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The Roles of Local Wisdom in Times of Post Disaster:Lessons Learned from the Bantul Earthquake

Deny Hidayati^{1*}

¹Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI), ²Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI)

The District of Bantul, Yogyakarta, is geologically and geographically vulnerable to earthquake, indicated by the 2006 earthquake that caused a significant socio economic impact to its people. The community experienced difficulty in providing their basic needs, especially during critical conditions, the first three days after the earthquakes, when relief from the government and other donors had not been received. An assessment using a qualitative approach informed that local wisdom played an important role for the community survival strategies. The communities looked for and prepared their needs, particularly food, health care and shelter by themselves with other members of neighborhoods (RT) and/or the community groups (hamlet/Dukuh). Their activities were strongly supported by the existence of local wisdom, such as community self helpfulness (tolong menolong) and cooperation (gotong royong), and sense of togetherness in facing disaster, care about each other, mutual response and endeavor. Their emergency responses were assisted by local institutions, both formal (RT, RW, hamlets and villages) and non formal (kinship and paguyuban). The government, particularly district and provincial government, with their relevant policies and programs and the leadership of the head of the district and Sultanate of Yogyakarta, also had a high contribution to the community recovering process, such as in the provision of their basic needs (food, health care and shelter).

Keywords: Local Wisdom, Community, Survival strategy, Local institutions, Earthquake, Disaster