

Communication Strategy For Government Members Of The Legislature In Conflict Management In Poso District

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ABSTRACT

The inter-religious conflict began in Poso Regency on December 24, 1998. The incident occurred because of clashes between youths of different religions. The research aims to analyze the communication strategy of governing council members as opinion leaders in managing various religious conflicts in Poso Regency. Qualitative research methods using observation data collection techniques and in-depth interviews. Data analysis uses the perspective of Miles and Huberman, namely data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion/verification. The results of the study show that the communication strategy of government members of the legislature in preventing conflict in Poso Regency, namely messages conveyed to the public, must be more rational and easy to understand, such as using local accents or languages; showing mutual respect by visiting religious holidays such as Christmas and Eid; helping each other in building houses of worship, trying to calm the community if further conflicts occur and being able to cooperate with the media; and coordinating with community leaders, students, local government (Bupati) and police agencies.

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I. Introduction

Conflict is a part of human life as a social being. Differences of opinion about a matter can lead to conflict in society. The impacts are pretty diverse, ranging from loss of property, trauma, and breaking friendship ties to causing fatalities. Much data is spread in the media related to conflicts that occur in social circles, especially those related to conflicts with religious nuances [1]. Many people think that they are willing to die for religion and dare to kill just because in the name of religion which is not justified in the teachings of any religion. Conflicts are planned by certain elements and involve the most sensitive thing in humans, namely religion [2].

There are many issues regarding radicalism and conflicts with religious nuances in Indonesia, from Sabang to Merauke. This incident is, of course, very concerning, the Indonesian people, who are known for their hospitality, are unable to maintain their attitude and behavior because irresponsible elements have instigated them by using religion as the reason for their acts of kindness, torturing and killing opponents of different religions [3]. Such conditions are part of religious exclusivity in the life of a pluralistic Indonesian nation. Furthermore, inter-religious conflicts occur because of differences in concepts or practices carried out by each adherent of a religion that shift from the actual rules based on religious law. This shift ultimately made the frame of mind of some religious followers wrong in interpreting the meaning of the holy book, making them sadistic in their actions [4].

Adherents of conflicting religions allow wrong thoughts to be followed, giving rise to negative stereotypes, eventually leading to acts of attacking each other, killing, and burning places of worship and value for each religion's adherents. We still continuously remember the conflict between Muslim and Christian differences in Poso Regency, Central Sulawesi. The conflict began on December 24, 1998, by telling tragic acts such as killings, bombings, kidnapping of people to be recruited as terrorist members, burning houses, etc. This condition certainly makes the social environment of the Poso people tense because there is no peaceful life and religious tolerance [5].

If traced based on history, based on information disseminated by CNN Indonesia online in 2020, it was explained that the incident occurred because of a fight between youths who happened to have different religions. But then it gave rise to quite sharp religious sentiments between Muslims and Christians because it simultaneously coincided with the celebration of Christmas and Ramadan. Another tension followed many years later, from April to May 2000 [6]. The conflict was sparked by a fight between Muslim youths who claimed to be attacked by a group of Christian youths. Then, the action of mutual reciprocation colored those months. Furthermore, it was explained in a historical study journal regarding the Poso conflict, writing that this was because each group considered the conflict a war to defend the sanctity of each religion [7].

The above case related to the conflict between Muslims and Christians in Poso Regency has been going on for quite a long time and still leaves the aftermath of the incident for the community. The two warring camps maintained their selfishness in the name of religion. If explored more deeply, no faith justifies violence to the point of murder. The impact of the conflict makes innocent people live in misery. Therefore, it is hoped that the role of opinion leaders such as members of the Poso Regency Regional People's Legislative Council will be able to become good mediators, build communication that can reassure the public, and, of course, establish effective communication with all stakeholders such as the police, community leaders, religious leaders and the regional leadership of Poso Regency. In this case, too, members of the Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD) of Poso Regency must be able to apply positive messages always to respect each other's differences, increase tolerance, and help each other among religious people. This is part of the government's communication strategy for managing interfaith conflict in the Poso District..

II. Methods

This study uses a qualitative method with a case study approach. The case concerns the conflict between Muslim and Christian communities in Poso Regency. The research subjects consisted of members of Regional Legislative Council of the Poso Regency. The object of research is the government's communication strategy in solving different religious conflicts. The data collection technique used observation, namely observing cases of religious differences and the efforts of members of Regional Legislative Council of the Poso Regency in solving these problems. In-depth interviews are trying to dig up information about the government's communication strategy in solving problems regarding interfaith conflicts in Poso Regency. According to Miles and Huberman, data analysis consists of three activities that occur simultaneously: data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions/verification..

III. Result and Discussion

A. Conflict in Poso District

The conflict that occurred in the Poso Regency community was a conflict whose reason was only because of religious differences. However, no religion advocates negative behavior. Therefore, to be able to reduce and minimize the conflicts that have occurred in the Poso Regency, the participation of opinion leaders is needed, in this case, the members of the council who are entrusted by the community to be part of the protector and neutralizer of existing problems. The actions of the members of this council certainly require a good communication strategy to be able to provide a good understanding and persuade people in conflict to be able to live a more beautiful life by loving and respecting fellow human beings as religious people.

The following is a statement from Sessions Kristina Dharmawati Mapeda, SH., M.H as chairman of Regional Legislative Council of the Poso Regency: "We as members of the council, in particular I, of course, hold a big mandate from the community, because after all, we are sitting here at the people's choice. We are trusted to make the community live prosperously from an economic point of view and feel safe and comfortable living in this area of Poso Regency."

The People's Representative Council is an elected individual expected to become an essential part of people's lives related to the aspirations conveyed. All people, without exception, in Poso Regency want to live a more prosperous life from an economic point of view. This means that the needs of life can be adequately met. Furthermore, as a member of the council, it is hoped that they will be able to

create a safe and comfortable living atmosphere, considering that in Poso, there have been conflicts as a history of life which made everyone feel anxious and afraid in living a social life.

According to Ma'mur Lapido, a member of Commission II: Communication is essential and very useful. When I can sit here because of good communication. Preventing conflict, of course, with communication. I can become a council member because my constituency is all Christian while I am Muslim. But their support and positive attitude are always given. And until now, our social relations or with other communities who are Muslim have always been well maintained."

There are no humans who do not communicate, and all need communication to be able to live a better life. Communication helps everyone to understand others. As experienced by Ma'mur Lapido as a member of Regional Legislative Council of the Poso Regency. I can become a council member because of the community's support and motivation despite different religions. This indicates that the community longs for harmony of differences. They also understand that every religion teaches something good, so positive support for a Mamur Lapido is always given. This action can certainly positively impact other Muslim communities so that positive social interactions occur and life becomes harmonious, peaceful, and comfortable.

Dr. Rev. Coni Modjanggo, S.Pak, M.A member of Commission I argued that: "In the name of us helping each other and maintaining security in Poso, there is no real difference anymore, whoever he is is obliged to maintain the safety of his area so that we can all live in harmony and harmony. Being able to greet each other better without any tension created by certain irresponsible persons. Communication must be maximized, and it must be able to convey appropriately about a negative incident so that it can be handled quickly and properly.

To maintain the security of Poso Regency, basically, there are no more differences between communities, everyone has to be able to work well together, starting from the community, the government, students, and of course, members of the police. Communication must be maximized to achieve more and more harmonious life goals. When other areas in Poso Regency experience negative conditions, the community must inform each other so that the government and the police can move more quickly to secure and maintain the condition of the area so that people are comfortable living. Good communication can create good understanding and action by fellow members of society, even though they have different religions and cultures.

Furthermore, Ma'mur Lapido, a member of Commission II, again gave his opinion: "The point is that everyone needs cooperation. Government and community communication must be carried out repeatedly like us as members of the council and the community, as well as with other institutions, including the police, media, and students. It is important to be invited to work together because everyone is trying to improve Poso Regency."

Government communication, in this case, the members of the Poso Regency council with the community and other institutions, both the police and students, must be maintained appropriately so that a safe and comfortable area is created. Intense communication will make the government and all parties involved in it have efforts to prevent conflicts carried out by specific individuals in the name of religion so that one religion and another are divided in terms of social interaction. When conflict occurs, there is distrust and accusing other religious groups of behaving badly towards certain religions.

Dr. Rev. Coni Modjanggo, S.Pak, M.A, a member of Commission I, said: "We as members of the council are still trying to be able to work well with the media team, in this case, journalists, so they don't report information that only gives fear to the public when they read it. But on the contrary, load information that becomes news about positive things".

The opinion above follows what was conveyed by Dr. Yenny Flora Tampa'i, S.Pd, M.Th, M.Pd as a member of Commission I: "Yes, cooperation with the media is indeed important. The goal is so that other people do not always think that Poso is a conflict area. Because now, Poso is very safe and comfortable to live in. There are already many people who live side by side even though they have different religions".

The primary strategy that must also be carried out properly by board members is to work with the media. Always provide good information about Poso Regency. So that it is no longer known as a conflict area by the wider community, moreover, the dissemination of information can now be done

through online media. Conversely, the media can inform something good and introduce Poso Regency as a comfortable and safe area for anyone, especially the local community in Poso. Everything must be done to the maximum to achieve a harmonious life. Communication is always maintained properly so that no party is harmed and, social life becomes normal, people are more productive in working for their survival.

The conflict between Muslims and Christians in Poso District began on December 24, 1998, which now still leaves a sad story. Religion is the primary tool in conflict because its members emphasize differences rather than similarities in positive behavior. Sociologically, religion can be used as a means of bonding social solidarity and as a trigger for social disintegration. Differences in the beliefs of religious adherents who believe in the truth of their religious teachings, and consider other religious beliefs to be heretical, are the driving force for conflict between adherents of religions.

The religious conflict in Poso Regency left a tragic story where many people lost their family members, disappeared without a trace, and was killed. The conflict has made Poso Regency an area that is no longer safe to live in, and religious tolerance is very much a crisis to find. The people lived in fear, and to save their lives, many fled to other areas in Central Sulawesi, such as Parigi Moutong Regency, Donggala Regency, and Palu City. Refugees move to seek security, comfort, and peace of life for a better future.

B. Communication Strategy in Conflict Resolution

The turmoil of inter-religious conflicts in the Poso Regency made members of the Regional People's Representative Council in Poso Regency have to develop a good government communication strategy. According to Syam and Sugiana, there are two reasons why communication activities need a strategy, namely: (1) because the communicator is not only concerned with communication messages that can be received by the communicant (received) but also accepted; (2) so that the communicator can get the response/response as expected from audiences such as the community.

Communication related to strategy is an essential part of every human life because the message sent must be well-designed to change the attitude and behavior of the person being addressed. In this case, members of Regional Legislative Council of the Poso Regency use a variety of communication strategies to be able to prevent and even eliminate the so-called inter-religious conflict so that comfort and peace of life can be felt again and people can live side by side without feeling anxiety or fear when carrying out social interactions. Efforts made by the government to resolve inter-religious conflicts are carried out to achieve state goals. Communication must be able to run correctly by the government because, in it, there are ideas, programs, and ideas that aim to protect the community from achieving the state's goals, namely freeing oneself from interfaith conflicts.

Government communication carried out by members of Regional Legislative Council of the Poso Regency is designed in a friendly manner and applies good religious tolerance. This is a good strategy in the conflict management process. Furthermore, the communication built by the government to the public is rational and applies an emotional bond marked by the use of an accent or regional language. In connection with religious holidays, each member of the council visits to establish friendships even though they have different religions, to help each other in the process of building houses of worship, to be able to work with the media so that they can provide good news to reduce public anxiety related to the conflict. One of the most important things is building good communication with community leaders, students, the police, and regional leaders (regents)..

IV. Conclusion

Based on the research findings, it can be concluded that the communication strategy of government members of the legislature in preventing conflict in Poso Regency, namely messages conveyed to the public, must be more rational and easy to understand, such as using local accents or languages, show mutual respect by visiting religious holidays such as Christmas and Eid, helping each other in building houses of worship, trying to calm the community if there are further conflicts and being able to work with the media, and coordinating with community leaders, students, local government (Bupati) and police agencies.

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