

Public expectations towards the roles of the Indonesian house of representatives

Mohammad Hidayatullah^{1*}, Edy Purwanto¹,
Astria Baiti Sinaga², Ahmad Hasan Ubaid³,
Widya Desary Setia Wardhani⁴, Anak Agung Putu Sugiantiningsih⁵

¹Department of Public Administration, Universitas Wiraraja
Km05 Pamekasan - Sumenep Street, Sumenep, Indonesia

²Department of Communication, Universitas Muhammadiyah Jakarta
Ahmad Dahlan Alley, Ciputat, Southern Tangerang, Indonesia

³Department of Political Sciences, Universitas Brawijaya
Veteran Avenue, Lowokwaru, Malang, Indonesia

⁴Faculty of Communication Sciences, Universitas dr Soetomo
84 Semolowaru Avenue, Surabaya, Indonesia

⁵Department of Public Administration, STISIPOL Wira Bhakti
6 Cempaka Alley, Northern Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia

Email: hidayatullah@wiraraja.ac.id and; Phone Number: + 6285930000092

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Abstract The People's Representative Council of the Republic of Indonesia (DPR RI) plays an important role in a democratic country, functioning as a means of control for the government in office. With its authority to make laws, set budgets, and supervise government administration, the People's Representative Council of the Republic of Indonesia has a strong position. This research was conducted to understand and analyse the public's perception of the DPR RI in its role. This research uses quantitative descriptive methods. Data was collected using questionnaires from respondents in 26 provinces, consisting of 71 cities and regencies in Indonesia from 2019 to 2022. This study discovered that most Indonesian people see a role for the People's Representative Council of the Republic of Indonesia and that they hope that the DPR will continue to work to create legislation and oversee the government. The existence of the People's Representative Council of the Republic of Indonesia is still of interest to the citizens of the Republic of Indonesia. So far, the ministry has only used mass media as a means of communication and political information. In the future, the parliament needs to use social media, as well as institutional websites, including video conferences and live streaming as a means of political communication in the era of digital democracy. To establish the groundwork, communication will not only be one-way but also two-way between parliament and the public, as well as between the public and parliament.

Keywords: digital communication; house of representatives; legislative communication; political communication

*) Corresponding Author

INTRODUCTION

In a democratic country, the parliament serves as the people's representative in expressing their aspirations and concerns (Richardson & Sheinberg, 2008), (Nemţoi, 2014). Institutionally, the parliament has a strong position (Rittberger, 2012); however, in its practice in some democratic countries, the parliament becomes the problem (Foundethakis, 2003). There are various problems that the parliament faces, one of which is the corrupted image of its members (Stockemer, 2011). Additionally, there are several members of parliament that do not actively contribute towards environmental issues (Salahodjaev, 2020). There are even many members of parliament who do not understand their main function and tasks (Bailer, 2011). This is reflected from their manner and attitude in the sessions (Raunio, 1996). There are parliaments who only serve as the "stamp" for policies and regulations made by the government (Kjekshus, 1974). The parliament has yet to function as the government's check and balances power (Kanapyanov, 2018), (Rivera, 2018). The parliament still cannot truly perform its role as a representative that involves public participation in designing and formulating policies (Waterhouse, 2015).

In Indonesia, the face of parliament is often associated with clientelism with ideological bases. The members of parliament push more agendas related to discourses on ideological battle and tend to be not critical towards the government policies (Mietzner, 2017). In addition to that, the members of parliament focus more of their agendas on clientelist matters, doing activities that bring electoral benefits in the general election (Lay, 2017a), as well as emphasising on personalist varieties through closed spaces (Lay, 2017b) and perpetuating the culture of patronage politics (Prihatini, 2019). There are no debates and efforts on the economic policies offered between the members or parliament or to the government (Fossati et al., 2020). Furthermore, the face of Indonesian parliament is still synonymous with the members' corrupt behaviours (Shukralla & Allan, 2011), with diminutive opportunities for women's representation (Hillman, 2018).

As a people's representative institution, parliament needs to communicate well with the public. Parliament at various levels does not do much of this. Even parliaments in Europe have difficulty communicating what parliaments do with the public (Lord, 2018). The Parliament institutionally experienced failure in communicating what was being done to the public. The Parliament also does not take this matter seriously, as is the case in Scotland (Judge & Leston-Bandeira, 2017). The same phenomenon apparently occurred in Indonesia. The Indonesian parliament, which represents hundreds of millions of voters, failed to communicate the public interest (Törnquist, 2019).

The challenge in the era of digital democracy is that the parliament needs to use digital communication channels to communicate and consult with the public when deciding or adopting a policy. The Parliament also needs to communicate what has been done while serving as a member of the parliament. Thus, the represented public clearly knows what members of the parliament have done. Many tools in the social media era can be used by the parliament to communicate with the public (Alonso-Muñoz & Casero-Ripollés, 2020). In Indonesia, even though the parliament has used social media as a medium of communication with the public, communication only takes place in one direction, namely, from parliament to the public (Jamil & Eriyanto, 2021). Meanwhile, feedback from the public to parliament did not occur. In fact, one of the advantages of social media over other media is that it can run in both ways.

Several experts have researched parliamentary communication over the last five years. Among them, research conducted by Katrin Auel, Olga Eisele, and Lucy Kinski regarding parliaments in European Union countries. Research shows that parliaments that do not communicate their performance in the mass media are not known to the public. This impacts their democratic legitimacy as representatives of the people (Auel et al., 2018). Weak political communication between members of parliament, as in Germany. The public experiences disinformation regarding parliamentary political news (Zimmermann & Kohring, 2020). Members of parliament in Belgium who feel bad at communicating have little chance of being re-elected (Soontjens & Sevenans, 2022). Chen Sabag Ben-Porat and Sam Lehman-Wilzig conducted research on members of parliament in the United States, Germany, and the Israeli Knesset. The results show that managing parliamentarians' communication on social media is left to assistants, and parliamentarians are not heavily involved (Ben-Porat & Lehman-Wilzig, 2020).

Good communication by members of parliament provides political incentives when general elections are held (Duell et al., 2023). The attractive verbal communication of parliament members positively impacts parliament (Mukhortov & Zhovner, 2023). The choice of words conveyed by parliament members also impacts the parliament's image and sentiment (Rudkowsky et al., 2018). According to Danny Kaplan, the intimacy of communicating with the public can help form feelings of solidarity as a continuum between personal and collective ties, making the wider community a network of trust and friends with legislative members (Kaplan, 2023). Thus, in the last 30 years, parliamentary communication has undergone a transformation from traditional to digital communication (Campos-Domínguez & Ramos-Vielba, 2021). Several parliaments have created open communication programs with the public through websites and social media. This is expected to make Parliament more informative and accessible (Hendriks & Kay, 2019). Open parliamentary communication can increase accountability for parliamentary performance and public participation (Crum & Oleart, 2023). However, political communication created through social media is still more likely to be agenda-setting than to absorb public aspirations (Gilardi et al., 2022). The use of Twitter by MPs seeking re-elections targets potential voters (Meganck et al., 2019).

Meanwhile, Harmoni conducted research on parliamentary communication in Indonesia. Harmonis, et al explored the public understanding and perception of the women members of The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia from 2009-2014 in carrying out their roles, and factors that affect their perception. Their perception of the female members of The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia was relatively good. This is caused by communication, performance, and credibility factors, which are considered good (Harmonis; et al., 2014). In fact, the Indonesian parliament has used digital platforms to carry out political communication, but it is mostly used to communicate the performance of parliamentary leaders (Larasati et al., 2021). Poor communication between female parliamentarians in Indonesia and the public causes gender bias. Ultimately, more voters chose male parliamentary candidates than women, especially young voters (Prihatini, 2018).

This study illustrates the Indonesian people's perception and expectations towards the parliament because the study was conducted for a relatively extended period from 2019 to 2022. The study was conducted when the parliament was in normal condition without any issues that drew public attention. The study was also conducted when the parliament was faced with issues that drew public attention, such as the Covid-19 pandemic.

METHODOLOGY

This study was designed using a quantitative method. Data in this research were collected using questionnaires. These data were then processed and interpreted to obtain the research results. Thenceforth, by referring to the results, in-depth interviews were conducted to gain information regarding the respondents' rationales behind their perception and expectations towards the performance of The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia. Question items about the public perception and expectation towards the performance of The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia are shown in the table 1 and 2.

Table 1. Questionnaire Question Items

No.	Question	Answer	Scale
1	In your opinion, does The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia have any roles?	a. Yes b. No	Guttman
2	Do you perceive any significant roles of The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia?	a. Yes b. No	Guttman
3	Do you agree with the existence of The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia?	a. Agree b. Disagree	Guttman

Source: Author (2023)

The sample in this study consisted of 600 respondents from 26 provinces comprising 71 municipalities and regencies in Indonesia. Samples were taken using Guttman's accidental sampling technique. Data were collected online to reach respondents in several municipalities and regencies spread across different regions in Indonesia. Then, informants were chosen using the saturation sampling technique.

Table 2. Interview Question Items

No.	Question
1	Does the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia have any roles?
2	If yes, what are the roles of The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia?
3	What roles do you perceive from the members of The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia? Why?
4	Give the rationales behind your opinion of agreeing and disagreeing with the existence of The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia.

Source: Author (2023)

The quantitative data in this study were analysed using descriptive quantitative tests. The application used to process the data was Statistical Product and Service Solutions (SPSS 21). The technique used in analysing the qualitative data was, *first*, data reduction. The obtained data were reduced to obtain crucial data as required, that is to come up with the themes and patterns of such data. The *second* was a data presentation. Data were explained briefly in diagrams, relationships between the categories, etc. The third was concluding, that is the effort to seek the meaning, significance, and explanation from the analysed data by searching for important points.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This study successfully captured the public perception and expectation towards The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia, represented by the respondents as samples from 71 municipalities and regencies spread across the islands and provinces in Indonesia.

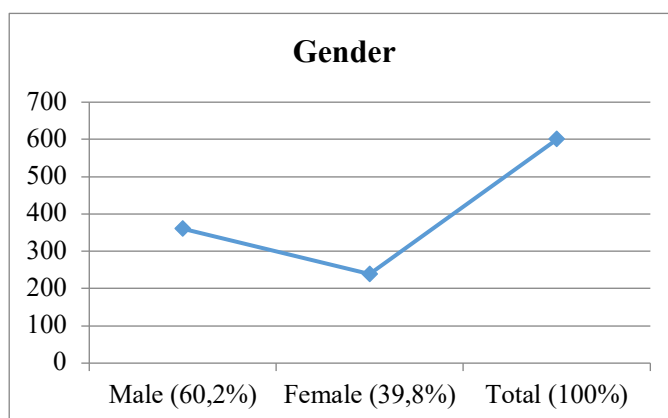


Figure 1. Gender Description of the Respondents
 Source: Author (2023)

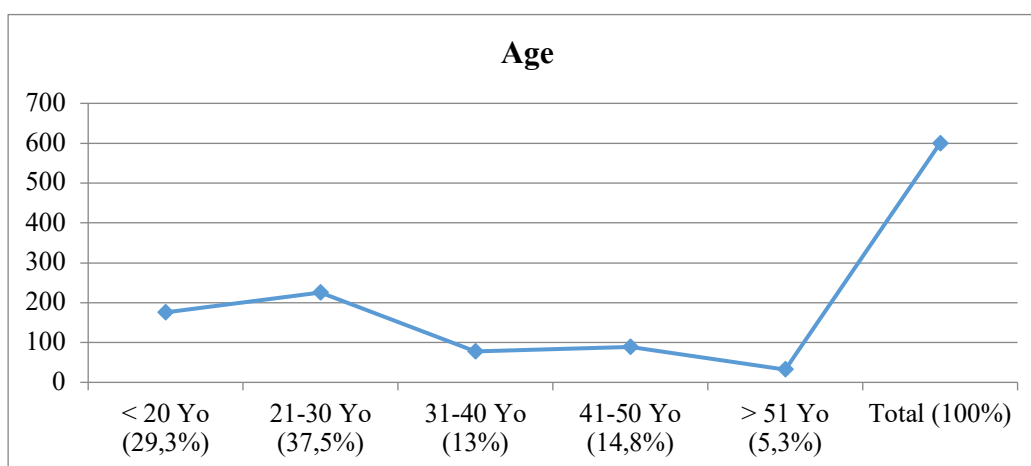


Figure 2. Age Description of the Respondents
 Source: Author (2023)

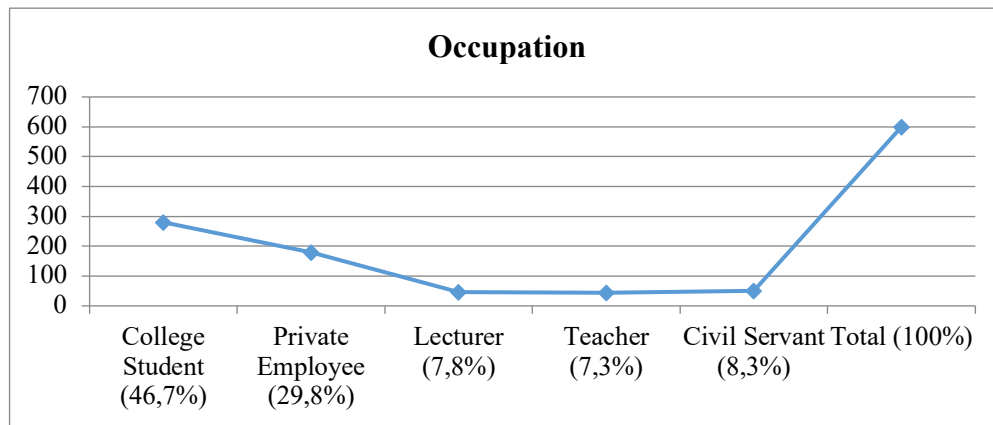


Figure 3. Occupation Description of the Respondents
 Source: Author (2023)

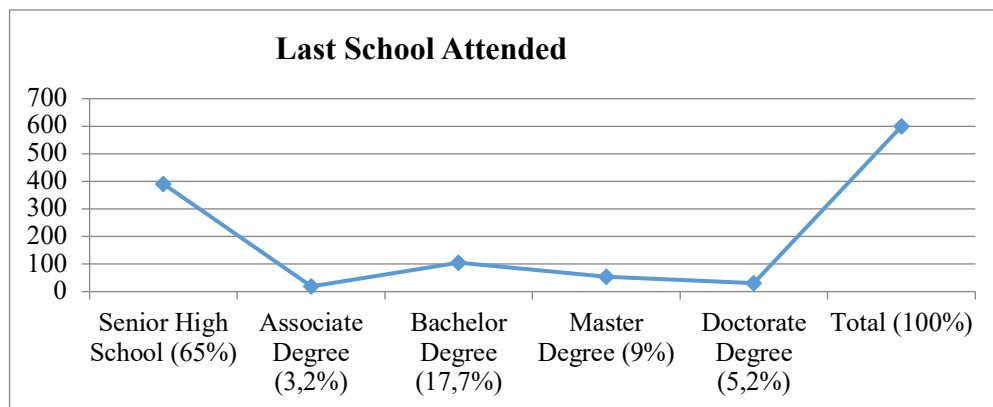


Figure 4. Education Description of the Respondents
 Source: Author (2023)

The overall characteristics of the respondents are shown in figure 1-4. The number of male respondents is 361 respondents (60.2%), whereas the female respondents is 239 (39.8%). Respondents with the age of < 20 years old were 176 respondents (29.3%) and 21-30 years old were 225 (37.5%), 31-40 years old were 78 respondents (13.0%), 41-50 years old were 89 respondents (14.8%), and > 51 years old were 32 respondents (5.3%). The latest education of the respondents was Senior High School (390 or 65%), Diploma (19 or 3.2%), S1 (106 or 17.7%), S2 (54 or 9.0%), and S3 (31 or 5.2%). There were students (280 or 46.7%), entrepreneurs (179 or 29.8%), lecturers (47 or 7.8%), teachers (44 or 7.3%) and civil servants (50 or 8.3%).

The respondents' domiciles spread across 71 municipalities and regencies in 26 provinces in Indonesia. East Java was the province with the most respondents, which was 369 respondents from 19 municipalities and regencies, namely Sumenep (243), Surabaya (22), Sidoarjo (9), Malang (16), Pasuruan (16), Tuban (1), Mojokerto (8), Pamekasan (4), Jember (1), Bangkalan (2), Gresik (4), Jombang (28), Kediri (4), Pasuruan (1), Tulungagung (4), Bondowoso (1), Magetan (1), Bojonegoro (3), and Trenggalek (1), followed by Bali with 132 respondents from Denpasar (100), Gianyar (4), Badung (22), Tabanan (3), Singaraja (1), Klungkung (1), and Amlapura (1). The next are Jakarta with 18 respondents, West Java with 12 respondents, followed by the other province.

The Data shows the respondents' answers towards the question about the roles of The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia. There were 600 respondents who answered that The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia plays a significant role. For the question about what the roles of The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia are, the answers are categorised into three, which are lawmaker (90 or 15%), budget organiser (132 or 22%), and oversight body (378 or 63%). Oversight of the administration of the Indonesian government is the most dominant function of The House of Representatives of the

Republic of Indonesia. The second function is as the budget organiser, and the last is as the lawmaker.

The number of respondents who perceive the roles of The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia is 368 respondents (61.3%), whereas the other 232 (38.7%) do not. In-depth interviews were conducted to understand the rationales of each respondent, especially those who do not perceive the roles of The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia. People who perceive the roles of The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia argue that The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia have accomplished their function as lawmakers. The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia also carries out its role as an oversight body to the government's budget and performance. Nevertheless, The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia are often not on the people's side. People who do not perceive the roles of The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia argue that The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia so far has not worked maximally. Many people's complaints go unanswered, and The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia does not actualise the solutions. Moreover, The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia plays no role in the prevention of the Covid-19 pandemic. Some people believe that The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia is supplemental to the existing government, and its existence does not impact the people directly. There are even actions by the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia that burden the people and cause them more problems.

For the question about whether the respondents agree with the existence of The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia, most of the respondents agreed. The number of people who agreed is significantly higher, which is 57 respondents (89.5%). Meanwhile, the number of people who chose to disagree with its existence is only 63 respondents (10.5%). From the respondents' opinions, it can be inferred that the existence of The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia is still desirable to the public.

The public who disagrees with The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia thinks that its existence cannot be perceived. In addition, the representatives prioritise their personal interests more than the public's. What is done by The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia is not as expected by most citizens. In other words, they are not pro with the future and interests of the public, but they are pro with the interests of those in power and business doers.

On the other hand, the citizens who agree with the existence of The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia argue that its existence is still needed to oversee the administration of the government. Albeit not maximum, its existence is necessary. Without The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia, the country's condition will be worse. The government would act haphazardly because there is no body of oversight. Therefore, its existence is still needed. At the same time, its roles and functions should be improved to deliver public aspiration better.

Lucy Kinski conducted a study on people's representatives or the house of representatives/ parliament. She studied five roles of the members of the European Union parliament: communicator, changer, network activist, subsidiary oversight body, and general oversight body. The study covered the members of parliaments from the United Kingdom, Germany, Ireland, and Austria. According to Kinski, the power of the parliament is still imbalanced with the power of the government (Kinski, 2020).

The current study found that public perception towards the three roles of people's representatives, lawmaker, oversight body, and budget organiser, is good. In relation to being a lawmaker, The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia's role is relatively low. This is proven by the fact that there were only 13 Laws that The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia has passed (Biro Pemberitaan Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat Republik Indonesia, 2020) out of 50 bills in the 2020 National Legislation Program (*Prolegnas*). This number is considerably low, which is only around 25%. In 2017, The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia only passed seven bills out of the target of 51 bills (Abdiansyah et al., 2020).

Such a condition disappoints the people, who feel that the representatives are not doing their jobs maximally even though it is The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia itself who designed the *Prolegnas*. This was unfulfilled by The House of Representatives of the

Republic of Indonesia. In other words, The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia that is expected to bolster the people's welfare is still far from reality (Azed, 2014). Looking back, from 2010 to 2016, the enactment of bills has always been far from the target in the Prolegnas. This illustrates that The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia's role is still minimal (Putra & Riwanto, 2018).

Roy Gava et al. conducted a study on the members of Swiss parliament, finding that they had been dominated by groups with business interests since 2000. These groups fostered their relationship with the incumbent parties in the parliament and government. They took up strategic positions in the parliament (Gava et al., 2017). Similar things can also be seen in the Indonesian parliament. Groups with business interests make relationships with the members of the political parties (Solihah, 2016). Not only do they make relationships in the parliament, but they also become a part of the parliament. In the 2019 general election, six out of ten members of parliament were business doers from multifarious sectors. This means that 55% of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia members were business doers (Aidulsyah et al., 2020).

Being a business doer and the member of The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia simultaneously engenders conflict of interests. When they become the members of parliament, no one can control whether they perform their roles and functions and carry the duty that the people have trusted them with or do things in the best interests of their business to gain benefits. Nevertheless, it is apparent that the people do not perceive the roles of The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia maximally.

Even though the number of people who do not perceive the roles of The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia reaches 38.7%, they cannot deny the existence of the representative body. This is proven by the 537 respondents (89.5%) who want The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia to continue to exist. This means that most people still put their hope in The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia to keep existing and improve their performance. At least, the public wants The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia to be the lawmaker and oversight body for the incumbent government so that they do not act haphazardly in administering the government.

Public perception of The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia is influenced by information received from the media. Both mass media and social media. The more positive information received by the public about The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia, the better the perception formed. On the other hand, the more negative information received by the public about The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia, the more negative the perception formed. Accepting bribes from individual ministries, local governments, and other parties interested in projects related to the authority of The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia (Jalal, 2020). Public perception is very dependent on the information received if the distance between The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia and the public is very far. However, if the distance between The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia and the public is close, then the public has a comparison with the information received in the media based on their experience interacting directly with members of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia. The elected members of The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia change by keeping their distance from the public (Riana, 2018).

Parliamentarians need to have good and intense communication with the public. Good and intense communication can improve the public's perception of parliamentarians' performance. There are two forms of communication between parliament and the public. The first is personal communication. Personal communication was conducted through social media. Social media are personal and go in both ways. This could be the right choice for parliamentarians who communicate with the public. On one hand, members of parliament can express the ideas and results of their work as parliament; on the other, the public can convey their aspirations directly, without having to come to parliament building. Thus, communication can occur in both directions. Second, mass communication exists. Parliament members can use mass media channels such as newspapers, television, radio, and online media to convey general ideas and performance to the public. Mass media have a massive nature in conveying information to the public. At the same time, the public at large can learn about the performance of members of parliament. Communication that is carried out intensively and continuously can

fill the public space with information that has been empty or lacking in parliamentary news, both in the form of mass and personal communication.

In the theory of organisational political perception, according to Ferris and Kacmar, perception is influenced by active interactions in the form of reciprocity, freedom to work and carry out activities, skills possessed, and participation in political organisations. This is more about organisational or institutional matters (Ferris & Kacmar, 1992). The actions and behaviour of political actors influences political perception. As stated by Hochwarter and others, who see that political perception is caused more by the behaviour of political actors (Hochwarter et al., 2020). However, Ferris and others say that there is no single organisation that can satisfy everyone at a very high level. So that what political organisations do will affect individual perceptions and actions (Ferris et al., 2002). For Dipboye and Foster, the perception of individuals in politics is unique, they have different perceptions from one another. Therefore, a more comprehensive study is needed in the future. It could be political perception, arising from political organisations, it could also be from the individual himself towards political organisations (Dipboye & Foster, 2002). Their behaviour influences public perception of The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia. This behaviour triggers dissatisfaction with what has been done so far. In addition, the behaviour of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia also caused disappointment with The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia. Even so, the public perception of The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia is still fairly good. Among the many cases of law violations and violations of political ethics, as well as suboptimal performance, the public in Indonesia still considers that The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia has a role, and its existence is still needed in Indonesia.

This is even more so with the general action of The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia which does not carry out its control function over other branches of power, such as the executive and legislature. The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia tends to be the stamp of the reviews and policies made by the executive. In some cases, the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia should be critical of the policies made by the government but tend to agree. One of the proofs is the proposed Law on Job Creation (Cipta Kerja) made by the government and tends to be taken for granted by The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia. However, many of its contents are opposed by the public. It even led to mass demonstrations against them and large demonstrations at the parliament building. The proof is that the Job Creation Act (Cipta Kerja) which was ratified by The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia was later annulled by the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Indonesia (Mahkamah Konstitusi).

Not only does it not carry out its supervisory function over the government, but The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia also loses its role in overseeing the public budget. Many budgets are regulated by the government without getting control from The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia. as happened in the handling of Covid-19 in Indonesia. Much of the budget is not directed at handling Covid-19, but much is directed at benefiting entrepreneurs in the form of providing subsidies and deductions from obligations, including in the field of taxation. For this matter, the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia also could not do much.

Even supervisory functions, such as being amputated by the government through provisions made by the government that government officials cannot be given criminal sanctions for their actions in carrying out policies to manage state finances for handling Covid-19. On this matter, The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia agreed and accepted. In fact, in a democratic country that upholds the law, anyone who violates the law, including violations of the misuse of state finances, must be punished in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. Otherwise, it is a violation of the law itself.

This is inseparable from the existence of parties that have seats in The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia, the majority of which are government coalitions, and have a vested interest in securing their seats in the government cabinet. So, they tend to agree with any policies made by the government due to several general chairman of political parties, or their top executives have become ministers in the government cabinet. Consequently, party members who are members of The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia could not reject government policies in which there is a general chairman of their political party.

However, the public in Indonesia experienced such a strong anomaly, that even though they were aware of the inequality in the role of The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia which had to have oversight and budgeting functions, the public in Indonesia still considered that The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia still has a role. Most of the public in Indonesia have an opinion like that, from this research. This is inseparable from the condition of the public in Indonesia who are either not yet politically literate, or politically illiterate. Indirectly, this condition is influenced by the level of education and literacy of public politics in Indonesia which is well known. Including the middle class in Indonesia who are still not aware of their moral obligation to be politically aware.

There is a wide gap that remains not connected between the public and the state. Therefore, in this case, it is necessary to have a public space- a place for the state to meet and gather, where the legislature and the public can be connected at any time. The recess instruments and hearings provided by the law are inadequate as public spaces where the public and legislature can communicate and converse to discuss public aspirations and interests. Thus, public communication with the legislature has experienced heavy blockages. However, legislative members cannot communicate what they have done and fought for, so the public does not know their performance.

Political communication experts have long discussed this issue in communication and public spaces. Jurgen Habermas reminded the importance of the existence of public space as a medium that can bridge public institutions with the public. Democratic countries have adhered to a representative system. According to Habermas, public space is an intermediary between society and the state, where the public organises itself as a bearer of public opinion, in line with the principles of public space - the principles of public information. Public space at the representative level has become a new space in the form of "public authority, " which has emerged in national and territorial states (Habermas, 1990). The existence of public space, as stated by Habermas, can be a way for the public to determine and direct public opinion (Dahlberg, 2005). In providing public space, the main role of the state is required so that adequate political information is available to the public and state institutions as a means of exchanging information and communicating (Gestrich, 2006).

In the digital era, public spaces also need to be present in the form of digital democracy, where public and state institutions meet. Currently, these digital democratic facilities are still not adequately provided by the state. The existence of such a digital public space is the most effective communication bridge for connecting public aspirations with state institutions, especially legislative institutions, whose existence exists in the name and with the voice of the public. Legislative members are elected directly by the people through general elections, which are held every five years. During their five years in office, there was no mechanism for communication and accountability of legislative members to the voting public, apart from recess and hearings, which in practice makes it difficult to accommodate the aspirations of a separate public, especially a demographic such as Indonesia, which is divided by large distances. with the others. Therefore, digital democracy is important for the present state.

Digital democracy in democratic countries is neither a luxury nor something new, but there needs to be seriousness in developing it and making it happen. Digital democracy has long been present in studies of political experts and political communication. According to Peter Aagaard, political communication is marked by a shift to digital political communication in the digital era. This can lead to a more democratic and ethical form of communication (Aagaard, 2016). Communication is not only monopolised by political elites but can also be initiated by the public. Digital political communication is a new option in digital democracy that needs to continue to be strengthened (Pfetsch et al., 2023).

Katharine Dommert and Peter J. Verovšek then called it digital public space. According to Dommert and Verovšek, it is time to develop a new concept in the world of politics in the era of digital democracy, namely digital public space, while still referring to the public space proposed by Habermas, namely as a space where state institutions, including the legislature, conduct consultations with the public (Dommert & Verovšek, 2021). Legislative bodies representing public institutions should regularly consult on various public issues that the legislature must decide. This is emphasised by Habermas and deliberative democracy. Deliberative democracy becomes public sovereignty as a characteristic of the implementation of a true democratic system, which is the basis for implementing democratic principles.

Therefore, the implementation process needs to be designed and formulated well, up to the implementation stage (Oquendo, 2002).

Thus, the presence of digital public space in the era of digital democracy is a real embodiment of deliberative democracy, as initiated by Habermas. In the context of Indonesia, as one of the three largest democratic countries in the world, the existence of digital public space needs to be developed, institutionally strengthened, and equipped with infrastructure. Thus, even the public living in remote areas can convey their aspirations to legislative members without meeting face-to-face or going to the parliament building. Likewise, legislative members can communicate politically with voters without having to go directly to their electoral district or the public. Digital public spaces have become a new political communication bridge for the public and the legislature in Indonesia. Facilities such as video conferencing and live streaming services must be realised with budgets and policies prepared by the state.

CONCLUSION

Overall, public believe that The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia has its roles. All the respondents in this study (100%) think that The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia plays a very significant role. The biggest role of The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia is being the lawmaker. As many as 63.7% of the respondents think that The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia's role is being the oversight body, followed by 22% in organising the budget, and 15% in being the lawmaker. The percentage of people who perceive the roles of The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia is 61.3%, whereas the other 38.7% do not. The roles of The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia should be communicated better and more massively to the public. The communication can be done directly through their existence as the people's representatives in the regions from which they were elected. Additionally, their existence in their respective commissions and fractions should be communicated to the public through the available media channels. Hence, the people can perceive more of The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia's roles as their representatives. Parliamentary communication with the public can be accomplished in two ways: first, personal communication. Personal communication is carried out using social media. Social media is personal and goes both ways. This could be the right choice for parliamentarians who build communication with the public. Members of parliament can express their ideas and the results of their work. However, the public can express their aspirations directly without having to come to a parliament building. Thus, communication can occur in both directions. Second mass communication. Parliament members can use mass media channels, such as newspapers, television, radio, and online media, to convey general ideas and performance to the public. At the same time, the public at large can learn about the performance of members of parliament, as well as being able to convey their aspirations.

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