

Formulating An Integrated PKAD Action - Evaluation from the PKAD Pilot Phase, An Important Key Point Towards the Capacity Building of the Village Apparatus

The Directorate General of Village Governance (Bina Pempdes), Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) supported by the Australian Government through KOMPAK, held a Knowledge Sharing Forum on Integrated Village Apparatus Capacity Building (PKAD) held on 5-6 June 2018, in Jakarta.

In his opening remarks, the Directorate General of Village Planning of the Ministry of Home Affairs Dr. Nata Irawan, invites Integrated PKAD implementers who are involved in the pilot phase to share their problems and challenges as well as exchanging ideas on the potentials and opportunities for capacity development of the village apparatus. The pilot phase of PKAD in seven locations, namely Aceh, Central Java, East Java, NTB, South Sulawesi, Papua and Papua Barat, has been running since May 2017. The activity has also gained appreciation from the stakeholders. Nonetheless, evaluations from the implementation remains an important agenda.

"This forum aims to get a thorough evaluation from the pilot phase," said Dr. Nata Irawan. Evaluation, Dr. Nata continued, is essential to address any oversights for optimal implementation of the program. Issues such as overlapping coordination from the central to district governments, as well as financial governance are still the major obstacles.

The Counsellor of the Australian Embassy Michelle Lowe explained that the improvement on the quality of the village government apparatus ??has become the determining factor for tackling various problems in the villages. "A responsive and inclusive good village governance is key to ensure broader community needs are addressed in the village development cycle, especially the poor and vulnerable," continued Michelle.

Deputy Minister for Regional Development of the Ministry of National Development Planning/Bappenas Rudy S. Prawiradinata said that the pilot phase of the PKAD has encouraged the village government to collaborate with various parties in addressing various problems in the villages, for example by establishing cooperation with other health practitioner and other synergy.

"The village governance plays a very important role in the effort to tackle poverty and improvement of basic services as well as village economy," explained Rudy. He also added

that the absorption of the budget remains weak in some locations. Issues such as coordination and inexperience in making financial statements are still common.

Through this forum, Rudy also encourage all parties to help ensure that the implementation of the Integrated PKAD program is running well so that the welfare of the villagers can be further improved.