

# Development Of Government Culture Characteristics In Indonesia

**Simao de Assuncao**

Institut Pemerintahan Dalam Negeri (IPDN)

Jl. Ampera Raya Cilandak Timur

Jakarta 12560

camanassa@yahoo.com

## ***Abstract***

*Government has been developed thousands of years BC. In its existence government has performed many activities. Activities performed by a good and modern government are directed to develop social welfare, while a despotic government, generally, performed activities which are directed to create social poverty and misery. In implementing government activities it is created interaction between government and governed or between government and people which we call government relationship. The interaction between government and governed/people creates values, behavior, attitudes, perception which become the compounds of Government Culture. The purpose of this paper is to discuss government culture and its development in Indonesian government history.*

**Keywords:** Government and Governed, Government Culture, Government Relationship.

## INTRODUCTION

Government as social phenomenon was born and grown abreast with the development of society which became its main pillar. Because the birth of Government, as Thomas Hobbes said, was the result of social contract or acquiescence of members of society to protect their own interests (Sabine, 1977: 123).

Government in its dimension as social institution, since long times ago, has been the object of research and has been developed in history, through the philosophers or thinkers of ancient Greek as Plato and Aristotle, which focused their attention on the essence of government. However, in its dimension of thinking, government has been developed, long times ago, before the existence of ancient Greek. The result of archaeological excavating, legend, mythology and tales passed on from generation to generation have given indications that thousands years before Christ, man has developed the concept of government.

The thinking on government mentioned above, basically, described the behavior of king or ruler. The good king was always strictly related to the existence of peace, tranquility, and prosperity, on the contrary, despotic king always had correlation with the existence of war, fear, poverty, and misery (Sitanggang, 1997: 11), which by Malayan proverb was illustrated as "The just king is the respected king, the despotic king is the rejected king".

Certainly, with its existence for thousands of years, government has performed many activities, both to develop society welfare and to create poverty and misery toward society, depending on the characteristic of the king/ruler, whether was he a good or despotic king/ruler. But one thing is certain that, king/ruler/government has done activities, and this means that, government has created behavior in implementing government activities. In implementing government activities it is created interaction between government and governed or between government and people, which we call government relationship. In the context of government relationship, government plays his role as a part of who formulates policy in form of law or government regulations, in order to serve the people,

to create order, peace and prosperity, in one side, and in other side, people plays his role by giving Government inputs. The interaction between government and governed/people creates values, behavior, attitudes, perception which become compounds of Government Culture.

To discuss Government Culture is a little bit difficult because, although the existence of government already happened thousands of years ago, and the government of Indonesian as independent state already emerged 65 years ago, only a few people, as far as I know, focused their attention in making research and writing book and article on Government Culture. Among very few people who conducted study on Government Culture was Taliziduhu Ndraha with his essay on Government Culture in his book *Kybernology* (2003) and Hyronimus Rowa (2009) with his doctoral thesis on "The Influence of Government Culture and Government Organization on Local Government Performance" (A Study on Servicing of Population and Civil Records Agency in DKI Jakarta Province). Because the lack of writings on Government Culture, almost there is no any definition or theory we could find, which could be used as frame of reference in discussing Government Culture.

If writings on Government Culture are very little in number, on the contrary, writings on Political Culture are very abundant, and we can find them in every library and book store. So in this paper, in discussing government culture, I will try to borrow definitions and theories of Political Culture field. Based on definitions and theories on political culture, we could construct definitions and understanding on government culture which could be used as frame of work and reference in discussing government culture in this paper.