

# The Development of Elite Sports in Semarang

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**Abstract**—The city of Semarang has become one of the regions that has good training and development of elite sports, yet, it is still not able to produce many athletes who can compete very well at the national level. This study focused on the development of elite sports. Meanwhile, the purpose of this study was to analyze the model of elite sports development in Semarang, Central Java Province, Indonesia. This type of research is qualitative descriptive. The research subjects were DISPORA (Office of Youth and Sports), KONI (National Sports Committee of Indonesia), and local sport federations/organization's administrators. The researchers conducted an unstructured interview as instruments in this study. The data validity technique consists of: (1) degree of trust; (2) transferability; (3) dependence; (4) certainty. Validity technique used was data source triangulation technique. Qualitative data analysis of the Miles and Huberman models was applied by researchers consisting of 1) Data Reduction 2) Data Display 3) Conclusion Drawing / Verification. The results of this study indicate that; 1) The Semarang City Government did not optimally implement sports policy based on a legal standard for sports within elite sports development system; 2) the sport fostering and development are still separately organized; 3) the availability and adequacy of elite sports development funds are still limited; 4) the availability and adequacy of elite sports facilities and infrastructure are still far from the required standard. The researchers concluded that the development of elite sports in the city of Semarang had not fully met the expectations of sportspeople. It can be suggested that it is necessary to make a grand design of elite sports development program with its implementation mechanism.

**Keywords** -- *Sports Development, Elite Sports, Semarang.*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, a sport is not only practiced for getting achievement but also has a role to be an important part of the process to achieve the goals of physical fitness development, growth, developmental movements, mentality, morals, attitudes, and behavior that are in accordance with the noble values of a nation. Even John Fitzgerald Kennedy, 35th President of the United States, once said that fitness is the basis for all other forms of excellence. The development of physical fitness and health contributes to the effectiveness and enjoyment of

life [1]. Sports means activities carried out by a person or society that are practiced consciously and without any pressure to compete at least with themselves [2]

A number of international sports researchers and humanitarian institutions recommend that the positive impact of sport be a necessity to improve individuals, culture, and society [3]. The results of a study in Sweden concluded that there was a belief that exercise could be used as a tool for positive development of adolescents. Sport is able to unite differences in race, religion, ethnicity, gender as has become a growing issue in the community and also as an effective remedy for curing social disorder [4]. According to [5] sport has become the dominant and increasingly powerful tool for development in the international community. Rowe et al [6] see the importance of structured and organized sports participation by a country.

Sport does not only guarantee the formation of strong and resilient human resources and strengthen the character and identity of the nation as stated in the previous section, but at the same time enhance the image of the nation in the eyes of the world. Sports achievement is one part that holds a key role in imaging Indonesia's progress in the eyes of the world. Making high achievements in sports is a job that takes a lot of time and resources. During this time the development of achievement has not reached its highest level as expected. At the national and regional levels, sports achievements have not shown encouraging developments.

In general, the factors that influence the development of elite sports comprise: 1. Internal factors namely: a) talent, interest, b) good organizational management, c) coaching program, d) supporting facilities and infrastructure [7]; 2. External factors, namely: a) education, b) income, c) motivation, d) economy, e) culture, f) social [8][9]. Problems of coordination, responsibility, duties and functions between the provincial government and the district / city government and KONI, and the problem of budget availability, infrastructure, sports human resources, organizational mechanisms, and bonuses are still interesting topics

which are supposed to be the constraints of elite sports development.

Sports achievements must be built through a planned, and sustainable process of development with the support of sports science and technology. The development of athletes in elite sports should be carried out continuously and sustainably [10]. Athletes' participation in local, regional, national and international competitions can create a pathway to success [11]. The SPLISS (2006) study identified nine attributes that they call pillars that lead to success in fostering and developing elite sports including financial support, integrated policy development, participation in sports, talent identification, athlete's post-career support, training facilities, provision of training and trainer development, international competition, and sports scientific research.

The development of elite sports carried out by local governments often encounters various obstacles both technically and non-technically. These constraints derive from the limitations of the regional government in terms of 1) Assigning sports development policies and the implementation of regional regulations that become the basis for the development of elite sports 2) providing funds for elite sports development 3) provision and standardization of elite sports facilities and infrastructure 4) Provision and improvement of the quality of human resources in the sports organization management system 5) implementation of the elite sports development model 6) providing post-career rewards and guarantees to elite sportspeople.

Central and provincial government policies hold a very important role to improve sports performance. Sport becomes a public policy in order to improve the quality of life [12]. An important part of a policy is a commitment to prepare all components of achievement support well. The lack of financing for sports results in a poor record of sports activities such as; 1) Running an athlete training program with inadequate competition infrastructure; 2) Selection of National Teams for international events without any national sports competition; 3) Using development funds to send athletes abroad for training and competition; 4) Building sports facilities without well planning and do not have the ability to maintain and manage these facilities effectively [11]. Meanwhile, sports coaching requires representative facilities and infrastructure.

## II. METHOD

Qualitative Research Design relates to what is understood, interpreted and felt by research subjects [13]. Qualitative research can show people's lives, history, organizational behavior. Furthermore, this study obtained the behavioral data of the people observed including

descriptions and notes on the results of in-depth interviews. The focus of the research is the development of elite sports in the city of Semarang, Central Java Province. The research subjects were various parties who had the authority and responsibility to the development of elite sports in Central Java. Data sources were obtained from: 1) DISPORApar (Office of Youth and Sports); 2) KONI (National Sports Committee of Indonesia); and (3) local sport federation/organization's administrators. The data were collected through interviews, documentation studies, and literature studies. Then, the data were analyzed by data condensation, data display, and conclusion drawing / verifications.

## III. DISCUSSION

The Local Government Regulation Nb. 4 Year 2015 concerning the Implementation of Sports in Central Java Province which also applies as legal standard for the law of sports has not been implemented as its function. The enhancement and development of elite sports in Central Java Province has not been fully in accordance with the mandate contained in the existing sports regulation. Except for Semarang City, which has a legal standard for sports in determining policies for fostering and developing elite sports. However, the implementation has not been seen in the formulation of sports development policies in the city of Semarang. The logical consequence is that the policy making concerning about the enhancement and development of elite sports in Semarang has not been based on applicable sports regulations.

Semarang proclaimed itself as an athlete city, meaning that Semarang City should have a well-prepared policy dealing with sports. The Semarang City Government through DISPORA and KONI has made continuous and sustainable development efforts. However, it was admitted by DISPORA of Semarang City that the model of fostering athletes that had been done so far was more dependent on clubs spread in the city of Semarang. In addition, the development of high performance athletes also depends a lot on local sports federation's administrators so the results of the development program are not maximal. "The policy of developing elite sports program has not been implemented as expected. The implementation of sports training program and sports talent scouting is still carried out at the level of each sports club. In other words, there is no comprehensive, staged, and centralized sports development program.". (DISPORA of Semarang). Like DISPORA, KONI of Semarang City also mentioned that there has been no policy on enhancement and development model program for elite sports even though Semarang has begun to declare itself as the City of Athletes. "On the other hand the policy of elite sports development has not been implemented as expected, it can be seen from the

coaching program that tends to be independent and not well-programmed in each sports club". (KONI Kota Semarang).

In 2018, the Semarang City Government through KONI and DISPORA began to launch PPOPD (Regional Student Sports Training Center program). "Semarang Mayor, Hendrar Prihadi, launched the Regional Student Sports Training Center (PPOPD) program to improve sports achievements not only regionally but also nationally and internationally. This program will be attended by around 200 students in Semarang who will fill the 7 leading sports in Semarang ". "Today, we are launching a program so-called Regional Student Sports Training Center whose program will be arranged in the form of syllabi and curriculum which will end in December," Hendi explained. (Tribunnews.com, 2018)

Establishment and implementation of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), a concept and an effort made by the company as a social responsibility in the environment where the company stands. CSR is expected to be able to help sports finance, but in reality CSR has not provided an adequate solution to be used as a source of funding for sports. CSR cannot be used as a main source of sports funding because it only might support sports activities intermittently. Therefore, the sports funding support earned from CSR is supposed to be inadequate for the elite sports development in Semarang.

Semarang City in several multi-sport events at the provincial level (Porprov) has always been the best compared to other districts / cities in Central Java region. It is no exaggeration to say that Semarang City is a center for outstanding athletes in Central Java Province. This is very reasonable because Semarang City as the Capital of Central Java Province has various advantages. The most obvious advantage is the availability of standard facilities and infrastructure, relatively adequate sports human resources and many other factors that might make the city of Semarang have good sports performance.

The factors that influence sports performance in Semarang City are quite complex. Sports funding as one of the determining factors has a key role in the coaching system. Based on the findings of data in the field, it turns out that there were problems of funding for the elite sports development in Semarang even though it was not as complicated as other regions.

According to the Office of Youth and Sports of Semarang (DISPORA), the funds allocated for the development of sports achievements are sufficient. "The proportion of the budget is in accordance with the needs and meets the minimum standard of adequacy to support elite sports development" (DISPORA of Semarang). But if it is associated with the need ratio based on the number

of branches of sports, the number is still not in accordance with the needs. According to DISPORA of Semarang City. "the ratio of the amount of sports funding if associated with the demand is supposed to be imbalance". (DISPORA of Semarang). According to the local sports organizers "the proportion of sports budget has not been in accordance with the needs, automatically the allocated funds have not met the standard of adequacy for supporting coaching program". (Semarang Local Sports Organizers). Further said that;

"There were no problems dealing with the expenditure and use of budget by the Office, yet the amount has not been in accordance with the needs based on the achievement target. The amount of the budget has only fulfilled 50%". (DISPORA of Semarang).

According to the management of KONI of Semarang, the amount of the budget allocated for sports development is relatively sufficient to support the development of elite sports in Semarang. However, the amount of the budget should be increased so that the needs of all sports can be accommodated properly. Furthermore, KONI of Semarang stated that, "in 2017, KONI Semarang received a fund allocation as much as IDR 12,000,000,000, -. This fund is fully managed by KONI, and elite sports development become the first priority to support because the funds are given for the provision of incentives for athletes, coaches, and sports coaching programs. However, the amount of funds allocated is insufficient because it cannot cover the entire sports needs" (KONI of Semarang).

According to KONI of Semarang, there was an increase in the amount of funds in 2018 allocated by the Semarang government compared to 2017. The allocation of funds for KONI of Semarang in 2018 was IDR 22,250,000,000. Yet, in 2019, KONI of Semarang proposed sports funding as much as IDR 24,000,000,000 (KONI Kota Semarang).

The budgetary management of elite sports development in Semarang is organized by DISPORA of Semarang. The budget planning mechanism is through DISPORA, while KONI has the task of channeling funds to the cities/districts sports organizers. "The position and authority of DISPORA directly manages existing cash through RKA (Work Plan & Budgets) process from the Regional Budget and the mechanism has been well-developed". (DISPORA of Semarang).

"DISPORA which has the authority as the technical implementer for the sports development program has not functioned optimally. KONI's performance so far for the city of Semarang is in accordance with its proportions. Regional Sports Organizers (Pencab) have the authority to propose grants from DISPORA through KONI.

However, the process and mechanism for proposing these funds have not been fully well-implemented.”. (DISPORA of Semarang).

The adequacy of sport development funding in Semarang is directly proportional to the athletes’s performance. It is undeniable if Semarang can be a contributor to provide potential athletes for Central Java that can compete at the national, regional and international / olympic level.

Semarang as the capital city of Central Java Province has a good quality from various aspects towards the development of elite sports. The main components of the success of sports development programs are owned by Semarang. However, there are consequences that become part of the burden of the City of Semarang in developing elite sports. The target of being the best in medals or trophies collection in every multi-sports event such as the Provincial Sports Week (Porprov) makes Semarang City always strive to build a strong commitment between the Local Government, KONI, and the sports community. One of them was to produce an agreement / commitment between Semarang Government and KONI, the local sports organization, and the sports community concerning with funding allocations. The sports funding policy in Semarang has reached a considerable value compared to other regions in Central Java. However, given that the target set by the City of Semarang in every sporting event is also high, the amount of the existing budget is still considered inadequate.

According to the DISPORA of Semarang, "The adequacy of funding has not been the main priority for the development of elite sports by the Semarang City Government because the proportion of funding for elite sports development is still below 75%". (DISPORA of Semarang). While according to KONI Semarang City "Semarang has a policy to make elite sports development as one of the main priorities of funding. But the amount of the realized budget is still not as expected. But we are optimistic because Semarang still has larger amount of sport funding compared to other regions in Central Java Province. " (KONI Kota Semarang). According to the city sports organization’s management "The adequacy of sports funding is a priority for sports development program. Yet, sports funds are only available if there is a sporting event ". (City Sport Organization Management)

Semarang as the capital city of Central Java Province has adequate sports facilities and infrastructure. This is related to the ease of accessing sports facilities whose management is under the authority of the Province in the Semarang City area. Utilization of sports facilities in the city of Semarang will not only be carried out by city sport administrators but also by several sports clubs. However, the Semarang City Government has autonomy in

managing the government. This means that the development program must be in line with the policies planned for each budget year of the Semarang City government. No exception with development in the field of sports, Semarang Government has its own agenda in all components of the sports sector development, especially for elite sports. However, it is undeniable that the policy of sports facilities / infrastructure procurement in Semarang City has not been fully realized in accordance with what is needed and planned. There are still several sports that have not been well-facilitated by KONI and DISPORA. According to DISPORA, the Semarang City Government always allocates funds to provide adequate sports facilities and infrastructure.

“Semarang Government allocates funds for sports facilities and infrastructure. The policy to fulfill the needs of sports facilities and infrastructure is a priority for the development of elite sports in Semarang since there are some sports that require standard sports facilities and infrastructure. However, due to the budget limitations, the procurement of sports facilities and infrastructure was completed gradually”. (DISPORA of Semarang)

In line with previous opinions, KONI Semarang City believes that the construction / procurement of sports facilities in the city of Semarang has not become the priority scale of sports development policy by the Semarang Government. It was stated that "Although there is already a policy from Semarang Government to improve facilities for elite sports, it is undeniable that meeting the needs of sports facilities has not been a top priority (KONI Kota Semarang). Meanwhile, according to the local sport organization management, "the development policy for elite sports in Semarang has not been well-implemented, especially in terms of sports facilities and infrastructure. (local Sports Organization Management)

The dynamics of availability, adequacy, and standardization of facilities and infrastructure for elite sports are often always a polemic before the performance of various sports events. The problems and polemics of infrastructure limitations have not fully become the reference for the Semarang Government. Problems with insufficiency, infrastructure standardization always appear throughout the years. The phenomenon of complaints by athletes, coaches, and sports administrators about the unavailability, lack of standards, or lack of appropriate current technology for training facilities often colors the training system in Semarang.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

The development of elite sports in Semarang in terms of policy aspects that Semarang Government has not made sports development program as a top priority. The

development and enhancement of high performance athletes is still separately organized. The coaching model has not been well designed and structured. The elite sports funding in reality is still not in accordance with the needs of elite sports development. Facilities and infrastructure for elite sports are not fully in accordance with the standard.

#### V. RECOMMENDATION

It is necessary to immediately plan an elite sports development model in Semarang by involving practitioners, academics, and the Semarang Government by prioritizing the main aspects of supporting elite sports, such as; assigning policies that prioritize elite sports development, planning elite sports training model based on grand design, strengthening commitment on sport funding, providing standard sport facilities and infrastructure.

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