

Analysis of the Advantages and Disadvantages of Simultaneous Elections: Impacts on Indonesian Society and Technical Considerations in Their Implementation

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze the advantages and disadvantages of simultaneous elections and identify their impact on society. The formulation of this problem is based on the background of the first simultaneous elections in Indonesia in 2019. The research method used is a qualitative technique with the research subject focusing on the decision of the Constitutional Court Number 14/PUU-XI/2013 and data related to the research object. Data collection was carried out through literature studies and structured interviews with KPPS members and members of the public who have voting rights. Simultaneous elections are part of a government breakthrough that has advantages and disadvantages. Researchers consider this to be very relevant and efficient, with the note that vote counting is not complicated and the human resources involved in organizing simultaneous elections must be managed properly. In this research, a thorough analysis will be carried out to understand the impact of simultaneous elections on Indonesian society and to consider important technical aspects in its implementation.

Keywords: Relevance, Urgency, Simultaneous Elections

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis keuntungan dan kelemahan pemilu serentak serta mengidentifikasi pengaruhnya pada masyarakat. Rumusan masalah ini didasarkan pada latar belakang pertama kali dilaksanakannya pemilu serentak di Indonesia pada tahun 2019. Metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah teknik kualitatif dengan subjek penelitian berfokus pada keputusan Mahkamah Konstitusi Nomor 14/PUU-XI/2013 dan data terkait objek penelitian. Pengumpulan data dilakukan melalui studi literatur dan wawancara terstruktur dengan anggota KPPS dan masyarakat yang memiliki hak suara. Pemilu serentak merupakan bagian dari terobosan pemerintah yang memiliki kelebihan dan kekurangan. Peneliti memandang hal ini sangat relevan dan efisien, dengan catatan bahwa perhitungan suara tidak rumit dan SDM yang terlibat dalam penyelenggaraan pemilu serentak harus dikelola dengan baik. Dalam penelitian ini, akan dilakukan analisis menyeluruh untuk memahami dampak pemilu serentak terhadap masyarakat Indonesia serta mempertimbangkan aspek teknis yang penting dalam penyelenggaraannya.

Kata kunci: Relevansi, Urgensi, Pemilu Serentak

INTRODUCTION

Elections are a way or means to find out the people's wishes regarding the future direction and state policies (Morrisan, 2005). An important instrument in a representative system of democracy is the general election (election). Simultaneous elections in Indonesia were first held on April 17 2019, namely by holding legislative elections and presidential / vice presidential elections at the same time. The

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implementation of this simultaneous election began with the challenge of Law Number 42 of 2008 concerning the General Election of the President and Vice President to the Constitutional Court by Effendi Ghazali together with an alliance of people. Based on the lawsuit, the Constitutional Court (MK) stated that the separation of the implementation of the Presidential/Vice-Presidential Election from the Legislative Election was an unconstitutional act. In the Constitutional Court Decree Number 14/PUU-XI/2013 it is hoped that the implementation of the General Election will be efficient in terms of budget and time functions.

The Permanent Voter List in the 2019 Election recorded 192,770,611 votes with details of 96,231,646 male voters and 96,538,965 female voters (Ramadhanil et al., 2019). The holding of simultaneous elections in 2019 cost Rp 25.59 trillion. This budget does not include the budget for monitoring and supporting the election (tirto.id, 2020). Simultaneous elections make the budget increase (Erdiansyah & Jalaluddin, 2021). The budget for implementing the Simultaneous Elections increased by IDR 9.97 trillion or around 63.82 percent compared to the previous election. In the 2014 election, the budget for holding the election was realized as much as IDR 15.62 trillion.

Much research has been conducted on simultaneous elections, according to Triono in a research journal entitled "Measuring the Effectiveness of the 2019 Simultaneous Elections" stating that the effectiveness of the 2019 simultaneous elections can be carried out properly at least by strengthening 5 main aspects, namely: the Election Law which is aspirational and applicable as a legal umbrella and the design of the 2019 simultaneous election model, capable and professional election organizers, the effectiveness of concurrent election financing that is more pro-people, the readiness of political parties in simultaneous elections, and the need for political socialization and community participation (TRIONO, 2017). Meanwhile, according to Wahyu Widodo in his journal entitled "Implementation of the 2019 Simultaneous Elections From a Political and Legal Perspective" stated that the Constitutional Court decision was the final decision and viewed from a political perspective the 2019 simultaneous elections prioritized politics rather than law (Widodo, 2018).

In contrast to the two, a journal entitled "Decision of the Constitutional Court Regarding Simultaneous Elections Connected with the Prevention of Political Corruption" states that holding simultaneous elections is one way to prevent political corruption. Political corruption is an act of the authorities in order to take advantage of power. (Dedi Mulyadi & M. Rendi Aridhayandi, 2015). Regarding simultaneous elections, a journal entitled "Examination of the Presidential Threshold in the 2019 Simultaneous Elections" states that using the presidential threshold is actually not against the constitution, because the presidential threshold is an open legal policy from the legislators. Legislators need to rethink the presidential threshold provisions, especially in relation to simultaneous elections, taking into account the advantages and disadvantages in implementing or eliminating the presidential threshold, so that the goal of strengthening the presidential system is achieved (Lutfil Ansori, 2017). In the implementation of simultaneous democratic elections, the neutrality of the state civil apparatus is very important. In a journal entitled "Police Neutrality Ahead of the 2019 Simultaneous Elections" stated that several main prerequisites for the creation of a consolidation of democracy are stronger civilian authority accompanied by optimal parliamentary oversight, and the creation of professional security actors (military and police). "Professional" means the military (and police) are not involved or involved in politics (Sarah Nuraini Siregar, 2019). From the many studies on simultaneous elections, the author is interested in examining how efficiently and how relevant the 2019 simultaneous elections will be held in Indonesia? Because from the reality, the implementation of the 2019 simultaneous elections has not been carried out optimally, especially in terms of efficiency and relevance in Indonesia. The author hopes that this article can make

the implementation of simultaneous elections in Indonesia in the future more efficient and relevant for the realization of a democratic country.

RESEARCH METHODS

Samples in a more perfect qualitative approach are claimed to be data sources in exclusive social situations whose research subjects are Constitutional Court Decisions Number 14/PUU-XI/2013, matters or people to which data are inherent regarding research objects. Determination of data sources in qualitative research is done purposively, that is determined by adjusting the research objectives or specific goals. The object of this research is the relevance and urgency of the simultaneous election system in Indonesia. While the subject of this research is election officials such as the KPU, KPPS who are in charge of simultaneous elections in Indonesia. To select the sample to be used in the study, the researcher uses the Probability Sampling Technique, which is a sampling technique that provides equal opportunities for each element (member) of the population to be selected, including Simple Random Sampling. Thus, each sampling unit being an isolated population element has the same opportunity as a sample or to represent the population, namely citizens who have voting rights and electoral instruments.

In this study, data were obtained from two sources, namely: (1) Primary data are original sources, both in the form of documents and other relics. In this study, the primary data source is Constitutional Court Decision Number 14/PUU-XI/2013. (2) Secondary data is the result of using other indirect sources and as a document that is purely viewed from the needs of the researcher. Secondary sources are the results of interviews with research subjects who have been struggling with the implementation of simultaneous elections in Indonesia, a collection of various book literature, E-Journals related to this research.

Data collection techniques are the most strategic steps in research, because the main goal of research is to obtain data (García Reyes, 2013). The following are data collection techniques used by researchers: (1) Literature Study, is a series of activities related to methods of collecting library data, reading and recording, and managing research materials (Zed, 2008), (2) Structured interview techniques are interview techniques which aims to get information that focuses on questions that have been prepared beforehand. This interview technique was conducted with members of the KPU and members of the KPPS as well as members of the public who have voting rights. This interview is intended to obtain data, namely opinions regarding the efficiency and relevance of the 2019 simultaneous elections.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Result

This study collected data using various techniques, including interviews, literature studies and questionnaires. Interviews were conducted to complete the data needed so that research subjects can provide information according to their perspective according to their views and thoughts. While literature and questionnaire studies were carried out in research as a reinforcement of the truth of the data from the above method. The results of the distribution of the research questionnaire obtained 66 respondents with the criteria of having an ID card and being registered on the DPT (Fixed Voter List) in the local area.

Table 1. Questionnaire Distribution Results

| No. | Question | Agree | Don't agree | Strongly agree | Disagree |
|-----|--|-------|-------------|----------------|----------|
| 1. | Election organizers are free from intervention from political parties, the DPR and the government in preparing the stages, programs and schedules for holding the 2019 elections | 31 | 13 | 0 | 20 |
| 2. | Election administrators have prepared regulations on election management in a timely manner | 37 | 9 | 2 | 16 |
| 3. | Election management has been able to implement existing regulations/policies. | 27 | 15 | 2 | 21 |
| 4. | Election organizers have been in an orderly administration in the holding of elections | 29 | 13 | 2 | 21 |
| 5. | Supervision and prosecution of election violations committed by Bawaslu have been effective | 20 | 14 | 4 | 27 |
| 6. | The regulations made by the election organizers are in accordance with the Constitutional Court Decision. | 42 | 6 | 2 | 15 |
| 7. | Simultaneous elections that have been held went well | 22 | 11 | 4 | 28 |
| 8. | Indonesia is ready with a simultaneous election system | 32 | 12 | 2 | 19 |
| 9. | Simultaneous electoral system must be implemented in Indonesia | 43 | 9 | 6 | 7 |
| 10. | Simultaneous elections are relevant and needed in Indonesia | 40 | 9 | 8 | 8 |

Based on table 1, it was found that 31 respondents agreed that the election was free of intervention from the legislature in preparing the program and schedule for holding the election. Data obtained as many as 37 respondents agreed that the holding of this election had compiled its regulations in a timely manner. 27 and 29 respondents also agreed that the holding of this election had been able to implement regulations or policies and had been in an orderly administration in its implementation. It is different with the supervision and prosecution of election violations, as many as 27 respondents did not agree that the supervision and prosecution had been running effectively and 28 respondents chose not to agree that this simultaneous election had gone well. As many as 32 respondents agreed with Indonesia's readiness to hold simultaneous elections and 43 respondents also agreed that a simultaneous election system should be implemented in Indonesia. 40 respondents agree that simultaneous elections are relevant and needed in Indonesia.

The influence of simultaneous elections on community participation

The highest power is in the hands of the people and implemented according to the Constitution which shows that the government of a country is carried out from the people, by the people and for the people. However, in practice, government democracy cannot really be implemented by the people, so that the practice of representative democracy appears. The people are directly involved only in the form of general elections to elect their representatives in people's representative institutions (Efriza, 2018). Elections are a way to gather the voices of the people so that a change in a better direction can be implemented. Therefore, high public participation is needed in a democratic country so that the political system can be said to be good. The country's political system is said to be successful if more and more

citizens participate, but it will be said that the political system is not good if the political participation of the citizens is low (Mashuri, 2014).

There has been an increase in simultaneous elections in fact not all of them represent election results in various institutions. The results of the abstentions that occurred in the presidential election reached 19.27% and 30.05% in the legislative election (Hayaatunnisa, 2019). From this, it can be said that the people who choose to focus on the election of the president and vice president and on the legislative election, the involvement of the community does not have a significant effect. During the 2019 general election for legislative elections, many did not use their right to vote properly and correctly, namely 48% of them chose more than one candidate on the grounds that they were confused because there were too many choices and another 12% chose not to vote on the ballot. In selecting legislative members, 75% of the public looks at political parties and for DPD members 90% of the benchmark in choosing is the candidate's photo on the election paper, there are also those who follow suggestions from family and relatives (Hayaatunnisa, 2019).

This research shows that public participation in simultaneous elections is not balanced because the focus of society is only on the presidential election compared to the legislative election. There are many factors that cause this to happen, Schildkraut (2005) say that the factors that play an important role in political participation are knowledge and perceptions of politics. People are confused in choosing legislative members and socialization is lacking so that the election results are low (Hayaatunnisa, 2019). Although in the interview it was said that if you look at the general overview of the simultaneous elections it can be said to be successful and running well, but if you dissect the good and bad context, then there are lots of bad things and it is even easier for us to get information about the problematic holding of these elections. Both in terms of the complexity of the implementation, which is so many and complex.

Advantages and Disadvantages of Simultaneous Elections in Indonesia

According to Wawan, the results of an opinion survey conducted by the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI) showed that the results of the 2019 simultaneous elections were still far from what was expected. In addition to previous elections, 74% of public survey respondents and 86% of leaders or experts survey respondents agreed that The 2019 Simultaneous Elections were more difficult for voters than the legislative and presidential elections to vote separately. This proves that the 2019 Pilkada are fully conducive, but slightly different from Djayadi Hanan's opinion, which is quite the opposite. First, public opinion about the integrity of the election is very good, the public actually views the practice of money politics as normal

In every policy and system nothing is perfect, of course there are advantages and disadvantages. The simultaneous election system is the government's breakthrough in running a democratic party in Indonesia which has advantages or disadvantages (Borchert, 2011), the advantages include: (1) Efficiency of election costs (2) Being a momentum for the KPU to resolve the problematic Final Voter List (DPT) (3) reduce horizontal friction in society (4) Effectiveness during elections (5) Produce strong Executive and Legislative institutions.

Disadvantages of simultaneous elections include: (1) Ballot papers are swapped with other electoral districts (2) Excessive workload for election officials (3) Too many ballots to choose from which voters are afraid of experiencing difficulties (4) Requires a long time in the recapitulation process vote (5) Lack of public attention to regional politics because it is focused on national level politics.

The legal considerations of the Constitutional Court Judges in Decision Number 14/PUU-XI/2013 to determine the constitutionality of holding the Presidential General Election simultaneously with the holding of General Elections for Legislative Members must pay attention to three main considerations, namely the relationship between the electoral system and the choice of a presidential system of government, the original intent of the legislators -The 1945 Constitution that general elections must be carried out simultaneously, the effectiveness and efficiency of holding general elections, as well as the right of citizens to vote intelligently (Ariviani et al., 2016).

CONCLUSION

Simultaneous elections in Indonesia are a breakthrough in running a democracy that has advantages and disadvantages. Even though simultaneous elections have the support of a part of the public because they are considered relevant and efficient, there are still a number of things that need to be considered in depth so that the implementation can run well. Several things that need to be considered include high costs, decreased public participation, and a long time to recapitulate ballots. Supervision and prosecution of election violations committed by Bawaslu are also considered not to be effective, as the results of the previous discussion.

Therefore, researchers believe that simultaneous elections can become relevant and efficient if several important aspects are considered in more depth. Matters that need attention include the complexity of the implementation, logistical issues, budget, and human resources. The importance of human resource management and other technical aspects is crucial so that simultaneous elections are not burdensome for organizers in the field and are not complicated in the process of counting votes to recapitulation. This is very important so that the essence of journalism and the credibility of the voting results are maintained. The overall success of simultaneous elections can be achieved with commitment, a good work ethic, and adequate system support, including in terms of budget, human resources, and other technical preparations from election organizers.

By taking into account these matters, the corrective steps outlined in the research recommendations can serve as a guide for policymakers and stakeholders in strengthening simultaneous elections in Indonesia. Strengthening Bawaslu as an election supervisory body, increasing public participation, and maintaining public confidence in the integrity of the electoral system are important steps in ensuring simultaneous elections are held fairly, transparently, and in accordance with democratic principles.

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