

## Analysis of Pros and Cons of New Province Expansion in Papua

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This study aims to examine the analysis of mass media coverage sentiment about the division of a new province in Papua. Using qualitative analysis with Q-DAS software, namely Nvivo 12Plus, this research collects data from online news and previous research related to the expansion of the Papua Province. The results show that there are pro and contra sentiments, where activists and citizens are more critical of it and reject it, while the government is more supportive of it. This analysis also uncovers various narratives in the media that highlight the potential benefits of regional expansion, such as development, better public services, and preserving local culture. However, there are also concerns about financial and economic inefficiencies and a lack of representation of indigenous people's voices. Relations between the different actors are complex, with decentralization principles governing interactions between the central government and the newly created local governments. This research emphasizes the need for a thorough evaluation, considering social, economic, political, and cultural impacts, and involving all relevant stakeholders in the decision-making process.

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## Introduction

Since 1998, there has been political openness in Indonesia which has opened up great opportunities for changes to a more democratic state structure. One form of political openness is through political policies that have an impact on people's acceptance or rejection of government actions. Based on research results (Fauzi, 2019), one of the political policies that emerged as a result of political openness was the transition from centralized to decentralized government, such as through the implementation of regional autonomy. Regional autonomy in Indonesia is based on Law Number 22 of 1999, which was later revised into Law Number 32 of 2004 concerning Regional Government, and again changed to Law Number 23 of 2014. One of the actualizations of the decentralization and regional autonomy

policies that have taken place is the division of regions, both at the provincial, city and district levels. Regional expansion is a logical consequence of the policy of political decentralization and is expected to accelerate development and service to the community (Zulyanto, 2023) .

Regional Autonomous is giving power to the community to regulate and manage government affairs in their area. This authority is given by the Central Government to the Regions, which is carried out by the regional head and the DPRD with support from the Regional Apparatus (Maranjaya, 2022) . The formation of new autonomous regions (expansion of regions) aims to improve people's welfare through closer and more effective public services, as well as empowering communities and encouraging the process of democratization at the regional level. Regional expansion is the right choice for the government because it brings services closer to the community, shortens the distance to the center of government, and provides opportunities for local governments to optimize their potential and resources (Suaib, 2020). Regional expansion has had a positive impact by significantly increasing the APBD per capita in the new autonomous region (DOB) compared to the parent region. This additional budget also has an impact on increasing GRDP per capita in the new autonomous regions, showing the important role of expansion in accelerating community welfare, especially in previously underdeveloped regions (Shanty Wisudarini, 2021).

After nearly 8 years of moratorium, the Government and the DPR passed the Law on the Expansion of Papua, resulting in four new provinces: Southwest Papua, Central Papua, Highlands Papua and South Papua. Thus, Indonesia has a total of 38 provinces. The postponement of regional expansion was previously a response to the expansion that occurred in the 2001-2014 period. Regional expansion is postponed to prevent inefficient expansion. Expansion is not limited to areas rich in resources or with a large population but also occurs in poor areas with a small population. However, the formation of new regions is still not ideal and is often financially and economically inefficient. Evaluations show that more than 80% of the new autonomous regions have not improved people's welfare (BBC Indonesia, 2023) Regional expansion in Indonesia has not significantly increased people's welfare. Not all decisions on regional expansion are appropriate and have not had a positive impact on the region of origin. The data shows that 94% of the newly created regions experience low or moderate levels of welfare, indicating the failure of the division to increase the welfare of the people in the newly formed regions (Amina et al., 2019).

Territorial expansion is a complex socio-political process with a significant impact on regional autonomy. Economic, political, and socio-cultural factors play an important role in regional expansion. Although the division has good goals, such as bringing the government closer to the people and advancing the economy, it is necessary to consider the negative impacts, such as financial efficiency, increasing people's welfare, and other challenges. The division of provinces in Papua is also complex because it is rich in natural wealth, culture, and ethnic diversity. Observations on regional expansion in Papua and areas outside Papua tend to be based on dominant considerations from a political perspective. This is because, if you look at it from the perspective of applicable law, the criteria that generally must be met for regional expansion have not been fully met.

Regional expansion is the central government's effort to improve development and public services in an area. Regional expansion, including in Jayapura Regency, can positively impact economic growth. With regional expansion, the government can focus more on allocating resources and budgets for newly formed regions, which in turn encourages infrastructure development and economic growth in the region (Ahmad et al., 2023). This motive indicates an aspiration to improve community welfare and development in the area that is being divided (Moses & Achmady, 2020; Muksiin et al., 2021). However, in practice there, several problems arise related to regional expansion in the land of Papua. The formation of the New Autonomous Region Law (DOB) for Papua minimal public participation, in which the Papuan People's Council (MRP) was not involved as a representative of indigenous Papuans. This has raised concerns about the legitimacy and fairness of the process of dividing the region, as well as the lack of representation of the voices and aspirations of the Papuan people.

In the context of regional expansion in the land of Papua, there is a political motive that is very loaded with material-intensive motives. This motive shows that the decision to create a new autonomous region in the land of Papua was driven by the interests of the political elite, both central and regional, who wanted rewards, position, and power. This indicates that political and power factors play a significant role in dividing regions in Papua (Moses & Achmady, 2020; Muksiin et al., 2021). Regional expansion in Papua is considered one of the strategies to achieve the prosperity desired by the people of Papua. The government needs to focus on real development and pay attention to the aspirations of the people regarding the division of regions in Papua. On the other hand, those who oppose the division consider that pemekaran is more influenced by political interests and threatens the existence of Indigenous Papuans. Expansion is also considered with custody can drain state finances. This division is seen as coercion from the center on the regions. There are fears that this coercion could trigger a major conflict in Papua. In addition, the enthusiasm of the Papuan elites who push for the expansion of districts and cities is considered to be based more on group interests or the mere desires of the elites (Melyana R. Pugu, 2022).

This research aims to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the pros and cons of views reflected in the mass media regarding the expansion of the new province in Papua. The main focus of the research is to identify groups or actors who support and oppose the expansion, as well as analyzing the reasons behind the pro and con attitudes they express. By involving various parties such as the central government, regional government, historians, legal aid institutions, and civil society, this research will dig deeper into the complex dynamics involving various stakeholders in conveying regional expansion in Papua.

It is important to understand that Papua province has always been the focus of attention both nationally and internationally. The involvement of various parties shows the high complexity of this issue and its impact on the Papuan people. By bringing together the roles of each actor and group involved, it is hoped that this research can provide a more comprehensive picture of each of these matters. Apart from that, a deeper understanding of the reasons behind the pros and cons is the key to uncovering the complexity of the issue of regional expansion in Papua. By analyzing the views of different groups, this research will provide

richer insight into the factors that influence their views. It is hoped that the research results will serve as a basis for a better understanding of the dynamics at play here and perhaps contribute to better decision making in the future.

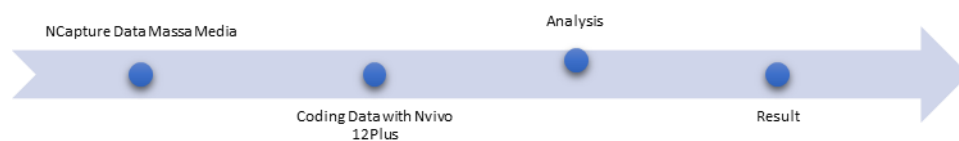
## Methods

This research applies a qualitative method with a Qualitative Data Analysis Software (QDAS) approach to explore the problem of the expansion of the Papua region. The main data is obtained from secondary sources, including online news and previous research that is relevant to the issue under study. The data collection process was carried out using the NCapture feature, collecting 50 online news stories from 2019 to 2023 which came from various trusted sources. Data analysis was carried out using Q-DAS, especially Nvivo 12Plus, as a tool for organizing and analyzing data.

In data analysis, this research uses several methods, such as Crosstab feature analysis, Chart analysis, Cluster analysis, and Word Cloud analysis. This approach allows researchers to systematically and comprehensively identify patterns, relationships and themes that emerge from the data collected. At the data analysis stage, NVivo 12 software was used to help visualize the data in the form of graphs, images and word frequencies, so that the findings could be understood more easily. The research stages in more detail can be seen below:

### Picture 1

*The stages of research by the author*



## Results and Discussion

### Results

This study will involve an analysis of three main aspects which will be discussed in detail, namely: a) Content from the mass media related to the expansion of new territories in the Province of Papua. In this section, we will examine news content and articles from the mass media that discuss regional expansion, including aspects that are the focus of the news. b) Dissemination of narratives from the mass media about the expansion of new territories in the Province of Papua. This section will pay attention to how narratives about the division of regions in Papua are spread and processed by the mass media. In this analysis, it will be seen how information is presented, the narratives used, as well as the news focus which may vary from one media to another. c) Relationships between actors related to the Expansion of New Territories in Papua Province. In this section, we will identify and analyze the relationships and interactions between the various actors involved in the regional division process in Papua. This includes governments, indigenous peoples, activists, government agencies, and other community groups that have different interests and roles in this issue.

Systematically and comprehensively, this study aims to provide an in-depth understanding of mass media content, narrative dissemination, and the dynamics of relations between actors regarding the expansion of new territories in Papua Province. An in-depth analysis of these three aspects is expected to provide a richer and more comprehensive view of this important issue.

### **Mass Media Content on the Expansion of New Territories in Papua**

Since July 25, 2022, the government through the People's Representative Council (DPR) has passed laws (UU) related to the formation of a new province in Papua, namely Law Number 14 of 2022 concerning the Establishment of South Papua Province, Law Number 15 of 2022 concerning the Establishment of Central Papua Province, and Law Number 16 of 2022 concerning the Establishment of the Highlands Papua Province. So that currently, Papua is divided into five provinces, namely Papua Province with the capital city of Jayapura, West Papua Province with the capital city of Manokwari, South Papua Province with the capital city of Merauke, Central Papua Province with the capital city of Nabire, and Papua Mountains Province with the capital city Jayawijaya. It is hoped that the New Autonomous Region (DOB) Law will improve the development and welfare of the Papuan people for the better.

**Table 1**

*Area Coverage Result of Expansion of Papua Province*

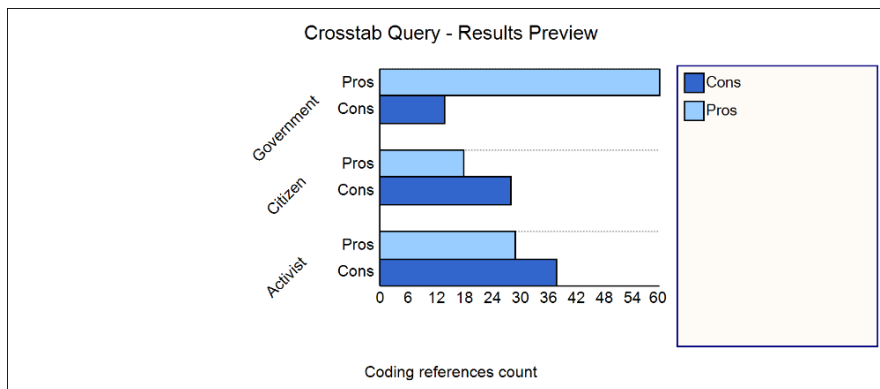
<b>Province</b>	<b>Regency</b>
<b>South Papua</b>	<b>Merauke Regency (sitting as the capital city)</b>
	Mappi District
	Asmat District
	Boven Digoel Regency
<b>Central Papua</b>	<b>Nabire Regency (sitting as the capital city)</b>
	Panai District
	Mimika Regency
	Dogiyai District
	Deyiai District
	Intan Jaya Regency
	Peak District
	Puncak Jaya Regency
<b>Papua Mountains</b>	<b>Jayawijaya Regency (capital city)</b>
	Lanny Jaya Regency
	Central Mamberamo District
	Nduga Regency
	Tolikara District
	Yahukimo Regency
	Yalimo Regency
	Star Mountains District

Source: Papua Provincial Government Website, 2023

The paradigm shifts of regional autonomy from development in the regions to developing regions is one of the reasons for supporting and implementing optimal services in the bureaucracy so that governance is needed that can realize *good governance* (Ali & Saputra, 2020). The division of new areas in Papua Province was not fully supported and approved by all parties. The results of data processing carried out by researchers using Crosstab Query on the NVIVO 12 plus application found the following data.

**Picture 2**

*Results of Mass Media Data Processing Regarding the Pros and Cons of Expansion of the Papua Region (Nvivo 12Plus, 2023)*



**Table 2**

*The Pros and Cons of Regional Expansion of the Province of Papua in Mass Media*

	<b>Cons</b>	<b>Pros</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Activist</b>	47.50 %	27.10 %	35.83 %
<b>Citizen</b>	35% %	16.82 %	24.60 %
<b>Government</b>	17.50 %	56.07 %	39.57 %
<b>Total</b>	100%	100%	100%

Source: Nvivo 12Plus, 2023

Based on the picture above, shows the intensity of the pros and cons reactions found in online news regarding the issue of the division of the Papua region. Three actors play a role in the opinion of the news where there are more who are against the issue of regional expansion compared to those who are pro. The opposing groups are mostly activists and the community, especially activists and indigenous Papuan people, while those who are pro towards the issue of the division of Papua are of course from the government, especially the People's Representative Council (DPR) because they are the parties that created and ratified the New Autonomous Region (DOB).

### Narrator from the Mass Media About the Expansion of New Territories in Papua Province

The next analysis is trying to find out what kind of narrative is spread in the mass media, especially online news about the issue of the expansion of the Papua region by using word cloud analysis where a collection of popular words in the mass media will be counted and presented using Nvivo 12Plus with a minimum displayed on the picture analysis is 100 words.

**Picture 4**

*Narrative distribution in the mass media about the pros and cons of the expansion of the Papua region (Nvivo 12Plus Analysis, 2023)*



Word	Amount
Papua	670
Public welfare	500
Equality	430
Expansion	200
Democracy	190

The content analysis carried out shows that the narrative in online mass media, especially related to the expansion of the province in Papua, is dominated by several main keywords. The results of the analysis show that the words that appear most often in the narrative are "Papua", "Community Welfare", "Equality", "Pemekaran", and "Democracy".

From the data presented, the word "Papua" dominates with 670 counts, indicating that the focus of online mass media narratives is related to the Papua region itself. The word "Community Welfare" reached 500 counts, indicating that the issue of community welfare is one of the main aspects emphasized in the discussion of this expansion. Furthermore, the words "Equality" and "Expansion" reached 430 counts and 200 counts respectively, indicating that equality and the process of regional expansion were important points in the narrative. Finally, the word "Democracy" appears 190 times, indicating that democratic principles are also an integral part of this discussion.

Thus, it can be interpreted that narratives in online mass media tend to focus on discussions related to the Papua region, efforts to improve community welfare, emphasis on justice, the expansion process, and democratic principles. This analysis provides an overview of the main issues contained in mass media coverage regarding the expansion of provinces in Papua.

Overall, the cluster analysis results provide in-depth insight into the relationship between indicators and the role of main actors in the context of regional expansion in Papua. With this understanding, it is hoped that regional expansion efforts can be carried out more effectively and responsively to the needs and aspirations of the Papuan people.

## **Discussion**

Regional expansion is the process of forming a new local government from an existing area. After pemekaran, regional governments will have greater responsibility for managing local affairs and regional development (Umami & Ferizaldi, 2022). Local governments must be able to manage resources and finances wisely to improve the welfare of their residents (Aziz & Muliana, 2022). The principles of decentralization and regional autonomy mandate that the central government should give local governments authority, responsibilities, and resources to take care of most government affairs at the local level (Telung et al., 2019). Several aspects that are under the authority of the local government include public services such as education, health, local infrastructure, and control of the area (Dewi et al., 2017). Although local governments have the authority to manage most of their affairs, the central government still plays an important role in some matters. The relationship between the central government and regional governments in Indonesia is governed by the principle of regional autonomy (Suaib, 2020).

The division of the Papua region is a strategic step that needs to be considered carefully. After the division of the Papua region or part of Papua into a new autonomous regional government, the relationship between the central government and the new regional government will usually be governed by the principles of decentralization and regional autonomy, by Law No. 23 of 2014 concerning Regional Government. If the Papua region experiences expansion, it means that the area has been divided into several new smaller autonomous regions. After regional expansion, the relationship between the central government and the new regional government will be governed by the Regional Autonomy Law and its implementing regulations. However, in practice, the implementation of regional autonomy in Indonesia sometimes still faces challenges.

Some regions may face obstacles in managing their resources and finances effectively, while the central government must ensure that the principles of national unity and national interests are maintained (Ikhsan, 2019). In addition, the central government also has the responsibility to provide technical and financial support to local governments to increase their capacity and independence in making decisions and implementing policies (Muzawwir, 2021). Pro-expansion support highlights the potential for community development and empowerment, while counter-expansion warns of the potential for conflict and greater



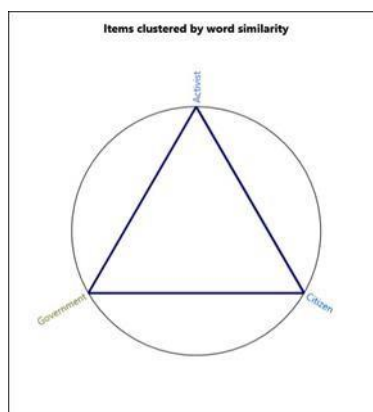
development disparities. Therefore, in deciding on the division of the Papua region, it is necessary to carry out a thorough evaluation that considers the social, economic, political, and cultural impacts and involves all relevant parties.

### Relations Between Actors Related to the Expansion of New Territories in Papua Province

The next analysis tries to find out what the relationship is like in the online mass media regarding the discussion of the expansion of a new Papua region as a process of developing better Papuan people's welfare. This section uses Cluster analysis to find out the connectedness of actors' Pros and Cons in the expansion of the new territory of Papua. In this case, the Nvivo 12Plus lower limit of 0.7 is used with an upper limit of 1 point. On Nvivo 12Plus find out the subject ratio using the lower and upper bounds. The numbers used start from -1,0,1 point. -1 means the relationship is invisible or negative. 0 means that a relationship may exist but is not strong enough.

**Picture 5**

*Correlation data between actors (Nvivo 12Plus Analysis, 2023)*



Code A	Code B	Pearson correlation coefficient
Government	Citizen	0,831272
Citizen	Activist	0,81617
Government	Activist	0,710171

Cluster analysis shows that there is a significant relationship between the various indicators described, forming a relationship that influences each other in the context of the expansion of the Papua region. The results of this cluster analysis provide an overview of connectivity and coordination which play an important role in the success of the regional expansion program. From the coefficient table between indicators, the coefficient between "Society" and "Government" has the greatest relationship, namely 0.831272. This shows that the expansion of the Papua region is closely related to interactions between the community and the government. Active involvement from both parties is the key to achieving success in the expansion program.

The second highest coefficient is between "Community" and "Activists" with a value of 0.81617. This indicates that the role of activists, especially activists from the Papuan people themselves, has a big impact in voicing the aspirations of the

Papuan people. Activists are one of the most vocal actors both supporting and opposing regional expansion policies. On the other hand, the coefficient between "Government" and "Activists" has a lower value, namely 0.710171. This reflects the dynamics of the relationship that tends to conflict between government and activism. However, this relationship can be an important means of providing input and suggestions to the government in efforts to improve the National Development system in Indonesia.

The division of a new province in Papua is the most frequently discussed issue because the underlying objective is to accelerate development in the region. Papua as the largest and most remote region in Indonesia faces various challenges in developing the region's potential and improving the quality of life of its people. Issues that are the focus in discussions about the division of a new province in Papua are limited access and infrastructure due to difficult topography, significant development gaps between regions, and the need to improve community services, especially for indigenous peoples and minority groups such as the Orang Asli Papua (OAP).

The expansion of new provinces is expected to be able to provide a deeper focus on infrastructure development, pay attention to areas that are lagging, and improve public services so that all residents can benefit from the development being carried out. In addition, environmental and cultural conservation efforts, active participation of local communities, integration with national programs and the concept of special autonomy, as well as human resource development are also important concerns in formulating strategic steps to address challenges and achieve sustainable and inclusive development in the new region. One of them, namely Human Rights (HAM) activist, Yones Douw on [VoaIndonesia.com](http://VoaIndonesia.com) (2022) said that regional expansion was not the answer to overcoming development gaps, especially as a conflict resolution because he learned from the division of previous districts, namely Dogiai Regency and Deiayi Regency which did not go according to plan. On the other hand, Joop, as one of Jayapura's religious leaders, believes that regional division can achieve more advanced Papua because it can shorten the span of control of government services, so the Indigenous People's Leader (Wally) suggests that regional division be carried out clearly and transparently so that it does not end in demonstrations due to fighting. to remain in their respective territories.

Some local Papuans fear that pemekaran will only reduce conflict rather than increase people's welfare. This is the statement of the Economist of the Institute for Development Economics and Finance (Indef) Enny Sri Hartati who considers that the division of the Papua Province is not a suitable solution for the welfare of the people of Papua because from previous experience it has not been shown with certainty that the areas resulting from the division have experienced rapid economic development. significantly, it will have the potential to increase elite capture (domination of elites) which has often been a problem in the Papua region so far. One of the waves of incessant rejection was carried out by a coalition of non-governmental organizations that are members of the Solidarity of Civil Organizations for Papua (SOS Papua), where they feel that their political rights have been sacrificed to determine their attitude towards this policy so that they

will try to carry out a judicial review of the three laws forming a new *province* to the Constitutional Court (MK).

The chairman of the House's Representative Council (DPR) said that Puan Maharani stated that the division of regions in Papua aims to increase public services and the welfare of the Papuan people so that they can be more advanced and that it is also an effort to elevate the dignity and status of the Papuan people. Luqman Hakim, Deputy Chairman of Commission II of the DPR from the National Awakening Party (PKB) faction, said that the division of the province in the Papua region is a mandate of Law Number 2 of 2021 concerning Special Autonomy (Otsus) for Papua and a manifestation of the many aspirations of the people in Papua. and West Papua for division (kompas. id, 2022). Meanwhile, Adriana Elisabeth, a researcher at the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI), said that the division of the region would be too hasty if it was carried out without solving the root problems in Papua, even though the government has enacted Law Number 2 of 2021 as a substitute for Law Number 21 of 2001 concerning special autonomy for the Province of Papua (bbc.com, 2021). Deputy Chairman of Committee 1 DPD RI from West Papua, Filep Wamafma, stated that in principle the mechanism for proposing division did not work well where the status of special autonomy was but in practice, it seemed as if the power of the central government was more inclined to use centralized power actions.

The regional expansion has become one of the strategic steps to optimize the potential possessed by various regions (Acosta & Curt, 2019). Papua is a region rich in natural resources, cultural wealth, and stunning natural beauty. However, over the years, this region has also faced challenges and complexities in the development and welfare of its people (Lembang, 2019). The division of the Papua region is an important step to provide a better focus on resource management, community empowerment, and infrastructure development that suits the needs and characteristics of each sub-region (Ramdhani & Subekti, 2020). The division of the Papua region allows for better administrative division and more effective management of the region's abundant natural resources (Ohee et al., 2018).

Through expansion, decision-making and implementation of development programs can be more focused and responsive to the needs of local communities. In addition, the division of the Papua region also provides an opportunity to encourage community empowerment more intensively. With a government that is closer to residents, community participation in decision-making will increase (Prabowo et al., 2021). This will enable them to play an active role in regional development, including in the areas of education, health, and the economy. Pemekaran can also strengthen cultural identity and local wisdom so that Papua's heritage and uniqueness can be preserved and developed (Keliat et al., 2021).

The division of the Papua region also has the potential to increase infrastructure development that is more equitable. With smaller and more focused sub-regions, the government can more effectively plan and implement the construction of roads, bridges, airports, and other public services. Increasing accessibility and connectivity will accelerate economic growth, expand employment opportunities, and improve people's quality of life (Wangge, 2022). However, the division of the Papua region also has challenges that need to be handled wisely. Good coordination between the central government, local

government, and local communities is essential to ensure successful implementation. Commitment and joint efforts are needed to avoid conflicts that may arise due to shifts in power and resources.

Papuan people have long struggled with access to basic services and inequality in development. While some areas are endowed with state-of-the-art infrastructure and a wealth of resources, others are still remote and lack basic services. Activists, human rights defenders, and community leaders who are dedicated to bringing about constructive change for their fellow Papuans are deeply concerned about these differences. Those who argue that this inequality can be overcome by dividing the province of Papua are on one side of the argument. They argued that the new province would allow for better leadership and more focused development initiatives. They believe that by concentrating on the unique needs of their community, smaller administrative entities will be better able to provide education, health care, and employment opportunities.

The need for environmental community empowerment is often emphasized by proponents of equality in expansion (Mukrimaa et al., 2018). They argue that a more decentralized and smaller province will give a stronger voice to the people and encourage environment-based development projects. They want to remember and protect the rich cultural history of Papua by including indigenous peoples in the decision-making process. Those expressing concern about possible expansion risks and difficulties are on the opposite side of the argument. They fear that breaking the region into more manageable administrative divisions will result in additional deployment and a lack of collaboration on development initiatives. Some are concerned that the unequal distribution of resources may harm some provinces.

Equality in the expansion of Papua is ultimately a reminder that when people collaborate to pursue common goals, progress, and harmony can be achieved. It also emphasizes how important it is to consider all points of view, have conversations, and work together to find answers while tackling difficult problems. Papuans show through their journey towards equality that shared goals and shared efforts can lead to a more promising and just future for all.

The division of the Papua region has become a topic that triggers pros and cons among the public, observers, and policymakers. This paper has analyzed the arguments for and against the division of the Papua region to review the impact and implications of this move. This study discusses three parts, namely: a) Mass media content about the expansion of new territories in Papua Province, b) Dissemination of narratives in the mass media about the expansion of new territories in Papua Province, c) Relations Between Actors related to New Territory Expansion in Papua Province. Mass media content regarding the expansion of new territories in Papua includes information regarding the ratification of laws related to the formation of new provinces in Papua, as well as details of the areas that are part of each new province. Analysis of mass media data shows that there are more contra reactions than pro reactions to the issue of regional expansion in Papua. Papuan activists and indigenous peoples are the dominant groups in counter-reactions, while the government, especially the People's Representative Council (DPR), supports the issue of dividing the region. The mass media narrative about regional expansion in Papua underscores the

importance of regional expansion to optimize regional potential and improve infrastructure development, public services, and people's welfare.

Expansion is expected to overcome the challenges of limited access and infrastructure, and development gaps, and improve public services, especially for indigenous peoples and minority groups. Analysis of the relationship between actors highlights the importance of connectedness and cooperation between the central government and regional governments in the implementation of regional autonomy after the division of the Papua region. Support and rejection of pemekaran emphasize the potential for community development and empowerment, as well as the risk of conflict and greater development disparities. This expansion is seen as a strategic step to increase the development and welfare of the Papuan people, but it also raises various views and challenges that need careful attention in its implementation. Thus, the central government and regional governments need to communicate effectively and ensure good coordination in the planning and implementation of the expansion. The involvement of local communities in decision-making must also be prioritized so that their interests and aspirations can be reflected in development policies. In addition, there is a need for careful monitoring of the impact of pemekaran, both positive and negative, so that corrective steps can be taken as needed.

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