

Profile

Given Opportunity, Anyone Can Succeed

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Back in high school in Trenggalek, my friends called me 'Siki'. I grew up in Siki, one of the villages in Trenggalek District—in Dongko Sub-District to be precise. The nickname made fun of me for living in the village located 40 km from the district's capital. It was so far away that, to be able to go to school, I had to stay in a modest boarding house nearby. It was my family who kept me motivated. We were poor, but we always strived for a brighter future. My grandparents' land was sold to pay my tuition, when that was not enough, my aunts, uncles, and older siblings also lent a hand.

What I experienced inspires me to side with the weak. Mocking, which is a form of verbal bullying, should never happen to vulnerable people—especially women and people with disabilities—and the poor. For many years, my friends at the Social Agency and I have been fighting for people with disabilities to break free from physical restraint or confinement, among others together with KOMPAK through Special Forums for Women, Children, People with Disabilities, and Vulnerable Groups (Musrena Keren).

At first, I sympathised with people with disabilities who were not given a chance to be involved in development planning. So far, women have not been able to make suggestions to achieve their potential, and children have not been given the opportunity to voice their opinions. In Trenggalek District, so many poor people are forced to become migrant workers, while they should be engaged in the development of their own region at a deeper level.

Thank God, this idea has gained support from the Head of the District and other stakeholders in the district. Following the Head of the District's Regulation No. 1 of 2019 on the Guidelines for the Implementation of Musrena Keren, the special forums have been implemented across the district after an initial trial in four sub-districts. The Government of Trenggalek District has also begun to accommodate proposals from

vulnerable groups. One thing I learned from my life story and Musrena Keren is that, given the opportunity, anyone can succeed.