



Election Commission Role In Improving The City Bengkulu Public Participation In Politics General Election Governor And Vice Governor Bengkulu

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A B S T R A C T

The objective of this researched was to describe the role of bengkulu city election commission to increase the political community participation. The methode of this resarch was qualitative descriptive, which is to look at socioeconomic factors, political factors and cultural factors, which describe the reality of society in political participation at the General Election of Regional Head of Bengkulu province based on facts and data obtained in the field. Based on data obtained at the city of Bengkulu Election Commission Participation turn out showed a decrease of 57.75, this is of concern to the city of Bengkulu Election Commission later on in the political participation of the community.



INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is one of the countries in the world that adheres to democracy. In this understanding the people have a very important position, because sovereignty is in the hands of the people. According to Abraham Lincoln (in Ngabiyanto 2003: 42) a democratic country is a country that has a form of government from the people, by the people and for the people. One of the requirements for implementing a democratic system is the participation of the people in the governance process. Communities have access to the government system to provide participation in choosing who will be their leader. In a state system where a People's Representative Council is formed, the will of the people is represented by those who sit in the people's representative body. The enactment of regional autonomy in Indonesia has the aim of empowering local communities. Previously, regional head elections were often influenced by the central government or by the provincial government for district head elections.

In the reform era the authority to elect a regional head is fully exercised by the people (Donni Edwin: 2004). Regional autonomy has a very broad impact on the development of democracy in Indonesia and brings great hope for people's welfare and regional prosperity with direct election of regional heads. The people can determine their own choices compared to the previous elections for regional heads

who were elected by members of the People's Representative Council. this brought a change in the public's view of the government, because the candidate who would lead was directly elected by the people. this proves the existence of a democratic attitude and transparency for the people who will elect a leader openly and not vote like a cat in a sack. However this is a logical consequence of the enactment of Law Number 32 of 2004 concerning Regional Government as a refinement of Law Number 5 of 1947 and Law Number 22 of 1999. With Law Number 32 of 2004 the people hope to know and understand content contained in the law, so that it can increase political knowledge and insight or political education that is more mature, especially paying more attention to aspects of the relationship between government structures and between regional governments (Agung Wibawanto: 2005) As it is known that, every regional head and deputy election regional head administration carried out by the Regional Election Commission as stated in Law 32 of 2004 concerning Regional Government CHAPTER IV, eighth part of article 57 (1,2) (2004:52) which reads: "Elections for regional heads and deputy regional heads are held by the Regional General Election Commission in question responsibility to the Regional People's Legislative Assembly and in carrying out His job, the Regional Election Commission, is to submit reports



on the election administration. Regional heads and deputy regional heads to the Regional People's Representative Council" The election of regional heads directly elected by the community gives its own style or color to the government that will be formed, moreover the enactment of Law Number 32 of 2004, which explains that the community has the authority to elect the Governor/Deputy Governor, Regent/Deputy Regent or Mayor/Deputy mayor. Election of regional heads is the most important institution in every democratic country, moreover for a country in the form of a republic like Indonesia, the election of regional heads is also a direct and open means of political education for the people. So that it is expected to increase public awareness about democracy. The consequence of the existence of the post-conflict local election is that the people have a real role in the context of participating in determining the fate of their region by expanding progressive political participation through general elections (general elections are one way to realize democratic life). Bearing in mind that before this regulation was issued, members of the People's Legislative Council who are in that area have the right to elect Regional Heads. It seems that Indonesia is now starting to realize that direct election of regional heads will be able to bring a better democratic climate if it is managed properly, and it is hoped that after the direct election of regional heads can be carried out it will be able to have an effect on the development of democracy to

become more qualified, because the conditions beginnings that support the improvement of democracy began to form as stated by Robert Dahl (in Agustino 2005: xiv).

One indicator of the success of holding elections by the General Elections Commission (KPU) in the regions is the increased political participation of the people in casting their votes in the direct election of regional heads. In Indonesia, people's political participation is the involvement of the people as individuals (private citizens) to understand, be aware of, review, lobby for and protest against a policy issued by the government with the aim of influencing policies so that they are aspirational towards their interests, as one of the new countries in democracy, after being 32 years under an authoritarian government, the trend of decreasing political participation in elections has become a concern for many people, from election to election during the reform period, the level of political participation in voting tends to continue to fall. There are indeed many factors that tend to cause the decline in political participation in these elections, both due to political and administrative factors. In fact, the nation's future agenda cannot be separated from efforts to strengthen, participate and empower the people through democratic processes. The direct regional head election in Bengkulu province is organized by the KPU of Bengkulu Province and the agencies under it. Considering that the phenomenon of direct Regional Head



Elections is something new and not all regions have held it, it is felt that knowledge about how to organize direct Regional Head Elections is still limited, especially regarding the role of the KPU in increasing people's political participation. Because of this the author feels that it is very important to conduct research on how the role of the KPU is in increasing people's political participation as a step to oversee the course of democracy that is to be realized in the city of Bengkulu in particular and in Indonesia in general with the title: **ROLE OF THE CITY OF BENGKULU GENERAL ELECTION COMMISSION IN INCREASING PARTICIPATION PUBLIC POLITICS IN BENGKULU GOVERNOR AND VICE GOVERNOR ELECTIONS IN 2010.**

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In conducting this research, field research will be used, namely: Research conducted in a location, a large space or in the midst of a community. The research method is quantitative with a descriptive type of research, namely describing what it is about the role of the KPU in increasing people's political participation in the 2010 Governor and Deputy Governor Election in Bengkulu Province, and conducting an analysis in depth to the problem so that the points that the authors expect from this research are found.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Characteristics of Human Resources KPU Bengkulu City

One of the KPU's main tasks is to socialize the implementation of elections / post-conflict local elections. KPU City of Bengkulu has prepared a grand design for socialization. KPU Bengkulu City has carried out outreach activities including socialization activities with funds sourced from the APBD, namely Election Workshops for Civics Teachers, and Voter Education Programs for Beginner Voters through Election Classes. Even though the KPU of Bengkulu City has carried out many outreach activities so far, there is still a desire to obtain an overview and basic skills on how to make a comprehensive socialization strategy for preparation for general elections and post-conflict local elections. The skills referred to include, namely, an explanation of the meaning of election socialization as well as an evaluation of socialization activities that have been carried out by the KPU of Bengkulu City, planning of Election/Pemilukada socialization, and preparation of an effective socialization work program, as well as preparation of the Election/Pemilukada socialization budget. KPU of Bengkulu City as the organizer of the Election/Pemilukada and to elements of the Bengkulu City government as stakeholders as well as elements of the Bengkulu City community as potential voters in the Election/Pemilukada regarding socialization strategies as well as to



increase the knowledge and capabilities of Election/Electoral Election organizers, stakeholders, and prospective Election/Pemilukada voters so that they can understand and comprehend in developing an effective election/Pemilukada socialization strategy. In addition, with the workshop, internally the KPU of Bengkulu City can evaluate its weaknesses and can strengthen its strengths in conducting outreach, namely providing information and providing education, and entertaining the public. Through media information can help audiences to form opinions about various issues. By using mass media, people can improve their skills, knowledge and learn about important developments in various aspects of life. Likewise in terms of entertainment, many people take advantage of their free time to use the media in order to obtain pleasant entertainment. In this case high quality entertainment at the same time has the nature of informative and educate.

Pilkada Stages

The implementation of the Governor and Deputy Governor Elections in Bengkulu province must go through good planning, namely by making the program and stages for the General Election of Regional Heads, in this case the program stages are made by the Provincial KPU and then become a reference for the City KPU Bengkulu in carrying out the task.

Stages of General Election for Regional Heads and Deputy Provincial

Heads Bengkulu Year 2010 (see attachment), carried out through three stages consisting of; stage 1) Preparation is divided from several activities (1) Preparation of the General Election Program and Budget Regional Heads and Deputy Regional Heads of Bengkulu Province, (2) Determination of KPU Bengkulu Province Decisions, (3) Formation/Appointment and training of PPK, PPS and Voter Data Updating Officers (PPDP), (4) Formation of the Election Supervisory Committee for Regional Heads and Deputy Regional Head of Bengkulu Province, (5) Formation of the Election Supervisory Committee for the Regional Head and Deputy Regional Head of Bengkulu Province, (6), Notification and Registration of Observers, (7) Dissemination of Voter Information/Education to the Community, (8) Notification of the Bengkulu Provincial DPRD to District head and Deputy Regional Head of Bengkulu Province regarding the end of term of office of Regional Head and Deputy Regional Head of Bengkulu Province, (9) Notification of Provincial DPRD to KPU Bengkulu Province regarding the end of term of office of Regional Head and Deputy Regional Head of Bengkulu Province, (10. Provincial KPU Coordination Meeting and Regency/Municipal KPU with regional head and deputy regional head elections at the Regency/City KPU, PPK, PPS and KPPS levels attended by KPU, Bengkulu Provincial KPU, Regency/City KPU,



PPK, PPS. 2). The Implementation Phase consists of; (1) Updating Voter Data and Lists, (2) Nomination, (3) Procurement and Distribution of equipment for the Election of Regional Heads and Deputy Regional Heads of Bengkulu Province, (4) Campaign (Round I), (5) Vote Voting and Counting , (6) Voting and vote counting at TPS by KPPS and preparation of certificates of vote counting results by PPK, Regency/Municipal KPU and Bengkulu Province KPU, (7) Inauguration and Swearing of the Oath/Promise, 3) Completion reports and dissolution of PPK and PPS, as well as the Accountability of the General Election Budget for Regional Heads and Deputy Regional Heads of Bengkulu Province.

The Role of the Bengkulu City Election Commission in Increasing Political Participation

The role of the Bengkulu City Election Commission in the 2010 General Election for the Governor and Deputy Governor as an institution that organizes elections cannot be separated from a system. System means a unit consisting of various elements that complement each other to achieve a goal. The government is those who rule in a country. So the government system is a unit consisting of various elements that rule in a country that complement each other to achieve the goals of the country concerned. The Indonesian government system is a unit consisting of various elements that govern the Indonesian State complement each other to achieve goals

Indonesian country. Article 1 (2) states that sovereignty is in the hands of the people and implemented according to the Constitution. The owner of sovereignty in the State of Indonesia is the people. The exercise of sovereignty is determined according to the Constitution. The implementation of the sovereignty of the Indonesian State according to the 1945 Constitution is the people and state institutions that function to carry out state duties as a representation of people's sovereignty. State institutions according to the 1945 Constitution are the MPR, President, DPR, BPK, MA, Constitutional Court, DPD, Regional Government, DPRD, KPU, Judicial Commission. The involvement of the people as executors of sovereignty in the 1945 Constitution, is determined in terms of:

- a. Filling MPR membership
- b. Filling the membership of the DPR through general elections (Article 19 (1))
- c. Fill in DPD membership (Article 22C (1))
- d. Choose the President and Vice President in one pair directly. The General Election Commission is the commission responsible for holding general elections in Indonesia. The general election commission is national, permanent and independent (Article 22 E(5) of the 1945 Constitution).

The KPU holds general elections to elect members of the DPR, DPD, DPRD,



President and vice president directly by the people (Article 1 (5) of Law no. 22 of 2007).

Supporting and Inhibiting Factors for Increasing Community Political Participation

1. Supporting Factors

There are 3 factors supporting political participation, namely political education, political awareness, and political culture. From all of these factors, it is the task of the regional election stakeholders, including the Bengkulu City Election Commission, in increasing community participation. one of the important instruments to measure the success of post-conflict local election.

2. Inhibiting Factors

The high cost of the post-conflict local election has forced the Bengkulu provincial KPU to implement the regional head election simultaneously, while a member of the Bengkulu Provincial General Election Commission, Okti Fitriani stated that simultaneous post-conflict local elections are very useful for organizing electoral institutions. In addition to budget efficiency, community participation will also increase. Post-conflict local election organizers also concentrate more on education agendas and updating voter data. The Bengkulu City Election Commission is hampered by budget constraints because the regional head wants to run for re-election, budget deficit regions and slow disbursement of funds

resulting in post-conflict local election stages being postponed. Preparation of post-conflict local election programs and budgets, providing implementation technical services elections, the provision of administrative services which includes administration, staffing, budget and equipment, formulation and arrangement of assistance as well organizing public relations for post-conflict local election purposes, processing election data, managing logistics and distribution of goods/services for post-conflict local election purposes, implementing inter-governmental cooperation institutions, preparation of reports on the implementation of KPUD activities and accountability. However, experience shows that the role of the secretariat is as a supporting element for election success is not optimal.

The secretariat is still not being utilized optimally in the election process, which is caused by many factors. Wrongone of them is because of the problem of time (which is very urgent). Besides that, the institutional status of the Election Supervisory Committee which is ad hoc in nature and must be disbanded 30 (thirty) days after the Governor and Deputy Governor are inaugurated causes problems, especially with regard to other parties who require clarification of the results of the supervision that has been carried out. For example, during the voting and counting of votes, there are several potential problems, including 1) ballot papers by members of the KPPS, or other



persons, 2) intimidation by certain parties to vote for a certain partner, 3) money politics, 4) ink quality low, 5) counting before the allotted time, 6) balloting, 7) engineering of the results of the calculation, 8) the partiality of KPPS members to one pair of candidates, and 9) there were no witnesses, monitors or supervisors at the TPS location.

These potentials can turn into real problems that fall under the authority of the supervisory agency. Some of the problems that occurred in the field included the absence of witnesses from each pair of candidates, there were no observers on site, many ballots were easily erased, the limited number of observers in the field and ballot papers were punched through to the front page. Problem after problem was finally not handled properly, because the Panwas had already been disbanded. Especially if there are other parties who need data from Panwas supervision, they will definitely not get optimal results. The limited authority of the Panwas as one of the institutional problems of the Election Supervisory Committee is the limited authority to take action on a violation that has occurred. Against such violations, Panwas does not have sufficient authority to take action, especially in relation to criminal offenses.

It is stated in the statutory regulations that violations with criminal nuances will be handled by investigators from both the prosecutor's office and the police. In addition, it is necessary to consider the number of sources the human

resources of the supervisory committee to be able to oversee the implementation of the election. To support the duties of Panwas, socialization is also carried out on an ongoing basis to the public regarding responsible and appropriate political participation rule. Equally important is the need to simplify the process and administration of solving problems related to violations and election disputes. In short, it is necessary to regulate mechanisms and procedures more clearly to resolve election violations and disputes so that the public is not apathetic towards post-conflict local elections due to dysfunctional/non-firm law enforcement. The quality of the human resources of the organizers, the human resource factor is an important factor in the success of the regional head election implementation.

Therefore In addition, the recruitment of KPUD, PPK, PPS and KPPS members as well as elements of the KPU/KPUD secretariat is a part that must be considered. Secretariat staff placement (derived from civil servants) should pay attention to the rules for placement and transfer of employees, so that there is no too deep competency gap between expectations and reality. Particularly for the human resources at the PPS and KPPS level organizing committees, they also have not shown the expected conditions because the recruitment for PPS and KPPS members was selected from local/village figures whose competence had not been tested regarding electoral matters.



CONCLUSION

Participation is an important aspect of democracy. The underlying assumptions of democracy and people's participation who knows best about what is good for him is the person himself. Political participation is the participation of ordinary citizens in determining all decisions that concern or affect their lives. Participation as an activity is divided into active participation and passive participation. Active participation means activities that are oriented to input and output processes politics, while passive participation is an output-oriented activity. Political participation can also be categorized based on the number of actors, namely individual and collective. Factors that are thought to influence the level or level of a person's political participation are political awareness and trust in society government (political system). The structural approach sees voting activities as a product of a structural context more broadly, such as social structure. The sociological approach tends to place voting activities in relation to the social context.

Approach ecologically relevant only if in an electoral district there are differences in the characteristics of voters based on the territorial unit. The political behavior of each individual varies based on the factors that influence it and the environment in which the individual is located. Political participation from each individual is needed in supporting political activities where they live. Community political participation in Bengkulu City

includes conventional political participation in the form of political discussions, campaign activities, forming and joining interest groups, individual communication with political and administrative officials and voting. The dominant form of conventional political participation in Bengkulu City is voting. The high level of decline in people's political participation in Bengkulu City is caused by several aspects, including technical, economic, apathetic and pessimistic reasons, idealism, lack of awareness, and reasons not to be in place. Technical reasons occur because voters are not registered in the Permanent Voters List (DPT), economic reasons are usually reasons by people who are in lower employment status who cannot leave their jobs, apathetic and pessimistic reasons due to indifference, distrust and because voters are confused about who to choose in the Pileg, Presidential and Regional Head Elections, idealistic reasons by voting for golput because they are bored with the promises made by the candidates who are considered grandiose, as well as because of the frequent and the implementation of the Election which is close to the time of its implementation, lack of public awareness due to the low level of public political education so people don't know what election benefits and purposes.

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