



# Legal Review of the Extension of the Term of Office of Village Heads Following the Issuance of Law Number 3 of 2024 Concerning Villages

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## Abstract

This study aims to examine the legal aspects related to the addition of the term of office of the Village Head after the issuance of Law Number 3 of 2024 concerning Villages. This regulatory change has significant implications for village government management, especially in terms of leadership stability and development continuity at the local level. This study uses a normative legal method with a statutory approach and analysis of related legal documents. The results of the study indicate that changes in the regulation of the term of office of village heads regulated through Law Number 3 of 2024, which extends the term of office to 8 years with a maximum limit of two terms, aims to create a balance between stability and leadership regeneration at the village level. This policy provides more time for village heads to design and implement long-term development programs, which have the potential to increase productivity, policy consistency, and public trust. In addition, term extension can reduce costs and administrative disruptions related to elections, allowing for more efficient allocation of village budgets. However, there are significant risks related to the accumulation of power, potential abuse of power and funds, and social jealousy in the community if not accompanied by strict oversight mechanisms and transparency. Thus, while this policy can improve the stability of village governance, it is important to ensure effective controls to minimize negative impacts and maximize benefits.

**Keywords:** Legal Review, Extension of Term of Office, Village, Village Head, Village Government.

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## A. Introduction

The village is the smallest government entity in Indonesia which plays a crucial role in implementing national development. The existence of the village has been officially recognized by the Indonesian Government, as stated in Article 18B paragraph (2) of the 1945 Constitution (Sabardi, 2014). The village is recognized as a legal community unit with an original structure based on original rights that have special characteristics. In this context, the village reflects elements of diversity, participation, true autonomy, and democratization in community empowerment (UTama, 2017). This recognition emphasizes the importance of the role of the village in maintaining the uniqueness of local culture and traditions that are an integral part of the identity of the Indonesian nation. The village is not only seen as an administrative unit, but also as a social and cultural space where the community can actively participate in the process of sustainable and inclusive development (Andora, 2011).

Parasatya & Yuliani, (2019) stated that a village is a traditional institution that actually has the right to regulate its own household based on local customary law. In this view, the village functions as an autonomous form of government, where customary law is the basis for regulating the social, economic and cultural life of its people. This gives villages the power to manage resources and make decisions that are in line with local values and the needs of their communities. In this framework, villages are not only

recipients of policies from the central government, but also active actors in determining the direction of development in accordance with the aspirations of local communities (Tahir, 2012).

The village government is a government structure consisting of the village head as the main leader, who is assisted in carrying out his duties by village officials (Sugiman, 2018). These village officials are individuals who act as assistants to the village head, each carrying out specific functions according to their assigned duties and responsibilities. They work in close coordination to ensure that various aspects of village administration and operations run smoothly, including resource management, public services, and implementation of village development programs (Bramantyo & Windradi, 2022). The election of village heads is carried out directly by village residents, reflecting the principle of participatory democracy in which village communities have full rights to determine their leaders without intervention from outside parties. This process provides legitimacy to the village head and his staff, because they are elected based on the trust of the community who know the local needs and aspirations well (Averus & Alfina, 2020).

The village head has a very important role in determining the direction of village life. Good village head term arrangements can have a positive impact on the quality of leadership and the democratization process in the village (Amancik et al., 2023). Village leadership is essentially about the ability of a village head to coordinate the various interests of the village committee in every decision-making. This leadership also includes the ability to influence community members so that they support and follow the direction given by the village head (Luthfy, 2019). Therefore, effective leadership depends heavily on how the village head can combine the various voices and interests in the village into a shared vision.

Law Number 3 of 2024 concerning the Second Amendment to Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages brings significant changes to the term of office of village heads (Suhartono, 2024). In the provisions regulated by Article 39 of the Law, the term of office of village heads is now extended to be longer, namely 8 years, compared to the term of office of the President and Vice President which is only 5 years with a maximum of 2 terms. Previously, in accordance with applicable provisions, village heads were only allowed to serve for 6 years per period and could be re-elected for a maximum of 3 terms (Warsudin & Hamid, 2023). This change reflects a desire to provide leadership stability at the village level, allowing village heads to carry out village development programs in a more sustainable manner without being distracted by too frequent re-elections (Nurdiansah, 2023).

With the enactment of Law Number 3 of 2024 on April 25, 2024, the term of office of village heads was officially extended to 8 years, with a maximum limit of two terms of office. This means that a village head can lead for 16 years if elected for two consecutive terms (Althof & Ichwan, 2023). This extension is expected to provide sufficient time for village heads to plan and implement programs that have a long-term impact on village progress. However, this change also brings its own challenges, especially in terms of accountability and the potential for abuse of power (Basri & Irawan, 2023). With a longer term of office, strict supervision and a transparent evaluation mechanism are needed to ensure that village heads continue to carry out their duties properly, and avoid the risk of leadership stagnation that can harm village dynamics and progress (Suhamartha et al., 2023).

In addition, there is a real threat to the democratization process at the village level, especially when the exclusive spaces in village government begin to be directed to strengthen the accumulation of power (Pambudhi, 2023). The extension of the term of office of the village head to 8 years, as stipulated in Law No. 3 of 2024, creates a temptation for moral hazard among village elites. When power is concentrated over a long period of time, there is a great risk that democratic principles will be ignored, and village heads may be tempted to use their positions for personal or group interests (Sanusi, 2009). This condition has the potential to erode community participation in decision-making, which can ultimately reduce the transparency and accountability of village government. Thus, what should be leadership that serves the community can turn into authoritarian and exclusive power (Harijanti, 2018).

After the enactment of Law No. 3 of 2024, the process of increasing the term of office of village heads to 8 years has also caused controversy. The process of forming the idea of extending the term of office did not

fully follow the democratic procedures regulated by law. Instead, the procedures taken tended to be short and full of confrontation, without going through extensive consultation with various stakeholders at the village level (Pariangu, 2023). When significant changes like this are made without adequate participation and approval from the village community, this can be seen as a deviation from democratic values. It also shows how power can be maintained through less transparent channels, threatening village democracy which should be inclusive and participatory. As a result, the legitimacy of village leadership can be questioned, and village communities can feel marginalized in important processes that should involve them (Prabowo et al., 2023).

The purpose of this study is to analyze the impact of increasing the term of office of village heads to 8 years, as stipulated in Law No. 3 of 2024, on the process of democratization and village governance. This study also aims to identify potential risks of abuse of power and how this change can affect community participation and transparency in decision-making in the village. The benefits of this study are to provide a deeper understanding of the legal and social implications of extending the term of office of village heads, which can be used by policymakers, academics, and the general public to evaluate and develop more effective oversight mechanisms to maintain democratic principles at the village level.

## **B. METHOD**

This study uses a normative legal approach, which focuses on the analysis of applicable legal texts and regulations. This method is not only limited to understanding and describing existing laws, but also seeks to explore, interpret, and connect these laws with universal legal principles, legal doctrines, and relevant concepts (Soekanto, 2007). In the context of this study, the analysis was carried out on laws and regulations governing villages, especially the changes regulated in Law No. 3 of 2024. This normative legal research aims to identify and understand the norms and legal rules contained in these legal documents, as well as to evaluate how changes in the term of office of the village head impact village governance and the democratization process at the local level. The legal materials used in this study include primary and secondary legal materials obtained through literature studies. Primary legal materials consist of relevant laws and regulations, such as the 1945 Constitution, Law No. 6 of 2014, and Law No. 3 of 2024. Meanwhile, secondary legal materials include books, scientific journals, and other references that provide additional insights related to the research topic.

## **C. Result And Discussion**

### **Legal Review Regarding the Addition of Village Head Positions Following the Issuance of Law No. 3 of 2024**

Before Indonesia's independence, the position of village head had long been an integral part of local social and government structures. At that time, village heads were chosen from among individuals who were respected for their wisdom and ability to solve various problems faced by the community. The village head is considered an authoritative figure and protector of the community, whose duties involve mediating conflicts, managing resources, and maintaining public order (Anwar, 2015). The existence of the village head at that time was highly respected, and the position was often passed down through generations within a particular family or community, strengthening their role as guardians of local traditions and customs. Their influence was not only limited to village government affairs, but also encompassed broader social and cultural aspects, making them symbols of local wisdom respected by all levels of society (Maslul, 2022).

After the independence of the Republic of Indonesia, the position of village head was maintained and recognized as an important part of the national government system. Along with the development of regulations in Indonesia, the position of village head has begun to be considered by many as a very prestigious position, which not only offers local power but also high social prestige (Ummah et al., 2023). Village head elections are now often a lively competition, with candidates competing to attract public sympathy and support through various forms of campaigning and publicity. This election is not just about choosing a leader, but also reflects the complex dynamics of local politics, where social, economic, and

cultural forces interact. This phenomenon shows how the position of village head has evolved from a mere administrative role to a symbol of status and influence in village society, reflecting the importance of the role (Satriawan, 2023).

The term of office of the village head has undergone several changes along with legal developments in Indonesia. One of the important milestones in the regulation regarding village heads began with Law Number 5 of 1979 concerning Village Government. This law updates the provisions related to the period and term of office of the village head, stipulating that the village head can serve for 8 years in one period and can be re-elected for one term. Thus, a village head can hold his position for up to 16 years if elected for two consecutive terms (Kusnadi, 2015). This provision reflects the desire to provide stability in village leadership, allowing the village head to implement village development programs continuously without being disturbed by too frequent elections. According to the law, the appointment of the village head is carried out by the Regent or Mayor on behalf of the Governor, from candidates who have been selected through an election process at the village level. This process shows the involvement of the local government in ensuring the legitimacy and legality of leadership in the village. The appointment by the Regent or Mayor also aims to maintain the connection between the village government and the regional government, ensuring that the elected village head can carry out his duties in accordance with the policies and directions of the higher government (Timotius, 2018).

After the reform, Law Number 22 of 1999 concerning Regional Government was issued, which brought significant changes to the term of office of village heads. This law stipulates that village heads can serve for 5 years and can be re-elected for one subsequent term. The process of electing village heads is regulated in such a way that the results are determined by the Village Consultative Body also known as BPD, which must then obtain approval from the Regent. This regulation reflects the government's efforts to strengthen democracy at the local level, by giving village communities the opportunity to directly elect their leaders. However, the determination of a shorter term of office compared to the previous regulation also reflects the desire to ensure leadership regeneration and prevent monopoly of power in the hands of one individual for too long. In addition, Law Number 22 of 1999 authorizes the District Government to adjust the term of office of the village head to local socio-cultural conditions.

Subsequently, Law No. 32 of 2004 on Regional Government introduced new changes related to the regulation of the term of office of village heads, which marked a further evolution in village governance in Indonesia. According to this law, village heads are appointed by the Regent based on the results of democratic village head elections at the village level. The term of office of a village head is set for six years, with the provision that a village head can only be re-elected once for the next term (Hartono, 2024). Thus, the maximum term of office of a village head under this law is 12 years, which is considered a sufficient duration to provide leadership stability, but not too long that it can pose a risk of abuse of power. This provision is designed by considering the balance between the need for continuity of leadership in the village and the importance of regeneration in local government. The six-year term of office gives the village head sufficient time to plan and implement village development programs effectively, while the limitation to two consecutive terms ensures that there is an opportunity for the emergence of new leaders who can bring fresh perspectives and innovation to village governance. In addition, this term limitation is also an effort to maintain the spirit of democracy at the local level, by providing a fair opportunity for other villagers to participate in elections and serve as village head. This flexibility is important to prevent stagnation in leadership and ensure that village government remains responsive to changing needs and aspirations of the local community (Nasution & Tarigan, 2017).

Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages again brings significant changes in the regulation of the term of office of village heads in Indonesia. This law stipulates that the village head has a term of office of six years after being appointed by the Regent or Mayor based on the results of the village head election. Interestingly, village heads who have completed one term of office still have the opportunity to run again, even for up to two additional terms. This means that, in total, a village head's term of office can reach up to 18 years if he is re-elected for two additional terms (Antu et al., 2023). The explanation in the law confirms that village heads who were re-elected for one term of office under the previous law (as

stipulated in Law No. 32 of 2004) still have the opportunity to run again two more times under Law No. 6 of 2014. Likewise, village heads who were re-elected for two terms of office under the previous law can run again. This provision provides considerable flexibility in terms of continuity of leadership in the village, allowing high-performing village heads to continue their programs over a longer period of time. However, on the other hand, this regulation also raises the potential risk of excessive accumulation of power, which can threaten the principles of democracy at the local level if not balanced by strong oversight and accountability mechanisms (Mahyani et al., 2019).

The latest changes in the regulation of the term of office of village heads in Indonesia are regulated through Law Number 3 of 2024, which is the Second Amendment to Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages. This law brings significant changes by setting the term of office of village heads to 8 years for each period, and village heads are only allowed to serve a maximum of two terms. Thus, a village head can hold office for up to 16 years if re-elected for a second term. The establishment of a longer term of office aims to provide stability and continuity in village governance, allowing village heads to implement development programs more comprehensively and sustainably. This longer term of office is expected to reduce the frequency of elections, so that villages can focus on long-term development without being too involved in the election process that can disrupt social stability. However, the limitation to two terms of office is also an important step to prevent monopolization of power and to ensure leadership regeneration.

Village-level leadership is often more influenced by political considerations than by assessing the quality and integrity of village head candidates. This phenomenon shows that the village head election process often becomes an arena for political interests, where factors such as popularity and political support are prioritized over the ability and integrity of candidates (Womsiwor et al., 2024). To ensure that the elected village head has adequate quality and integrity, efforts are needed to increase transparency and accountability in the election process. In addition, it is also important to increase public understanding of the importance of choosing candidates who are competent and have integrity. More active and conscious community participation in the election process can contribute to the election of a better quality village head.

In addition to transparency and accountability in the selection, it is also important to establish a performance appraisal system for village heads. This system will serve as an objective evaluation tool for the performance of village heads during their term of office. This assessment can be the basis for decision-making related to promotions, awards, or the application of sanctions. With a clear and transparent system, village heads are expected to be more focused on carrying out their duties and responsibilities effectively. Therefore, the revision of Law Number 3 of 2024 concerning Villages should be a momentum to encourage significant change, not just extend the status quo. This revision must be directed at improving the quality of village leadership and strengthening better governance.

The policy of extending the term of office of the village head is a decision that has major implications for the future of village development and for local democracy. From the perspective of public political morality, politicians and elites must bear responsibility if this decision leads to the reproduction of new problems, due to their inability to resist the temptation of power. If the term of office and the budget associated with the village head are misused, this will create negative impacts that are detrimental to the village community. It is important for decision makers to consider the long-term implications of this policy and ensure that their decisions do not harm village development and community welfare.

In addition, the government needs to strengthen the system of supervision and strict law enforcement on the management of village funds . This approach must be supported by a change in the mindset of government officials, so that village funds are not seen as a source of personal wealth for village heads. Village funds must be used effectively for the purpose of development and the welfare of village communities. Village heads who are directly elected by their people must have the capability to use local wisdom in creating mechanisms for mitigating and resolving conflicts between residents. Governments at

higher levels, such as districts, provinces, and central governments, need to provide adequate facilitation to reduce conflicts that may arise, especially after the village head election.

The political and legal systems that are built must support the principle of healthy and fair leadership rotation. This is important to create a transparent and effective political and democratic climate. With a good system, the term of office of the village head must be reviewed thoroughly to ensure that there is urgency and value of benefit in its implementation. Extension of the term of office must be considered carefully so as not to simply extend the status quo, but to truly provide benefits for village development and improve the quality of local democracy.

With the issuance of Law Number 3 of 2024 concerning Villages, it is hoped that a more competent village government apparatus will be born and able to adapt to the development of the times, without ignoring the essence and basic values of the village. The process of electing village heads in the future is expected not only to be an arena for the struggle for power, but more as an effort to realize a participatory and accountable village government. Such a village government must be able to carry out its functions with high transparency and integrity, so that the ultimate goal of realizing a prosperous, just, and prosperous society can be achieved. It is important that every step and policy taken by the village head and his apparatus is in line with the principles of clean and efficient governance, so that the election and leadership process at the village level truly provides maximum benefits for the progress and welfare of the village community.

### **Urgency of Extending the Term of Office of Village Heads**

The constitution is basically designed to limit and regulate the power of the government with the aim of protecting constitutional rights and establishing a framework for the exercise of sovereign power. The main objectives of the constitution are divided into three important aspects: first, to limit and supervise political power, ensuring that no power runs without supervision and accountability; second, to reduce or eliminate control of power from the ruler himself, by creating mechanisms that prevent abuse of power and provide space for other institutions in the government structure; and third, to establish clear limits for the ruler in exercising his authority, so that every action and decision of the government must be within the legal corridor that has been determined by the constitution. In this way, the constitution functions as a safeguard that maintains the balance of power and ensures that the constitutional rights of the people are well protected.

The extension of the term of office of the village head can also be linked to the principle of democracy, which we know is the only ideology that must be adopted and become a guideline for modern society (Dedi 2021). There are several types of urgency for extending the term of office of the village head. First, the extension of the term of office of the village head to 8 years, with the option of extending for one more term, gives the village head more time to increase productivity in carrying out his duties. With a longer term of office, village heads have greater opportunities to design and implement complex and long-term development programs. This includes efforts to improve community welfare, such as infrastructure development, improving public services, and economic empowerment programs. Unhindered by frequent election cycles, village heads can work with more focus and sustainability, ensuring that the policies and initiatives implemented have a significant positive impact on village communities.

Furthermore, extending the term of office is not a form of arrogance or abuse of power, but rather a strategic need to resolve conflicts that may arise after the village head elections. Frequent village head elections can create political and social instability in village communities, with potential conflict between groups and individuals supporting different candidates. With a longer term in office, village heads can be more effective in defusing tensions and resolving problems that arise as a result of elections. The stability provided by longer terms in office allows village heads to focus their energies and resources on conflict resolution and development, rather than facing repeated political pressures.

Finally, the extension of the term of office is not intended as a form of arrogance, but as a strategy to support the sustainability and effectiveness of village programs. With a longer term of office, the village

head can be more flexible in formulating and implementing policies that have been designed, as well as overcoming challenges that may be faced during the implementation process. This provides space for the village head to work more strategically, ensuring that all programs implemented can achieve the expected results. As a result, the extension of the term of office can increase the effectiveness of village governance and help in realizing the long-term vision for the progress and welfare of the village community.

Second, reducing political tension and polarization after the village head election (pilkades) is one of the important urgencies of extending the village head's term of office. So far, the village head election process has often resulted in divisions among village communities, with voters divided into groups supporting different candidates. These tensions often trigger internal conflicts and social polarization which have a negative impact on community productivity and the implementation of village activities. The instability resulting from political tensions can disrupt the implementation of village programs and damage previously solid cooperation between residents.

By extending the term of office of the village head, political stability at the village level can be more easily maintained. A longer term of office allows the village head to formulate and implement policies without the distraction of repeated election processes. This gives the village head enough time to deal with the impact of post-election conflicts, ease tensions, and rebuild cooperation among divided residents. This extension gives village heads the opportunity to focus on problem solving and program development without getting caught up in political cycles that could fuel further tensions.

Furthermore, by reducing the frequency of elections, village heads can be more effective in pursuing persuasive and mediation approaches to reunite divided communities. A longer term of office gives the village head time to implement programs that support social reconciliation and strengthen community cohesion. It also allows the village head to work proactively in building dialogue and cooperation between different groups in the community. In this way, an extended term of office has the potential to create a more harmonious and productive environment, which supports the progress of the village as a whole.

Third, the stability of village government is one of the main advantages of extending the term of office of the village head. Longer terms of office can provide much-needed political and administrative stability for the success of village governance. With village heads holding office longer, there is a greater opportunity to create consistency in the policies and strategies implemented. This stability makes it easier for village heads to plan and implement long-term programs without being affected by changes caused by frequent village head elections.

Village heads who serve for a longer period of time can develop and implement more structured and sustainable policies. The process of planning and implementing complex development programs requires time and continuity, which is often hampered by frequent changes in village heads. With a longer term of office, village heads have the opportunity to implement development initiatives with consistency, manage budgets more effectively, and ensure that policies implemented can provide long-term benefits to the community. This also supports the achievement of more ambitious village development goals.

In addition, the stability of the village government can strengthen public trust in the village government. When the village head has a longer term of office, the community can see the results of the policies and programs implemented and feel more confident that the efforts made will produce positive and sustainable impacts. This trust is important to ensure active community participation in the village development and management process. Thus, the extension of the village head's term of office contributes to the creation of a stable and effective governance environment, which supports the progress and welfare of the village as a whole.

Fourth, administrative efficiency is one of the significant benefits of extending the term of office of the village head. Reducing the frequency of village head elections reduces the costs and administrative hassles that are usually associated with the election process. Village head elections often involve significant costs, ranging from campaign preparation, holding elections, to administering the vote and counting the results. These costs can burden the village budget which should be allocated for

development programs and public services. By extending the term of office, expenses for repeated elections can be minimized, allowing a larger budget to be allocated to more pressing needs.

In addition to reducing costs, extending the term of office of village heads also minimizes administrative disruptions caused by the election cycle. The process of electing village heads requires a lot of attention and administrative effort from village officials, which often diverts focus from routine tasks and day-to-day management. This disruption can hinder the implementation of ongoing programs and policies, and reduce the effectiveness of the village government. With a longer term of office, village heads and village officials can focus more on their main tasks without being distracted by repeated election processes.

Furthermore, the administrative efficiency gained from extending the term of office allows village heads to focus on implementing the policies and programs that have been designed. When village heads do not have to face elections in the near future, they can allocate more time and resources to implementing development plans and evaluating the results of implemented policies. This not only increases the effectiveness of village programs, but also ensures that the policies designed can be implemented with consistency and sustainability. Thus, the extension of the term of office can improve the efficiency of village administration, support the smooth running of the government process, and accelerate the achievement of village development goals.

### **The impact of the extension of the term of office of the Village Head according to Law Number 3 of 2024**

Every decision taken by the government certainly has certain reasons and consequences. So is the extension of the term of office of the village head, which will certainly have an impact on the community affected by the policy. This impact can be positive, such as increasing the effectiveness of village development, or conversely, it can also cause problems such as a decrease in the quality of local democracy. Therefore, it is important to examine both the positive and negative effects of extending the term of office of village heads to understand their true impact on society.

#### **a. Positive impact**

In the matter of extending the term of office of the village head, which was initially 6 years, now becomes 8 years, of course it has a positive impact on this matter, the author summarizes it into several parts including:

##### **1. The Village Head is able to carry out the programmed Vision and Mission**

The extension of the village head's term of office from 6 years to 8 years gives village heads more time to implement the vision and mission that they have programmed since they first took office. In a longer term of office, the village head has a greater opportunity to plan and implement various development programs that require a longer time to realize. For example, programs related to infrastructure, education, or public welfare often take years to show significant results. With an extended term of office, village heads are not in a rush to achieve short-term targets that may sacrifice the quality and sustainability of these programs. Instead, they can focus on long-term achievements that have a greater impact on the village.

In addition, extending the term of office allows the village head to better manage village resources and build solid relationships with the community and other related parties. Strong relationships with the community are essential to ensure support and active participation in various village programs. With more time, village heads can better understand the needs and aspirations of residents, and adapt programs to local realities. This also gives the village head the opportunity to conduct continuous evaluation and improvement of the programs that have been implemented, so that the vision and mission that have been planned can truly be achieved with optimal results.

##### **2. Able to complete development and improve the welfare of society**

The extension of the village head's term of office to 8 years gives the village head a greater opportunity to complete various development projects that have been planned and initiated. Infrastructure development such as roads, bridges, health facilities and education at the village level often takes a long time to



complete. Over a longer term, the village head can ensure that these projects are not only initiated but also completed successfully, without being disrupted by changes in leadership that can often cause these projects to stall or be neglected. In addition, with a longer time, the village head can allocate village resources more efficiently, carry out strict monitoring, and adjust development plans according to village developments and needs.

In addition to physical development, extending the term of office also gives village heads more time to implement programs aimed at improving community welfare. Economic empowerment programs, increasing access to education, and public health often take time to achieve significant results. Over 8 years, village heads can implement these programs sustainably, address emerging obstacles, and conduct necessary evaluations and adjustments to ensure long-term success. Thus, the extension of the term of office not only focuses on completing physical development but also provides a broader positive impact in improving the quality of life of the village community as a whole.

### 3. The Village Head is able to carry out the work program that has been designed

The extension of the village head's term of office to 8 years allows the village head to be more effective in implementing the work programs that have been designed. Village work programs are usually prepared by considering various aspects, such as community needs, natural resource potential, and the village's long-term vision. Over a longer period of time, village heads can focus their efforts on implementing these programs in a gradual and comprehensive manner. The process of planning, implementing, and evaluating programs can be done in a more structured and systematic manner, avoiding the pressure to complete everything in a short time. Village heads can also make adjustments to work programs according to the dynamics and changes in village needs, without being rushed by frequent election cycles.

In addition, a longer term of office gives the village head the opportunity to build consistency and continuity in the implementation of work programs. This consistency is important to ensure that the programs being run are not only started but can also achieve the expected goals. For example, village economic development programs, which involve skills training and small business empowerment, take time to show tangible results. With an extended term of office, village heads can ensure that such programs receive ongoing support, both in terms of funding and community participation. This also provides space for village heads to evaluate ongoing programs, identify deficiencies, and make improvements to ensure that each program implemented truly benefits the village community.

### 4. Avoiding post-village head election conflict

The extension of the term of office of village heads to 8 years can play a significant role in reducing the unrest and conflict that often occurs after village head elections (pilkades). Village head elections are often a very competitive event, where differences in political choices and support can cause tension among village communities. After the village head elections, conflicts between supporters of the winning and losing village head candidates can continue, disrupting social harmony and stability in the village. By extending the term of office, the frequency of village head elections can be reduced, so that the potential for social friction due to this intense political process can be minimized. Village communities also have more time to reunite and focus on village development rather than being trapped in prolonged political rivalries.

In addition, a longer term of office also allows village heads to focus more on reconciliation and recovery after the village head elections. The elected village head has enough time to embrace all elements of society, including supporters of his opponents, and direct their energies in a constructive direction. Village heads can be calmer in dealing with various conflicts that may arise after the election, without having to worry about immediately facing the next village head election. Thus, the village head can function as a leader who not only focuses on development programs, but also as a mediator who maintains peace and harmony in the village. This is important to create a conducive environment for long-term development, where village communities can work together without any obstacles from prolonged political conflict.

## **b. Negative impact**

In the matter of extending the term of office of the village head, it has become a natural law that both positive and negative impacts will occur if the proposal is implemented, as explained above about the positive impacts of extending the term of office of the village head, now negative impacts are certainly also present in extending the term of office of the village head. Some of them include:

### **1. Increased risk of abuse of power and position**

The extension of the village head's term of office from 6 years to 8 years has a number of negative impacts, one of which is an increased risk of abuse of power and office. When a village head holds office for a longer period, there is potential for them to strengthen their position of power and blur the boundaries between public and private interests. With more time in leadership positions, village heads may be more inclined to use their power to enrich themselves or certain groups, rather than focusing on the welfare of the community as a whole.

In addition, the risk of abuse of power may also increase due to the lack of effective oversight mechanisms over a long period. When village heads feel secure in their positions for 8 years, there is a possibility that they will be less open to criticism or input from the community, which can ultimately hinder transparency and accountability in village government. This situation can worsen corruption and widen the gap between village government and residents, which ultimately harms development and the welfare of village communities.

### **2. Increased risk of social jealousy in society.**

The extension of the village head's term of office to 8 years can also trigger an increased risk of social jealousy in the community. When a village head holds office for a longer period of time, it is possible that some people will feel that their opportunities to participate in village governance are limited. This can create feelings of injustice, especially for those who previously had ambitions or aspirations to become village leaders. This social jealousy can increase if the elected village head tends to prioritize certain groups or parties, thus creating dissatisfaction among other residents.

In addition, social jealousy can be exacerbated if the village head who serves for a long period is unable to fulfill the expectations or needs of the community evenly. When only a portion of society feels that they benefit from the policies or programs being implemented, social tensions can increase. Communities who feel neglected or underserved may begin to question the legitimacy and fairness of village leadership, which can ultimately disrupt social harmony and stability in the village. If not managed properly, this social jealousy can develop into a bigger conflict, destroying the social order that has been established so far.

### **3. Increased risk of social jealousy in society.**

The extension of the village head's term of office to 8 years can increase the risk of social jealousy in the community. In a situation where the village head holds power for a longer period of time, it is possible that some villagers will feel that their opportunities to participate in village leadership are limited. When only one individual or group continues to hold this important position, social jealousy can grow among the community who feel neglected or not given equal opportunities to contribute to village governance. This jealousy can trigger dissatisfaction and division among villagers, especially if the incumbent village head is unable to maintain good relations with all levels of society.

In addition, if the incumbent village head tends to prioritize certain groups or parties in the policies and decisions he takes, this social jealousy could get worse. Villagers who feel unfairly treated or underserved may begin to question the legitimacy of the leadership, which can weaken the sense of solidarity and togetherness in the village. This dissatisfaction can trigger horizontal conflict, where groups who feel disadvantaged may begin to find ways to disrupt or even oppose the village head's policies. Without proper efforts to manage this social jealousy, the negative impacts can be prolonged, damaging social harmony and hindering overall village development.

#### 4. Increased risk of misuse of village funds

The extension of the village head's term of office to 8 years also increases the risk of misuse of village funds. With a longer term of office, the village head has more time to control the village budget without much supervision from outside parties. This condition can open up opportunities for misuse of village funds, especially if there is no strict and transparent monitoring system. Village heads who feel too comfortable with their position may be tempted to use village funds for personal or group interests, instead of using them for development and community welfare. Misuse of village funds can take the form of embezzlement, corruption, or use of funds that are not in accordance with their intended use, which ultimately harms the village community.

In addition, the risk of misuse of village funds can increase if supervision from the community and related institutions is weak. When villagers are not actively involved in the planning and evaluation process of village fund use, or if accountability mechanisms do not function properly, village heads who have great power can more easily manipulate the village budget. As a result, programs that should provide real benefits to the community may not run optimally, and public trust in the village government may decrease. Without adequate supervision, this extension of the term of office has the potential to worsen corrupt practices at the village level, which will ultimately hinder the development and progress of the village itself.

#### **D. Conclusion**

Changes in the regulation of village head terms of office in Indonesia, most recently regulated through Law Number 3 of 2024, reflect an effort to achieve a balance between stability and leadership regeneration at the village level. By extending the term of office to 8 years for each period and limiting village heads to only two terms of office, this law aims to provide sufficient time for village heads to implement development programs sustainably while still preventing monopolization of power. Although this policy has the potential to increase the stability and continuity of village governance, there are risks associated with the accumulation of power and potential abuse if not balanced with strict oversight mechanisms and transparency in elections.

The extension of the term of office of village heads to 8 years, with the possibility of an extension for another term, has a number of urgencies and strategic benefits. First, longer terms of office give village heads more time to design and implement complex, long-term development programs without the distraction of frequent election cycles. This allows for increased productivity and consistency in policy, as well as assisting in resolving conflicts and defusing post-election tensions. Second, the stability resulting from longer terms of office supports more effective village governance, facilitates sustainable policy implementation, and increases community trust in village government. In addition, extending the term of office also reduces costs and administrative disruptions related to elections, so that village budgets can be allocated more efficiently for development and public services.

The extension of the village head's term of office from 6 years to 8 years, as stipulated in Law Number 3 of 2024, has had various impacts on village communities. On the positive side, this change allows village heads to be more effective in implementing their vision and mission, completing long-term development projects, and managing work programs with greater consistency. Longer terms also reduce the frequency of elections that can lead to post-village head election conflicts and social tensions. However, the negative impacts cannot be ignored, including increased risks of abuse of power, social jealousy in the community, and potential misuse of village funds. With longer terms of office, village heads may be more vulnerable to abuse of power and funds, and can worsen social injustice if not managed properly.

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