




Communication and Disclosure of Public Information in the Era of Digital Democracy in West Java Regional Government: Public Policy and Political Perspective

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Abstract. The implementation of regional government is greatly influenced by the massive development of communication and information technology. Communication between regional governments and the community and openness of public information are fundamental in local democracy. The flow of democratization has encouraged citizens to become information literate which demands that regional government be more open, responsive and accountable. The presence of regulations regarding public information disclosure through Law Number 14 of 2008 and various derivative regulations is an important part of moving towards a more democratic national life. This research aims to discuss communication between the regional government of West Java Province and the community as well as openness of public information in the era of digital democracy from the perspective of public policy and politics. The research concludes that information is something that is inherent in the needs and rights of citizens which are always demanded by local governments. In the context of digital democracy and the information society, openness of public information is an inseparable thing in the administration of West Java regional government. The issuance of West Java Regional Regulation Number 11 of 2011, West Java Governor's Regulation Number 30 of 2014, Regional Regulation Number 4 of 2021, West Java Governor's Regulation Number 47 of 2023, and West Java Governor's Decree Number 067/Kep-225-Dskominfo/2021 are concrete manifestations of public policy regarding citizens' rights. towards public information and openness of regional government communication. The presence of an Information and Documentation Management Officer is essential as a regional government's response to demands for democratization, effective two-way communication and information transparency. Public supervision of regional government administration will be supported by the management and public information services at each regional apparatus organization in West Java. Public participation in the formation and implementation of public policy is increasing along with the formation of the information society and digital society.

Keywords: Communication, digital democracy, politics, public policy, regional government.

1 Introduction

The governance structure, including regional government, experienced fundamental changes along with political and constitutional reforms in 1998 as a new episode in communication between the government and the people, as well as mechanisms for managing state power. Various regulations in the form of laws marked this era, thereby pushing towards democratization in various aspects of national life. Some of them that are worth mentioning are Law Number 39 of 1999 concerning Human Rights, Law Number 40 of 1999 concerning the Press, Law Number 25 of 2009 concerning Public Services, Law Number 37 of 2008 concerning the Ombudsman of the Republic of Indonesia, Law Number 11 of 2008 concerning Information and Electronic Transactions, and Law Number 14 of 2008 concerning Public Information Openness (KIP) . One aspect of human life that is related to several state regulations and is related to the public interest is the right to obtain information.

In line with its status as a democratic country and a rule of law as stated in Article 1 Paragraph (2) and Paragraph (3) of the state constitution, it is clear that the people have the right to obtain information about various aspects of government administration, including regional government. The people have the right to know about things that are being designed by all local government agencies as public policy plans or public programs. Based on this, the people know the seriousness of the regional government, including in the provincial areas, in carrying out its function as a servant and regulator of welfare for the people. This also means that the people have exercised control over state power as a form of democracy.

The current era is marked by the massive use of communication and information technology, showing that human activities are closely linked to information. Alvin and Heidi Toffler say that the main factor in the Third Wave economy is knowledge or knowledge, which is broadly defined as data, information, images, symbols, culture, ideology and values. The value of a company's success in this era lies in its capacity to acquire, produce, distribute and apply knowledge strategically and operationally [1]. Technology in modern society has given rise to extraordinary productivity, the most obvious of which is information productivity. Every second that passes hundreds or even millions of pieces of information are produced by humans [2]. Information technology is advancing rapidly accompanied by the development of communication processes in the information society. In a short time, people who communicate can enrich their information insight, so they can change their point of view quickly, because of the influence of information in the interaction of social, economic and political life [3]. This has an impact on the relationship between local government and the people in the context of democratization.

In the West Java regional government, it is very important and strategic to have an Information and Documentation Management Officer (PPID) whose existence is regulated in Law Number 14 of 2008 in responding to the public's need for public information, in connection with the increasing development of the information society and openness of public information [4]. The research aims at communication between the regional government of West Java Province and the community as well as openness of public information in the digital era from the perspective of public policy and politics in relation to the information society and democratization in the digital era.

2 Methods

This research uses normative juridical methods and literature review. The focus of the normative juridical method is on all West Java Province government regulations as public policies that are directly or indirectly related to communication, transparency and openness of public information. The regional government regulations that are the focus of the study are Regional Regulation Number 11 of 2011, Regional Regulation Number 4 of 2021, Gubernatorial Regulation Number 30 of 2014, Gubernatorial Regulation Number 47 of 2023, and Gubernatorial Decree Number 067/Kep.225-Diskom-info/2021 [5], [6], [7], [8]. Apart from that, several state policies include Law Number 14 of 2008, several other related laws, PP Number 61 of 2010, several Information Commission regulations and other relevant government regulations [4], [9]. Literature review is carried out by collecting, classifying and reviewing all documents in various forms, in the form of books, journals, reports, papers, website news and other sources of information that are relevant to the research objectives, from which a conclusion is then drawn. In this regard, the analysis is carried out from a public policy and political perspective.

3 Results And Discussion

3.1 Society and Openness of Public Information

The presence of an information society is an integral part of the state's attention through government administration. This can be seen in Law Number 14 of 2008, as stated in the consideration "Considering" letter d, that one of the considerations is that managing public information is an effort to develop an information society [4]. The implementation of government functions, including services and development, cannot be separated

from the existence of information as something every citizen needs. In this regard, Article 1 point 1 of this law states that information is information, statements, ideas and signs that contain value, meaning and messages, whether data, facts or explanations that can be seen, heard and read. presented in various packages and formats in accordance with developments in electronic and electronic information and communication technology.

In relation to communication between the government and citizens, public information is very strategic for effective government. This is in line with the definition of public information as stated in Article 1 number 2 as information produced, stored, managed, sent and/or received by a public body related to the administration and administration of the state and/or the administration and administration of other public bodies. in accordance with this law as well as other information relating to the public interest. The presence of laws regulating public information disclosure, other related laws and derivative regulations, including those issued by the Information Commission, is basically public policy.

In the relationship between local government and the people, it is clear that the current facts in daily human activities have placed information as something that really determines the direction of their lives. With the use of various media and information and communication technology devices, within certain limits an information society has been built. According to Ratna et al., this information is characterized by the reality of human life which is always attached to computers and telecommunications. Information is important, it becomes a product that is offered and is a raw material that will be processed into new, more useful information [10]. Social interaction takes place very quickly, as stated by Habibah and Irwansyah that the characteristics of an information society are the need for information, the use of information technology in various activities, and the human ability to exchange digital data quickly and over long distances [11]. Globalization has an impact on changes in all aspects of people's lives, including the field of information technology. The endless flow of information technology, from internet networks to wireless to digital cable telephone systems, is continuously changing ways of communicating from traditional to modern [12].

The development of the information society, as expected in the consideration of "Considering" Letter D of Law Number 14 of 2008, will be faster and stronger when the management of public information has become an integral part of the daily tasks of public bodies, including the West Java regional government [4]. In this regard, the existence of PPID as regulated in Article 1 Number 9 of Law Number 14 of 2008 and Article 1 Number 5 of PP Number 61 of 2010, is very important and decisive [4], [9]. They are officials in public bodies who are responsible for storing, documenting, providing, and/or providing information services in each public body, as regulated in Article 1 Number 8. Public bodies, as stated in Article 1 Number 3 of Law Number 14 2008 and Article 1 Number 2 PP Number 61 of 2020 are executive, legislative, judicial

and other bodies whose main functions and tasks are related to state administration, where some or all of their funds come from the APBN and/or APBD, or non-governmental organizations that some or all of the funds come from the APBN and/or APBD, community donations, and/or abroad [4].

In the West Java Provincial Government, the existence of PPID is regulated in Gubernatorial Decree Number 067/Kep.225-Diskominfo/2021, whose duties as stated in the Fifth Dictum are to provide, store, document and secure information within the West Java Provincial Government [13]. To carry out this task, PPID has five functions relating to providing, serving, establishing operational procedures, facilitating, testing consequences, implementing verification and coordinating public information services, as stated in the Sixth Dictum. The issuance of this Gubernatorial Decree is based on state and government policies in higher positions, including Law Number 14 of 2008, Law Number 25 of 2009, PP Number 61 of 2010, Minister of Home Affairs Regulation Number 3 of 2017 and Regional Regulation Number 6 of 2010 [4], [9].

The West Java community's perception and understanding of information and its use to achieve their life goals, including interacting with local government, will influence the quality of their lives as citizens of a highly competitive information society. In the concept of information, according to Purwaningtyas, increasing the meaning of information refers to knowledge, whoever masters knowledge will control the world. Knowledge, which contains information, becomes extraordinary power because it is a valuable resource and has value [14]. Currently, the majority of West Java residents are familiar with various information and communication technology devices which are a major contributor to the formation of an information society as well as a digital society. In this regard, Damanik stated that there are several factors that encourage the formation of an information society, including the dynamics of information and communication, the development of computer technology, and the development of communication technology [15]. In the current development of society, this will continue to grow along with society's need for information and the need for the use of various digital devices that accompany it. Wahyuni explained that contemporary society is facing much more complex issues than previously. Information and communication technology, the main motors of information society, have contributed to this increased complexity [16].

As an integral part of Indonesia as a democratic country and a rule of law, the West Java Provincial Government is required to continue to encourage a government that is more democratic, open and accountable through effective communication with the people, among other things, by fostering participation. In this regard, the issuance of Regional Regulation Number 11 of 2011 which outlines the importance of transparency, participation and accountability in the administration of regional government, is a strong foundation for efforts to build a more democratic government [5]. In the current era of industrial revolution 4.0, humans have been spoiled with a variety of very so-

phisticated information media, thus creating a global village. In this context, social control and public participation have transformed into something that can be very fast, cheap and effective. In the context of participation, Klymchuk et al., stated that determining elements of citizen participation using information and communication technologies are posting information about government activities on government websites (e-information); interactive discussions by citizens on the websites of government agencies of the problems of society development (e-consultations); government response to e-petitions of citizens (e-decision making) [17]. In relation to information technology and electronic devices, Indonesia has been referred to as part of the world information society, as stated in the consideration "Considering" Letter b of Law Number 11 of 2008 concerning Information and Electronic Transactions [18].

3.2 Democratization of the Digital Era

In the political science literature, it is understood that democracy as a type of political system that takes place in a country, among other things, requires openness, participation, public control and accountability. Democratic life found momentum to begin to develop since 1998 in line with the spirit of reform, which was marked, among other things, by the publication of the 2008 KIP Law. The challenge is that the political system which has demos and cratos as its core appears with a new face, including in the administration of government in West Java in the form of the political environment that surrounds it, in the form of an increasing variety of information and communication technology devices used by the community. This sociological reality has subsequently given rise to a new terminology called digital democracy, which has resulted in the necessity for adaptation that is binding on all government institutions at all levels. Today's democracy does not only require the right of every citizen to obtain information as stated by Dye regarding several institutions that must exist in a democratic regime. This has broader implications, in the form of the capability and adaptability of all government organizational units in West Java to be democratic by carrying out government functions digitally [19].

Society and government in West Java cannot be separated from the fact that as part of a global society it has been, is and will be affected by developments in various parts of the world. This is in the form of various kinds of physical technological discoveries by humans as homo sapiens and homo faber which have greatly facilitated and accelerated the achievement of various life goals, including in the field of regional government. In people's daily lives, almost imperceptibly in the last 15 years, the term digital democracy or electronic democracy (e-democracy) has emerged as a new way of carrying out political and governmental activities. In this context, Mendez characterizes e-democ-

racy as a process which firstly involves the explicit introduction of ICT's into the democratic realm and, secondly, provides techniques (or strategies) geared towards particular normative goals. These goals can include transparency of the political process, citizens' involvement and participation, and opinion formation via new spaces of information and deliberation [20].

For example, citizens can now very easily and quickly convey their complaints, criticisms and hopes to local government institutions that handle education documents, health services, business permits and population document services. In the immediate future, regional government agencies are required to immediately respond openly, because if this is not done, the regional government's lack of concern and response will soon also go viral in cyberspace. This public expectation also includes requests from members of the public to public bodies to obtain certain information they need from the institution concerned, which in the KIP Law is referred to as public information. In this regard, PPID plays an important role as a policy actor at the forefront in providing services to the community.

There is optimism for the development of an increasingly democratic government in West Java, along with the existence of a new paradigm in terms of democracy. This is also a challenge to all local government organizations so that the two-way communication flow as required by democratic government can be realized in all stages of development and services to the community. This is due to the fact that the current growth of democracy will most likely be shown by the active role of internet citizens in providing criticism and hopes for the government. A. Brack and P. Noble describe that e-democracy as use of the internet by government, political parties, and advocacy groups to provide information, communicate, deliver services, or boost participation to generate a more robust debate among citizens [21].

Political communication between institutions in the political infrastructure and political superstructure and citizens will be predominantly carried out using digital technology devices. According to van Dijk, digital democracy is the pursuit and practice of democracy in whatever view using digital media in online and offline political communication [22]. All government institutions in West Java, especially those related to communication, information and public information disclosure, are required to continue to increase their role for the welfare of society. The enthusiasm of citizens in this digital era will continue to grow with the hope that they will continue to uphold ethics in digital media. In this arena, the hope contained in the "Considering" letter b in the KIP Law regarding openness of public information as an important characteristic of a democratic state, including in the administration of regional government in West Java, will be fulfilled. Regarding the benefits of information technology for democracy, T. Gross stated that technology should facilitate democracy and increase participation criteria in three main fields: public access to information, participation in open discussion, and electronic voting [21]. In this regard, the hope contained in the preamble to "Considering" Letter

a of the KIP Law, is that information is the basic need of every person and will be fulfilled by every public body, as mandated by Article 1 Number 2 of the KIP Law. This even has a very high place in the state constitution in the form of everyone's right to communicate and obtain information, as stated in Article 28 F. Operationally, this is also stated in Article 14 Paragraph (1) of Law Number 39 of 1999 that every person have the right to communicate and obtain information necessary to develop their personality and social environment.

Thus, the issuance of Law Number 14 of 2008, which was then followed up by Government Regulation Number 61 of 2010, has encouraged all public institutions to provide the best service in the form of providing public information thenno every citizen who needs it. All government institutions, state ministries and non-ministerial government institutions, including regional governments, have been competing to create regulations regarding public information disclosure, as a mandate from Law Number 14 of 2008 [4]. For example, as a guide for regional governments, the Minister of Home Affairs has issued Permendagri Number 35 of 2010 concerning Guidelines for Management of Information and Documentation Services within the Ministry of Home Affairs and Regional Government. In West Java, several regional policies were issued, including Regional Regulation Number 4 of 2021, which in Article 1 number 10 states that public communication by public bodies is directed at creating new awareness, participation, emancipation, equality and justice for the public in national development.

The information society in West Java is characterized, among other things, by the increasingly critical nature of citizens in responding to various policies made by the regional government. On the other hand, this social reality is an indicator of the success of regulations regarding public information disclosure in the form of citizens becoming increasingly aware of their right to obtain information. In this regard, Muhaimin said that the initiative of citizens in each region is very decisive, which is influenced by their understanding of their rights regarding public information, and their knowledge of the mechanisms for complaints, demands and disputes [23]. Within the framework of political development, the ultimate goal of which is the growth of a democratic political system, the current development of digitalization greatly contributes to the increasing quality of democracy. In relation to information technology support for the democratic process, Liden and Avdic stated that there are seven areas, which include support for communication, support for human networks, support for efficiency, support for political decisions, support for authority decisions, support for community service, and support for public insight [21].

As part of public servants, all West Java regional government officials must be responsive to taking advantage of new phenomena in the form of current sophistication of information technology, to accelerate the realization of good governance, including through public information disclosure. Watat and Gideon Mekonnen Jonathan stated that as public organizations embrace digital transformation to improve service delivery

to their citizens, many have also recognized an added benefit of information technology enabling civic participation [24]. A recent phenomenon, E-democracy, has attracted researchers and practitioners' attention, given its potential in democratizing political communications and processes [24]. The measure of success of West Java regional government institutions in the fields of communication, information and public information disclosure, including the Information Commission, should not be trapped in routine and quantitative matters, for example the number of information complaint cases resolved through mediation and adjudication. What is more fundamental is the challenge that must be answered by organizational performance in the form of strengthening the community's comprehensive understanding of their rights to public information at all stages of regional development. With this, political democratization will continue to develop because there is constructive two-way communication between all West Java regional government organizations and community members.

The existence of this new form of social interaction based on digital platforms has a major influence on interactions between citizens and the government in political life, including in building democracy in the West Java region. These sociological and cultural facts must of course always be of serious concern to all levels of regional government in implementing all the provisions contained in Law Number 14 of 2008 and its derivative regulations. In this regard, an analysis of 15 case studies conducted by Grazian and Hendrik Nahra, among others, concluded that citizen-driven e-democracy tools indeed work and that they help provide a new way for people to participate in a collecting governance exercise and by doing so, improve democratic processes [25]. To realize good governance which, among other things, relies on openness and participation, the diversity of digital formats in government communication with the community must continue to be utilized appropriately in order to support higher quality democratization. In this regard, Freeman and Sharna Quirke argue that using the information and communication technology to facilitate democratic practices does, however, offer opportunities to take the next step in broader democratic reform to shape the future of democracy. For this reason, e-democracy and the implications that stem from the observations presented in this article are important for governments to understand in order to advance current practices [26].

This also affects the format of regional government services in responding to public aspirations regarding the need for government transparency regarding the various information it manages. As a partner of the regional government of West Java Province, especially the Department of Communication and Informatics, the Information Commission at the provincial level has become a very strategic policy actor and an integral part of the current of democratization that has been taking place since 1998. This independent institution is present to complement the existence of regional government institutions that deal with communications and information as proof that the right to obtain information guaranteed by the constitution is in accordance with the expectations

of the public as the holder of sovereignty in the country. Rahmadany and Mansyur Ahmad stated that the adoption of electronic governance in the public sector has created a revolution in the government's administration and contributed to the improvement of accountability, efficiency, and transparency [27]. With increasingly effective communication between the provincial government and the community, as well as the openness of this information, the reputation and accountability of regional governments as recipients of the people's mandate in a democratic country will continue to increase.

Increasingly democratic government and political life in the regions will certainly contribute positively to the development of democracy nationally. In West Java, which is geographically a buffer for Jakarta as a province with very multi-complex problems, efforts to create a political life order that is more democratic and compatible with the technological environment must of course be carried out seriously. Alwajih mentions that there are three main points of tension in principle, in the application of e-democracy in Indonesia. First, e-democracy only facilities or means to achieve the objectives of state administration through information and communication technology. Second, the difficulty of distinguishing goals and means impacts the uncertainty of the foothold of implementation of e-democracy in Indonesia. Third, although it is still in transition, the increasing number of internet users and the emergence of various forums in cyberspace evoke optimism for electronic democracy [28]. Of course, the development of an information and digital society, which is marked, among other things, by the increasing use of social media with electronic devices, must be responded to by political and administrative decision makers so that it is more beneficial for efforts to create an increasingly democratic regional government order.

Several experts who conducted research in several countries have confirmed that information and communication technology has had huge implications for human interactions and relations between the government and the people. Esselimani's study in the Maghreb countries concluded that it explicitly indicates that e-government is indeed positively associated with participatory democracy. Therefore, the performance of governments in the Maghreb countries plays a crucial role in stimulating citizen's participation. Statistical analysis confirms the relationship between e-government adoption and participatory democracy in the Maghreb [29]. In the context of Iranian democracy and government, the research results of Kardan and Ayoob Sadeghiani conclude that e-democracy is a new subject that focuses on the use of IT to enhance democracy. E-government initiatives could facilitate the provision of a-democracy requirements. E-democracy could be promoted by the initiatives of e-government, but the relationship between these two matters is not based on a universal, as discussed in the case of Iran in this article [21].

3.3 Local Government Challenges

The running of regional governments in accordance with their authority and democratic principles will support an increasingly democratic national government as well. Therefore, discussions about possible threats to national stability and national integration due to blocked communication between the community and regional governments as well as the irresponsible use of digital communication devices by their users are matters that must always receive attention from regional officials and the Information Commission in the regions. The problem of lack of attention to the public's right to obtain information, from a political science perspective, is related to the essential meaning of public interest as the main identity of public policy issuance. This arises because problems regarding the distribution of the right to information are not always something they can handle themselves.

In this framework, the existence of Law Number 14 of 2008 can be called a public policy, because it contains broad public interests, as stated in the considerations "Considering" letters a and b. This is in line with Gerston's opinion that public policy is the combination of basic decisions, commitments, and actions made by those who hold or influence government positions of authority [30]. As a policy issue, public information and openness of public information are accommodated in state regulations in the form of laws as political decisions so that they have legal standing and power in their implementation. This is in line with Anderson's opinion that in its positive form, public policy is based on law [31]. In relation to the power to implement it, this is also in line with what Nugroho stated that policy without law has no power to implement. The legitimacy of law is critical in modern democracy. It is called public accountability, which means formal agreement written for public shall be accountable to public. In accordance with this opinion, another political expert, Dye, stated that one of the implications of the institutional approach or model in the study of public policy is legitimacy [19]. In this regard, from a socio-political perspective, citizens' rights are one of the substantive areas of public policy that is inherent in the authority of state and government institutions. The government, in accordance with its duties and functions given by the constitution, provides guidance on various aspects of public information disclosure, so that it can be followed by all interested parties. In a socio-political context, Harris Jr. states that a government as an agency or social structure is designed to administer the affairs of the constituents of a state or territory. Some of its functions are incorporating norms and standards into laws and regulations, and enforcing laws and regulations [32]. In this context, PPID's position is very important and strategic for establishing communication between regional governments and the community, as well as realizing their rights to public information. This is because the openness of public information that must be fought for by all institutions related to the rights of citizens guaranteed by this constitution is essentially in the public interest, so that the regulations it establishes

constitute public policy. This is in line with what Anderson stated that there are several values that influence actors as decision makers in state or government institutions, namely the public interest as a very essential value in political life. From a political science perspective, all levels of the West Java Provincial government can be called policy institutions, because it refers to Howlett and M. Ramesh, that institutions as the structures and organizations of the state, society, and the international system [33]. In relation to other elements in political life, the existence of institutions can also be referred to as part of what Dunn calls Policy Stakeholders [34], namely individuals or groups who have a stake in policies because they affect and are affected by governmental decisions. In relation to the political structure, his position is also part of the political suprastructure, because it relates to his status and authority as regulated in statutory regulations.

Within the framework of a more democratic political life and building a political system that is more in line with the public interest, the realization of the duties and authority of regional apparatus in the field of communication and public information will strengthen one of the capabilities of the political system, which in political science terminology is called regulative capability, extractive and responsive. Regulatory capability is visible when the Communication and Informatics Service and PPID make technical regulations based on established regional policies. Likewise, the Provincial Information Commission has established several operational technical regulations to realize public information disclosure, which refers to several regulations stipulated by the Information Commission, including Regulation Number 1 of 2010 concerning Public Information Service Standards. What is much more fundamental is that the measure of the achievement of this capability will be seen when all institutions in the provincial government are able to consistently enforce the various norms they have created.

The extractive capability of the political system relates to various things carried out by all institutions related to communication and public information in West Java Province to process input into output. This input includes, among other things, hopes, urges, aspirations and reports made by community members regarding government communication processes and public information that does not receive proper service from public bodies. This input can take the form of other input in various forms in the interests of public information disclosure. In carrying out their role as executors of communication policies and openness of public information, all employees of the Communication and Informatics Service, PPID apparatus and members of the West Java Provincial Information Commission, are one of the policy actors and also policy implementers. According to Gerston, these policy actors present, interpret, and respond to those issues [30].

In this context, the policy issue before the issuance of Law Number 14 of 2008 was the lack of openness of some local government institutions to the information needed by

citizens. This issue after the publication of the KIP Law is a question and public expectation regarding the seriousness of all public bodies in providing public information services, as well as regarding all complaints when there are public information disputes. From a political science perspective, this issue will first become the initial embryo for the emergence of public problems and when the problem receives widespread attention, including from government institutions, it will enter the policy agenda. One particular issue is not certain to be very easy and will soon become part of the discussion in the program and policy agenda, because the problems and policy issues that exist in society are often complex and complicated. With regard to these policy actors, Howlett and M. Ramesh say that policies are made by policy subsystems consisting of actors dealing with a public problem. The term "actor" includes both state and societal actors, some of whom are intimately involved in the policy process, while others are only marginally so [33].

Sociologically, the role of the Communications and Informatics Service, PPID and Information Commission cannot be separated from their characteristics as subsystems of a social system which have functions relating to various aspects of community life. Talcott Parsons, calls it an integration function, which is carried out by the legal subsystem by maintaining procedures and integration between components with different opinions, views and moral frameworks for the formation of social solidarity [35]. In the context of a political system that continues to be built to be more democratic, the input function of this political system is related to the objective conditions of society regarding information. Anthony explained that the role of the community in guarding the openness of public information in the licensing sector can be a barometer of the level of transparency carried out by an agency that issues permits [36]. Noor explained that the information society is still limited in scope as a result of the massive use of information technology. The public has not actively participated in building itself into an information society through the implementation of public information transparency that has been initiated by the government. Critical communities will participate and provide input to the government, so that the government must be more open and transparent [36]. Externally and from the political superstructure, this also relates to public bodies as one of the stakeholders in this public information disclosure policy.

In implementing this public information disclosure policy, the availability of organizational resources determines its success. Takariani said that the very rapid development of information and communication technology has given birth to new media, which can be utilized by public bodies to improve information services to the public. In reality, not all public bodies manage information based on information and communication technology, because they are constrained by infrastructure and human resources in this field [7]. The regional apparatus of West Java Province, including the Communications and Information Service, PPID, and even the Provincial Information Commission as independent institutions must certainly place this as part of their authority in developing

the information society and strengthening public information openness. Maximum dissemination of information must be carried out by all regional government institutions in the field of communication and public information, to convince all public bodies of the importance of openness of public information for a democratic country.

4 Conclusion

Public information is inherent and closely related to the existence of citizens and government institutions, including regional governments. Openness of public information is a necessity in a democratic country that must continue to be fought for. Regional apparatus relating to matters of communication and public information, including the Provincial Information Commission, have a major role in realizing increasingly democratic regional government, which is supported, among other things, by openness of public information. There are several challenges and problems faced by this regional government institution, internal and external, in carrying out its duties and functions in accordance with the mandate of statutory regulations.

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