

The Political Economy of Teacher Distribution in Indonesia

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Introduction

- Key problem: Teachers are poorly distributed, particularly between urban and rural areas but even within urban areas. Problems exist within and across districts.
- 5 Ministerial Decree (2011) instructed regional governments to deal with the problem but so far the general perception is that there has been a lack of action at the regional level
- In some cases, the problem is being kicked further downstairs.

Political Obstacles to Redistribution

- Sanctions in 5 Ministerial decree not credible
- Risks for education dinas officials stemming from:
 - ability of teachers to leverage social, family or school networks to lobby DPRD or mayor/bupati → can threaten dinas officials' careers
 - ability of teachers (or spouses) to make physical threats → can threaten dinas officials' physical well-being

Possibilities

- But our case studies suggest that redistribution can occur where:
- A.
 - Dinas officials support reform (although not necessarily for reasons related to the technical merits of the reform)
 - They gain support for reform from bupati/mayor
 - The DPRD is brought on board early,
 - Early socialisation among teachers
 - Losers compensated
 - Teachers have few avenues for protest
 - example: District A

- B.
 - A reform-minded and powerful bupati is elected providing an imperative for dinas officials to design reform programs
 - The DPRD is brought on board early
 - Losers compensated
 - Teachers have few avenues for protest
 - example: District B

- C.
 - There is a *credible threat* from the central government that it will reduce funding to regional governments if redistribution is not done.
 - For instance, as a result of tightening technical regulations (*juknis*) on administration of professional allowance and associated audit processes (BPK/BPKP)
 - Losers compensated
 - example: Municipality A, SMP/SMA level

- Role of province post-UU23/2014:
 - Our interviews would suggest that provinces are ducking responsibility for dealing with cross-district redistribution