes ). RPJMDes is a reference for assessing village development targets, both idealistic and pragmatic. For village heads who have integrity and are highly committed to realizing village progress, eight years is a sufficient time to carry out innovative village development programs. Village Heads who are tested in intellectual quality in achieving achievements and have *good leadership* and understanding the General Principles of Good Government (AAUPB) will be able to create a legacy of good leadership.

The era of village autonomy has produced many village heads who have achieved success in organizing *good village governance*. *governance* , accountable village financial management , and advancing village-owned enterprises ( BUMDes ). Innovative village heads even become *role models for strengthening participatory democracy in villages, and are able to encourage the presence of pro-public and anti-corruption village budget governance* .

However, *Indonesia Corruption Watch (ICW)* reported that corruption at the village level ranked first as the sector that was most prosecuted for corruption cases by law

enforcement officers from 2015-2021. Throughout the seven years, there were 592 corruption cases in villages with a state loss of IDR 433.8 billion. The increasing corruption in villages goes hand in hand with the increase in the allocation of funds that are quite large for village development. Since 2015-2021, IDR 400.1 trillion in village funds have been disbursed for village development needs, both in terms of physical and human development through community development programs and handling extreme poverty . Corruption that occurs in villages will have an impact on losses experienced directly by village communities. Furthermore, in 2023, there were 187 cases of corruption in villages. From their findings, the largest acts of corruption apart from the rural sector were government (108 cases), utilities (103 cases), and banking (65 cases). Corruption in the village sector is recorded to have cost the state around IDR 162.2 billion in 2023. The increase in corruption in villages cannot be separated from the enactment of Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages which contains the allocation of village funds.<sup>21</sup>

The extension of the term of office of the village head (kades) has become a crucial issue that continues to reap pros and cons. On the one hand, there are aspirations from the Village Head and the village community who want an extension of the term of office to improve the stability and effectiveness of leadership. Then on the other hand, concerns arise that the extension of the term of office could potentially violate the basic principles of the rule of law and democracy, as well as open up loopholes for abuse of power. The vulnerability of corrupt practices has the potential to occur massively if control and supervision are weak.

Village Government is part of the concept of decentralization and the most important part of the concept of a state of law. Conceptually, democracy basically contains several main principles, namely representation, transparency, accountability, responsiveness , and participation. These principles are the basis for policy management, village planning, village financial management, and public services. The goal is to achieve people's welfare, which includes two major components: basic needs (food, shelter, education, and health) and village economic development that utilizes local potential.<sup>22</sup>

Village communities are the key to good village governance, based on the principle of legal certainty, namely the existence of laws and regulations and a leadership process that is mutually agreed upon to achieve a better life. This is in line with Plato's opinion with the

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<sup>21</sup> Aryo Putranto Saptohutomo, "ICW Doubts Whether Revision of Law Can Prevent Corruption of Village Funds," *Kompas.Com* , 2024, <https://nasional.kompas.com/read/2024/05/20/16500701/icw-ragu-revisi-uu-mampu-cegah-korupsi-dana-desa>.

<sup>22</sup> Didik Sukirno, *Constitutional Law and the Concept of Autonomy, Political Legal Study on the Constitution, Regional and Village Autonomy after the Constitutional Amendment* (Malang: Setara Press, 2013).

philosophy of idealism, namely that the state is a unity and cooperation to achieve goals.<sup>23</sup> This strengthening also needs to be in line with the principle of *Good Governance* which are essentially ethical values or legal norms that serve as benchmarks for the implementation of good government performance in order to realize the goals of the state.<sup>24</sup> The goals of the state based on law so that there is no special arbitrariness in the actions of the ruler, including the actions of the community in accordance with the goals of the life of the nation and state of a country.<sup>25</sup>

The presence of law in society is among others to integrate and coordinate the interests that can collide with each other by law so that the collisions, namely friction of conflict, can be suppressed as little as possible.<sup>26</sup> Law functions as a means of development and as a means of renewing society that must continue to pay attention to, maintain, and defend order as a classic function of law. This is intended so that during development and change, order and regularity are maintained.<sup>27</sup> Referring back to the records of legal events related to the extension of the term of the regional head, it is necessary to strengthen the principle of *Good Governance* or known as the principles of good governance . The concept of good governance ( *Good Governance*) *Governance* ) is an important foundation for the realization of modern and democratic legal rules. Various principles of *Good Governance* , such as the supremacy of law, transparency, participation, efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability, has become a fundamental foundation in realizing an ideal government.<sup>28</sup>

*Good* principles *Governance* in line with the principles of village administration as stipulated in Article 24 of Law No. 6/2014 concerning Villages, including<sup>29</sup> Legal Certainty, Orderly governance, orderly public interest, openness, proportionality , professionalism, accountability, effectiveness and efficiency, local wisdom, diversity, and participation . Thus,

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<sup>23</sup> Citranu, "Implementation of Good Governance Principles in Village Government to Prevent Misuse of Village Funds," *Journal of Hindu Religious Law* 12, no. 1 (2022): 27–45.

<sup>24</sup> Apriyanto Moha Weny A. Dunga, Abdul Hamid Tome, "Implementation of Good Governance Principles in Village Government Administration in Telaga Jaya District, Gorontalo Regency," *Scientific Journal of Law* 11, no. 1 (2017): 1–15.

<sup>25</sup> A. Zakarsi Dimar Simarmata, "Legal Awareness, Village Government, Development Planning, Lopak Aur Village," *Inovatif Journal* XII, no. 1 (2019): 92–109.

<sup>26</sup> Satjipto Rahardjo, *Law and Social Change; A Theoretical Review and Experiences in Indonesia* , ed. Ufran, Alumni Ban (Yogyakarta: Genta Publishing Yogyakarta, 2009).

<sup>27</sup> Rusli K Iskandar, *Normatization of State Administrative Law*, in SF Marbun et al., *Dimensions of Thought on State Administrative Law* (Yogyakarta: UII Press, 2001).

<sup>28</sup> Dimar Simarmata, "Legal Awareness, Village Government, Development Planning, Lopak Aur Village."

<sup>29</sup> Muhammad Mashuri, "The Principle of Justice in Legal Protection for Village Heads in Implementing Village Policies (Case Study of Decision in Case Number 66/Pid.Sus/Tpk/2015/PN. Sby)," *Mimbar Yustitia* 1, no. 1 (2017): 59–78.

village administrators are required to make these principles the basis for implementing village governance. It should be noted that some of these principles are mandatory and if violated, will have legal consequences in accordance with laws and regulations. Normalization of the term of office of village heads must be carefully considered within the applicable legal framework.

Relevant legal principles in this context include:

- a. Decentralization and regional autonomy: Normalization of the term of office of village heads must not conflict with the values of Pancasila and the principles of the rule of law.
- b. Strengthening the *Good principles Governance* in the governance of village government and all matters relating to the village.
- c. Local democracy: Normalization of village head terms of office must take into account the rights of village communities to participate in local democratic processes and elect their leaders periodically.
- d. Accountability: Normalization of village head terms of office must ensure village head accountability to village communities and encourage transparency in village government management.

## CONCLUSION

The dynamics of changes in the term of office of village heads in Indonesia reflect the complexity of governance at the grassroots level. Philosophical , sociological and legal factors all play a role in influencing the formation policies related to the term of office of the village head. Normalization of the term of office of village heads must be carried out by taking into account the applicable legal framework, including the principles of decentralization, regional autonomy, *Good Governance* , local democracy, and accountability. These principles are important to ensure that normalization does not conflict with the values of Pancasila and the principles of the rule of law, strengthen village governance, and protect the rights of village communities to participate in local democratic processes and elect their leaders periodically. Normalization of the term of office of village heads must also encourage accountability of village heads to the community and increase transparency in the management of village government.

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