Policy Termination Through the Multiple Streams Framework: The Dissolution of Indonesiaâ€™s Civil
Service Commission (KASN)
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Abstract

This study analyzes policy termination through the case of the dissolution of the Indonesia's Civil Service Commission (KASN), an independent oversight body for the merit system established under Law No. 5 of 2014 and dissolved by Law No. 20 of 2023. This research employs the Multiple Streams Framework (MSF) perspective and the process tracing method, using data obtained through document analysis supplemented by interviews. The study argues that the dissolution of KASN cannot be explained solely as an administrative decision based on performance evaluation, but rather as the result of the coupling of three policy streams when a policy window suddenly opened. The findings indicate that within the problem stream, KASN's ineffectiveness remained a contested problem definition; within the policy stream, alternatives for strengthening the agency had undergone a "softening-up" process and were more developed than the dissolution option; whereas the primary shift occurred within the politics stream, when a shift in political support during the final stage of the legislative process altered the policy direction from strengthening KASN to its dissolution. This study reveals a pattern of asymmetric coupling, in which the politics stream exerts greater influence in determining the problem definition and the alternatives that remain viable when the policy window opens. The dissolution of KASN also demonstrates that the termination of an organization is not always followed by the termination of policy objectives, as the merit system is formally maintained, while the independent institutional design that oversees it is discontinued. These findings clarify the role of power in the coupling process surrounding the termination of public organizations.

Keywords: policy termination, Multiple Streams Framework, KASN, merit system, bureaucratic reform