

Strengthening the Political Democracy of Regional Head Candidates through Independent Channels in Aceh

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Abstract

The significance of mapping the study of democratic parties through the presence of potential leaders as people's representatives in occupying executive positions in regional governments through individual channels. The unique path is a national legal political agreement in the area of elections that allows people who are not members of political parties to nominate themselves as regional heads in the Aceh region's provinces. The theory of political participation and leadership is used as a research mapping in an analytical scheme in this study. The research method employs a qualitative approach to interviewing techniques in order to examine the style of existence and political leadership of regional leaders on a case-by-case basis. The results explain: Individual candidates are more commonly referred to as "independent candidates" in Aceh, according to the findings. The existence of Pilkada became a doorway for former GAM political participation. Almost all GAM regional head candidates from governor to regent/mayor level won in the 2006 Pilkada. And in 2009 the individual candidates' showed popularity in the Aceh regional elections decreased after former GAM formed a local political party in 2009 and discovered that a new independent candidate can win the pilkada if he possesses three characteristics: personal character, logistics, and political skills.

Keywords

representation; democracy; politics; independent candidate; Aceh



I. Introduction

The dynamics of local political democracy in Indonesia has developed very rapidly. The selection of research topics is based on the researcher's curiosity in expressing a symptom/concept/the boundaries of the research. "dynamic gives the meaning that it is against various impulses from outside as well as demands from within a community group" (Bailusy, 2009). Democracy is now considered the best administrative system globally (Dag, 2018). In a democracy, there is a systemic vigilance to prevent the rulers from acting in an autocratic manner towards their people (Dag, 2018). Aspects of democracy such as freedom of speech, human rights, individual freedoms, media freedom, and minority rights have been incorporated into the current democratic system and have become very important (Dag, 2018).

One of the dynamics of local political democracy in Indonesia is publishing Law Number 12 of 2008 concerning the Second Amendment to Law Number 32 of 2004 concerning Regional Government. The law re-regulates the implementation of regional head and deputy regional head elections. It is necessary to make changes by providing

opportunities for individual candidates to participate in elections. 2008). Democracy in Indonesia cannot be separated from the community's encouragement in developing the country. "thus encouraging the birth of provisions regarding individual candidates at the community's wishes in choosing regional heads without having to go through political parties. In the implementation of government politics in the regions, it is not possible to only prioritize one aspect (economics) but it is important to pay attention to other aspects, namely environmental sustainability so that the implementation of green government is very important in supporting environmental sustainability in the political process of government in the regions (Dama, 2021). The Government of the Republic of Indonesia was formed to protect the whole of the Indonesian people (Angelia, 2020). The existence of Law Number 11 of 2006 concerning the Government of Aceh allows individual candidates to participate in the post-conflict local election" (Prime & Maggalatung, 2019). "The pairs of candidates for Governor/Deputy Governor, Regent/Deputy Regent, and Mayor/Deputy Mayor referred to in Article 65 paragraph (1) shall be proposed by (a) political parties or coalitions of political parties; (b) a local political party or a combination of local political parties; (c) a coalition of political parties and local political parties; or (d) individuals. It is Article 67 of Aceh government law number 11 of 2006 states, "Indonesia's local political democracy is rapidly developing. A phenomenon, concept, or research limit. Dynamic gives meaning to resisting various outside impulses as well as internal demands in a community group" (Bailusy, 2009). the world's best administration system (Dag, 2018). There is systemic vigilance in a democracy to prevent rulers from acting autocratically against their subjects (Dag, 2018). Freedom of speech, human rights, individual liberty, media freedom, and minority rights are all important aspects of democracy today (Dag, 2018). The Second Amendment to Law Number 32 of 2004 Concerning Regional Government is one of the dynamics of local political democracy in Indonesia. The election of regional heads and deputy regional heads is governed by this law. Individual candidates must be given the opportunity to run for office in order to effect change.

II. Research Methods

In Indonesia, democracy is inextricably linked to the community's support for the country's development. It encourages the creation of provisions for individual candidates based on the wishes of the community in selecting regional leaders without going through political parties. Individual candidates are allowed to run in the post-conflict local election under Law No. 11 of 2006 concerning the Government of Aceh (Prime & Maggalatung, 2019).

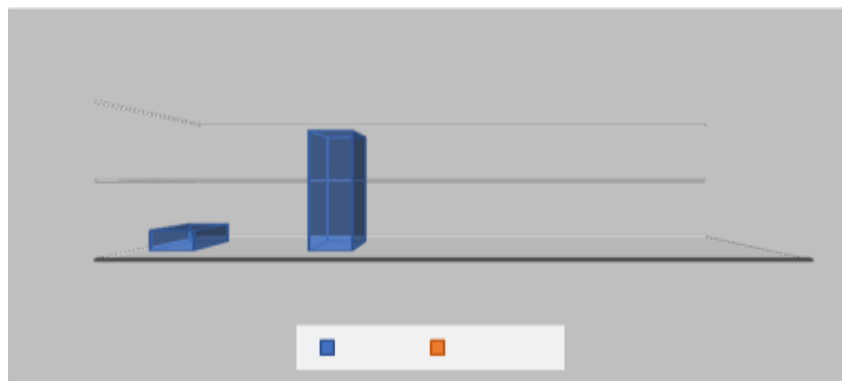


Figure 1. Achievemens of Independent Candidates in the 2015

Source:<https://www.skalasurveiindonesia.co>

According to the graph above, independent candidates won 14.4% of the regions, while they lost 85.6 percent of the rest. Sinuraya's research findings (2017) "Support in the form of an ID card is a requirement for every candidate who participates in the Pilkada through individual channels, according to the findings. The terms of ID card support are only limited to conditions, and they cannot be used as a benchmark for obtaining election results after receiving ID card support." There are 25 teams of governor and deputy governor candidates, 246 pairs of regent and deputy regent candidates, and 57 pairs of mayor and deputy mayor candidates. here were 80 pairs of candidates who chose the independent route..<https://news.detik.com>.

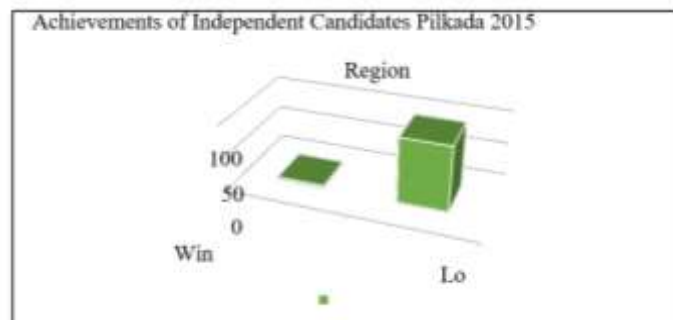


Figure 2. *Achievements of Independent Candidates Pilkada 2015*
Source: <http://perludem.org>

In the 2017 Pilkada, the graph above depicts the defeat of pairs of individual or independent candidates. Pilkada was held in a hundred and one regions, with 80 individual candidates competing for victory in only three areas.. "The candidate's persona or image frequently influences the decision to vote, which is linked to the process of gaining voters' trust" (Nursal, 2004). Based on a rational approach, particularly those related to voters' primary orientation, issue orientation and candidate orientation can be found. In various fields of life, such as organization, arts, sports, and politics, the candidate's orientation can be based on their position, information, achievements, and personal popularity (Sinuraya, 2017).

The research method used "qualitative research comes from social or humanitarian problems" Creswell (, 2016:4-5). The approach used in this research is descriptive. Multiple sources of data (multiple sources of data) qualitative researchers from various sources, such as interviews, observations, documentation, and audiovisual information building patterns, categories, and themes inductively, into more abstract information units. This qualitative descriptive research method is expected to describe the phenomenon of Representative Democracy in the election of Regional Heads through the Independent Path in Aceh.

The Representative Democracy for the election of Regional Heads through the Independent Path in Aceh was conducted in the province of Aceh. It carried the eastern region of Aceh Province, Lhokseumawe City, Langsa, East Aceh District and Aceh Tamiang District. Data Collection and Processing Data collection techniques are the most strategic step in research because the study obtains data. The data collection technique used by researchers, according to Creswell (2016: 254-255) Data Analysis Methods Data analysis is an essential part of the research, and data analysis techniques are carried out inductively. In the analysis of qualitative research data that leads to naturalistic, phenomenological, and social case studies, it is suitable to use data analysis with steps as taken in interactive data analysis Miles & Saldana (2014).

III. Discussion

3.1 Results

Robert Dahl proposes five criteria for democracy as a political idea and how a government is called democratic in Miriam Boiardo's Theory of Democracy.

Democracy

Democracy is a four-part system of government: (i) a system for electing and replacing a government through free and fair elections; (ii) active citizen participation in politics and civic life; (iii) protection of all citizens' human rights; and (iv) the rule of law, in which laws and procedures apply equally to all citizens. politics and civic life; (iii) protection of all citizens' human rights; and (iv) the rule of law, in which laws and procedures apply equally to all citizens." The relationship between procedural democracy and general elections is strong in this country (Budiardjo, 2008). Democracy is the synthesis of ideas, procedures, and practices that complement each other to begin with a state government's operations are governed by laws that are enforced, such as the constitution, human rights, regulations, and an independent and impartial court.

A high level of public political participation is required in this case. Third, the existence of free, periodic general elections (elections) in which the majority of the population can vote and be elected. Fourth, if a majority vote is not obtained in the election, the principle of plurality, namely the adoption of consensus by consensus, is applied. Fifth, civil society's democratic rights in the political, economic, social, and cultural spheres are guaranteed. The first and second statements are the most important points that can be drawn about procedural democracy in elections from Dahl's various statements. The relationship between procedural democracy and general elections is strong in this country. Dahl claims that a country's democratic status is determined by seven fundamental principles. Elected officials, free and fair elections, the right to vote for everyone, the right to be elected or run for office, and freedom are among these principles.

3.2 Discussion

a. Independent Candidate (Individual)

Independent candidates, according to Sanit (2007: 18), are community leaders who run for office individually or without using party mechanisms, instead relying on community mechanisms or personal abilities and strengths. Individual candidates' candidacies differ significantly from the candidacies of political parties, which can form coalitions with other parties or nominate cadres as potential candidates. To advance in the Pilkada competition, each candidate must complete a series of lengthy procedures and processes. They begin by gathering KTP support, forming a Success Team, conducting surveys, and determining post-Pilkada political strategies. If an independent couple wins, they will still have to make political compromises with party members in order to jointly run on the regional government.

b. Independent Candidates' Importance in the Aceh Pilkada

One of the things that frequently occurs in democratic parties during the Regional Head Election is the practice of money. To amputate the rule of money, it is necessary to raise individual candidates or independent candidates. Candidate submissions are tainted by politics. Because an independent candidate is not affiliated with a political party, he lacks the political machinery necessary to reach voters. Independent candidates do not have a broad reach to influence the masses at the lower levels of society without the support of a mass network. Furthermore, independent candidates face funding constraints, as the political costs of participating in a post-conflict local election are not insignificant and must be borne by the

candidates themselves. From an anti-corruption standpoint, the idea of direct democracy in selecting political leaders is to avoid buying and selling votes in parliament while also increasing their legitimacy and public accountability almost every regional head election (Pilkada) in the country has been tainted by money politics since the reform era.

Researchers interviewed KIP members in East Aceh with the following perspectives in order to obtain in-depth information about the importance of Independent Candidates to fill in the Democratic Party in Aceh. From the perspective of participation, consider the case presented by the Chair of the East Aceh KIP. In politics, the presence of independent candidates, who account for nearly half of pilkada participants, demonstrates that the individual course still offers hope for community groups in filling out and following democratic procedures.

c. Representation of Candidates for Regional Head from among Individual Community Leaders in the Democratic Party in Aceh

One of the advantages of direct election is that the elected candidate does not need to tie to the concessions of the political party or political faction that voted for him. This is necessary so that the selected candidate can stand above all interests and bridge these various interests, including freeing the Elected Regional Heads from the Concession of Political Parties. In the context of the presidential election, for example, if the elected President is unable to address the interests of political parties, the cabinet formed tends to be a coalition of political parties. In fact, during the current economic crisis, what we need is a working cabinet. Meanwhile, in the context of regional elections, if the elected regional head cannot get out of the shadow of political party political concessions,

It will be difficult for him to work autonomously. This will then affect the neutrality of the policy that will be rolled out. The views of some political observers and the opinions of political science students regarding the existence of individual or independent candidates in Aceh are, the advantages of independent candidates in the Democratic Party in Aceh are to distance themselves from being forced to demand conditions to advance through parties. There is no political pressure from party members. Then you can approach the people directly because the holders of voting rights are not tied to the political party machine. The autonomy of the executive power, when linked to the need for a presidential government system, is also relevant, because it will create checks and balances between the executive and parliament. A presidential system, the power between the executive and parliament is in a balanced position in a presidential system. However achieve executive independence and free being from concessions from political parties, it is not enough just by direct election, but more than that, the process of contesting candidates from the start! Must also be driven so that candidates do not have to use political parties as their political vehicles. Because even though they are directly elected.

The nomination process is still mandatory and absolute through political parties, so the candidate will still feel politically indebted to the political party as the vehicle that carries it. From the results of interviews with the Chair of the East Aceh KIP, it shows that independent candidates are in great demand by the community. According to the results of the Pilkada, almost 50% of the votes obtained: Public disappointment with the appearance of political parties which are considered too concerned with power and their groups, makes independent candidates have a great opportunity in the post-conflict local election. The existence of independent candidates is one of the corrections and reprimands for political parties and their actors. Political parties are still considered not to carry out their functions properly. Likewise, the statement from the Langsa City KIP statement regarding the phenomenon of independent candidates in Langsa City is actually compassionate because of the team movement that carries from Local Party leaders. Independent candidates are present as a representation of the

existence of Law Number 12 of 2008 concerning Regional Head Elections. Previously, in every regional head election or post-conflict local election, it was always dominated by candidates from political parties. Along with the changing climate and dynamics of democracy, many parties demand the issuance of regulations for independent candidates, as one form of democracy is the existence of independent candidates.

The idea of direct democracy in choosing political leaders from an anti-corruption perspective is actually to avoid buying and selling votes in society and parliament, in addition to increasing their legitimacy and public accountability. Since the reform era, almost every regional head election (Pilkada) in the country has always been colored with money politics.

IV. Conclusion

1. First, the presence of an independent candidate gives excellent hope for changes in our political structure, as the author describes above as the shackles of the old forces. Independent candidates who have leadership qualities, high integrity, and are supported by the public are a new fact that changes today's society's map and political structure . It means that without the support of a single political party, a person can lead at the regional level.
2. Second, democracy can realize well with independent candidates. The role of independent candidates in local politics is to promote democracy. The granting of rights for citizens to advance in regional head elections from non-political parties is a manifestation of democracy. As the first step in this research on the representation of political democracy in Aceh regarding independent candidates in the pilkada so far, hopefully, further research will become a barometer about independent candidates in the faithful of the democratic party in Aceh.

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