



BUPATI BREBES

Brebes, September 25th, 2020

Open Government Partnership Secretariat
1110 Vermont Avenue NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20005

Number: 050 / 2228

RE: Letter of Support of Brebes Regency for OGP Local Application

Dear Selection Committee of Open Government Partnership Local,

On behalf of Government of Brebes Regency, I am writing this letter to express our willingness and commitment to participate in the Local Open Government Partnership. The Open Government Partnership (OGP) principles that promotes transparency, participation, accountability and inclusiveness are very relevant to the Brebes Regency's development missions. Brebes Regency is committed to improving better quality of public services, effective and efficient government management.

We have a population of 1,925,365 peoples spread in 17 districts and 297 villages. Of these 293,180 peoples are classified as poor. Geographically, Brebes Regency covers 1,902 square kilometers land areas. This condition greatly affects the complexity of public services. We really need ideas, innovations, unusual and ambitious methods to accelerate these problems. We believe an open and participatory process is able to overcome these challenges.

We have been important co-creation innovation in public service such as poverty, access to health, education and the lack of involvement of women's groups in policy making. These initiatives need to be developed continuously with more innovative through practice the OGP tools and mechanism so that these problems can be resolved quickly.

We believe that joining Local OGP will get the opportunity to apply unusual and ambitious ways to improve public services. A more open and more participatory government management will result to accountability in government. The citizens will increasingly trust in the services provided to them. They can complain directly or indirectly to the services obtained. The government will respond and continue to make improvements to public services.

We will get the opportunity to mobilize our resources to improve our public services. These innovations will be realized in the regional action plan (sub-national). The Local Government with CSO will collaborate in working on the regional action plan. We will work on co-creation starting from planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating. We will get additional resources from civil society organizations. This can be realized in Local OGP, because the principle in the OGP is co-creation.

Our efforts to advance more openness and public participation have received high public enthusiasm as they become actively involved in local government in accordance with their respective issues and interests. Within government, we have a highly committed team consisting of middle rank officers who are always in full energy to be injected in change making actions for a better direction.

In the open government context, we closely collaborate with MediaLink as the Secretariat of CSO for Open Government Partnership Indonesia based in Jakarta. At the local level, we develop collaboration with the Civil Society Forum for Open Brebes which consists of CSOs and the citizen media. Recently, we are together with CSO Coalition have identified several important issues to be included as Brebes local open government action plans, such as improving public services in education and health; strengthening public complaints handling system on public services, releasing more detailed and pro-active local budget transparency, and data governance accountability for social safety net. We have also collaborated with CSOs such as the "Gerakan Berantas Korupsi" (Gebrak) related to accountability issues, "Forum Masyarakat Peduli Pendidikan" (FMPP) which is concerned with the issue of Education.

We have a serious commitment in local open government partnerships. The Regional Development and Research Planning Agency (*Baperlitbangda*), the Education Office, the Health Office, the Communication and Information Office, the Social Service Office, the Village Community Empowerment Office, the Civil Registry Office, and the One Stop Integrated Service Agency have qualified resources in running the government's openness commitment and carrying out collaborative initiatives with civil society.

Over the last three years, the spirit and commitment to build an open and participative process is embodied in several initiatives, including:

1. Gerakan Kembali Bersekolah (GKB)

Since 2017 the Brebes Regency Government together with the CSO (FMPP) has created a joint initiative "Gerakan Kembali Bersekolah". Gerakan Kembali Bersekolah (The Back to School Movement) is an initiative to return children who drop out of school to return to school. This initiative involves multi stakeholders such as the local communities, medias, citizen journalisms. This initiative is supported by a local government budget (APBD) and a village budget (APBDes). In a period of 3 years (2017-2019), GKB has returned 5,417 children who have dropped out of school.

2. Women's involvement in village policy "Selapanan"

Involvement of women's groups initiated by the Local Government of Brebes (Bapperlitbangda) and Regional CSOs. The *Selapanan* Group is an approach to encourage social accountability through organizing, participating, accessing and making decisions by the community to ensure that poor and marginalized communities such as women, people with disabilities and children are fulfilled their rights, especially in fulfilling basic services. The *Selapanan* Group representatives have succeeded in seeking a budget from the Village (APBDes) for the disabled so that they can get tools, get training, and capital. *Selapanan* is based on local tradition of regular residents meeting in every 35 days.

3. Welfare Data Governance "SAMBANG BANSOS"

This initiative was created by the Local Government of Brebes (The Social, The Civil Registry and The Communication and Information Office) with the CSO "Gerakan Berantas Korupsi" (Gebrak) to organize the welfare data. This initiative is aimed at reforming public welfare data that is open, participatory with the use of technology. This Social Welfare Data becomes the main reference in social welfare programs, so that the data greatly impacts the accountability and accuracy of social programs.

All of these previous works will undoubtedly help us to design and implement an ambitious Open Government action plan, in conjunction with the citizen's driving force. Based on various problems, we will focus on thematic policy areas: Open Data, Marginalized Communities, Education, Citizen Participation, and Health.

We are willing to participate in peer learning and share experiences, both in groups and with other Local Citizens in the respective countries, and thematic circles with other potential group members. And in the national level, we will collaborate with MediaLink, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Social, Ministry of Education, and Ministry of National Development Planning to promote our good practices of Local OGP program as the model of open government to other local governments and other local CSOs through any of OGP Publication and Annual OpenGov Week.

Based on our achievements and challenges, we have identified some innovative initiatives that are proof of the potential of open government in Brebes :

- Scaling – up Gerakan Kembali Bersekolah (GKB) initiative
- Integrated and more inclusive Local Welfare Data Governance
- Scaling– up the Women's involvement in village policy “Selapanan”
- Integrated and more responsive Health Service Complaint Handling Mechanism
- Establishment of more responsive a Public Service Center-Mall

We would be very proud and happy to have the opportunity to get support from Open Government Partnership to develop and advance the open government system in Brebes. We are very welcome to embrace new ideas about open government, collaborate with civil society more broadly and provide the necessary resources for our initiatives.



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Regent of Brebes