THE ROLE OF THE BALI ELECTION SUPERVISORY BODY (*BAWASLU*) IN THE 2020 SIMULTANEOUS ELECTIONS

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A B S T R A C T

Regional Head Elections (*Pilkada*) are a real manifestation of democracy and are a means for the people to declare sovereignty. *Pilkada* organizers, especially in Bali Province, must work together to face the challenges and risks of the 2020 *Pilkada* on December 9. Both *Bawaslu* and the Bali Provincial KPU have to work hard considering that the democracy party this time was held during the Covid-19 pandemic. The purpose of this study is to determine the role of the Bali election supervisory agency (*Bawaslu*) in the 2020 simultaneous regional elections. The aim of the research is to build a strong, independent, solid election monitoring apparatus and institution in Bali. Develop effective and efficient monitoring patterns and methods in Bali. The research method uses interview, observation and data collection methods with non-participatory observation, namely a type of observation where the researcher is not directly involved in any activity of the research subject. The results of this research showed that *Bawaslu*'s role is an independent election monitor tasked with overseeing and guarding the Bali regional elections. *Bawaslu* supervises the implementation of elections by receiving complaints, handling cases of election administrative violations and election criminal violations. *Bawaslu* has the authority over reports relating to alleged violations of the implementation of laws and regulations concerning elections. Either election administration violations, money politics violations, or disputes over the election process.

INTRODUCTION

Regional Head Elections (*Pilkada*) are a real manifestation of democracy and are a means for the people to declare sovereignty. In monitoring, popular sovereignty can be realized in the regional election process to determine who should run the government of a region. With the regional elections, people's sovereignty has been implemented as an embodiment of the people's basic political rights, apart from that,

with the regional elections, it is possible to implement a change of government in a safe, peaceful and orderly manner, then to ensure the continuity of regional development.

The holding of democratic general elections/regional head elections must be able to guarantee honest, fair elections and protection for the people who vote. Every person who participates in elections must avoid fear, fraud and various other

fraudulent practices. This is in accordance with the contents of the 1945 Constitution, Amendment IV Article 28 g, that in a democratic country "every person has the right to personal protection, family, honor, dignity and property under his control, and has the right to a sense of security and protection from the threat of fear of do or not do something that is a human right" (Arraniri, 2015: 23). With the spread of covid 19, the organization of elections, especially regional head elections, has become constrained. Considering Covid-19 is very dangerous to human health and safety. Through Perppu Number 2 of 2020, which was issued on May 4 2020, the Government officially postponed several stages of the 2020 simultaneous regional elections, the culmination of which was the voting to December 2020. The government noted that this could be implemented if the situation related to the Covid-19 virus experienced a decline. This is the official legal umbrella for the postponement of the 2020 simultaneous regional elections. Previously, the regional elections were scheduled for September 23 2020. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the government, represented by the Minister of Home Affairs Tito Karnavian, made an agreement with Commission II of The House of Representatives, Republic of Indonesia (DPR RI), Electoral Commission, Republic of Indonesia (KPU RI), Election Supervisory Agency (*Bawaslu*), and Honorary Council of Election Organizer (DKPP). This is just an agreement that is waiting for a legal umbrella, because the 2020 Simultaneous Regional Elections were previously decided through law.

Initially, there was confusion because the law was only revised through agreement, not through a law with the same level of legality. It was only after The Government Regulation in Liew of Law (*Perppu*) Number 2 of 2020 was signed that the postponement

was legal. Whereas previously, the four stages of the regional elections were only postponed through the agreement above. After the postponement *Perppu* was signed, discourse emerged from pro-democracy groups, political parties, academics, observers, and even the session team. There are those who hope that simultaneous regional elections can be held in December 2020, but quite a few are pessimistic because it is uncertain when the Covid-19 pandemic curve will decline (Amancik et al, 2024).

Pilkada organizers, especially in Bali Province, must work together to face the challenges and risks of the 2020 *Pilkada* on December 9. Both *Bawaslu* and the Bali Province KPU have to work hard considering that this time the democratic party was held during the Covid-19 pandemic. *Bawaslu*'s challenges will be seen in monitoring and taking action against election violations. In Bali Province itself, simultaneous regional elections were held on December 9 2020 in 6 (six) cities/regencies, namely: Denpasar City, Karangasem Regency, Jembrana Regency, Tabanan Regency, Badung Regency, Bangli Regency (Rahayu, 2023). Of course, there are several challenges that the Bali Province *Bawaslu* must face, namely potential threats to the health and mental safety of the community, participants and election organizers. In the regional elections during the pandemic, *Bawaslu* not only supervised the implementation of the regional elections (Santika, 2019). However, supervisors must also ensure and supervise the implementation of Covid-19 health protocols in regional elections. "Focus on supervising the implementation and also supervising the protocols. Election financing budget. It was decided that the regional elections on December 9 2020 must fulfill the prerequisites. One of them is the matter of budget availability. This is because regional elections during a

pandemic require the procurement of personal protective equipment (PPE). This PPE is intended for election organizers, both KPU and *Bawaslu* ranks.

Public participation, one indicator of quality elections is good public participation. However, the challenge is that regional elections during the Covid-19 pandemic can affect the inner situation of society. This can have a close impact on the community's participation in overseeing the various stages of the regional elections. The public's role is not only on the day of voting but at all stages. Anik said that there are four most important stages that require public participation, namely the factual verification stage of individual candidates, matching and research (coklit) of voter lists, the campaign stage, the counting stage and the recapitulation of vote results. Therefore we have to monitor the many money politics. In the Covid-19 situation and in normal conditions, money politics can become widespread. Especially in the midst of a pandemic situation which has resulted in the economy slowing down. Voters could become targets of certain parties who carry out money politics. Don't let money be your approach to the voting public. Politicization of budget programs and abuse of position and authority. Government aid programs are supposed to be used for the benefit of society but some are used by politicization for political interests. Including the non-neutrality of the State Civil Apparatus (ASN).

The widespread misuse of social media due to the The simultaneous elections of Covid-19 made many activities carried out using social media. Communication and coordination patterns have shifted from manual to digital. Including in the campaign stage. If not used responsibly, social media abuse will occur. In regional elections, there are usually many hoaxes on social media, especially if the era involves a lot of social media usage. The quality of election organization. Anik stated that the elections should not only be held, but the quality must be maintained. The elections should not just be a democratic party. We must not neglect the quality of the elections. *Bawaslu* hopes that all components in Bali Province will maintain the quality of the 2020 *Pilkada*.

Regional elections that run in accordance with the principles of overflow and fairness will ultimately produce regional elections that are clean, of high quality, with integrity and dignity. To make this happen, all parties must have the same commitment and responsibility. From a clean election with integrity, leaders with integrity will of course be born. To realize regional elections that are clean, of high quality, with integrity and dignity, it is not enough to only rely on the election supervisory institution, namely the General Election Supervisory Body (*Bawaslu*) (Turyadi, 2023). In simultaneous regional elections, those tasked with supervising are the provincial *Bawaslu* and district/city *Bawaslu*. The provincial *Bawaslu* supervises the implementation of gubernatorial elections. For the election of regents/mayors, supervision is carried out by the district/city *Bawaslu*.

The community has a very large role in determining the success of the regional elections. Together with the provincial and district/city *Bawaslu*, the community is at the forefront in overseeing the *Pilkada* process. The principle of the people, by the people, and for the people, must encourage the community's enthusiasm to be involved in monitoring the regional elections (Santika et al, 2022). There are several reasons why the public must actively participate in monitoring the regional elections. First, the number of election observers is

limited in one region. For your information, the number of election observers at the provincial level is only five or seven people, then in the district/city areas there are three or five people (Usman, 2023).

Then, there are three election supervisors at the sub-district level, sub-district/village election supervisors and only one polling place (TPS) supervisor each. The responsibility for regional elections is substantially the responsibility of all components of society. In implementing regional elections, the community must be subjects and not just objects. All people must participate in producing leaders who are clean and have integrity through elections that are clean, of good quality, of integrity and dignity, which will make it easier to oversee regional elections so that they run democratically according to the principles of direct, public, free, secret, honest and fair

METHODS AND MATERIALS

The research method used in this research is descriptive qualitative. Qualitative approach procedures produce descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words from people and observed behavior (Moleong, 2007). Qualitative research is research whose findings are not obtained through statistical procedures or other forms of calculation. The research method uses interviews, observation and data collection methods, with non-participatory observation, which is a type of observation where the researcher is not directly involved in every activity of the research subject. The data collected is not in the form of numbers but more in the form of narratives, descriptions, stories, written and unwritten documentation. Qualitative research seeks to understand social phenomena through a holistic description of an object. Studies in a special natural context (Meleong 2007).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Results

The Role of the Election Supervisory Body (*Bawaslu*) in Supervising the 2020 Simultaneous Regional Elections in the Covid-19 Pandemic Era in Bali

a) Role as election observer

The role of election observer is one of the characteristics of the implementation of Pancasila Democracy. Talking about general elections and regional head elections is a means of realizing people's sovereignty in determining government power, both executive and legislative. Therefore, elections are a very important thing, that the will of the people must not be disappointed by ensuring that the regional elections are held directly, publicly, freely, honestly and fairly (Pettalolo et al, 2016).

Pilkada is not a mere political ceremonial event that denies the community's political participation. The community is the subject of the election process. Participatory supervision is carried out to create citizens who are active in following developments in democratic development. Supervision is also a good means of political learning for the community. One of the missions of the election supervisory body is to encourage civil society-based participatory supervision. Community involvement in election supervision must first go through a process of socialization and transfer of election supervision knowledge and skills from election supervisors to the community.

Before increasing community participation in regional election supervision, the big challenge that *Bawaslu* also faces is building community political awareness. In fact, public awareness of the

sovereignty they have in the democratic process is still low. One of the triggers for this low awareness is the people's lack of knowledge about democracy, elections and election supervision.

On the other hand, we must admit that based on the evaluation, *Bawaslu* has not optimally provided this information to the public. The results of supervisory work, election law enforcement and dispute handling carried out by *Bawaslu* have also not been properly documented and inventoried. It's not just the media or forum for conveying information that is limited. Access for the public to obtain information and knowledge is also very limited. Therefore, strong collaboration is needed between *Bawaslu* and the voting public. Community groups that pay great attention to the implementation of honest and fair elections communicate intensively with *Bawaslu*. Increasing collaboration between *Bawaslu* and civil society is the key to increasing participation with the community (Santika, 2021).

Community involvement in monitoring votes is not just about coming and voting, but also monitoring potential fraud that occurs, as well as reporting the fraud to *Bawaslu* as the institution tasked with overseeing the election process and following up on suspected election violations. For the public, by being directly involved in election monitoring, they can follow the political dynamics that occur and indirectly learn about the implementation of elections and all the processes that take place.

For election organizers, the presence of massive public supervision will psychologically monitor and remind them to always be careful, honest and fair in holding elections. In fact, both organizers, supervisors, election participant observers and a number of parties involved in elections can learn to play roles according to their respective backgrounds, and also the need for obedience from each member of the election organizers (Boyke et al, 2024). There will be an obligation to obey the principles and principles of election management, especially maintaining integration, independence and professionalism, or not taking sides with parties with political interests. Furthermore, as supervisor of the 2020 simultaneous regional elections, we want to ensure that the regional elections can take place according to the schedule and stage regulations, without forgetting order and discipline in implementing health protocols to prevent Covid-19, as well as the process and results of the 2020 regional elections being integrated and trusted by the public, as in 'concret' together.

b) What are the obstacles you face

Make election participants aware to obey all the rules in the implementation of elections and voting. It is still found that there is a lack of understanding among the constituents and campaign teams of candidate pairs regarding the regulations and those in force, so there are still tendencies to find allegations of violations because several districts/cities have not implemented health protocols due to budget limitations. When carrying out IT-based supervision, several districts/cities are hampered by internet networks (Saidi et al, 2022).

The budget for regional elections was approved in 2019, and because of the Covid-19 pandemic, regions have not implemented health protocols because the problem is that in these regions there are no health workers, no rapid tests and no internet network. As a result of the Covid-

19 pandemic, there have been many layoffs, so the potential for money politics is high. Write the title of the table here according to the format that has been determined. To date, in the 2020 elections in Bali, there have been several problems encountered in several regions, the most common problems found being in Buleleng Regency, such as lack of logistics, allegations of political money and delays in voting at the TPS, and KPPS officers In the end, the focus was more on paying attention to health protocols and making the queues of people outside take longer, and paying less attention to electoral technicalities. This is a problem at the TPS (Santika, 2022). Problems at the TPS that might occur include that every person present at the TPS must have their temperature measured with a thermogun in accordance with procedures referring to PKPU number 6 of 2020. The question is what if the thermogun is damaged, whether voting will continue or not. Obstacles Obstacles faced in monitoring the 2020 simultaneous regional elections in the Covid-19 Pandemic Era in Bali. There are several problems and obstacles, such as the matching and research (Coklit) stage which is hampered because there are voter data collection (PPDP) officers in West Badung district who are positive for Covid-19 and several districts/cities have not implemented health protocols due to budget limitations. When carrying out ITE-based supervision, several districts/cities have internet network problems.

Discussions

According to the Chairperson of *Bawaslu*, Mrs. Ketut Aryani, SE., MM., MH. States that: Problems at the TPS that might occur include that every person present at the TPS must have their temperature measured with a thermogun in accordance with

procedures referring to PKPU No. 6 of 2020. He also added that holding the 2020 regional elections in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic is the organizers' biggest challenge in being able to invited the public to attend the polling stations on voting day and there were several problems found ranging from lack of logistics, delays in logistics distribution, allegations of money politics, delays in voting at the polling stations, re-counting of ballot papers to re-voting (PSU) at a number of places in Bali (Interview 26 April 2020).

According to Mrs. Ketut Aryani SE., MM., MH stated that: Process or follow up on alleged violations that occur at every stage, whether carried out by the KPU and its staff, election participants, or the public who have the right to vote in the implementation of elections/elections.

Bawaslu's authority is increasingly enlarged through the mandate of Law No. 7 of 2017 concerning elections (Pemilu). Not only is *Bawaslu* a supervisor, *Bawaslu* also has the authority to decide election cases. One of them is related to the resolution of election process disputes (PSPP) which is defined in article 466 of the Election Law 7/2017 as a process dispute as a dispute that occurs between candidates and election participants with the decision of the KPU as the election organizer. *Bawaslu* has taken several steps, namely by compiling technical rules related to supervision, handling violations and resolving disputes during the Covid-19 pandemic. Preparing supervisors for sub-districts, sub-districts and polling stations. Increase community participation programs, organize the vulnerabilities of the 2020 regional elections, and ensure the availability of additional budget for the 2020 regional elections. The process of safeguarding democracy cannot be separated from the participation of the people in determining attitudes to elect quality leaders through the general

election mechanism that has been regulated in the election law which clearly protects all the constitutional rights of its citizens to determine their choices as regulated in article 1 paragraph (2) of the 1945 Constitution of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia which states that "Sovereignty is in the hands of the people and is implemented according to the Constitution". The meaning of sovereignty in the people is that the people have sovereign responsibility, rights and obligations to democratically elect leaders who will form a government to manage and serve all levels of society, as well as elect people's representatives to oversee the running of the government.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the results of the research above, it can be concluded that *Bawaslu*'s role as an independent election supervisor is tasked with overseeing and guarding the Bali Regional Head Election. *Bawaslu* supervises the implementation of elections by receiving complaints, handling cases of election administrative violations and election criminal violations. *Bawaslu* has the authority over reports relating to alleged violations of the implementation of laws and regulations regarding elections. Both election administration violations, money politics violations, and disputes over the election process.

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