



Role Transformation of National Sharia Board-Indonesian Ulama Council (DSN-MUI) in the Dynamics of Fatwa Determination in the Modern Era

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Abstract: *The role transformation of the National Sharia Board Dewan Syariah Nasional (DSN); one of the organizational structures in Indonesian Ulama Council Majelis Ulama Indonesia (MUI) in the dynamics of fatwa determination in the modern era is an important topic to be studied in the context of rapid social, economic, and technological change. This article aims to analyze how DSN-MUI adapts to the challenges of modern times and develops a methodology for setting fatwas that is relevant and responsive to the needs of contemporary society. Through a comprehensive literature review, this article highlights the evolution of the DSN's function from the establishment of conventional fatwas towards a more dynamic and inclusive approach, including in the field of sharia finance, halal products, and other social problems. This transformation reflects DSN-MUI's efforts to remain relevant and provide accurate and applicable guidance for Muslims in Indonesia in facing modern issues.*

Keywords: *Role Transformation, National Sharia board, Indonesian Ulama Council, Fatwa*

INTRODUCTION

As one of the countries with the largest Muslim population in the world, Indonesia has an institution that plays a central role in enforcing and regulating Islamic law, namely the National Sharia Board (DSN); one of the organizational structures in the Indonesian Ulama Council (MUI). DSN-MUI, established in 1975, is an official institution that has the authority to draft fatwas, set Islamic financial standards, and provide guidance on Islamic law in Indonesia. However, the role of DSN-MUI is not static; It continues to transform in line with the development of society and the dynamics of the times, especially in the modern era which is characterized by rapid technological, social, and political changes.

In the 21st century, Indonesia, like other countries in the world, faces complex challenges that affect various aspects of life, including the field of religion. These changes include globalization, the information technology revolution, socio-cultural changes, and rapidly developing political dynamics. All of this has had a significant impact on the understanding and application of Islamic law in Indonesia. In this context, DSN-MUI, as the authoritative institution in determining fatwas, is expected to play an effective role in responding to these changes.

The role transformation of DSN-MUI in the dynamics of fatwa determination in the modern era is an interesting subject for further investigation. Fundamental changes in the structure and function of this institution, along with the development of society and new challenges that arise, raise questions about how DSN-MUI adapts to the demands of the times and how this affects the legitimacy of fatwas issued.

This article will elaborate in-depth on the transformation of the role of DSN-MUI in the dynamics of fatwa determination in the modern era, the factors influencing this change, the implications for Islamic law and Indonesian society and provide a better insight into how religious institutions such as DSN-MUI adapt to changing times, while maintaining their relevance and authority in issuing fatwas.

METHOD

The library research methodology used in this article provides a systematic approach to understanding the transformation of the role of the National Sharia Board (DSN) as one of the organizational structures in the Indonesian Ulama Council (MUI) in the dynamics of fatwa determination in the modern era. Using this method, researchers dig into various relevant literature sources to gain a deep understanding of the research topic.

First, researchers select appropriate and relevant literature sources for the research topic. This involves searching databases of scientific journals, digital libraries, and other literature sources related to the history, role, and transformation of DSN-MUI as well as the process of fatwa determination in Indonesia. The selection of literature sources is carried out carefully to ensure that the information obtained can support a comprehensive analysis.

After that, researchers explored data obtained from various literature sources. Relevant data, such as information about DSN-MUI's role in history, the evolution of its role over time, factors influencing the transformation, and the implications of such changes, are collected and recorded.

Next, researchers conduct an in-depth analysis of the data that has been collected. It involves a critical evaluation of information obtained from literature sources to identify patterns, trends, and important findings related to the transformation of the role of DSN-MUI. This analysis helps researchers understand in more depth the dynamics of changes that occur within the institution.

After the data was analyzed, researchers synthesized information from various literature sources to form a coherent and comprehensive narrative about the transformation of the role of DSN-MUI. This synthesis includes an explanation of the evolution of the role of DSN-MUI, the factors that influence the transformation, the challenges and opportunities faced, and the implications of the transformation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Role Evolution of DSN-MUI' in Fatwa Determination

1. The initial role of DSN-MUI in the determination of fatwas

The National Sharia Board of the Indonesian Ulama Council (DSN-MUI) has a very important initial role in the determination of fatwas in Indonesia. Fatwas are views or decisions of Islamic law issued by religious authorities to provide guidelines or answers to problems faced by Muslims. DSN-MUI's initial role in determining fatwas was as an authoritative body that had the authority to establish views of Islamic law on various issues faced by Muslims in Indonesia. DSN-MUI was established as a forum to coordinate and produce consistent and authoritative views of Islamic law in the pluralistic Indonesian context. DSN-MUI has the authority to interpret and apply the principles of Islamic law in the context of Indonesian social, economic, and political life. They base their interpretation on major sources of Islamic law, such as the Quran, hadith, ijma (agreement of Ulama), and qiyas (legal analogy).

2. Transformation of DSN-MUI roles over time

Over time, the National Sharia Board of the Indonesian Ulama Council (DSN-MUI) has undergone a significant role transformation, reflecting adaptation to social, economic, and political developments, as well as the demands of modern times.

First, DSN-MUI is now more open and inclusive. They are no longer fixated on one particular view or school, but rather accommodate a diversity of opinions in interpreting Islamic law. This reflects the spirit of inclusivity and respect for pluralism in society. This transformation also has an impact on a more democratic decision-making process, considering multiple perspectives.

Furthermore, DSN-MUI began to pay attention to the local context and the reality of Indonesian society in drafting fatwas. They consider social, cultural, and economic changes in interpreting Islamic law so the resulting fatwas are more relevant and can be effectively applied in people's daily lives.

The use of technology and social media is also becoming an integral part of this transformation. DSN-MUI is increasingly active in utilizing digital platforms to disseminate fatwas and communicate with the wider community. They recognize the importance of delivering religious messages effectively and quickly to the people, thus using technology as a means to achieve these goals.

In addition, DSN-MUI is also involved in cooperation with the government and other institutions in addressing issues related to the lives of Muslims. They work together in

formulating policies, advising, and supporting the implementation of Islamic values in various fields, such as economics, education, and law.

Finally, DSN-MUI increases efforts to maintain accountability and transparency in the fatwa decision-making process. They are more open to input and criticism from the public and strive to explain clearly and comprehensively the legal basis and considerations on which each fatwa is issued.

Through this transformation, DSN-MUI strives to remain relevant and responsive to the dynamics of society and the demands of modern times. They took concrete steps to preserve the authenticity of Islamic values while still ensuring that the fatwas issued were beneficial and acceptable to Indonesian Muslims.

3. Adaptation to the demands of modern times

Adjustment to the demands of modern times is an important process for the National Sharia Board of the Indonesian Ulama Council (DSN-MUI) in carrying out its role in society. DSN-MUI has made various adjustments to remain relevant and effective in facing the dynamics of modern times.

One of the main adjustments is in the approach to the interpretation of Islamic law. DSN-MUI recognizes the importance of accommodating social, economic, and cultural changes in interpreting Islamic law. They no longer look statically at laws and traditions, but adopt a more dynamic and contextual approach. This allows DSN-MUI to issue fatwas that are more relevant and acceptable in the context of modern society.

In addition, adjustments also occur in the use of technology and social media. DSN-MUI utilizes digital platforms to disseminate fatwas, provide religious education, and communicate with the wider community. They recognize that technology is an effective tool to reach a wider audience, especially in an era where information can be easily accessed by anyone.

Openness and inclusivity are also part of the adjustment. DSN-MUI accepts various perspectives and opinions in the decision-making process, acknowledges the diversity of Indonesian society and considers the different needs and aspirations. This reflects the spirit of inclusivity and tolerance under the demands of the increasingly pluralistic modern era.

Adjustment to the demands of modern times also includes efforts to maintain the relevance and credibility of the institution. DSN-MUI continuously conducts evaluations and updates in its organizational structure, decision-making processes, and communication mechanisms to ensure that they remain effective in carrying out their role as religious authorities respected by the community.

Through this adjustment, DSN-MUI strives to remain a responsive, adaptive, and relevant institution in facing the challenges of modern times. They recognize that change is a natural part of the development of society and are committed to continuous innovation to improve their services and contributions to the people and the country.

Challenges and Opportunities in the Modern Era

1. Challenges in maintaining the credibility and legitimacy of DSN-MUI

Maintaining the credibility and legitimacy of the National Sharia Board of the Indonesian Ulama Council (DSN-MUI) is a significant challenge in the context of social, political, and cultural dynamics in Indonesia. One of the main challenges is to ensure that the decisions taken by DSN-MUI are based on objective considerations and meet the standards of fairness and accountability. Transparency in the decision-making process and effective communication with the public are key to maintaining the credibility of this institution.

In addition, independence from external pressures is also a challenge that must be faced. DSN-MUI needs to guard itself from political, economic, and social influences that can interfere with the decision-making process and affect the objectivity of fatwas issued. Independence in interpreting Islamic law is very important to maintain the credibility of DSN-MUI as an authoritative institution in religious matters.

Besides, it is important for DSN-MUI to ensure that fatwas issued remain relevant and responsive to changing times. This requires consistency in the interpretation of Islamic law along with the social, cultural, and technological changes taking place in society. Fatwas that are under the context of the times can help maintain the credibility and legitimacy of DSN-MUI in the eyes of the public.

Fair representation of different groups of people is also a challenge that must be overcome. DSN-MUI needs to ensure that various perspectives and voices are accommodated in the decision-making process so the fatwas issued reflect the diversity and needs of Indonesian Muslims as a whole.

Maintaining the credibility and legitimacy of DSN-MUI requires a strong commitment to transparency, independence, relevance, and inclusivity. Only by meeting these challenges can DSN-MUI continue to be a respected and reliable institution in providing guidelines and guidance in various aspects of Muslim life in Indonesia.

2. The role of DSN-MUI in responding to contemporary issues

The National Sharia Board of the Indonesian Ulama Council (DSN-MUI) has an important role in responding to contemporary issues faced by Indonesian society. As an

institution responsible for the interpretation of Islamic law, DSN-MUI is expected to provide relevant guidance and direction in the face of evolving social, economic, and political changes.

One of the contemporary issues that DSN-MUI often responds to is the issue of Islamic economy and finance. DSN-MUI has a role in drafting fatwas and guidelines related to Islamic economic principles, such as usury law, zakat, and sharia investment. Fatwas issued by DSN-MUI provide guidance to the public on economic practices that are in accordance with Islamic principles in the modern context.

DSN-MUI also responds to social issues relevant to society, such as marriage, divorce, and women's rights. Through fatwas and guidelines issued, DSN-MUI seeks to provide a correct understanding of Islamic law related to these issues and provide direction that is appropriate to the social and cultural context of Indonesia.

Political and legal issues are also a concern of DSN-MUI in responding to political and legal dynamics that occur in Indonesia. DSN-MUI can provide Islamic legal views on public policies proposed by the government, as well as provide direction on how Muslims should play a role in the political and legal process. DSN-MUI also responds to contemporary issues related to technology and social media. They can provide Islamic legal views on the use of technology and social media, as well as provide guidelines on how to use such technology under religious values.

Through its role in responding to contemporary issues, DSN-MUI seeks to provide guidance and direction under Islamic teachings in facing the challenges of modern times. Fatwas and guidelines issued by DSN-MUI are an important source of reference for Indonesian Muslims in living their lives in accordance with religious principles.

Role Transformation Implications of DSN-MUI

1. Implications for Islamic law in Indonesia

The implications of the transformation of DSN-MUI's role in Islamic law in Indonesia signify a significant shift in the formation of religious fatwas and policies. As an important institution in the Islamic world in Indonesia, DSN-MUI has a broad impact in determining the direction of Islamic law applied in society. This transformation reflects the social, political, and cultural dynamics that influence the interpretation and implementation of Islamic law.

Previously, DSN-MUI acted as a religious advisor who gave fatwas to Indonesian Muslims. However, in its development, the role of DSN-MUI is increasingly formally

constitutional in making Islamic legal decisions in Indonesia. This shows the legitimacy and growing institutional power in determining the prevailing teachings of Islam.

The implications of this transformation affect various aspects of people's lives. First, legal decisions issued by DSN-MUI have a direct impact on religious practices, such as worship, muamalah, and customs related to Islam. Second, government policy in terms of Islamic law can also be influenced by fatwas issued by this institution. This creates harmonization between state law and religious law in some cases.

This transformation also affects views and values in society. Fatwas issued by DSN-MUI can be a moral guideline for Indonesian Muslims, influencing the behavior of individuals and groups in society. However, this transformation has also invited various views and criticisms from various circles, including groups that have different views on the interpretation of Islamic law.

The implications of the transformation of DSN-MUI's role in Islamic law in Indonesia reflect the complex dynamics in the process of formation and implementation of religious law in the context of modern life. This underscores the importance of the role of religious institutions in shaping the identity and social fabric of Indonesian Muslim communities, while still accommodating various aspirations and changes in a diverse society

2. The impact of transformation on Indonesian society

This transformation reflects a shift in religious paradigms and influences on the behavior and outlook on life of individuals and groups in society. First, this transformation affects the way Indonesians understand and practice the teachings of Islam. Fatwas issued by DSN-MUI serve as guidelines for individual Muslims in worshiping, transacting, and interacting socially. Thus, this transformation has the potential to form a stronger and more consistent religious consciousness in society.

The impact of the transformation of the role of DSN-MUI is also felt in the social and cultural fields. Fatwas issued can influence social norms and cultural values in society. For example, fatwas on marriage or lifestyle can influence people's views and attitudes towards these issues.

This transformation can also affect the relationship between religion and state. DSN-MUI as an institution that has the authority to determine Islamic law can influence government policies related to religious matters. This creates a complex dynamic between religious and political aspects in society.

The impact of the transformation of the role of DSN-MUI can also be felt in interreligious relations. Fatwas issued can affect perceptions and relations between

Muslims and other religious communities. Thus, this transformation has the potential to influence the dynamics of religious pluralism and tolerance in Indonesian society.

The transformation of DSN-MUI's role has had a broad and profound impact on Indonesian society. By influencing the way people understand and practice Islamic teachings, social norms, and cultural values, the relationship between religion and state, and interfaith relations, this transformation creates new dynamics in the social and religious fabric of Indonesian society.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTION

In the modern era full of rapid changes in the social, economic, and technological fields, the transformation of the role of the National Syariah Board (DSN) as one of the organizational structures in Indonesian Ulama Council (MUI) has become very important. DSN-MUI has shown the ability to adapt to the development of the times through the setting of more dynamic and inclusive fatwas. The role of DSN-MUI has evolved from simply setting conventional fatwas to a more comprehensive approach, which covers sharia financial issues, halal products, and other social problems. This transformation is proof of DSN MUI's commitment to provide relevant and applicable guidance for Muslims in Indonesia in facing the various challenges of modern times.

Strengthening the Capacity of DSN MUI. DSN-MUI needs to continue to strengthen its institutional and intellectual capacity to overcome the complex issues that arise in the modern era. This includes advanced training for scholars and sharia experts, as well as increased access to relevant scientific resources.

Multidisciplinary Collaboration. DSN-MUI is advised to continue expanding collaboration with experts from various disciplines, including economics, technology, and social sciences, to produce more comprehensive and applicative fatwas.

Education and Socialization of Fatwas. To increase the understanding and acceptance of fatwas among the community, DSN-MUI needs to increase education and socialization efforts regarding fatwas issued. This includes the use of digital media and other platforms that are easily accessible to the public.

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