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### Election of Regional Head Candidates in Simultaneous Elections in the City of Ternate

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#### Abstract

Qualitative research methods by using the Anthropological Approach approach which is related to behavior or community preferences regarding the election of regional head candidates (pemilukada) in simultaneous elections in the City of Ternate. The results of the study show that people's preferences in the simultaneous election of regional head candidates in the City of Ternate shows that election of regional head candidates in simultaneous elections in Ternate City in 2005, 2015 and 2020 in 8 (eight) districts namely North Ternate District, Central Ternate District, South Ternate District, Ternate Island, Moti Island, Hiri Island, Batang Dua Island, and the division of West Ternate Sub-District stated that monetary rewards (money politics) also colored the party program and the map of democracy that took place in the City of Ternate. Respondents'

responses regarding the existence of money politics showed that the percentage distribution of respondents' answers, where out of 40 respondents (66.67%) stated that the choice of Regional Head Candidates was based on monetary rewards, projects, positions. 5 (five) respondents (8.33%) based on emotional relationships based on ethnicity, religion, and closeness to the mayoral candidate pair, and the remaining 15 respondents (25%) chose based on the capacity of the mayoral candidate and a good work program. That the efforts made by the Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu) to Suppress the Practice of Money Politics in the 2024 Concurrent Regional Head Election in Ternate City have been carried out in various ways, namely through preventive efforts by the Ternate City Bawaslu in reducing the phenomenon of transactional politics (money politics).

**Keywords:** Election of Regional Head Candidates, Simultaneous Elections, City of Ternate

#### 1. Preliminary

##### 1.1 Background

Local election as local political activities in the region carried out based on Law Number 10 of 2020 concerning the Election of Governors, Regents and Mayors, then revised to Law Number 6 of 2020 concerning Stipulation of Government Regulation in Lieu of Law Number 2 of 2020 concerning the Election of Governors, Regents and Mayors to Become Laws to become Laws, in which it regulates the mechanism for regional head elections.<sup>1</sup>

Regional head elections are general elections held at the local level. Therefore, the meaning and purpose of post-conflict local election implementation is no different from the meaning and purpose of general election implementation. Only if elections are often interpreted in a broader sense with national coverage, post-conflict local elections are the implementation of elections at the regional level in the framework of electing leaders in the regions.

The national political agenda is strategic and has broad governmental and social aspects with all the consequences for the future of the Indonesian political system, namely the Implementation of simultaneous Regional Head Elections (Pilkada). Not only pursuing the simultaneous nomination targets, campaign dynamics and inauguration, but also the dynamics in the regions in line with the development agenda proclaimed by the Center in order to achieve the targets with maximum results. The political construction of the operation of a presidential system which is not dispersed in each of its activities at the local level

<sup>1</sup> Mukhti Arif dan Mulyana. 2020. Partisipasi Politik Masyarakat Dalam Pelaksanaan Pilkada Serentak Di Kota Ternate Provinsi Maluku Utara Tahun 2018 (Studi Kasus Di Kecamatan Ternate Selatan). Jurnal Ilmu Pemerintahan Widya Praja. Vol 46 No 1. Pp 383-384.

as a result of the diverse political backgrounds of regional heads and the coalition government at the center, is a great synthesis of discussing the important substance of regional election democracy as a national agenda. Therefore,<sup>2</sup> Simultaneous local elections are a democratic process in which regional heads are elected both at the provincial, district/city levels, within a certain scope of territory which are carried out simultaneously throughout Indonesia. Simultaneous local elections are the implementation for the last 10 (ten) years where there has been a change in the adopted electoral system. This is intended to present a more efficient electoral system. So that it can accommodate all public aspirations to create local accountability, political equity and local responsiveness.<sup>3</sup>Based on these reasons, the researcher is interested in raising the research title on "Simultaneous Regional Head Elections in the City of Ternate" with the formulation of the problem of how regional head elections take place simultaneously in the city of Ternate.

## 2. Research methods

### 2.1 Types and Research Approaches

This research is a normative legal research using a literature approach in the election of regional head candidates (pemilukada) in simultaneous elections in the City of Ternate. Thus, the authors conducted indirect research into the field in order to obtain accurate truth in the process of perfecting this writing, so the purpose and usefulness of this study were basically used to show the path of solving research problems.<sup>4</sup>

The data collection technique that researchers used in this study was through library research. The data collection study was classified into two parts, namely primary data and secondary data, primary data obtained through field studies and secondary data sourced from library research.

## 3. Research results and discussion

### 3.1 Implementation of Simultaneous Regional Head Candidate Elections in the City of Ternate

Regional head elections are elections for heads of government area at the Provincial and District/City levels by the community as a means of channeling aspirations for change in an area and also for the welfare of society. In the election of Regional Heads, community participation is needed for smoothness and success holding of Regional Head Elections as a form of a democratic state. Thus, the General Election for Regional Heads or Pilkada is a means taken by the Government in an effort to uphold the process of democratization in Indonesia. Residents directly elect and

determine who has the right to occupy the position of Regional Head in their area.<sup>5</sup>

Community participation will run smoothly if there is good political socialization and political communication from the regional head election organizing committee as well as the vision and mission or work program to be realized by the prospective regional head candidates. This is one of the efforts to attract the attention of the public in exercising their right to vote in regional head elections. Because the participation and participation of the community is very important in the election of regional heads which is a form of a democratic system.

The idea of simultaneous regional elections was initially accommodated in Law Number 8 of 2015, which is a revision of Law Number 1 of 2015. In Article 5 Paragraph (1) of Law Number 8 of 2015 it is stated that the Election of Governors, Regents and the mayor is held once every 5 years simultaneously throughout the territory of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia. "The election is held in two stages, namely the preparation stage and the implementation stage"<sup>6</sup>

Regional elections (Pemilukada) dominate the role of determining the success or failure of the process autonomy in a region because its implementation is a consequence of the decentralization of power from the Central Government to Regional Governments. The logic of decentralization builds a commitment that in every post-conflict local election implementation, political power will tend to move closer to its citizens because it is these people who act as the direct voters of their regional leaders.

As an instrument for strengthening decentralization and regional autonomy, post-conflict local election practices are evident here are still many problems, both at the technical level of implementation, obtaining results, and post-election. These various problems include unfair competition, fraud at the time of voting and recapitulation of votes from the PPS (Voting Committee) and PPK (Kecamatan Election Committee) levels, money politics (money politics) ahead of the post-conflict local election implementation to the vulnerability of potential conflicts that occur after the implementation post-conflict local election. Therefore, the practice of direct post-conflict local elections so far has brought many risks. The risk indication is reviewed from several parameters, such as; the practice of money politics (vote buying) is still rife and there is even an upward trend; the big budget that must be borne by the state; or the risk of horizontal conflict in the midst of society.<sup>7</sup>

An election that democratic, honest and fair (free and fair elections) are elections that are free from violence, bribery, and various other fraudulent practices that will affect the

<sup>2</sup> Risal, S. and Pratiwi, E. 2019. Partisipasi Politik Masyarakat Perbatasan Negara dalam Pilkada Serentak di Kabupaten Malinau. Dia: Jurnal Administrasi Publik. Volume. 22, Hal 14.

<sup>3</sup> Triono. 2019. Menakar Efektivitas Pemilu Serentak 2019. Jurnal Wacana Politik, Volume 2 No. 2. Hal 162.

<sup>4</sup> Bambang Sunggono, 2016, *Metodologi Penelitian Hukum*, Jakarta, PT RajaGrafindo Persada, hlm. 112.

<sup>5</sup> Solihah R. 2018. Peluang dan Tantangan Pemilu Serentak 2019 Dalam Perspektif Politik. Jurnal Ilmiah Ilmu Pemerintahan, Vol 3. No 1. Pp 81-82.

<sup>6</sup> Sutrisno, *et al.* 2018. Komparasi Teori Marketing Politik 4p Menurut Niffenegger dan Menurut Adman Nursal. JPPUMA: Jurnal Ilmu Pemerintahan Dan Sosial Politik UMA, Volume 6. No. 2, pp 104-105.

<sup>7</sup> Yanto. 2014. Strategi Kampanye Politik Calon Anggota Legislatif Incumbent Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat Daerah Dalam Menghadapi Pemilu Legislatif 2014 (Studi Kasus Partai Golkar di Kabupaten Mukomuko). Jurnal Professional FIS UNIVED. Vol. 1. No 2. Pp 67.

outcome of the election. The growth of money politics cannot be separated from the permissive perspective of the electorate towards money politics. Even in every democratic process in Indonesia, including democracy at the grassroots level (pilkades) the practice of money politics grows fertile, because it is considered a commonplace society is not sensitive against the dangers. How to let and not feel that normatively money politics is a behavior that should be avoided.

Actors Politics actually seem not to care that their choice to engage in money politics is an act that has harmed democracy, the most important thing is the achievement of goals. Money politics occurs because of the strong perception that regional elections are a celebration, short-term culture of pragmatism, weak dialectics to seek ideal values and build a shared vision, weak rules of the game, and so on. These things can at least be seen in this research that many voters prefer an open campaign and most of them suggest that those who take part in the campaign should be given pocket money of around IDR 50,000-IDR 100,000 per campaign.

Based on several indications that can grow money politics above, provide a comprehensive description that in almost every electoral democracy event involving the masses, money politics is always found. Some regional head candidates rely on this money politics strategy to get voters' votes. Only by handing out the money to voters and asking for their commitment to vote for one regional election activity, that is, the campaign does not need to be carried out by regional head candidates. This means that with money politics, regional head candidates no longer need to work hard to sell their ideas and ideas to convince voters to vote for them. What's worse, if not all regional head candidates have good communication skills with the masses to vote for them.<sup>8</sup>

Although, the variety of post-conflict local election technical innovations and the enforcement of the rules of the game in implementation post-conflict local elections are taken by the election management body. However, all of these conditions will mean nothing if there is still no understanding and awareness of citizens on politics, including regarding the implementation of elections and post-conflict local elections. The hope is, of course, that there will be a situation where people are considered politically "literate" so that they really think about their responsibilities in the state, including supporting the proper functioning of the democratic process, one of which is through their participation in determining leaders in their respective regions. It is this community responsibility that should make elections a democratic process that produces leaders with integrity, morality and who can really lead their people well in the future.

The final result of post-conflict local elections is the election of the Regional Head where his presence will synergize with the Council to produce a variety of government policies that depart from the needs of the people while at the same time involving them as government planners, implementers and supervisors. The important assumption of the post-conflict local election is to give its citizens the opportunity

<sup>8</sup> Sigit Pamungkas. 2009. Perihal Pemilu. JPP UGM. Yogyakarta, hal 36.

to directly elect their regional leaders so that democracy at the local level can develop in a better direction. This matter because the community can recognize more closely the prospective leaders and the leaders chosen are those who are considered to have compatibility with the preferences of their needs.

It's just that at a practical level, it's often what citizens choose in post-conflict local elections and legislative elections are contradictory. In fact, the results obtained gave birth to regional leaders who were corrupt and did not take sides with the interests of the citizens. Thus, it becomes a logical consequence that in the implementation of regional head elections which plays an important role society as users of the right to vote, wrong an important role of society is participation in the exercise of rights voice.

On that basis, it becomes a logical thing when researchers analyze levels community preferences regarding the election of regional head candidates in simultaneous elections in Ternate City in several aspects, namely whether the people in Ternate City choose regional head candidates on the basis of 1) Monetary rewards, projects, positions; 2) Emotional relationships, such as ethnicity, religion, and friendship; 3) The capacity of the mayoral candidates and good work programs.<sup>9</sup>

The Regional General Election Commission (KPU) is the vanguard of holding elections at the provincial and district levels and cities are of course an important key to how the implementation of post-conflict local elections can run well and be accountable. The performance of the regional KPU, which has minimal administrative staff, certainly requires support from various groups, such as one from universities. This is considering that the efforts that must be built and implemented by the Regional KPU are very complex, such as some of which are disseminating post-conflict local election rules to the general public as voters, including post-conflict local election participants; verification of voters and post-conflict local election participants; up to the determination of post-conflict local election results.

The role of each institution involved in maintaining integrity elections is very important to be clearly defined in a legal framework. A clear separation of powers and an integrated system of checks and balances can help maintain effective oversight. As discussed in the Guiding Principles, for example, if an EMBs are given too many roles (which has the potential to create conflict) – such as drafting election laws, implementing and enforcing those laws, and acting as the sole court to resolve electoral cases would have little to do with effective checks and balances in their actions.<sup>10</sup>

#### 4. Conclusion

Simultaneous regional head elections in the City of Ternate shows that election of regional head candidates in simultaneous elections in Ternate City in 2005, 2015 and

<sup>9</sup> Ali Lating, *et al.* 2020. Pipi Kasa Ngom Kage Potret Politik Uang Dalam Pemilihan Legislatif 2014 Kota Ternate. KAWASA Volume X Nomor 3.

<sup>10</sup> Amrullah Umar and Suyatno Kahar. 2021. Strategi Kampanye Calon Anggota DPRD Kota Ternate Di Tengah-Tengah Pemilihan Presiden 2019. SANG PENCERAH: Jurnal Ilmiah Universitas Muhammadiyah Buton. Vol 7 No 1. Pp 69.

2020 in 8 (eight) districts namely North Ternate District, Central Ternate District, South Ternate District, Ternate Island, Moti Island, Hiri Island, Batang Dua Island, and the expansion of West Ternate Sub-District colored by monetary rewards (money politics) also colored the party program and the map of democracy that took place in the City of Ternate. This reality shows that most people in Ternate City in electing regional heads tend not to use their idealism by becoming the irrational/emotional type of voter.

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