SYMPOSIUM RESUME

During the New Order era, the Indonesian plural society (Bhinneka Tunggal Ika) have changed and become authoritarian and militaristic, directed power to a national system or a central government. In other words, the government have got the power to regulate and dominate towards individuals in this society and small communities in Indonesia. The national government's domination can be seen in its effort to reach economic development while ignoring the plurality and the heterogeneity of Indonesian culture (Bhinneka Tunggal Ika). Raising efficiency and productivity in development is carried out through homogenising the cultural, social, political, and economical structures to enable the government to easily regulate and dominate the exploitation of the available human and natural resources.

The development paradigm which in its essence is a strength in reaching prosperity have created social, economical political and cultural inequalities because it is centralised, homogenised and does not pay enough attention to the plurality of Indonesia's society. Only a small number of people have been successful in taking control of their economic, social and political resources/life; while the majority have been marginalized and became poorer. Irresponsible actions and unequal competition to fight for opportunities and resources have made the people demand for justice, through peaceful means or violence. Various forms of violence occur; even the desire to have freedom, separated from Indonesia to form their own countries. The violence and riots that shakes our ethics and morality have a potential to disintegrate the nation.

To prevent the possibility of Indonesia breaking apart like what had happened in Soviet Union and Yugoslavia, there is a need to alleviate the national government's homogenisation according to democratic principles. Though it is a little bit too late, the government have decided to provide autonomy to the regions to sort out their own 'households'. With the rights to manage their own regions, we hope that justice and the people's sense of security will be more taken care of. However, problems arise concerning the plural understanding of autonomy and its implementation in a democratic climate. The main problem is deciding on what type of regional autonomy and its implementation will enable the people to have self-actualisation and identity in a community culture. One of the main issues that needed to be examined is in how far the Legislation no 22/1999 appreciates the rights of the community besides that of individual rights to regulate and actualise oneself? Those community rights have existed in local institutions and organisations that have been ignored during the New Order era of development.

By considering this fact, the symposium has concluded that human rights together with the responsibility it carries must be upheld equally with individual, community and the rights of the state. The ways that have been carried out by activating human rights must be accomplished by activating cultural rights of the community or society. The cultural rights of the community cover the right to live

according to one's culture and religious beliefs and also indigenous right over land, water and its components. The conferring of the cultural rights of the community can be perceived as an effort:

1) to implement the diversity of the Indonesian nation that have been homogenised and marginalized during the New Order era.

2) to empower the local people against the legacy of the state to govern the country, and the excessive individual rights so that there will be equal rights between the state/government, the individual and the community.

3) to protect the local people from the crimes of the hooligans and vandals; and outside interventions; and to establish the nation's cultural resistance.

To enable the cultural rights of the community to have social and political power, they should be provided to every citizen of Indonesia and be legitimised into the legislations of the country, so as to have the power of the legalized law.

The cultural rights of the community as well as the balance between the rights and responsibility of individuals, communities and state are outlined according to the theme of the panel of the International symposium/workshop. The four panels that organised the discussion on the four themes of the symposium and workshop have produced the following recommendations:

Diversity and Cultural Plurality (Bhineka Tunggal Ika):

- respect towards each individual culture and religion or ways of living must be respected so as to avoid domination of one culture over another;

- the communities of new comers must be treated the same as that of the original inhabitants or the local communities who are trying to develop a social life and culture as part of the sovereign nation;

- marriage between different religions should be facilitated in the court of law and declared legal by the government;

- there is a need to improve study and research activity on the implementation of the cultural rights of the community and its relationship with human rights and national rights of the state at the local people, as well as at the national level, especially when it involves social conflicts and riots in this day and age.

- to form educational and research institutions across religions and cultures as an effort to create an understanding and tolerance between religious groups and plural society

Regional autonomy and empowering the local institutions:

- There is a need for careful examination of Legislation no 22/1999 on regional autonomy that still has weaknesses, such as its lack of attention towards the plurality and heterogeneity of the people, which should become the main priority.

- the need to integrate the cultural dimension and the freedom of local communities in determining the type of regional autonomy, so that the idea of a democratic regional autonomy can be reached without new problems arising, such as the demand for autonomy by the ethnic groups.
- to identify and empower the local cultures that are still alive and functioning to help the people in facing the many challenges that exist today.
- formulating more concrete strategies that is directly related with the concepts of empowering the community and local cultures by involving academic scholars and bureaucrats.

Managing the natural resources:

- To develop policies that provide opportunities to the local communities to manage their natural resources and environment while paying attention to the rights and responsibilities at the individual level, community and state on the basis of sustainability principles;
- by considering the huge diversities in the strategies to manage the natural resources, as well as the socio-cultural condition of the local communities, the determination of the regional boundaries should therefore take into account the local ecological conditions by involving the participation of the local communities;
- in terms of managing the natural resources by outside parties or stakeholders, special care should again be considered in maintaining and sustaining the life of the local people and culture and in dividing the profits, to uplift their prosperity.
- the two components that are important when it comes to empowering the people, are amongst other: 1) enriching the ecological knowledge of the local communities and stakeholders including bureaucratic apparatus; and 2) developing and expanding the local institutions as the results of agreements between all parties (in a bottom up way).
- there is a need to re-examine the regulation and legislations that can be used as a control mechanism by several parties including bureaucratic apparatus and stakeholders, especially when handling conflict in the fight for natural resources, and environmental degradation; and the effort to disseminate information on the legislation/regulations.

Redefining the role/culture of the bureaucrats and military:

- Modern bureaucracy in Indonesia has been contaminated by feudalism, thus leaving rational, efficient and merit giving principles.
- the military institution has been quite involved in political affairs, such that conflicts of interests arise in the society. The military institution has been involved in and dominant in many vital governmental activities. They are also losing their professionalism in the field of national defence.

- therefore, there is a need to clean up the bureaucracy system in Indonesia by heading towards an efficient, neutral, rational and merit giving form of bureaucracy that is independent from the motivation of certain political groups.

- in the transitional period towards a regional autonomic system, there is a risk of a lack of ability from the regional bureaucracy apparatus, as well as the risk of an emergence in new authoritarianism from the local elites, whether it comes from amongst the people, the individuals of the civil bureaucracy, or the military that can manipulate and dominate local institutions in an authoritarian.

- in relation to increase the military's professionalism and the effort to develop regional autonomy, it is suggested that there should be restrictions on the military's territorial power. On the other hand, the effort to empower the police that encounters double the amount of challenges which is rehabilitating and enforcing social discipline must therefore be improved.

- empowering actors, institutions and alternative mechanism for conflict resolution;

- upholding the law on all sides without any exceptions (including bureaucratic apparatus and the military).

As a first step to implement the various suggestions mentioned above, there is a need for a willingness and openness to see and explore the 'mistakes' done, not to merely find mistakes or judge those who are wrong but to learn from them so we do not repeat the mistakes in the future. Therefore, there is a need to examine the previous bad experiences of the nation, as well as the mistakes, so as to be able to formulate alternatives to run a democratic country.

Owing to the needs to carry out research and advocacies, the established, experienced and accepted research and advocacy institutions should be more efficiently managed to assist and empower the local communities. Cooperation and dissemination of information between research and advocacy institutions is also needed.

One of the problems that have been identified so far is the lack of communication and socialisation on various aspects of running the country. Therefore, openness and willingness of institutions to socialise and disseminate information is very much needed.

Steering Committee
Symposium/Workshop International - Makassar