

## HABITUS OF THE INTER-RELIGIOUS HARMONY FORUM IN CREATING RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE IN THE CITY OF MATARAM, WEST NUSA TENGGARA

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**Abstrak:** Nusa Tenggara Barat (NTB) adalah provinsi yang kaya akan keberagaman agama dan budaya, dengan mayoritas penduduk beragama Islam, serta adanya komunitas Kristen, Katolik, Hindu, Konghucu, dan Buddha. Keberagaman ini, meskipun menjadi kekayaan budaya, juga membawa tantangan dalam menjaga kerukunan antarumat beragama. Forum Kerukunan Umat Beragama (FKUB) di NTB memainkan peran penting dalam mengelola keberagaman tersebut, dengan berfokus pada upaya pemeliharaan toleransi dan mencegah potensi konflik antar kelompok agama. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji peran FKUB NTB dalam membangun kerukunan melalui pendekatan teori habitus Pierre Bourdieu, yang menekankan pentingnya nilai-nilai, norma, dan praktik sosial yang terinternalisasi dalam interaksi antar anggota komunitas. Melalui kegiatan-kegiatan seperti silaturahmi lintas agama, kemah bhakti, dan roadshow ke-6 agama, FKUB berhasil memfasilitasi dialog antarumat beragama dan membangun hubungan sosial yang harmonis. Penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa habitus yang terbentuk dalam FKUB NTB, melalui pengalaman sosial kolektif dan pendidikan lintas agama, mendorong terciptanya sikap toleransi dan saling menghormati di tengah keberagaman. Selain itu, FKUB juga berperan dalam pemberdayaan pemuda lintas agama, pembinaan solidaritas sosial, serta dukungan moral antar umat beragama. Keterlibatan aktif tokoh agama dalam proses pengambilan keputusan memperkuat peran FKUB sebagai mediator yang konstruktif dalam menciptakan kebijakan kerukunan. Dengan demikian, FKUB NTB bukan sekedar berfungsi sebagai suatu lembaga yang administratif, namun lembaga ini juga merupakan garda terdepan dalam mempromosikan kerukunan dan toleransi beragama di tingkat lokal dan nasional. Penelitian ini diharapkan dapat memberikan sumbangan untuk pemahaman yang lebih mendalam mengenai peran lembaga keagamaan dalam pembangunan masyarakat yang damai dan sejahtera di tengah keragaman umat beragama.

**Abstract:** West Nusa Tenggara (NTB) is a rich province of religious and cultural diversity, with a majority Muslim population and Christian, Catholic, Hindu, Confucian, and Buddhist communities. This diversity, while a cultural treasure, also presents challenges in maintaining interfaith harmony. The Forum for Interfaith Harmony (FKUB) in NTB plays a crucial role in managing this diversity, focusing on maintaining tolerance and preventing potential conflict between religious groups. This study aims to examine the role of the FKUB in building harmony through Pierre Bourdieu's habitus theory, which emphasizes the importance of internalized values, norms, and social practices in interactions between community members. Through activities such as interfaith gatherings, community service camps, and roadshows for six religions, the FKUB has successfully facilitated interfaith dialogue and built harmonious social relations. This study demonstrates that the habitus formed within the FKUB in NTB, through collective social experiences and interfaith education, fosters tolerance and mutual respect amidst diversity. Furthermore, the FKUB



*also plays a role in empowering interfaith youth, fostering social solidarity, and providing moral support between religious communities. The active involvement of religious leaders in the decision-making process strengthens the FKUB's role as a constructive mediator in creating harmony policies. Thus, the NTB FKUB functions not merely as an administrative institution but also as a vanguard in promoting harmony and religious tolerance at the local and national levels. This research is expected to contribute to a deeper understanding of the role of religious institutions in building a peaceful and prosperous society amidst religious diversity.*

**Keywords :** *Habitus, harmony forum, religious tolerance, West Nusa Tenggara, Interfaith Harmony*

## INTRODUCTION

West Nusa Tenggara is a province in Indonesia with a highly diverse population, encompassing religion, language, ethnicity, race, and ethnicity. Therefore, NTB is considered a red zone due to the increasing risk of conflict and intolerance. The red zone areas include Papua, Central Sulawesi, East Nusa Tenggara, and West Nusa Tenggara (Wayan Resmini 2018). These differences can be destructive to national unity.

NTB society. Views that claim truth from only one party and do not recognize the existence of other truths outside of themselves can cause disharmony in social relations, which ultimately triggers divisions between members of society in a group. With the presence of a forum for religious harmony in West Nusa Tenggara Province as an answer to the problems that occur in the midst of communities of different religions and as a forum for dialogue and discussion, which allows every religious adherent to voice their views, share experiences, and seek joint solutions in overcoming the problems faced because, according to (Fajriah 2019). Religious harmony refers to the condition of relations between religious communities that are based on tolerance, mutual understanding, respect, appreciation of equality in practicing religious teachings, and cooperation in social, national and state life in Indonesia, which is based on Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution.

The Interfaith Harmony Forum (FKUB) in West Nusa Tenggara (NTB) is a vital institution in creating and strengthening interfaith harmony in this region, which boasts rich cultural and religious diversity. NTB, with a predominantly Muslim population, also has coexisting Christian, Catholic, Hindu, Confucian, Buddhist, and local faith communities. In this regard, the FKUB serves as a mediator and liaison between religious groups, fostering harmony and mutual respect amidst differences. Along with social and cultural developments, the challenges of maintaining interfaith harmony are becoming increasingly complex. Issues such as intolerance, discrimination, and intergroup conflict can arise if not handled wisely.

The West Nusa Tenggara FKUB (FKUB) not only focuses its function on harmony issues, but is also active in other socio-religious programs aimed at raising public awareness of the importance of tolerance and peace. Through activities such as seminars, workshops, and educational programs, the FKUB strives to encourage community participation in maintaining harmony in religious life. Furthermore, the FKUB also collaborates with the government and civil society organizations to strengthen harmony networks at the local and national levels. According to (Rambe, 2022), the FKUB's position as an institution focused on harmony and

harmony not only develops dialogue models but also provides education on religious literacy, which can shape

society's views on religiosity, religious plurality, and understanding of religious moderation as an attitude and action in everyday life.

Previous research conducted by Fathurrahman Muhtar in 2019 on Religious Resilience in Preventing Radicalism in Mataram City, West Nusa Tenggara, showed that interfaith cooperation in the city was established naturally, without relying on written rules between religious adherents. This cooperation was driven by humanitarian values and traditional customs passed down through generations, which connected Hindus, Muslims, and Christians. Mutual assistance in various religious activities was considered a calling and obligation taught by each religion, with a shared awareness that all religions recognize the existence of God Almighty. Although with different ways of expressing their understanding of God's form, it became a strong foundation for this cooperation. This natural cooperation played a significant role in preventing the emergence of religious radicalism in Mataram City. Meanwhile, research conducted by Muhammad Anang Firdaus in 2018 on the Existence of FKUB in Maintaining Interfaith Harmony in Indonesia revealed that the establishment of FKUB was based on a strong legal foundation, with its position regulated by Indonesian laws. Government Regulations No. 9 and 8 of 2006 should serve as the basis for each region to initiate religious moderation throughout Indonesia. However, many regions have yet to contribute to the implementation of these regulations. Nevertheless, the existence of the FKUB must be maintained and the support of all religious communities in Indonesia must be secured (Firdaus 2014).

The researcher's observations regarding previous studies have not found any specific discussion regarding the role of FKUB and its influence in NTB. This theme is very important considering the existing religious diversity and has now become a very interesting issue to study and use to support pluralism programs in Indonesia. However, in providing comparisons and analyzing previous studies, the researcher believes it is not comprehensive. Therefore, this study is an attempt to provide new knowledge and provide a more in-depth analysis of previous research. By prioritizing the essential values of tolerance, mutual respect, and cooperation, FKUB NTB

It is hoped that this FKUB will serve as an ideal example for regions with religious diversity in efforts to build peaceful and prosperous societies. By deepening the importance of interfaith dialogue and constructive collaboration, the FKUB plays a strategic role in anticipating potential conflict and creating a safe space for all religious adherents to live side by side in harmony.

West Nusa Tenggara, with its religious and cultural diversity, faces crucial challenges in maintaining the foundations of interfaith harmony. Interfaith harmony forums serve as strategic platforms for building harmonious relationships. This study aims to understand the habits formed within these forums and how they contribute to religious tolerance. Facing the challenges of a changing era, the existence of the FKUB (Religious Forum for Religious Harmony) is becoming increasingly relevant and necessary, not only as a formal institution but

also as a vanguard in promoting the values of harmony and unity. Therefore, it is hoped that the efforts undertaken by the NTB FKUB can inspire all Indonesians to continue strengthening harmony and peace amidst diversity. Such support from the community and government is crucial in maintaining the stability and dynamics of harmonious religious life. Building and maintaining interfaith harmony is a shared responsibility (Taopan, 2020).

## RESEARCH METHOD

This study uses a qualitative approach combining in-depth interviews and participant observation. The aim of this approach is to describe in more detail the habitus formed within the interfaith harmony forum in West Nusa Tenggara, particularly in efforts to create harmonious religious life and maintain interfaith tolerance. In this study, respondents or informants consisted of the Chairperson of the West Nusa Tenggara Provincial FKUB, members of the interfaith harmony forum in West Nusa Tenggara, and religious and community leaders who actively participated in the forum. The data obtained were then analyzed using a thematic analysis approach. Thematic analysis is a method used to identify specific patterns or themes in the collected data, with the aim of providing a deeper understanding of the phenomenon being studied (Rozali 2022).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

West Nusa Tenggara (NTB) is a province located in central Indonesia, comprising two main islands: Sumbawa and Lombok. Religious diversity in NTB is significant, reflecting the religious and cultural plurality of Indonesia. Although the majority of NTB's population is Muslim, the province also has communities of other faiths, such as Hindus, Buddhists, and Christians, who live side by side in harmony. This religious diversity in NTB reflects the rich culture and long history of interaction between religious groups in Indonesia. Although Islam is the majority religion, the province also has Christian, Hindu, and Buddhist communities that live peacefully side by side. Interfaith harmony in NTB is reflected not only in mutual respect but also in shared practices carried out by various religions, as seen in the Lingsar Temple and programs initiated by the NTB FKUB to maintain harmony. NTB's success in maintaining this diversity serves as a positive example of how different religions can coexist in harmony (Syaiful Anwar, 2018, *Religious Pluralism and Interfaith Harmony in NTB*; FKUB NTB Annual Report, 2021).

The existence of the FKUB in West Nusa Tenggara Province is based on Governor Regulation No. 324 A of 2006 issued on November 11, 2006, and Governor Regulation No. 29 of 2008 concerning Guidelines for the Establishment of the Interfaith Harmony Forum (FKUB). The purpose of establishing this FKUB is to build, maintain, and empower religious communities so they can live in harmony and improve welfare. The Governor and Mayor Regulation refers to the Joint Regulation of the Minister of Religious Affairs and the Minister of Home Affairs Number 9 of 2006 and Number 8 of 2006 concerning Guidelines for the Implementation of Regional Head Duties in Maintaining Interfaith Harmony. The

establishment of this forum is nothing other than part of an effort to integrate community members from various races, tribes, religions, and ethnicities, through social interactions involving various aspects, such as language, customs, arts and culture, education, and the economy. (Government of West Nusa Tenggara Province, 2006, *Governor Regulation No. 324 A of 2006 concerning the Establishment of the Interfaith Harmony Forum*). The FKUB is national in nature and has a hierarchical structure from top to bottom, and its existence is recognized based on the laws and regulations in force in Indonesia. Both gubernatorial regulations emphasize the importance of the existence of the Interfaith Harmony Forum (FKUB) in NTB Province as an institution that has

Its task is to regulate and maintain harmony between religious communities, as well as provide advice and recommendations to local governments regarding religious policies. Furthermore, the FKUB also functions as a mediator in resolving potential conflicts involving religious differences.

Joint Regulation of the Minister of Religious Affairs and the Minister of Home Affairs No. 9 and No. 8 of 2006 (hereinafter abbreviated as PB 2 Menteri 2006) states that the FKUB has four main tasks and functions at the provincial level, namely: (1) conducting dialogue, (2) accommodating aspirations, (3) channeling aspirations, and (4) socializing regulations and laws related to maintaining harmony between religious communities and community empowerment. At the district/city level, the FKUB has two main tasks (ideal roles), namely: (5) controlling or maintaining harmony, and (6) resolving conflicts. For the task of resolving conflicts, the FKUB is only authorized to handle disputes related to the establishment of houses of worship (Article 21). Thus, the FKUB at the provincial and district/city levels, including in NTB, has an equal position in both its obligations and rights. FKUB activities in NTB are still largely focused on the task of controlling conflict or maintaining harmony to create tolerance, in addition to other tasks such as receiving visits from other regions.

In this study, the researcher attempts to analyze the activities and programs within the interfaith harmony forum in West Nusa Tenggara (NTB) Province in creating a harmonious life and building tolerance within a religious community using Pierre Bourdieu's theory. Habitus, according to Pierre Bourdieu, is a system of dispositions formed through experience and social interaction. In the context of religious tolerance, habitus encompasses values, norms, and practices internalized by individuals within a community. According to Bourdieu, habitus is formed through a process of internalization and repetition that occurs within a specific social context. In this case, the habitus within the interfaith harmony forum in NTB can be influenced by the traditions, education, and social experiences they undergo. For example, how the practice of tolerance and mutual respect is taught within the family, school, and community environment can shape a habitus that supports harmony. According to (Toyyibah 2024), habitus or habits are not natural or inherent in a person but are the result of learning from the environment and socializing within society. The important components in this habitus are Capital and Arena which then become important in forming the habitus or habits carried out in

Creating tolerance through interfaith harmony forums. In the context of habitus, interfaith

harmony is not only the responsibility of individuals but also of institutions, such as the FKUB, which functions as a mediator. Through a habitus approach, we can understand that harmony is not only the result of formal policies but also of everyday social interactions shaped by the collective experiences of society.

Several studies have shown that habitus significantly influences the formation of social identity and interfaith relations. For example, research by Rohmah (2020) revealed that an inclusive understanding of religion and experiences of positive interactions between religious adherents can strengthen a tolerant habitus. This is in line with the existence of the West Nusa Tenggara FKUB (Religious Forum for Religious Affairs), which encourages discussion and collaboration between religious groups.

Furthermore, research by (Wahyu Setiawan 2018) shows that collective habitus in a multicultural society can facilitate the process of dialogue and negotiation in dealing with differences. In the context of NTB, this shows that religious diversity is not a barrier, but can be a strength if supported by a positive habitus. Habitus in the forum for interfaith harmony in NTB, which is a form of love for unity and oneness in society to maintain and build an attitude of tolerance towards a harmonious life among religious communities, includes the following:

### **1.Maintaining Tolerance and Harmony**

In carrying out social activities, the FKUB NTB aims to strengthen brotherhood between religious communities so that each religious community continues to actively participate in maintaining and developing harmony between communities for the progress of the region, nation, and state. In addition, this activity is expected to strengthen social relations between religious communities to achieve the progress of the NTB region which is religious and competitive. This activity is an annual routine agenda of the FKUB NTB. There are three main forms of activities carried out, namely: (1) interfaith devotional camps, (2) holding work meetings, and (3) silaturahmi agendas. In the activities organized by the FKUB NTB, these are usually held in the houses of worship of each religion. The main goal is to strengthen the sense of brotherhood as part of the character of the Indonesian nation which prioritizes peace because the FKUB is also tasked with identifying potential conflicts and seeking peaceful resolutions. With good communication between various parties, the FKUB can help reduce possible tensions (Rahman 2021).

Therefore, representatives from the five religions in NTB, including Confucianism, as well as youth leaders, were given the opportunity to convey their messages and impressions at each event. These activities serve as social capital to maintain tolerance and harmony between religious communities. Social capital is a crucial element in creating and maintaining harmony between religious communities. By building networks of trust and effective communication, communities can overcome various challenges and create harmonious communities. Therefore, investing in social capital through interfaith dialogue and interaction programs is essential to achieving this goal (Naim, 2019).

### **Interfaith youth development**

Interfaith youth development is an approach aimed at facilitating dialogue, tolerance, and cooperation between religious communities. As a country with highly religious diversity, interfaith youth development is key to achieving peace and social harmony. Interfaith development involves various activities that can strengthen relationships between religious communities, reduce tensions arising from differences, and create a space for shared understanding of the noble values of existing religions. The NTB FKUB strengthens communication between institutions/groups, youth, and religious leaders. This effort also involves empowering youth and women in various sectors to reduce social disparities. Among the development activities implemented are:

1) The 6th Religion Roadshow Activity

This 6-religion roadshow is an annual event held by the West Nusa Tenggara FKUB (FKUB NTB) to introduce and promote the values of religious harmony to the wider community. The 6 religions covered in this event are Islam, Catholicism, Christianity, Confucianism, and Hinduism. By involving various religious elements, this event aims to demonstrate that despite differences in beliefs and worship, religious communities in West Nusa Tenggara can still live side by side in harmony. Indonesia, especially West Nusa Tenggara, has quite high religious diversity. This presents a challenge in building harmony. Therefore, the West Nusa Tenggara FKUB, through this 6-religion roadshow, seeks to reduce tensions that may arise from religious differences and introduce the values of tolerance to the younger generation.

2) Joint Social Activities

Interfaith social activities in West Nusa Tenggara (NTB) are a positive step toward creating a harmonious and peaceful social life amidst religious and cultural diversity. Through these activities, the people of West Nusa Tenggara are taught to respect each other, cooperate, and strengthen interfaith bonds. These activities can include fundraising for natural disaster victims, health education, or other social assistance. The involvement of religious communities in these humanitarian activities can foster a sense of solidarity and togetherness, as in the collaborative process, individuals or groups intentionally join forces to achieve a common goal or benefit (Muhtar 2019).

3) Utilization of Social Media and Technology

In today's digital world, social media can be used to build interfaith relationships. Various online platforms can be used to spread messages of peace and tolerance between religious communities. Positive campaigns on social media can help raise public awareness of the importance of harmonious religious life. Therefore, the West Nusa Tenggara FKUB provides guidance to youth groups of each religion, developing platforms, templates, and other tools to serve as campaign tools to maintain religious tolerance. This guidance is based on the principle that each religion has a positive contribution in shaping the character of individuals and communities, leading to a tolerant lifestyle.

### 3. Moral Support for Every Religion

Moral support between religious communities is a crucial element in building social harmony and harmony in a multicultural society. This support refers to providing encouragement, encouragement, and appreciation to individuals or groups of other religions in facing the challenges or difficulties they face. In West Nusa Tenggara (NTB), which has a very high level of religious diversity, moral support between religious communities not only serves to strengthen social ties but also plays a central role in preventing conflict and increasing interfaith tolerance. The moral support between religious communities carried out by the NTB FKUB can be manifested in various forms, including participation in social activities, joint prayers, or mutual respect for religious differences. Furthermore, this support also demonstrates that despite differing beliefs, all religious communities can support each other and maintain peace.

For example, the West Nusa Tenggara FKUB (FKUB) provided support to Hindus in NTB in celebrating Nyepi Day. This moral support was conveyed through a media statement, which emphasized that the Nyepi celebration would proceed safely, orderly, smoothly, and successfully. This support was given because Nyepi Day is also considered a moment to strengthen and solidify unity among religious communities. Furthermore, the purpose of this support is to create a conducive atmosphere, so that Hindus feel safe and comfortable, and so that people of other religions can respect and appreciate Hindus who celebrate Nyepi Day. During the celebration, Hindus hold an ogoh-ogoh parade that is paraded through the city of Mataram. Similarly, when celebrating other religious holidays, the FKUB always participates fairly in enlivening the holidays of other religious communities.

### 4. Involvement of Religious Figures in the Decision-Making Process

The NTB FKUB frequently involves religious leaders in various decision-making processes related to religious issues in the community. This creates a habitus in which decisions are not merely administrative but also based on moral and ethical considerations of religion. This habitus of religious leader involvement also demonstrates that diversity is not only accepted but also valued by all parties involved in the forum. Therefore, in an article published by *Religious Harmony Magazine* (2021), it is stated that the success of the NTB FKUB in maintaining harmony is largely dominated by religious leaders who are actively involved in every decision or recommendation issued. The involvement of religious leaders in the decision-making process at the NTB FKUB is crucial in creating inclusive policies based on religious values that prioritize tolerance, harmony, and justice. Through their input, recommendations, and mediation, the resulting policies are expected to maintain harmony between religious communities, both at the individual and community levels. As stated in (Minister of Home Affairs Regulation No. 9 of 2006), namely: The NTB FKUB has local regulations and policies that govern the role and involvement of religious leaders in decision-making, although these regulations are more specific and local, they often refer to the national legal framework.

In (Minister of Home Affairs Regulation No. 9 of 2006, Article 21), the duties of FKUB: This article generally regulates the duties of the FKUB which has the obligation to:



- 1) Provide input, considerations and recommendations to local governments regarding policies related to issues of interfaith harmony.
- 2) Handling problems of interfaith harmony, both preventive and existing, through mediation or consultation between religious communities.
- 3) Identify potential conflicts between religions **and** seek solutions to resolve the conflict peacefully.
- 4) Organizing activities that support religious harmony, such as interfaith dialogue, seminars and workshops that aim to increase understanding and tolerance between religious communities.

The FKUB is essentially more focused on playing a role in maintaining interfaith harmony, while in terms of conflict resolution, the FKUB is only authorized to handle conflicts related to the establishment of houses of worship (Article 21). To be an ideal FKUB, this Forum must be able to carry out its primary tasks proportionally and effectively. Based on the actual role carried out by the FKUB in NTB and Mataram, their primary focus lies more on maintaining interfaith harmony. Nevertheless, the FKUB has also successfully handled various conflicts, such as those related to the establishment of houses of worship, interfaith marriage, and religious broadcasting. This shows that in practice, the FKUB has exceeded the authority stipulated in PB2M/2006, particularly Article 21, in resolving conflicts. The actual roles carried out by the Forum in NTB and Mataram are now increasingly approaching their ideal role. The Forum actively engages in dialogue with religious and community leaders, accommodates and channels community aspirations, and disseminates regulations and policies related to interfaith harmony. In addition, the FKUB also provides written recommendations regarding requests for the establishment of houses of worship. Thus, FKUB has carried out its role in a broader and more comprehensive manner, exceeding the limits originally set, so that it can play an increasing role in creating harmony and peace in society.

Through this habitus approach, we can see how interfaith harmony in NTB is not only the result of formal policies, but also the result of social interactions that shape values and habits that support tolerance. For example, research results show that social interactions between religious communities Religious activities in FKUB forums have made a major contribution to strengthening the habitus of tolerance among the people of NTB.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

The Interfaith Harmony Forum (FKUB) in West Nusa Tenggara (NTB) Province plays a crucial role in maintaining interfaith harmony amidst the existing religious, ethnic, and cultural diversity. This diversity, while potentially enriching local culture, can also become a source of conflict if not managed wisely. Therefore, the NTB FKUB serves as a mediator, facilitating interfaith dialogue, fostering shared understanding, and striving for a harmonious social life. Through various routine activities and social programs, such as interfaith gatherings, community service camps, and community service meetings, the FKUB has successfully strengthened

interfaith relations and ensured that individuals and groups can live side by side with mutual respect.

This research also shows that the concept of habitus, introduced by Pierre Bourdieu, plays a significant role in shaping attitudes of tolerance and harmony in NTB society. The habitus formed within the FKUB is the result of social interactions, education, and collective experiences involving all elements of society, including religious leaders, youth, and citizens of various religions. The values of tolerance practiced in this forum prioritize cooperation, a sense of brotherhood, and respect for differences, which indirectly shape the community's habits in maintaining harmony. Several activities facilitated by the NTB FKUB, such as the 6th religious roadshow, interfaith youth development, and joint social activities, have proven effective in raising public awareness of the importance of interfaith tolerance. Social media is also used as a means to disseminate positive messages about religious harmony, given its significant influence in modern society.

Furthermore, the NTB FKUB plays a role in providing moral support between religious communities, which helps strengthen the spirit of unity. Furthermore, the active involvement of religious leaders in decision-making and mediation demonstrates the importance of synergy between religion and public policy in creating sustainable harmony. This policy is highly relevant in efforts to reduce the potential for conflict and maintain social stability. Overall, the NTB FKUB is not merely a formal institution fulfilling an administrative role, but also a forum that prioritizes dialogue and collaboration between religious communities. religious practices in daily life. The efforts of the West Nusa Tenggara FKUB to maintain interfaith harmony serve as a model worthy of emulation by other regions in Indonesia, striving to create a peaceful, tolerant, and prosperous society amidst diversity.

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