

The Role of the National Unity and Politics Agency in the Supervision of Civil Society Organizations in Pandeglang Regency

Mohamad Yusup, Muhammad Jafar, Siti Herika Nopianti

Department of Government Science, Banten Raya College of Social and Political Sciences (STISIP), Indonesia

Email Correspondence: mohamadyusupshllm@gmail.com

Abstract

Civil society organizations serve as government partners in supporting development and community empowerment. However, the implementation of oversight in Pandeglang Regency still faces various obstacles, such as irregular administrative reporting, failure to report changes in organizational leadership and secretariats, and suboptimal supervision by the National Unity and Politics Agency (Kesbangpol). This study aims to analyze the role of Kesbangpol in the oversight of civil society organizations and to identify the factors supporting and hindering its implementation. The study employs a qualitative method with a descriptive approach. Data were collected through interviews, observation, and documentation, and subsequently analyzed using the Miles and Huberman model. The research utilizes role theory as proposed by Biddle and Thomas (cited in Sarwono, 2015) and supervision theory by Situmorang (1994). The results indicate that the Pandeglang Regency Kesbangpol has conducted oversight through outreach (socialization), guidance, administrative checks, document verification, monitoring, evaluation, and coordination with relevant agencies. However, implementation remains suboptimal because some civil society organizations have not fulfilled administrative obligations, failed to report changes in leadership and secretariats, and have not all received direct guidance. Supporting factors include a clear legal basis, inter-agency coordination, the provision of guidance, and the commitment of agency personnel. Meanwhile, inhibiting factors include limited human resources and budget, the vastness of the territory, the large number of civil society organizations, and low levels of compliance and administrative literacy. Therefore, strengthening guidance, coordination, outreach, and human resource capacity is essential to ensure more effective oversight of civil society organizations.

Keywords: Role, Oversight, Civil Society Organizations, National Unity and Politics Agency.

Introduction

The development and practice of healthy democracy require the active involvement of the public, whether as individuals or through civil society organizations (CSOs). CSOs serve as a vital vehicle for public participation in development, the expression of aspirations, and the strengthening of national values (Rahman et al., 2023). The rights to freedom of association, assembly, and expression

are fundamental human rights explicitly guaranteed by the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia. In practice, the exercise of these rights must be accompanied by a responsibility to respect the rights of others, comply with the law, and maintain public order in order to foster a democratic and just society (Herdiansah, 2016).

Civil society organizations (CSOs) or Ormas occupy a strategic position as government partners and representatives of civil society in supporting the success of national development. This is affirmed by Law Number 17 of 2013 concerning Civil Society Organizations, which defines them as organizations voluntarily established by the public (Santoso & Harefa, 2015). Their establishment is grounded in shared aspirations, wills, needs, interests, activities, and the goal of participating in development to achieve the objectives of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia based on Pancasila. Thus, CSOs serve not only as a platform for public aspirations but also as a vital pillar in maintaining national unity (Setiawan & Taebenu, 2025).

The significant role played by CSOs necessitates an effective system of guidance and supervision to ensure that all organizational activities align with statutory regulations. Supervision is essential to guarantee accountability, administrative order, and CSO compliance with applicable Indonesian laws (Putra, 2021). Minister of Home Affairs Regulation Number 56 of 2017 concerning the Supervision of Civil Society Organizations within the Ministry of Home Affairs and Regional Governments affirms that such supervision aims to enhance the performance, accountability, and compliance of these organizations. This regulation serves as the primary legal basis for government officials to oversee CSO activities (Susanti et al., 2023).

At the regional level, the National Unity and Politics Agency (Kesbangpol) plays a central role in carrying out the functions of guiding and supervising civil society organizations. Based on... Under Minister of Home Affairs Regulation (Permendagri) Number 56 of 2017, the external oversight of civil society organizations (CSOs) at the regency/city level is the sole responsibility of the Head of the National and Political Unity Agency (Putri et al., 2023). Furthermore, Permendagri Number 57 of 2017 governs the registration and management of the Civil Society Organization Information System (SIORMAS), requiring every CSO to submit periodic reports on organizational progress and activities to the local government (Sahroni & Tuswoyo, 2021).

Meanwhile, partnership aspects are reinforced by Permendagri Number 58 of 2017, which regulates cooperation between local governments and CSOs in the fields of politics and general governance (Rifa'i & Pamungky, 2019). This cooperation is implemented through various strategic activities, such as outreach and dissemination, community empowerment, political education, and the strengthening of national values. These three regulations demonstrate the comprehensive nature of the National and Political Unity Agency's role. This role extends beyond rigid oversight functions to include intensive guidance and the strengthening of strategic partnerships with civil society organizations (Wasisto et al., 2022).

However, the dynamics of civil society organizations in Pandeglang Regency reveal significant challenges in the implementation of such oversight. Data from the Pandeglang Regency National and Political Unity Agency indicates that while approximately 337 civil society organizations have been registered, only about 48 remain active in submitting periodic reports. The status of the majority of other

organizations is unknown, as they have failed to update administrative data, report changes in leadership or secretariat details, or fulfill the obligation to submit organizational progress reports. The situation in Pandeglang Regency reflects a tangible gap between regulatory provisions and actual oversight implementation on the ground, driven by low CSO compliance and data inaccuracies.

Addressing this gap, this study aims to analyze the role of the Pandeglang Regency National Unity and Politics Agency in supervising civil society organizations, as well as to identify the factors that facilitate or hinder this supervisory process. Theoretically, the study is expected to contribute to the development of public administration scholarship, particularly regarding the implementation of local government oversight functions concerning civil society organizations. From a practical standpoint, the findings are intended to serve as a basis for evaluation and recommendations for the Pandeglang Regency National Unity and Politics Agency to enhance the effectiveness of its guidance and supervision of these organizations in the future.

Method

This study employs a qualitative approach with a descriptive method to gain an in-depth understanding of the role of the Pandeglang Regency National Unity and Politics Agency (Kesbangpol) in the supervision of civil society organizations (CSOs). The research was conducted at the Pandeglang Regency National Unity and Politics Agency office.

Informants were selected using purposive sampling—a deliberate selection process based on the informants' knowledge and direct involvement in the supervision of civil society organizations. The informants consisted of officials and staff from the Pandeglang Regency National Unity and Politics Agency, as well as administrators from registered civil society organizations. Data collection techniques included interviews, observation, and documentation. Interviews were used to elicit in-depth information regarding the implementation of CSO supervision; observation was conducted to examine conditions and supervisory activities in the field; and documentation was used to supplement data through official documents, laws and regulations, activity reports, and research-related archives.

Data analysis utilized the Miles and Huberman model as cited in Moleong (2018), comprising three stages: data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing/verification. Data reduction involved selecting, focusing, simplifying, and categorizing the data obtained from the study. Subsequently, the data were presented in a narrative format to facilitate the researcher's understanding of the relationships between data points. The final stage—conclusion drawing and verification—was carried out continuously throughout the research process to ensure valid and reliable findings. Data validity was tested using the source triangulation technique, which involved comparing information from various informants with the results of observations and documentation to ensure the data were credible and reflected actual conditions in the field.

Result and Discussion

Field research indicates that the National Unity and Politics Agency (Kesbangpol) of Pandeglang Regency has demonstrated a tangible commitment to

fulfilling its role and functions regarding the oversight of civil society organizations (CSOs). As the local government arm responsible for national unity and domestic political affairs, Kesbangpol bears a significant responsibility to ensure that the dynamics of civil organizations remain within legal boundaries. This role is realized through a series of planned actions, ranging from intensive guidance, the dissemination of regulations, and periodic monitoring to comprehensive evaluations and regular checks of organizational administrative completeness.

The execution of this oversight function does not occur in a vacuum; rather, it is grounded in a robust and binding legal framework. At the macro level, Kesbangpol Pandeglang operates in accordance with Law Number 17 of 2013 concerning Civil Society Organizations, which outlines the fundamental rights and obligations of CSOs in Indonesia. At the micro-operational level, field oversight and guidance activities are technically guided by Ministry of Home Affairs Regulations (Permendagri) Numbers 56, 57, and 58 of 2017. These three regulations serve as the primary compass for Kesbangpol officials in navigating registration procedures, reporting mechanisms, and the legal limits of guidance interventions.

To scientifically analyze the effectiveness of this role, the study's findings align closely with the "Role Theory" framework formulated by Biddle and Thomas. This theory posits that the existence and success of a social or institutional role can be comprehensively measured through four key dimensions: expectations, norms, role performance, and evaluation and sanctions. Through this structural approach, it is possible to assess the extent to which Kesbangpol Pandeglang has successfully translated its core duties and functions into concrete actions in the field. Examining the first dimension—expectation—the Pandeglang Regency National Unity and Politics Agency (Kesbangpol) maintains clear ideal standards for all civil society organizations (CSOs) operating within its jurisdiction. The agency expects CSOs to be more than mere "nameplates"; they are expected to actively manage their operations in accordance with their statutes and prevailing laws. Kesbangpol's primary expectation centers on achieving administrative self-regulation, wherein CSOs proactively report details such as their physical office location, the legal status of their leadership, and structural changes, without waiting for a reprimand from the local government.

However, the reality on the ground reveals a significant gap between Kesbangpol's ideal expectations and the actual response from CSO administrators. A common issue is the lack of awareness among CSOs regarding the need to update critical information, such as changes in secretariat addresses or leadership restructuring resulting from internal reshuffles. This failure to provide periodic reports directly affects the validity of Kesbangpol's database, ultimately hindering the local government's efforts to map CSO potential and design empowerment programs.

The second dimension of role theory—norms—is reflected in how Kesbangpol utilizes formal regulations to both constrain and guide CSO behavior. Legal norms derived from Law Number 17 of 2013 and a series of 2017 Ministry of Home Affairs Regulations serve as instruments for enforcing organizational discipline. Through these norms, Kesbangpol communicates the boundaries of permissible and impermissible conduct for CSOs, including prohibitions against disseminating ideologies contrary to **Pancasila** and engaging in activities that disrupt public order.

Regarding the third dimension—role performance—the Pandeglang Regency Kesbangpol implements this through two complementary oversight methods: direct and indirect supervision. Direct supervision is carried out through field monitoring and physical visits—involving both unannounced and scheduled inspections—to the secretariat offices of civil society organizations (CSOs). This proactive measure is taken to empirically verify that the addresses listed in registration documents actually exist and serve as the organizations' operational hubs.

Field visits under this direct supervision scheme also aim to verify the alignment between paper-based documentation and actual conditions on the ground. Kesbangpol officials conduct direct interviews with organizational leadership, inspect organizational signage, and monitor the implementation of ongoing work programs. Through this factual verification, the local government can detect early warning signs—such as indications of fictitious organizations, "shadow" groups that only activate during political periods, or organizations misusing their operational permits.

Conversely, Kesbangpol carries out indirect supervision by utilizing periodic administrative document reviews. Every registered civil society organization is required to submit periodic reports on organizational progress and activity accountability. The Kesbangpol administrative team then conducts an in-depth review of these documents to evaluate financial accountability, internal transparency, and compliance with public information disclosure principles.

Kesbangpol's role extends beyond reactive measures to emphasize preventive supervision, prioritizing a humanistic and educational approach. These preventive actions take the form of regulatory outreach, focused group discussions (FGDs), and organizational management training for organization leaders. Through this preventive guidance, Kesbangpol seeks to instill an understanding of the importance of administrative order and foster a collective awareness that civil society organizations are strategic government partners in regional development success, rather than political adversaries.

The final dimension of the role theory—evaluation and sanction—is applied by Kesbangpol Pandeglang when addressing violations in the field. Periodic evaluation processes yield objective assessments regarding the compliance levels of individual civil society organizations. For civil society organizations found to have committed administrative violations—such as failing to report activities or disregarding warning letters—Kesbangpol has the authority to impose graduated sanctions, ranging from verbal and written warnings to the temporary suspension of government empowerment privileges.

If, during the oversight process, indications of serious legal violations arise—such as involvement in corruption, the dissemination of radical ideologies, or activities threatening national security—Kesbangpol takes decisive action. The agency immediately halts all forms of guidance and financial assistance. Subsequently, Kesbangpol acts swiftly to coordinate both vertically and horizontally with law enforcement agencies for further handling in accordance with Indonesian criminal law.

Although structural functions based on role theory have been implemented systematically, the effectiveness of Kesbangpol Pandeglang's field oversight still faces significant obstacles. The primary and most critical limiting factor is the shortage of human resources in the division responsible for civil society organizations. The

number of personnel at Kesbangpol Pandeglang is minimal and disproportionate to the oversight workload, which continues to rise as new civil society organizations emerge each year.

This personnel shortage is exacerbated by the geographical conditions and vast administrative area of Pandeglang Regency. The regency covers a wide territory with diverse topography – ranging from inland areas and hilly terrain to coastal regions – where locations are often far apart. Uneven transportation access consumes significant time and energy, often preventing field monitoring activities and unannounced visits from reaching organizations located in outlying districts or remote villages.

In addition to geographical issues, the large number of civil society organizations registered in Pandeglang Regency creates immense logistical challenges for Kesbangpol. With hundreds of mass organizations possessing diverse backgrounds, visions, and base characteristics, the National and Political Unity Agency (Kesbangpol) struggles to maintain close supervision. Consequently, oversight tends to be reactive – mobilizing intensively only when signs of conflict emerge in the community – rather than proactive and sustained.

An obstacle stemming from within the civil society organizations (CSOs) themselves is the low level of administrative literacy and managerial capacity among their leadership. Many CSOs in Pandeglang Regency were established based solely on emotional ties, lacking support from modern secretarial administration systems. Many CSO administrators do not understand how to compile standard organizational progress reports; some even view administrative reporting to the National Unity and Politics Agency (Kesbangpol) as a burdensome and unimportant bureaucratic chore.

An equally significant obstacle is the limited regional budget (APBD) allocation for the Pandeglang Regency Kesbangpol agency. Insufficient operational funds directly result in reduced intensity regarding field-based supervision and guidance programs. Without adequate financial support, Kesbangpol is forced to prioritize only urgent political agendas, while the frequency of long-term, sustainable CSO guidance programs must be curtailed.

Pandeglang Kesbangpol remains resilient thanks to several strategic supporting factors. A primary supporting factor is the legal certainty and regulatory clarity provided by the legal framework of Law Number 17 of 2013 and the trilogy of 2017 Ministry of Home Affairs Regulations (Permendagri). The clarity of these regulations ensures legality and instills confidence in Kesbangpol officials as they carry out their duties, thereby protecting them from accusations of criminalizing CSOs or engaging in subjective government intervention that violates the fundamental right to freedom of association.

A second supporting factor is the highly harmonious cross-sectoral coordination and synergy established between Kesbangpol, the Regional Intelligence Community (Kominda), and other law enforcement agencies. Pandeglang Kesbangpol regularly holds coordination meetings with the District Attorney's Office, the District Police (Polres), the Military District Command (Kodim), and relevant regional government bodies. This strategic partnership has fostered a robust collective oversight system, enabling the rapid and accurate exchange of information regarding the track records and activities of civil society organizations (CSOs).

A key internal supporting factor is the high level of commitment, dedication, and moral integrity demonstrated by the staff of the Pandeglang Regency National

Unity and Politics Agency. Despite operating under budgetary constraints, limited facilities, and personnel shortages, the staff consistently maintain a strong work ethic in executing monitoring and evaluation agendas. This spirit of service serves as the primary driving force sustaining the agency's functions regarding service delivery and the oversight of CSO governance, thereby preventing a "vacuum of control."

In summary, while the Pandeglang Regency National Unity and Politics Agency has monitored CSO activities within the established legal framework, the outcomes have not been fully optimal due to conflicting internal and external control dynamics. To overcome this stagnation, future efforts must prioritize institutional reform—specifically focusing on enhancing staff capacity, strengthening cross-sectoral coordination networks, promoting digital-based outreach, and digitizing the integrated CSO administration system. These strategic measures are urgently needed to transform the oversight process in Pandeglang Regency into a more effective, orderly, transparent, and sustainable mechanism.

Conclusion

Based on research findings regarding the role of the National Unity and Politics Agency (Kesbangpol) in the supervision of civil society organizations in Pandeglang Regency, it can be concluded that: The Agency has fulfilled its role in accordance with its duties and functions through activities such as outreach, guidance, empowerment, administrative checks, document verification, monitoring, evaluation, and coordination with relevant agencies to guide and supervise these organizations. The implementation of this role—analyzed through the lens of Biddle and Thomas's theory (cited in Sarwono, 2015)—demonstrates the Agency's expectation that civil society organizations comply with laws and administrative obligations. It also reflects the Agency's own commitment to conducting supervision based on prevailing norms, providing guidance and oversight as part of its mandate, and carrying out evaluations and imposing administrative sanctions in the event of violations. However, implementation has not been fully optimal, as some civil society organizations still fail to consistently meet administrative and reporting obligations. Supervision has been conducted—consistent with Situmorang's theory (1994)—through direct and indirect, preventive and repressive, and internal and external oversight mechanisms. Nevertheless, supervision remains heavily focused on administrative aspects and has not yet reached all civil society organizations equitably. Factors hindering the supervision process include limited human resources, the vastness of the area to be supervised, the large number of civil society organizations, low levels of compliance and administrative literacy among these organizations, and budget constraints. These conditions have prevented the guidance and supervision functions from operating optimally.

References

- Government of the Republic of Indonesia. (2013). Law Number 17 of 2013 concerning civil society organizations.
- Herdiansah, A. G. (2016). Peran organisasi masyarakat (Ormas) dan lembaga swadaya masyarakat (LSM) dalam menopang pembangunan di Indonesia. *Sosioglobal: Jurnal Pemikiran dan Penelitian Sosiologi*, 1(1), 49-67.

- Ministry of Home Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia. (2017). Regulation of the Minister of Home Affairs Number 56 of 2017 concerning the supervision of civil society organizations within the scope of the Ministry of Home Affairs and regional governments.
- Ministry of Home Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia. (2017). Regulation of the Minister of Home Affairs Number 57 of 2017 concerning the registration and management of the civil society organization information system.
- Ministry of Home Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia. (2017). Regulation of the Minister of Home Affairs Number 58 of 2017 concerning cooperation between the Ministry of Home Affairs and regional governments with civil society organizations and bodies or institutions in the fields of politics and general governance.
- Putra, K. (2021). *Rekonstruksi Pelaksanaan Sistem Pengawasan Organisasi Kemasyarakatan Yang Berbasis Nilai Keadilan* (Master's thesis, Universitas Islam Sultan Agung (Indonesia)).
- Putri, S. R. J., Yuliawati, V., Noak, P. A., & Pramana, G. I. (2023). Peran Dan Kolaborasi Badan Kesatuan Bangsa Dan Politik Provinsi Bali Dalam Pengendalian Fluktuasi Indeks Demokarasi Indonesia (Idi) Tahun 2019 Sebagai Resolusi Rencana Pemilu 2024 Provinsi Bali. *Jurnal Ilmu Sosial*, 3(1), 153-165.
- Rahman, A., Wasistiono, S., Riyani, O., & Tahir, I. (2023). Peran organisasi masyarakat (ORMAS) dan lembaga swadaya masyarat (LSM) dalam pembangunan berkelanjutan di Indonesia. *Ekonomis: Journal of Economics and Business*, 7(2), 1461-1471.
- Rifa'i, M., & Pamungky, K. F. (2019). Penerapan Kebijakan Resentralisasi Perizinan Organisasi Kemasyarakatan Di Kota Depok Provinsi Jawa Barat. *J-3p (Jurnal Pembangunan Pemberdayaan Pemerintahan)*, 13-32.
- Santoso, C. W. B., & Harefa, H. (2015). Urgensi pengawasan organisasi kemasyarakatan oleh pemerintah. *Jurnal Bina Praja*, 7(1), 1-20.
- Sahroni, S., & Tuswoyo, T. (2021). Analisis Efektivitas Anggaran pada Suku Badan Kesatuan Bangsa dan Politik Kota Administrasi Jakarta Pusat Tahun 2017-2019. *Jurnal Ilmu Administrasi Publik*, 1(1), 36-44.
- Setiawan, I., & Taebenu, M. M. (2025). Dinamika Organisasi Kemasyarakatan Dan Reformasi Kebijakan Pemerintahan Yang Demokratis. *Jurnal Politik Pemerintahan Dharma Praja*, 18(2), 35-63.
- Susanti, E. N. D., Haskar, E., & Chofa, F. (2023). Implementasi Pengawasan Organisasi Masyarakat Oleh Kantor Kesatuan Bangsa Dan Politik Kota Bukittinggi. *Otentik Law Journal*, 1(2), 162-175.
- Sugiyono. (2013). *Metode Penelitian Kuantitatif, Kualitatif dan R&D*. Alfabeta.
- Moleong, L. J. (2018). *Metodologi Penelitian Kualitatif*. Bandung: PT Remaja Rosdakarya.
- Wasisto, A., Laraswanda, J., & Lindawaty, D. S. (2022). *Peran organisasi masyarakat dalam negara*. Publica Indonesia Utama