DECENTRALIZATION OF POLICY AND HANDLING OF DRUG ABUSE IN LABUHANBATU DISTRICT

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Article Info	Abstract
	Drug abuse is a serious problem in Indonesia, including in Labuhanbatu Regency, which has experienced a significant increase in drug abuse cases. Policy decentralization gives local governments the authority to address this issue according to local conditions, but often faces challenges such as limited resources, poor coordination, and limited institutional capacity. This study uses a qualitative approach with legislative and case study methods, is descriptive-analytical, and focuses on the analysis of legislation and policy implementation at the local level. Data were obtained from policy documents, official reports, and through documentation and observation techniques of legal products. The analysis was carried out using thematic analysis methods, categorizing the main themes from the results of documentation and observation to answer the formulation of the problem and achieve the objectives of the study. The results of the study indicate that the implementation of policy decentralization in Labuhanbatu Regency requires strengthening through the formation of comprehensive Regional Regulations (Perda), which include the preparation of an annual Regional Action Plan (RAD), the formation of an integrated cross-sector team, strengthening rehabilitation services, utilizing technology, and community participation in drug prevention and handling efforts. With a measured, structured, and participatory approach, it is hoped that the decentralization policy can be implemented effectively to optimize the handling of drug abuse in Labuhanbatu Regency.

I. INTRODUCTION

Drug abuse is a serious problem that threatens the health, safety and welfare of society.(Lumbantobing et al., 2023). Drug abuse is the use of illegal drugs that results in negative impacts on the physical and mental health of users, as well as causing widespread social and economic problems.(Arrahman & Arifin, 2024).

This misuse can result in decreased productivity, increased crime rates, and a burden on the health system.(Arrahman & Arifin, 2024). In Indonesia, this phenomenon has reached an alarming level, especially in areas with easy access to drugs.(Ahmad, 2024). The phenomenon of drug abuse in Indonesia has become a national concern because of its widespread distribution and damaging impacts. Areas with easy access to drugs, such as port or border areas, often become centers of drug distribution.

Decentralization of drug handling policies in Labuhanbatu Regency gives local governments the authority to adjust prevention and rehabilitation measures according to local needs. With the involvement of the community, law enforcement agencies, and related agencies, this approach is expected to increase the effectiveness of the program, making it more responsive and adaptive to local situations.(Gunawan & Aspan, 2023).

Labuhanbatu Regency, as one of the regions in North Sumatra, is not free from this problem.(Simatupang, 2023). Drug abuse in the area has shown a significant upward trend in recent years. Labuhanbatu Regency is facing a significant increase in drug abuse cases, reflecting a broader problem at the national level.

Local factors, such as socio-economic conditions and drug accessibility, contributed to this increase. Policy decentralization, a pillar of reform in Indonesia, gives local governments greater authority to manage various sectors.(Djohan et al., nd), including health and safety(Darodjat et al., 2024). Policy decentralization is the process of transferring authority from the central government to regional governments to increase efficiency and effectiveness in managing various sectors.(Djohan et al., nd). In the context of drug handling, decentralization allows local governments to take actions that are more appropriate to local

conditions.

The implementation of decentralized drug handling policies in Labuhanbatu Regency often faces challenges, such as lack of resources, poor coordination between the central and regional governments, and limited capacity of local institutions. This study aims to understand how this policy is implemented and explore the challenges faced, including the lack of readiness of law enforcement officers and minimal coordination between agencies. It is hoped that this study can provide constructive recommendations to improve drug handling policies and strategies at the local level more effectively.(Joshua et al., 2023). With decentralization, Labuhanbatu Regency can adjust law enforcement policies to be more targeted, optimize local resources, and improve coordination between law enforcement agencies and local governments. This allows for more responsive and effective action in dealing with drug abuse at the local level.

The relevant legal basis in this context includes Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics, which regulates the control, prevention and handling of narcotics abuse.(Andriawan, 2023), as well as Government Regulation Number 25 of 2011 concerning the Implementation of Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics, which provides further provisions concerning the implementation of the Narcotics Law including the handling and rehabilitation of narcotics abusers.(Bachri, 2023). In addition, Presidential Instruction Number 6 of 2018 concerning the National Action Plan for the Prevention and Eradication of Abuse and Illicit Trafficking of Narcotics and Narcotics Precursors in 2018-2019 instructs various ministries and institutions to take concrete steps in preventing and eradicating drug abuse.(Randy et al., 2023).

Labuhanbatu Regency Regent Regulation Number 29 of 2017 concerning Prevention of Abuse of Narcotics, Psychotropics, and Other Addictive Substances regulates specific steps to combat drug abuse in the region. In addition, Law Number 23 of 2014 concerning Regional Government provides a legal basis for the implementation of policy decentralization, including in the fields of health and security, with the division of authority between the central and regional governments. However, the implementation of policy decentralization in Labuhanbatu Regency faces a number of obstacles, including limited human resources, finances, and coordination between government agencies.

To overcome these obstacles, a comprehensive and coordinated approach is needed between the central and regional governments. Efforts to increase budget allocation, develop the capacity of local institutions through training, and provide adequate rehabilitation facilities are important solutions. In addition, strengthening coordination between institutions through effective communication mechanisms can help clarify the division of authority and responsibility, so that efforts to handle drug abuse in Labuhanbatu Regency can run more efficiently and have a positive impact.

II. RESEARCH METHODS

This study uses a qualitative approach with a legislative and case study approach method to understand the implementation of policy decentralization in handling drug abuse in Labuhanbatu Regency. The study is descriptive-analytical, focusing on the analysis of legislation and the implementation of decentralization policies at the local level. Secondary data were obtained from policy documents and official reports. Data collection techniques include documentation, and observation of legal products to understand the social context and dynamics of handling drug problems in the area.

The data obtained were analyzed using thematic analysis method, which involves coding and categorizing the main themes from the results of documentation and observation. The results of this analysis are interpreted to answer the formulation of the problem and achieve the objectives of the study. With this approach, the study aims to provide an in-depth understanding and relevant recommendations regarding the effectiveness of decentralization policies in handling drug abuse in Labuhanbatu Regency.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
A. The Concept of Policy Decentralization in Combating Drug Abuse in the Regions

The Center and Regions in the context of a unitary state are important issues that are often interesting to study. In a unitary state, government power is generally centralized in the Central Government. The center has the main authority in regulating and controlling various aspects of state life. The authority given to the Regions or local governments tends to be more limited compared to a federal state.(Huda, 2010; Nasution et al., 2000).

Unitary states tend to be centralistic, where major decisions and policies are determined by the central government, in contrast to federal states which give greater authority to states in managing local affairs. According to Fred Isjwara, unitary states are more solid than federal or confederate states, by emphasizing unity and oneness in the political and legal structure of the state.(Isjwara, 1974). Abu Daud Husroh explained that a unitary state is a single state that is not divided into several state entities. In other words, there is only one central government that has the highest authority in all aspects of government in the country. This central government has the final authority to make decisions in all matters relating to the unitary state.(Busroh, 2017).

Unitary states are divided into two main forms: centralized and decentralized. In a centralized system, all state affairs are regulated directly by the central government, with regions only carrying out instructions from the center. Conversely, in a decentralized system, regions have the authority to regulate their own local affairs through regional autonomy.(Abdurrahman, 1987). According to LJ van Apeldoorn, a unitary state is characterized by power centralized in the central government, with regional governments acting as extensions of the center without independent rights, reflecting the dominance of the center in the regulation of power.(Isjwara, 1974).

In a unitary state, "region" refers to a part of an area that has local government under central authority, with this term derived from the word "gebiedsdeel" which means part of a larger area. According to Sri Soemantri, the delegation of authority from the Central Government to autonomous regions is not explicitly stated in the constitution, but is part of the nature of a unitary state, where autonomy is given to manage local affairs effectively without reducing the unity and authority of the center.(Martosoewignyo, 1981).

The relationship between the center and the regions in territorial autonomy in a unitary state involves autonomous units that regulate government functions under central authority. Unlike a federal system that has independent legal autonomy, in a unitary state all government functions are at the center and are delegated to the regions through laws or central recognition. This relationship is administrative, not constitutional as in a federal system.(Setiawan, 2018).

In the regional autonomy system of Indonesia, until now there is still often a tug of war of authority between the central government and local governments. The following describes the form of the model in the tug of war of authority between the central government and local governments.

Table. Model in the Tug of War of Authority of the Central Government with Regional Governments

Regulation	Model Form
Law Number 1 of 1945 concerning the Position of the Regional National Committee	*Interaction Model*
Law Number 22 of 1948 concerning the Establishment of Basic Rules Concerning Self-Government in Regions Which Have the Right to Organize and Manage Their Own Households	*Interaction Model*
Law Number 1 of 1957 concerning the Principles of Regional Government;	*The Agency Model*
Presidential Decree Number 6 of 1959 concerning Regional Government;	*The Agency Model*
Law Number 18 of 1965 concerning the Principles of Regional Government	*Interaction Model*
Law Number 5 of 1974 concerning the Principles of Regional Government	*The Agency Model*
Law Number 22 of 1999 concerning Regional Government	*The Relative Autonomy Model*
Law Number 32 of 2004 concerning Regional Government	*The Relative Autonomy Model*
Law 23 of 2014 concerning Regional Government.	*The Relative Autonomy Model*

Source: Ibnu Sam Widodo, et al. Academic Study: Central and Regional Relations. MPR RI Research Agency 2022.

The table shows the evolution of the authority model between the central government and regional governments in Indonesia through various laws. There are three main models that have been applied

throughout history: the Interaction Model, the Agency Model, and the Relative Autonomy Model.(Setiawan, 2018). The Interaction Model, as seen in Law Number 1 of 1945 and Law Number 22 of 1948, emphasizes cooperation between the center and regions in organizing government by providing space for regional autonomy. Meanwhile, The Agency Model, as in Law Number 1 of 1957 and Presidential Decree Number 6 of 1959, emphasizes the role of the regions as extensions of the center with more limited powers and a focus on implementing central policies.

Over time, the authority model evolved towards The Relative Autonomy Model(Hariyanto, 2020), Law Number 22 of 1999 and subsequent laws gave greater autonomy to regions, allowing regional governments to regulate local affairs independently within the framework of central law and supervision. This shift represents a shift from strong central control to greater decentralization, where regions have more freedom to manage their domestic affairs, but remain under the control of the central government.

The relationship between central and regional governments is fluid, influenced by applicable laws and the needs of the time, with shifts between centralization and decentralization.(Southeast, 2021). In a unitary state, the main power remains with the central government.(Southeast, 2021), although there is a possibility of delegation of authority to autonomous regions. This dynamic central-regional relationship does not have a fixed formula because it is influenced by ecological and conditional factors that change over time, so that the design of the relationship and the fiscal decentralization scheme will continue to develop according to existing needs.(Widodo, 2022).

Challenges in the legal system in Indonesia, especially in terms of controlling drug trafficking in correctional institutions. Although law enforcement efforts have been made, there are still many weaknesses in the legal structure, legal substance, and legal culture that cause drug trafficking to continue to occur, such as and even occur even in prison environments.(Tarigan et al., 2019). In the context of policy decentralization in Labuhanbatu Regency, the emphasis on improving the legal system, including increasing the professionalism of officers and implementing preventive technologies such as metal detection and CCTV, is very relevant to reducing drug abuse.

The theory of policy decentralization plays a significant role in addressing drug abuse by shifting authority from the center to the regions, allowing regions to design policies according to local needs. This theory allows for flexibility, community participation, and capacity and infrastructure development. In addition, decentralization encourages innovation at the local level and allows for testing of new approaches to drug control, providing practical guidance for optimizing local policies.

Table. Decentralization of Regional Government Authority in Combating Narcotics.

Aspect	Related Laws and Regulations	Explanation
Formation of BNN in the Regions	Law No. 35 of 2009 Articles 64 and 66 Presidential Regulation No. 83 of 2007	BNN has representatives at the provincial and district/city levels as vertical agencies. This structure strengthens the implementation of national policies at the local level with adjustments based on specific conditions in each region.
Regulation of Addictive Substances	Law No. 17 of 2023 Articles 149 and 151	Local governments have the authority to regulate and control the circulation of addictive substances, including narcotics, so as not to endanger public health. This also includes the implementation of smoke-free areas that are relevant to narcotics control.
Social Rehabilitation	UU no. 23 of 2014 Article 12 Paragraph 1 letter f, Article 15 Paragraph 1, Article 298	The district/city government is responsible for providing social rehabilitation services for former victims of drug abuse, ensuring adequate budget for these services as part of efforts to combat drugs in the region.
National Action Plan for P4GN	Presidential Instruction No. 2 of 2020	District/city regional governments are required to formulate and implement policies that support P4GN, including the formation of anti-narcotics task forces or volunteers, as well as reporting the results of the implementation of the action plan to the President through the Head of the BNN.

Facilitation of Drug Prevention	Minister of Home Affairs Regulation No. 12 of 2019	The Regent/Mayor has the authority to facilitate the prevention and eradication of narcotics, including the preparation of regional regulations, socialization, early detection, community empowerment, and the formation of integrated teams at the district/city level.

Source: Processed.

The table provides an overview of the distribution of responsibilities between the central, provincial, and district/city governments in efforts to combat drug abuse. A more complete explanation of the table will be presented in the following discussion.

Ad.1. Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics

This law emphasizes that the regional government of districts/cities has a significant role and responsibility in efforts to combat narcotics.(Herindrasti, 2018). Article 64 Paragraph (1) and Article 66 regulate the establishment of the National Narcotics Agency (BNN) as a vertical agency that has representatives at the provincial and district/city levels, indicating a centralized organizational structure but operating at the local level. Article 149 Letter a confirms that the BNN, including provincial and district/city BNNs, are officially recognized by law. This clarifies the important role of regional governments in implementing national policies related to the prevention and eradication of narcotics, by adjusting strategies and actions according to local needs through the presence of the BNN in each district/city.(Ahmad, 2024).

Ad.2. Law Number 17 of 2023 concerning Health

This law confirms that the District/City Regional Government has significant authority in handling narcotics through regulating and controlling addictive substances that can endanger public health.(Bahri, 2023). Article 149 provides authority regarding the regulation of production, distribution, and use of addictive substances, including narcotics, so as not to endanger the health of individuals, families, communities, and the environment. Meanwhile, Article 151 requires the Regional Government to establish and implement smoke-free areas, which also include control of other addictive substances such as narcotics. These smoke-free areas are an important preventive step for the regional government in protecting the community from the dangers of addictive substances.(Rochka et al., 2019). Thus, the District/City Regional Government has an important role in preventing and overcoming drug abuse in its region through strict regulation of the distribution and use of these addictive substances.

Ad.3. Law Number 23 of 2014 concerning Regional Government

This law affirms the significant authority of the District/City Government in handling narcotics, especially in social rehabilitation for former victims of drug abuse. Article 12 Paragraph 1 letter f states that government affairs related to basic services, including social affairs, are the responsibility of the regional government, which includes the provision of social rehabilitation services. Article 15 Paragraph 1 also regulates the division of government affairs between the center, provinces, and districts/cities, placing social rehabilitation for former victims of drugs as the responsibility of the region. In addition, Article 298 Paragraphs 1 and 2 emphasize that regional spending must prioritize funding these mandatory affairs, including social rehabilitation, ensuring that the regional government allocates an adequate budget to support these services in an effort to address drug abuse in the community.

Ad.4. Presidential Instruction (Inpres) Number 2 of 2020 concerning the National Action Plan P4GN (Prevention and Eradication of Abuse and Illicit Trafficking of Narcotics and Narcotics Precursors)

This Presidential Instruction emphasizes the strategic role of the Regency/City Regional Government in supporting national efforts to combat drug abuse and trafficking through the implementation of the 2020-2024 P4GN National Action Plan. Regional governments

are required to formulate policies that support the prevention and eradication of narcotics, including the establishment of an anti-narcotics task force and improving rehabilitation services. In addition, this Presidential Instruction also emphasizes early detection through urine tests for ASN and the community as a preventive measure. Funding comes from the APBN, APBD, and other legitimate sources, with reports on the results of the implementation submitted to the President through the BNN at the end of each fiscal year.

Ad.5. Regulation of the Minister of Home Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia Number 12 of 2019 concerning Facilitation of Prevention and Eradication of Abuse and Illicit Trafficking of Narcotics and Narcotics Precursors

This regulation confirms that the authority of the Regency/City Regional Government in handling narcotics covers various aspects which are specifically regulated in several articles and involves the Governor and Regent/Mayor in facilitating the prevention and eradication of the abuse and illicit trafficking of narcotics and narcotic precursors.(Gukguk & Jaya, 2019). First, Article 2 Paragraph (3) gives authority to the Regent/Mayor to facilitate the prevention and eradication of drug abuse at the district/city level, with its implementation coordinated by the relevant regional apparatus. Second, Article 3 explains that this facilitation includes the preparation of regional regulations, socialization, early detection, community empowerment, mapping of drug-prone areas, increasing rehabilitation capacity, and providing data. Finally, Article 8 emphasizes the obligation of the Regent/Mayor to form an integrated team that prepares a regional action plan and coordinates prevention efforts and related reporting.

The decentralization scheme of authority in combating drug abuse illustrates the structured distribution of responsibilities between the central, provincial, and district/city governments. This chart clarifies how national policies are implemented through clear roles at each level of government, ensuring effective coordination. Synergy between different levels of government is key to the success of implementing drug control policies, so that each region can contribute according to its local conditions and needs, supporting the overall national effort.

Chart. Scheme of Decentralization of Authority in Regional Government in Combating Drug Abuse
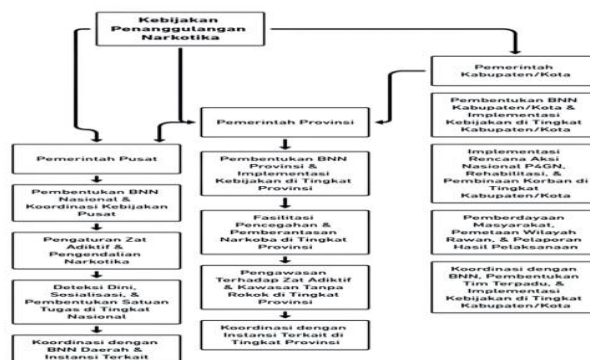
Source: processed.

The policy of combating narcotics in Indonesia is a holistic policy.(Ahmad, 2024)and involves various levels of government, from central to regional. At the national level, the central government has the primary responsibility for coordinating overall policies, including the establishment of the National Narcotics Agency (BNN) which acts as the main institution in the supervision and handling of narcotics.(Gafar, nd). This policy also includes general regulations related to addictive substances which form the basis for implementation at lower levels.

Decentralization of drug abuse policy in Labuhanbatu Regency provides flexibility for local governments to adjust law enforcement strategies and rehabilitation programs according to local needs. This approach allows for more effective policies in addressing challenges such as weak coordination between law enforcement and limited resources. By involving communities in prevention and rehabilitation programs, decentralization can

optimize holistic drug handling. An approach that focuses on justice and ethics also ensures that policies are not only repressive, but support social recovery and reintegration, creating more adaptive and sustainable handling.(Aspan & Adnan, 2021).

At the provincial level, the government has a role in implementing the national policy by making further regulations on addictive substances and coordinating with various related agencies to ensure that the policy can be implemented effectively in its region. The role of the province is positioned as an intermediate government that is a liaison between central policy and its implementation at the district/city level.(Hasrul, 2017).

District/city governments have a very important role in decentralizing drug control policies.(Darodjat et al., 2024). The district/city government is responsible for implementing national policies in the field through the implementation of the National Action Plan P4GN (Prevention and Eradication of Abuse and Illicit Trafficking of Narcotics and Narcotics Precursors)(Sari & Samputra, 2021). In addition, the district/city government also plays an important role in the rehabilitation of drug victims.(Lysa Angrayni & Yusliati, 2018)and ongoing coaching to help them return to society.

Victims of drug abuse need protection that includes rehabilitation and social support.(Zarzani et al., 2021). Policy decentralization allows local governments to tailor drug treatment and rehabilitation programs to local needs, making them more effective in protecting and rehabilitating victims. This comprehensive approach strengthens efforts to protect victims from further violence and ensures more responsive and sustainable justice. Each level of government has specific responsibilities, from early detection, socialization, community empowerment, to policy reporting. Synergy between levels of government is key to achieving optimal success in combating drug abuse throughout Indonesia.

B. Implementation of Policy Decentralization in Handling Drug Abuse in Labuhanbatu Regency

Criminal policy or criminal politics is a rational effort by society to combat crime and is closely related to the reform of the criminal justice system in Indonesia. This system has three main objectives, namely preventing society from becoming victims of crime, upholding justice in resolving cases, and preventing perpetrators from repeating their crimes. The success of achieving these objectives is highly dependent on cooperation between the four main components, namely the Police, Prosecutors, Courts, and Correctional Institutions, to create an integrated criminal justice system.(Atmasasmita, 2010). This criminal policy is also part of social policy which includes social welfare efforts and community protection (social defense policy)(If, 2006).

Criminal policy theory emphasizes the Restorative Justice approach, which focuses on restoring relationships and social balance, rather than just punishment. In law enforcement, this approach involves dialogue between the perpetrator, victim, and community, making it more inclusive and aimed at a just resolution.(Siregar, 2023).

Crime prevention policy, which is part of criminal policy, plays an integral part of social policy that includes community protection. Criminal law policy as a means of punishment must be directed to achieve the goals of social policy, namely community welfare and community protection. Thus, criminal policy does not only aim to punish perpetrators, but also supports the welfare and security of society as a whole.(Arief, 2001). This approach is in line with the concept adopted by Marc Ancel, a moderate social defense adherent, who emphasizes the importance of harmony between criminal law efforts and broader social goals. As quoted by Barda Nawawi Arief and Muladi, Ancel argues that every society requires social order through regulations that are in accordance with shared needs and aspirations. Criminal law plays an important role in protecting individuals and society, but Ancel rejects the use of legal fiction and juridical techniques that are irrelevant to social reality, emphasizing that criminal law must always be connected to the real social context.(Arief, 1984).

In the context of decentralizing drug abuse handling policies in Labuhanbatu Regency, the implementation of Restorative Justice in line with

customary criminal law can be an effective approach. With greater authority in adjusting local policies, local governments are able to integrate the values of social justice and recovery contained in Restorative Justice. This approach, as regulated in PERKAP No. 8 of 2021, allows for the resolution of drug cases through dialogue, rehabilitation, and reintegration of perpetrators into society, not just through punishment. This creates a more inclusive and sustainable solution, where local communities, families, and law enforcement officers work together to restore social balance and support the effective reintegration of perpetrators. (Siregar & Ikhsan, 2023).

Graph. Number of Narcotics Convicts in Rantauprapat Penitentiary, Labuhanbatu Regency in 2021, 2022 and 2023.
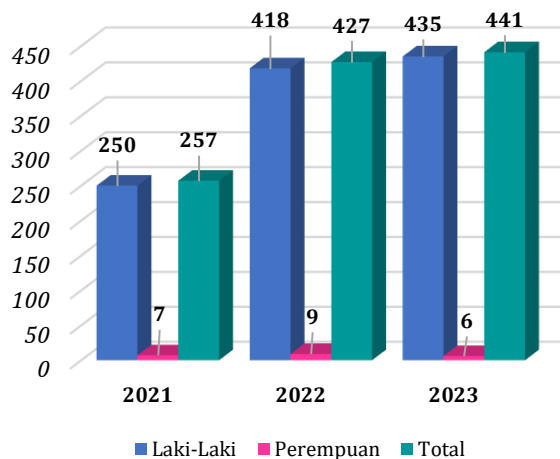
Source:Labuhanbatu Regency in Figures 2022 Publication No.: 12070.2201, 2023 Publication No.: 12070.2301 and 2024 Publication No.: 12070.2401.

Based on the data presented, the number of drug convicts at the Rantauprapat Penitentiary, Labuhanbatu Regency has increased significantly from 2021 to 2023. In 2021, the number of male convicts was 250 and female convicts 7, making a total of 257. In 2022, there was a sharp increase with a total of 427 convicts, consisting of 418 men and 9 women. This increase continued in 2023 with a total of 441 convicts, of which 435 were men and 6 women.

From this data, it can be seen that although the number of female prisoners is relatively small compared to male prisoners, the overall number of prisoners continues to increase every year. The largest increase occurred between 2021 and 2022, with the addition of 170 prisoners. A more

moderate increase occurred from 2022 to 2023, with the addition of 14 prisoners.

The increase in the number of drug convicts in the Rantauprapat Penitentiary in Labuhanbatu Regency from 257 in 2021 to 441 in 2023 highlights the importance of decentralizing local government authority. Decentralization gives local governments greater autonomy to handle local issues, including law enforcement against drug crimes. While the increase in the number of convicts reflects the proactive steps of local governments in combating drug trafficking, it also indicates the need for greater focus on prevention and rehabilitation aspects. This increase may indicate deeper challenges in terms of drug prevention and handling in the community, which require a more holistic approach from local governments.(Saputro, 2021). In this regard, local governments need to continuously evaluate and adjust their policies, ensuring that prevention and rehabilitation efforts go hand in hand with law enforcement to reduce the overall drug crime rate.

Regional Regulation of North Sumatra Province Number 1 of 2019 emphasizes the important role of local government in facilitating the prevention of drug abuse through anticipatory, preventive, handling, and rehabilitation measures. Labuhanbatu Regency is expected to develop local policies that are in accordance with the provincial mandate, involving cross-sectoral cooperation and community participation. In addition, periodic evaluation and monitoring are also regulated to ensure the effectiveness of the programs being implemented. With decentralization, local governments have the flexibility to adjust drug prevention strategies according to local needs.

Labuhanbatu Regent Regulation Number 29 of 2017 strengthens policy decentralization by regulating the obligations of local governments in implementing efforts to prevent, handle, and rehabilitate drug abuse. Local governments are required to hold educational activities, supervision, and provide medical and social rehabilitation services. In addition, collaboration with various institutions and periodic reporting to the Governor are also part of a comprehensive handling strategy at the district level. To ensure this policy is more effective, synchronization is needed between the Regent Regulation and higher regulations, such as North Sumatra Regional Regulation Number 1 of 2019 and Home Affairs Ministerial Regulation Number 12 of 2019.

Decentralization of drug handling policies in Labuhanbatu Regency allows for fairer and more

responsive law enforcement. This can address the inequality where the law is often "sharp downwards, blunt upwards," with a focus on rehabilitation and prevention. With decentralization, drug handling can be more effective and inclusive, and support more equitable justice. (Aspan et al., 2024).

Labuhanbatu Regent Regulation Number 29 of 2017 has an important role in implementing local policies related to drug prevention. However, compared to North Sumatra Provincial Regulation Number 1 of 2019, there are differences in the scale and scope of the policy. The Provincial Regulation emphasizes cross-sector coordination, community participation, and periodic monitoring, which still need to be strengthened in the Regent Regulation. In addition, the Provincial Regulation provides more detailed guidance on cooperation with related institutions, policy evaluation, and structured supervision, which are not fully covered in the Regent Regulation. Therefore, synchronization and updating of regulations at the Regency level are needed to be in line with provincial policies, so that drug abuse prevention in Labuhanbatu can be carried out more effectively and comprehensively.

Table. Evaluation Matrix of Synchronization of Labuhanbatu Regent Regulation No. 29 of 2017 in the context of Updating the Drug Abuse Handling Policy in Labuhanbatu Regency

No	Aspect/	Labuhanbatu Regent Regulation No. 29 of 2017	North Sumatra Regional Regulation No. 1 of 2019	Minister of Home Affairs Regulation No. 12 of 2019	Recommendations for Updating Drug Abuse Handling Policy in Labuhanbatu Regency
1	Early Anticipation	Article 3: The Regional Government carries out early anticipation such as education and monitoring of vulnerable areas.	Article 7: Early prevention through campaigns and installation of notice boards	Article 3: Facilitation of early detection including urine tests and involvement of task forces	It is necessary to add regulations regarding systematic early detection and the use of technology in early anticipation.
2	Prevention of Abuse	Article 4: Prevention through seminars, workshops, cultural performances, etc.	Article 7 & 8: Prevention by campaign, posting of notice boards, and training	Article 3: Socialization, community empowerment, and mapping of vulnerable areas	It is recommended to integrate prevention activities into the Regional Action Plan (RAD) as part of a structured prevention policy.

3	Family and Community Involvement	Article 7: Prevention through family education, communication and education	Article 8 Paragraph 3: Community participation in preventing abuse	Article 3: Community empowerment and increasing community participation	It has been well regulated, but needs to be strengthened with training and continuous community capacity building.	5	Cooperation and Collaboration	Article 27: Cooperation with organizations, private sector, universities, etc.	Article 31: Cooperation with vertical agencies, communities and educational institutions	Article 3 & 6: Cooperation with regional apparatus and formation of integrated teams	It is recommended to form a structured integrated team for cross-sector coordination in handling narcotics at the district level.
4	Handling Abuse	Articles 21-23: Medical and social rehabilitation for addicts and victims	Articles 27-30: Rehabilitation and assistance for drug addicts	Article 3 & 5: Increasing the capacity of medical rehabilitation services	There is a need for additional regulations on increasing the capacity of medical and social rehabilitation services in detail.	6	Guidance and Supervision	Article 29-30: Guidance and supervision by the Regent and related OPDs	Article 32 & 33: Periodic monitoring and evaluation by Kesbangpol	Article 10-14: Monitoring, evaluation and reporting by the Regent/Mayor	There is a need for more systematic monitoring and evaluation mechanisms and the use of technology for reporting.

No	Aspect				
7	Funding	Article 24: Funding from the APBN, APBD, and other legitimate sources	Article 30: Funding from the APBD and other sources	Article 15: Funding from the APBN, provincial/district APBD, and other sources	It is well regulated, but needs closer monitoring to ensure effective budget allocation.
8	Reporting	Article 28: Periodic reporting to the Governor	Article 33: Monitoring and reporting of evaluation results	Article 11: Reporting on the implementation of facilitation by the Regent to the Governor	It is recommended to incorporate an integrated reporting system that uses digital technology to increase efficiency.
9	Regional Action Plan (RAD)	Not specifically regulated	Article 32: Preparation of RAD followed by monitoring and evaluation	Article 5: Preparation of the annual RAD with guidelines from the Minister of Home Affairs Regulation	There is a need to add an obligation to prepare an annual Regional Action Plan (RAD) as part of regional strategic policy.
10	Use of Technology and Information Systems	Not regulated in the Regent's Regulation	Not specifically regulated	Article 13: Use of online information systems (SIP4GN&PN) for monitoring, evaluation and reporting	It is recommended to regulate the use of technology and information systems in drug prevention and handling, including online reporting.

Source: processed.

The synchronization matrix and recommendations for updating drug abuse handling policies in Labuhanbatu Regency highlight several important aspects that need to be strengthened. In the aspect of early anticipation, it is recommended to strengthen regulations related to early detection systematically by utilizing technology such as

online information systems to improve more effective monitoring and supervision. This technology integration aims to improve the ability to respond to potential drug abuse early on, preventing wider spread in the community.

In terms of prevention, it is recommended that prevention programs be integrated into the Regional Action Plan (RAD) so that prevention policies run in a structured, sustainable, and measurable manner every year. For handling abuse, there needs to be more detailed regulations regarding increasing the capacity of rehabilitation services, both medical and social, to ensure effective recovery and support more successful social reintegration for drug addicts.

To strengthen the decentralization of drug handling policies in Labuhanbatu Regency, the establishment of a comprehensive and operational Regional Regulation (Perda) is very important. This Perda must include the obligation to prepare an annual Regional Action Plan (RAD), which provides strategic guidelines with clear and measurable targets and performance indicators. In addition, the Perda also needs to regulate the formation of an integrated cross-sector team involving local governments, police, BNN, educational institutions, community organizations, and the private sector to coordinate policy implementation. This team will be responsible for implementing the RAD, as well as conducting regular monitoring and evaluation. The use of technology, such as an online reporting system, needs to be regulated to improve the efficiency and transparency of reporting, ensuring a quick and appropriate response to drug abuse problems.

The regulation needs to include provisions on strengthening the capacity of medical and social rehabilitation services through the establishment or strengthening of rehabilitation centers, as well as training competent health and social workers. The use of technology and information systems must also be regulated, including an online reporting system for monitoring and early detection of drug abuse. In addition, the regulation must establish clear funding rules from the APBD and other legitimate sources. Community participation needs to be accommodated in the form of socialization programs, education, and involvement in reporting drug cases. This regulation must also establish strict sanctions for violations, while prioritizing a rehabilitation approach to achieve a balance between law enforcement and social recovery. The formation of this regulation is

expected to strengthen the legal and institutional framework, and ensure that drug handling policies in Labuhanbatu Regency are more effective, measurable, and participatory.

IV. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The concept of policy decentralization in combating drug abuse in the regions emphasizes the importance of delegating authority from the central government to local governments to design and implement policies that are in accordance with local needs. In a unitary state, such as Indonesia, although the main power remains in the hands of the central government, decentralization allows regions to have autonomy in handling local affairs, including in combating narcotics. Local governments, both at the provincial and district/city levels, are given the responsibility to implement national policies in the local context through the preparation of regional regulations, development of prevention programs, and implementation of social rehabilitation for victims of drug abuse. This decentralization scheme allows local governments to innovate and adjust their approaches to the specific conditions in their respective regions, as well as increase community participation in drug prevention and handling efforts. Thus, this policy decentralization not only strengthens the role of local governments in combating narcotics, but also ensures that national policies can be implemented effectively and efficiently throughout Indonesia.

The implementation of policy decentralization in handling drug abuse in Labuhanbatu Regency requires the establishment of a comprehensive Regional Regulation (Perda) to strengthen the existing legal and institutional basis. This Perda needs to regulate the obligation to prepare an annual Regional Action Plan (RAD) as a strategic guideline that includes measurable performance indicators, as well as establish the formation of an integrated cross-sector team to coordinate policy implementation. In addition, the Perda must include strengthening the capacity of medical and social rehabilitation services through the establishment or strengthening of rehabilitation facilities and training for health workers, accompanied by regulations regarding the use of technology and information systems in more effective reporting and monitoring. Community participation needs to be regulated through public education and socialization programs, while the application of strict sanctions against violations

related to drug abuse must also be regulated, while still paying attention to the rehabilitation approach. The establishment of this Perda is expected to optimize the handling of drug abuse in Labuhanbatu Regency through a measurable, structured, and participatory approach, in accordance with the principles of policy decentralization.

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