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Effectiveness of civic political literacy through collaboration between schools and NGOs in Makassar city

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ABSTRACT

The low political literacy of citizenship is an urgency in building community participation, so real efforts are needed to increase public understanding and awareness of political issues. The purpose of this research is explores LAPAR SULSEL's role in the civic political literacy program in Makassar City in providing information, implementing political education, and collaborating with other institutions to achieve program goals. This research was conducted using descriptive qualitative research methods. This research is at the People's Child Advocacy and Education Institute. Data collection techniques resulting from participatory observations, in-depth and structured interviews, and document studies based on on-site data sources. Data analysis techniques used interactive model analysis. The results showed that LAPAR SULSEL has a significant role in increasing civic political literacy in Makassar City. They provide information through publications on social media, seminars, discussions, and training using educational and advocacy strategies to build public awareness about political issues. In this research it can be concluded that through the provision of information and effective political education programs, LAPAR SULSEL has succeeded in helping people become more active and aware of their rights and obligations as citizens. Therefore, this study has positive implications for the development of civic political literacy by emulating the efforts of LAPAR SULSEL in providing information and conducting political education.



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Introduction

Indonesia is democratic by running a system of government that allows the people to participate in the political process and development of the country. Politics in public life can affect the interaction process in making public decisions that cannot be separated from the symptoms of conflict and cooperation agreements. Politics in people's lives can affect the interaction process in making political decisions that cannot be separated from the symptoms of conflict and cooperation agreements (Hidayah et al., 2020; Sofiyana et al., 2021). Politics is an element that is very close to people's lives. Starting from regulating the rules of the game to political policies. So, it cannot be denied that politics has a very important role in shaping the dynamics of interaction and decision-making in society. Interaction politics focuses on social and communicative aspects, such as the dynamics of interactions between individuals or groups in society related to politics, which involves how people communicate, argue, or influence each other regarding political issues.

Apart from interaction politics, there is also literacy politics. The concept of political literacy is to build the ability of individuals or groups to understand and use political information to make decisions and participate in the political process (Yuniarto, 2020). While interaction politics focuses on the social and communicative aspects, literacy politics is more about the knowledge and understanding aspects. Political literacy focuses on the ability of individuals or communities to understand, analyze and engage in political processes. This includes an understanding of the political system, policies and participation in the democratic process. In Indonesia, political literacy is still a problem that requires special attention, especially among people who are less educated and marginalized (Aspers & Corte, 2019; Sugara & Mutmainnah, 2020). This research was conducted at the office of the People's Child Advocacy and Education Institute (LAPAR SULSEL), where LAPAR SULSEL has a role in building political literacy. The existence of good political literacy should also be able to influence the level of community participation in political activities. However, the level of political literacy in Makassar still needs to be improved.

UNESCO (2016) shows that the rate of political illiteracy in adults in Indonesia reaches 65.5% and Indonesia is ranked 60th with a low level of political literacy out of 61 countries. The latest data in 2022 shows that the level of political literacy of Indonesian adults, in general, is still low, which is 3.54% of the total population based on the results of the KOMINFO survey released in 2023. Efforts to increase political literacy in grounding basic political concepts and facts require the role of all parties that correlate with each other. Synergy between all parties aims to play a role in realizing concrete political literacy and positively impacting society. The synergy is implemented at the national and international levels (Fischer & Guzel, 2023). The study of political literacy involves the different roles of NGOs, structures, memberships and activities, and complex relationships with literacy movements and civil society. Examples range from Amnesty International and Oxfam to Greenpeace and Save the Children, now major figures in global political literacy. During NGOs engaged in political literacy for influential communities in conducting political education and voter education for the community (Alscher et al., 2022; Sofiyana et al., 2021).

LAPAR SULSEL, will have various activity programs to build political literacy in the community, especially to increase community participation in Makassar City. LAPAR SULSEL has a program of activities to build political literacy in the community, such as training, public discussion, and providing easy-to-understand political information. Services and provision of public information through literacy in the city of Makassar can increase HDI (Human Development Index). According to the Central Bureau of Statistics (2022), the level of political literacy in the community by 45%. Kesbangpol Makassar city (2022) shows 59% data. The Independent Survey of the Library Office of Makassar city results are at 64.56%, ranking 10th out of 38 provinces in Indonesia (Lipschultz, 2022; Sofiyana et al., 2021).

LAPAR SULSEL program to take a role in building political literacy. It serves to realize a *politically literate* society, better governance, and long-term sustainability. The urgency is that the level of political literacy in the people of Makassar still needs to be higher. The existence of good political literacy should also be able to affect the level of public participation in political activities (Hidayah et al., 2020; Singh & Brinster, 2021). Thus, the level of understanding of citizens' political literacy is a sign of how much power the political map of the people, government, and state is. Cooperation between institutions as the key to achieving political literacy is that citizens can practice concepts in political knowledge, political attitudes, political awareness, and civic competence. Therefore, based on the main description of the background of the problem, the author submits a thesis proposal title, namely the Role of the South Sulawesi People's Child Advocacy and Education Institute in Building Political Literacy for the Community in Makassar City. This study explores the implementation of LAPAR SULSEL programs in promoting political literacy among the people of Makassar.

Method

Researchers use descriptive qualitative methods (Aspers & Corte, 2019; Mihas, 2023). Descriptive qualitative is a way of solving problems or ways to answer related to problems so that researchers immediately participate actively in the research location (Fischer & Guzel, 2023; Okoko et al., 2023). This research is at the People's Child Advocacy and Education Institute (LAPAR SULSEL) office on Jl. Toddopuli 7 Setapak 2 No.8 Makassar City, South Sulawesi Province starting from early 2023, researchers pay attention to the period of research during the research process. The research subjects in question are the director, staff of the People's Child Advocacy and Education Institute (LAPAR SULSEL), representatives of Makassar city youth, representatives of KUDESTA participants, representatives of CREAT MOMENT participants and representatives of public discussion participants, program alumni, and representatives of institutions that have collaborated in the program that researchers choose as resource persons for the correct research data collection process and in accordance with the expectations of researchers.

Data were obtained from data collection techniques resulting from participatory observations, in-depth and structured interviews, and document studies based on on-site data sources (Middaugh, 2019; Mihas, 2023). Primary data sources Primary data is a source of data generated during the research process by conducting direct interviews with research subjects, namely the People's Child Advocacy and Education Institute in Makassar City, South Sulawesi Province, staff, community representatives, program participants, alumni, and institutions in collaboration with LAPAR SULSEL. While secondary data sources are obtained from the internet, *websites*, newspapers, or magazines because the data can be in the form of videos, photos, activity reports and meeting notes of the LAPAR SULSEL program. At the data validity stage, researchers use triangulation techniques, namely data validity refers to the validity of the data collected in the study (Nagasawa, 2019; Okoko et al., 2023). Furthermore, for data analysis techniques used interactive model analysis according to the theory of Yuniarto (2020) as follows (Yuniarto, 2020):

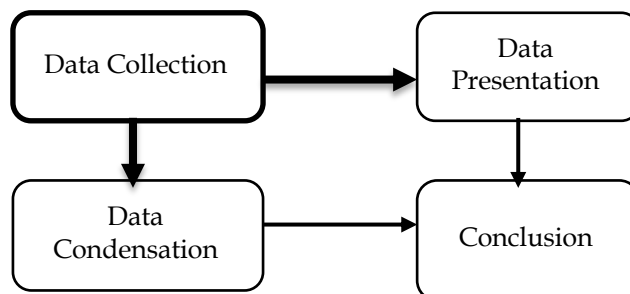


Figure 1. Interactive model of analysis data

Results And Discussion

Create Moment

CREATE MOMENT or Sekolah Demokrasi is a program organized by LAPAR SULSEL to increase political literacy and understanding of democracy among teachers and students, especially in the Makassar City area. The program aims to educate and train participants to understand the basic principles of democracy, citizens' rights, and political participation mechanisms. Through CREATE MOMENT or Sekolah Demokrasi (School of Democracy), LAPAR SULSEL provides a platform for teachers and students as well as parents to learn interactively through discussions, seminars, and anti-corruption campaign activities that prioritize active participation of participants. Participants will be invited to think critically about social issues, government-related cases, and current politics and allowed to share participants' views.

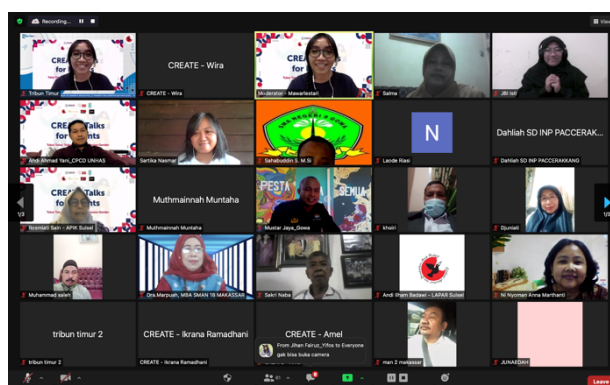


Figure 2. CREATE Talks for Parents

Participants consisted of representatives of parents of grade 12 high school students who attended school in the city of Makassar, including SMAN 22 Makassar, SMAN 1 Makassar, SMAN 18 Makassar, SMAN 7 Makassar, SMAN 4 Makassar, MAN 1 Makassar, MAN 2 Makassar, and MAN 3 Makassar. All parents are invited to attend via zoom meeting, but some have busy and obstacles, even though the program runs smoothly. The program will be held in several sessions on January 16, 17, 23, 24, and 30, 2023. This activity aims to provide a forum for parents to obtain information and knowledge about political literacy, tolerance, and gender equality for parenting patterns for children, especially children aged high school students and equivalent.

Furthermore, after the training and workshop CREATE Talks for Parents were completed, it was continued with the South Sulawesi Multi Stakeholder Meeting on February 27, 2023. Participants are members of the school committee or parents, principals, teachers, and representatives of the Education and Culture Office of

South Sulawesi Province. They are at the Regional Office of the Ministry of Religious Affairs of South Sulawesi. The purpose of the activity is to reflect political issues, tolerance, and equality of rights and obligations in the school environment. Parents and schools need to discuss parent groups' recommendations to promote political literacy, tolerance, and equal rights and obligations in schools, socialize parental monitoring plans on political literacy practices, tolerance and equality of rights and obligations in schools (Odutayo, 2023; Ridha & Riwanda, 2020).



Figure 3. Multi Stakeholder Meeting

Based on the results of the multi-stakeholder meeting, the program was followed up with a CREATE MOMENT Workshop for student representatives from 22 high school level schools. The residency participants are student council presidents from each high school representative in Makassar City (Mirra & Garcia, 2020). The time and location are March 10-11, 2023 at 15.00-17.00 WITA, at Rumata Art Space (Jl. Bontonompo No.12A, Mt. Sari, Kec. Tamalate, Makassar City). The CREATE MOMENT workshop aims to increase students' knowledge of political education, issues of tolerance, diversity, gender equality, and social inclusion as well as to foster students' knowledge of historical and cultural contexts in South Sulawesi related to religious diversity, political literacy during the Gowa kingdom, SARA, local beliefs, and gender.



Figure 4. Workshop Create Moment

The closing of the activity was held an exhibition called PELITA (Literacy, Tolerance, and Advocacy Exhibition). The activity will be held outside school hours on March 25, 2023 at 17.00-21.00 WITA. The location of the exhibition is in Hasannudin Park, Gowa district. This activity is a Provincial Art Exhibition as one of a series of CREATE MOMENT program events. Provincial Art Exhibition is a form of appreciation for the work made by young people, especially high school students (SMA)/equivalent, on anti-corruption campaigns, political issues, tolerance, diversity, and gender equality. Participants of the exhibition were students from representatives of SMA/MA/SMK in Makassar and Gowa. The existence of this exhibition aims to foster the interest of young people to participate in developing participants' creativity in voicing issues of public issues, social inclusion, and human rights or humanitarian issues, providing space for participants to collaborate and realize ideas in the form of works of art, and become a means of disseminating information, knowledge products, and real practices from the CREATE MOMENT program.



Figure 5. PELITA Exhibition

This program has several positive impacts including: First, through CREATE MOMENT or the School of Democracy, it is expected to be able to form participants who have a deep understanding of democratic values and the importance of participation in the political process. This will help strengthen the democratic system in the Makassar City area. Second, the program can also help raise participants' awareness of participants' rights as citizens and effective ways to exercise these rights. With better knowledge of political systems and participation mechanisms, communities can be more active in taking roles and making positive contributions in regional development. Finally, CREATE MOMENT or the School of Democracy also has the potential to help fight disinformation or hoaxes. By improving civic political literacy, program participants will become more critical of the information they receive and be able to distinguish between facts and opinions. This is important in creating a politically intelligent society. Therefore, programs that can develop an understanding of the political process aim to increase political literacy and understanding of democracy among the public. Programs that initiate political literacy are expected to positively impact the region's political participation and citizenship advocacy (Tulloh, 2019).

Overthrow

The existence of the LAPAR SULSEL Program called the Democracy, Tolerance, and Advocacy Course is intended so that participants can have better political literacy skills so that they can participate in political processes, especially having a basic understanding of the basic issues that are the focus of LAPAR SULSEL. The COUP program has been implemented since 2018 and is carried out once a year. Participants who took part in the coup came from activists, students, and the general public by going through several stages of test selection and interviews. Apart from being part of the work program, the program also has a purpose as part of the volunteer recruitment process for selected participants to regenerate part of the staff of LAPAR SULSEL.



Figure 6. Class COUP

The implementation of the COUP program in 2023 was attended by 32 participants from various regions of South Sulawesi Province. The program will be held for one month at the LAPAR SULSEL office starting May 25, 2023. This year's COUP material is printed in learning modules with the themes of political education, the Indonesian democratic system and local democracy, tolerance, diversity, and culture, as well as human rights related to gender equality, as well as advocacy strategy materials. The series of program implementation is that in the first two weeks participants follow the material provided by the Tutors/speakers who are several boards of trustees of LAPAR SULSEL. The last two weeks the participants are invited to directly practice in the field related to learning advocacy in LAPAR SULSEL assisted areas.



Figure 7. Advocacy Class (Citizens Tell Stories)

LAPAR SULSEL hopes that with the implementation of the KUDETA program, participants after completing the program will have the ability to understand democratic issues so that they have a basis in responding to the development of democracy in Indonesia and local democracy. The Democracy, Tolerance, and Advocacy course provides a valuable perspective in improving civic political literacy by making people politically literate from an important aspect of becoming informed citizens. The program allows participants to deepen their understanding of democracy, tolerance, and advocacy, which are important principles in promoting inclusive and participatory governance. In addition, the training also equips participants with the skills and techniques necessary to conduct effective advocacy, empower them to voice concerns, mobilize support, and influence public policy (Austin & Domgaard, 2022).

By strengthening civic political literacy, the course enables individuals to actively engage in the political process, exercise citizenship rights and responsibilities, and contribute to developing the community and society. In addition, political literacy also fosters a sense of responsibility of citizens and encourages citizens to take an active role in fighting for social justice, human rights, and democratic values (Sugara & Mutmainnah, 2020). Therefore, COUP participants are asked to inspire the general public and especially be able to set an example for others. During the program, participants were asked to learn and write their opinions in the 21-Day Journal of Building Tolerance.



Figure 8. 21 Days Journal Book

The impact of the Democracy, Tolerance, and Advocacy Course provides a valuable perspective on civic political literacy by increasing participants' understanding of democracy, tolerance, and advocacy. By equipping individuals with knowledge and skills, the course empowers participants to become informed, engaged, and active citizens who can contribute positively to democratic processes and promote more inclusive and tolerant societies.

LAPAR SULSEL has political literacy programs called CREATE MOMENT and KUDETA, there is also a program called Kamisan Discussion or public discussion, one of the programs that continues to be implemented to build political literacy in Makassar City. This program will be carried out since May 2023, then Thursday discussions will be held every 2 weeks every month. Public discussions were also held with several institutions such as KPU, Bawaslu, FKUB, Makassar State University, Makassar R&D, JURNal Celebes, and activists from other NGOs in South Sulawesi. Collaboration from various institutions can provide more varied public information. The public can directly ask resource persons because the program is conducted online with social media Facebook, Instagram, and Zoom Meeting (Lipschultz, 2022; Mirra & Garcia, 2020). Here are some of LAPAR SULSEL's political literacy programs through public discussions that have been carried out in 2023, namely:

Democracy Dialogue: The Role of Youth in Safeguarding Democracy

Youth have an important role in guarding democracy in our country. As agents of change, youth can be at the forefront of promoting people's active participation in the democratic process. In the theme of this dialogue, LAPAR SULSEL collaborated with the Chairman of the Makassar City Bawaslu, Political Lecturer at the Islamic University of Makassar, and SENMA FISIP of the Islamic University of Makassar. All activities were attended by FISIP students of Makassar Islamic University located at the UIM KH Auditorium. Muhyiddin Zain.

In the dialogue discussion, speakers and students discussed the attitude of youth in guarding the pre and post 2024 elections, anti-politics of fighting, money politics, identity politics so that democracy can be upheld in Indonesia. Therefore, through inclusive political education and a deep understanding of democratic values, youth can help increase public awareness of their rights and common interests in political decision-making (Tulloh, 2019). In addition, through collective actions such as social campaigns and advocacy movements, youth can also give voice to issues relevant to the welfare of society at large. That way, the role of youth is very important to maintain the continuity and progress of democracy in the Indonesian state (Hidayati et al., 2019; Ridha & Riwanda, 2020).

Kamisan Discussion on Democracy and Environment

The Kamisan Discussion on Democracy and Environment is an important forum to bridge these two interrelated issues. In the discussion, the speakers were directly delivered by the Coordinator of the Advocacy Division of LAPAR SULSEL and the Journalist Network for Environmental Advocacy (Celebes Journal). The activity was carried out at the LAPAR South Sulawesi office. In democracy, such discussions can strengthen public awareness of the need for active participation in environmental policies and efforts to prevent environmental destruction. The discussion also allowed the community to share knowledge, experience, and innovative solutions in protecting nature and responding to climate change challenges. In addition, through this dialogue, youth can discuss how democratic principles such as transparency, accountability, and social justice can be applied in decision-making related to environmental issues. Therefore, the Kamisan Democracy and Environment discussion has great potential to create effective collaboration between civil society, government, and the private sector to face future ecological challenges.

This discussion discusses criticism of applying democratic principles that include ecological issues. If observed on every island in Indonesia, it often occurs related to conflicts between the community and a large company that influences the country's economic and political sectors so that permission is given from the government. Still, many harm the community and damage the environment. These interests are sometimes only short-term, but consequently lead to environmental degradation, neglect of the survival of local communities, and climate change (Singh & Brinster, 2021; Sugara & Mutmainnah, 2020). Therefore, the importance of implementing the principles of responsible, equitable, and sustainable democracy.

Kamisan Discussion on Young People's Perspectives in Seeing Democracy in Indonesia

Kamisan Discussion on Young People's Perspectives in Seeing Democracy in Indonesia is a relevant public discussion space to pay attention to the views and aspirations of the younger generation related to our country's democratic system. The program's implementation was due to the collaboration between resource persons from the staff of LAPAR SULSEL, Pemuda Aman South Sulawesi, and activists and lecturers of Sociology at Makassar State University. The location of the discussion was held at the LAPAR South Sulawesi office. In these discussions, young people can share their experiences, innovative ideas, and critical thinking on how democracy can be improved in an inclusive and participatory manner. This kind of discussion can also open opportunities for youth to voice their daily problems and provide new solutions based on social justice, transparency, and accountability (Keegan, 2021; Sutisna, 2017). By involving the perspectives of young people in these discussions, we can gain new insights on how to create political governance that is more responsive to the needs and expectations of the nation's next generation.

In recent years, youth have often needed to be more wise in using social media and information technology in content disseminating political messages, gossip, and bullying. Although there are still young people who involve themselves in organizing campaigns, joining social movements, and fighting for people's rights (Mirra & Garcia, 2022; Pham, 2022). There are many challenges experienced by youth in implementing democracy, one of which is due to the lack of political literacy that affects the way of thinking and acting in political participation (Alscher et al., 2022; Middaugh, 2019). Through this discussion, young people can aspire to each other and play an active role by jointly discussing structural barriers, namely corruption, money politics, identity politics, and social inequality in Indonesia.

Village Socialization Aware of Election Supervision and Anti-Money Politics in the Framework of the 2004 General Election

Village Socialization Aware of Election Supervision and Anti-Money Politics is a very important effort in the framework of the 2004 general election. The agenda of this activity was carried out in collaboration with LAPAR SULSEL with Bawaslu, Maros Regency and local village officials. The location of the socialization activity is in Simbang District. Through this socialization, villagers understand the importance of their role as election supervisors who are active and responsive to the practice of money politics. This socialization also aims to increase awareness of their rights in the democratic process such as voting freely and fairly without pressure or intervention from certain parties (Austin, 2013; Nugraha, 2020). By disseminating information about illegal acts related to money politics and their negative impact on democracy, it is hoped that the public can be more careful and willing to report if they find indications of such violations. The socialization of Desa Sadar Pengawas Elections and Anti Money Politics became a vital first step in creating a political climate that was clean, transparent, and with integrity during the 2004 general election.

Kamisan Discussion on Poverty in Democracies, How Come?

The Kamisan Discussion on Poverty in Democracies is an important step to analyze and understand why poverty still exists in the context of democracies. The resource persons for this discussion were LAPAR South Sulawesi's advocacy division staff and the Chairman of NETFID South Sulawesi. The location of the discussion is in the office of LAPAR SULSEL. This discussion allowed participants to discuss various factors that cause economic inequality and social injustice and find comprehensive solutions. In democracies, structural discrimination, corruption, ineffective public policies, and lack of access to resources are some aspects that need attention in addressing poverty problems (Austin, 2013; Mirra & Garcia, 2020, 2022). Through this discussion, space can be opened to formulate collaborative strategies between governments, civil society, the private sector and international institutions to address the root causes of poverty and uphold democratic principles such as inclusivity and social justice.

Talk Show on 2024 Electoral Political Dynamics and the Challenge of Tolerance in South Sulawesi

The talk show Dynamics of Electoral Politics 2024 and the Challenges of Tolerance in South Sulawesi is a very relevant platform to explore understanding of the dynamics of electoral politics that will occur in the 2024 General Election, as well as challenges in maintaining tolerance in the South Sulawesi region. The resource persons consisted of collaboration between LAPAR SULSEL staff and the Chairman of Bawaslu South Sulawesi, Chairman of the Makassar Religious Research and Development Center, Head of FKUB South Sulawesi, Oase Intim NGO, and Chairman of KPU South Sulawesi. The location of the activity was held at the Ballroom Theater 3rd Floor Phinisi Building, Makassar State University. Through this talk show, participants can share their perspectives on political changes, campaign strategies, and crucial issues that may be the focus in the upcoming elections. In addition, the discussion will also focus on the challenges of maintaining harmony and tolerance amid possible political polarization. By providing a space for open and inclusive dialogue between political actors, academics, civil society activists in general, this talk show can be an important vehicle for designing concrete measures to strengthen democracy and promote the values of tolerance as an integral part of the electoral political process in the future (Fadhillah & Nuryadi, 2021; Nagasawa, 2019).

Learning from the case that occurs every year politics approaching elections, there is a lot of identity sentiment as black campaign material. Based on previous experience that people are often victims of political actors who only use civil society to achieve goals. When the campaign begins, contestants often create intolerant issues, arguments, and hoaxes to attack the opposing party in the election. Therefore, all aspects of society need to be equipped with an understanding of political literacy (Mirra & Garcia, 2022; Nugraha, 2020).

Conclusion

The conclusion of the role of LAPAR SULSEL in the civic political literacy program in Makassar City is that this institution makes an important contribution in increasing political participation, understanding of rights and obligations as citizens, and helping the community to play an active role in social and economic development. In carrying out its duties, LAPAR SULSEL collaborates with local governments, NGOs, religious organizations, local communities, and other elements of society. With a better awareness and understanding of the political system and the ability to actively participate in the process, it is expected that there will be an increase in the effectiveness of socio-economic development in the South Sulawesi region. This role implies creating a society that is more aware of their rights as citizens and has adequate knowledge of the political process. This can strengthen public participation in decision-making related to regional development. In addition, civic political literacy can also help fight disinformation or hoaxes and raise awareness of relevant social and political issues. In addition, it also includes the formation of a young generation with a strong national character because they have a deep understanding of democratic values and responsibilities as citizens. Overall, the role of Lapar South Sulawesi in the citizenship political literacy program has a positive impact in strengthening political participation and citizenship advocacy in the South Sulawesi region.

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