Increasing Community Participation in the Supervision of Regional Head Elections in Balamoa Village, Pangkah District, Tegal Regency in 2024

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Abstract

The general election of regional heads as one of the manifestations of democracy is one of the national agendas that requires serious attention from various parties. Community participation in making this event a success is something that should not be ignored. One form of community participation is to supervise the election process. Effective participatory supervision is expected to be able to realize quality regional elections, so that the leaders produced really meet the expectations of the entire community.To increase community participation in the supervision of elections, the faculty of social and political sciences of Pancasakti Tegal University conducted community service in Balamoa Village, Pangkah Tegal District, which was attended by community leaders, village officials, using the method of lectures and discussions.The result of this community service activity is the awareness and determination of the Balamoa Community to supervise the election process in Tegal Regency, marked by a statement of attitude in the form of an integrity pact to realize safe, peaceful and quality elections.

Keywords: Elections, Regional Heads, Participatory Supervision

1. Introduction

General elections are a form of democratic mechanism where citizens are given the right to elect public officials who will occupy government seats such as presidents, regional heads, etc. This process is organized to identify political representatives and policies that will be implemented by the government (Anggara, 2019). This has become the right of the people to demand general elections, because it is an important means to ensure that political power is exercised in accordance with the will of the people and provide opportunities for the people to participate in the decision-making process that affects the life of the nation.

The election is hoped that the nation Indonesia have leaders and representatives who are in accordance with the expectations of the Indonesia (Maninggesa, 2022). Efforts to realize the national goals that have been stated in the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia. That way, there is a significant increase in the supervision of the election of Regional Heads, including in the Balamoa, Pangkah, Tegal Areas. Where, as many people are involved in determining who will be the regional leader and setting policies that are in line with the expectations of all people of Tegal Regency. The election of Regional Heads is a manifestation of the role of the Regions in implementing the autonomy of the participating regions to exercise the sovereignty of the people (Ferisandi, 2015). Meanwhile, the Regional Head Election (PILKADA) is a means of democratic implementation of people's sovereignty in provincial/regency/city areas based on Pancasila. That way, the wise authority of the new Regional Head government will be directed to implement policies to the community.

Of course, the expected leader is a leader who is able to bring goodness and lead Indonesia to become an advanced, prosperous, and prosperous country. A leader must have the goal of protecting, advancing welfare, and educating the life of the nation as mandated in the 1945 Constitution in the 4th paragraph (Sukari, 2012). The 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, article 22E is the basis for holding elections (Sabrina & Saad, 2021). In addition, the election is also regulated by Law Number 7 of 2017 concerning Elections (Aulia, 2021). The General Election Law (Election Law) has an important role in the implementation of elections in Indonesia. The Election Law is the legal basis for simultaneous general elections. The Election Law regulates in detail the electoral system used for each type of election, including candidate requirements, election stages, and vote counting procedures (Ginting et al., 2021). In addition, the Election Law has emphasized that elections are carried out directly, publicly, freely, secretly, honestly, and fairly. So, it is hoped that in the process of implementing elections in Indonesia there will be no more violations or fraud.

Likewise, in Tegal Regency, Tegal Regency is one of the districts in Indonesia which was formed based on Law Number 13 of 1950 concerning the Establishment of Regency Areas within the Scope of Central Java Province. In 1986 there was a division and change of the boundary between the Tegal Regency and Tegal City

based on Government Regulation Number 7 of 1986 concerning Changes in the Boundaries of the Tegal Level II Municipality and the Tegal Level II Regional Regency. The area of Tegal Regency is 87,878 Ha. administratively, the Tegal Regency area is divided into 18 sub-districts consisting of 281 villages and 6 sub-districts (Tegal, 2020).

One of the villages in Tegal Regency is Balomoa Village, which is precisely located in Pangkah District, Tegal Regency. This village has an area of + 152,935 hectares with a total population of 7,730 people. This village is one of the villages that develops because it has high natural potential and is crossed by the Cacaban and Kebumen Rivers, making Balamoa Village fertile. The welfare of the community has increased, as evidenced by the residents' houses that are made of concrete and have met health and beauty standards (Balamoa, 2020). However, political awareness in this village is still quite low.

The people of Balamoa Village play an important role in supervising every stage of the election, from registration, voting, and campaigning to voting day and counting the results. Community involvement is a positive way to prevent all forms of fraud and fraud that can occur during the election process. Political and social dynamics also play an important role in Balamoa Village.

The village has a variety of community groups with different social, economic, and political backgrounds. The interaction between the groups affects the level of participation and the form of supervision. Therefore, the strategy to increase community participation must consider local dynamics and involve various *stakeholders* such as religious leaders, community leaders; community organizations; and educational institutions. Through a comprehensive and participatory approach, the results of this study aim to provide practical and actionable recommendations to various actors involved in the implementation of elections.

Even with public participation, it can strengthen the legislation of the general election results, which increases trust in election organizers, and encourages accountability and transparency of the election process. This encouragement plays an important role in supervising the quality of the PILKADA, this is an important effort to improve the community in contributing to the supervision of the elections. The public is urged to play an important role in monitoring the PILKADA by

obtaining accurate and reliable information. That way, the Tegal Regency Government and BAWASLU will instill election campaign rules to create a healthy, orderly, and committed democratic process in order to ensure that these rules are complied with, and violations are strictly acted upon.

Good coordination and support for Bawaslu is very important to overcome existing obstacles and ensure the success of the 2024 elections. Some examples of campaign violations that are exemplified include the pasting of stickers, posters, pamphlets, or other campaign attributes in prohibited places such as places of worship, hospitals, educational facilities, government buildings, as well as parks and trees, so it often involves the abuse of public spaces that should be free from political attributes (setda.tegalkab.go.id, 2024).

According to data, **tegalkab.bawaslu.go.id** released a news entitled "*Prone to Jockeys, Bawaslu Pelototi Officers of the 2024 Serentask Regional Election in Tegal Regency.*" Released on July 3, 2024, this news highlights the proactive steps taken by the Tegal Regency Bawaslu in supervising Pantarlih officers in the 2024 Simultaneous Regional Elections, namely Pantarlih officers must conduct checks in accordance with the issued decree. Kelurahan/Village Panwaslu (PKD) officers are asked to check the appointment decree when the coklit is carried out. If a case of jockeying is found, Bawaslu will give a reprimand and ask for immediate repairs. The commitment to prevent jockeys and ensure that the coklit process is carried out correctly shows Bawaslu's serious efforts in maintaining the integrity and transparency of the election. The use of technology as an alternative and picking test method is part of Bawaslu's strategy to overcome the limitations of supervision in the field. With the use of technology as an alternate, if the voter is not at the place, Pantarlih is allowed to use technology such as video calls to ensure voter data. This shows Bawaslu's flexibility in using technology to overcome field obstacles (Noveli, 2024).

According to data **polrestegalkota.com** released a news entitled, *"Prevent Violations During the 2024 Elections, the Tegal City Government Holds Coaching and Socialization of CSOs."* Released on July 8, 2022, this news highlights that the Tegal City Government together with the KPUD and the Tegal City Police are also taking proactive steps in maintaining regional conduciveness ahead of the 2024 elections, including the involvement of CSOs in the political process is an important means

for the community to participate in determining the figure and direction of state or regional leadership. Politics is a space to fight ideas about the present and future of Indonesia, and CSOs have an important role in maintaining a healthy democracy and electoral conduciveness. The involvement of CSOs is very important in overseeing the implementation of elections, providing political education, and helping to create a healthy democracy. This socialization and coaching is expected to strengthen the role of CSOs in supporting honest, clean, and fair elections, as well as preventing violations and the spread of hoax news (polrestegalkota.com, 2022).

Based on this, it is highlighted that the efforts made reflect good cooperation and coordination between the local government, Bawaslu, KPUD, Police, and CSOs in welcoming the upcoming elections in 2024 in Tegal Regency. Then, socialization to the community. The goal is to increase public participation in the supervision of the regional elections to be important to realize quality regional elections. The community is encouraged to play an important role in monitoring the regional elections by obtaining information. So that this service has the goal of being able to increase the role of community participation in supervising the election of regional heads (Pilkada) in Balamoa Village, Pangkah District, Tegal Regency in 2024. This is done as a form of responsibility of Pancasakti Tegal University (UPS), especially the Government and Communication Science Study Program, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, to contribute to the election period to convey the importance of participatory supervision from the community in order to run a democratic party that is clean, honest, and free from fraud.

2. Research Method

The implementation of this service activity uses a participatory approach and involves effective socialization methods. The implementation of this service activity was carried out by the Community Service team consisting of lecturers and students of the Government Science Study Program, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Pancasakti Tegal University (UPS). This service activity began by giving a permit application letter to Balamoa Village to carry out the activity. The target of this community service involves residents and Balamoa Village officials. During the socialization activity, it was attended by 36 residents who were representatives of residents and heads of RTs in Balamoa Village.

This socialization activity is in the form of counseling to the community and village officials at the village hall, with topics about the election process, voter rights and obligations, voting procedures, voter rights, and the importance of elections in democracy. The speakers presented were Lecturers of Government Science from Pancasakti Tegal University, namely Mrs. Dra. Sri Sutjiatmi, M. Si and Diryo Suparto, M.Si. The expected results of this socialization activity include that the people of Balamoa Village have a better understanding of the election and the importance of their participation, the level of voter participation in Balamoa Village can increase, and increase transparency, trust, and lowering the level of golput in Balamoa Village.

3. Results and Discussion

The Pancasakti Tegal University Community Service Team conducted a socialization activity in Balamoa Village on Tuesday, July 9, 2024, starting at 10.00-12.00 WIB located at the Balamoa Village Hall, attended by around 36 participants consisting of representatives of residents of each RT in the village and several village officials. The speakers in this socialization were filled by lecturers from the Government Science Study Program at Pancasakti Tegal University as well as those who filled this service activity, namely Mrs. Dra. Sri Sutjiatmi, M.Si and Mr. Diryo Suparto, M.I.Kom. The material presented included "Strategies for Increasing Participatory Supervision in the Election of Regional Heads" delivered by Mrs. Dra. Sri Sutjiatmi, M.Si, then continued with material on "Safe and Peaceful Elections" delivered by Mr. Diryo Suparto, M.I.Kom. The people of Balamoa Village were quite interactive during the presentation of the material and participated in the question-and-answer discussion well. It is hoped that this community service activity can increase the understanding of the people of Balamoa Village about the importance of the election and supervision during the election process.

Figure 4.1

Presentation of the material "Strategies for Increasing Participatory Supervision in the Election of Regional Heads" by Mrs. Dra. Sri Sutjiatmi, M.Si

Figure 4.2

Presentation of the material "Safe and Peaceful Pemilukada" by Mr. Diryo Suparto, M.Si

The community service program implemented in Balamoa Village aims to increase villagers' understanding of simultaneous elections, with a special focus on regional head elections (Pilkada). The results of this program show some important findings and impacts as follows:

1. **Initial Level of Understanding of Regional Head Elections:**
   o Initial surveys show that the understanding of the people of Balamoa Village regarding the regional head election in the context of simultaneous elections is still limited. Many residents do not understand how simultaneous elections an impact

on the process of electing regional heads and the importance of regional head elections have in determining leadership at the local level.

2. **Implementation of Education and Socialization Activities:**
   o This program involves a series of activities such as counseling, group discussions, and simulations of regional head elections. The material presented included an explanation of the role and function of regional heads, election procedures in the context of simultaneous elections, and the impact of regional head policies on local development. This socialization activity also involves village officials and community leaders to increase citizen participation and acceptance.

3. **Increasing Understanding of Regional Head Elections:**
   o The results of the program showed a significant increase in the understanding of Balamoa Village residents about the regional head election. Citizens become more aware of the importance of electing competent regional heads and understand the simultaneous election process that combines legislative, executive, and regional head elections at the same time. The simulations carried out help residents understand the election procedures and reduce confusion that may occur on election day.

4. **Challenges Faced in the Program:**
   o The program faces several challenges, including resistance from some residents who feel that the election of regional heads is a complicated affair and does not affect their daily lives much. In addition, limited access to information and difficulties in simplifying election concepts are one of the obstacles in increasing citizens' understanding.

5. **Impact on Community Participation in Regional Head Elections:**
   o One of the positive impacts of this program is the increase in awareness and readiness of residents to participate in the regional head elections. Residents who were previously less interested or did not understand the importance of the regional elections now show greater interest and feel more ready to use their voting rights wisely in choosing regional heads. The community is committed to conducting election supervision (the existence of an integrity pact) Tagline: #DesaBalamoaSiapMewujudkanPemilukadaBersih

6. **Recommendations for Follow-up:**

o This program recommends that education and socialization activities about regional head elections be continued and expanded, with a focus on delivering information that is easier to understand and relevant to local needs. The use of local media, such as bulletin boards, as well as collaborations with local community organizations, can help amplify the message and reach more people.

Overall, this community service program has succeeded in increasing the understanding of Balamoa Village residents about the importance of regional head elections in the context of simultaneous elections. Although some challenges remain, the results of the program show that with the right approach, community participation and understanding can be improved, which in turn will contribute to a stronger and participatory democratic process at the local level.

4. Conclusion

The community service program implemented by the Pancasakti Tegal University Community Service Team in Balamoa Village has succeeded in achieving its goal of increasing public understanding of the importance of regional head elections in the context of simultaneous elections. Through education, discussion, and simulation activities, the residents of Balamoa Village experienced a significant increase in understanding of election procedures, the role of regional heads, and the importance of choosing competent leaders. Despite challenges such as resistance from some residents and limited access to information, this program has succeeded in increasing citizens' awareness and readiness to participate in elections. Another positive impact is the community's commitment to conduct election monitoring, which shows the increasing participation of citizens in maintaining the integrity of the democratic process at the local level.

Acknowledgments

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