

Political Dynamics in Presidential Election of Indonesia in 2019

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Abstract—The Presidential Election in the 2019 is political event in the political dynamics in Indonesia. The development of Indonesian democracy has influenced the views and political behavior of politicians, with more dynamic and millennial politics. Political battles are characterized by a variety of political, issue and hoax fluctuations that are more prominent than political learning for the community. Community participation in politics is very much needed by using political rationalization so that there is no conflict between the communities themselves. The theory used in this study is the theory of political participation as one of the important aspects of democracy and the characteristic of political modernization. Political decisions made and carried out by the government, will affect and influence the lives of citizens, so citizens have the right to participate in determining political decisions. In addition to the theory of political participation also used the theory of community participation which involves groups or communities as a unit called collective participation and individual involvement in group activities can be called participation.

Keywords—general election; political dynamic; political participation; president election

I. INTRODUCTION

Indonesia entered a period of post-reform democracy transition in 1998. However, the entry of democracy in Indonesia has made this country far more advanced and its people have freedom of opinion. The essence of democracy is based on the principle of equality that every citizen has equal rights and position in the government. One of them is constitutional representative democracy, which is a way to implement true democracy. According to Dahl, representative democracy is a form of democracy on a large scale that requires certain political institutions as a guarantee of the implementation of democracy. With the presence of elected officials, free, fair and periodic general elections, freedom of opinion, there is an alternative source of information, autonomy, and the right to inclusive citizenship [1]; While Kelsen argues that in a representative democracy, the function of government has been transferred from citizens to state organs. To fill the state organs is carried out through democratic nominations, namely general elections [2].

General elections (hereinafter *Pemilu*) in 1999 organized by the General Election Commission (abbreviated as KPU) after

the reformation have resulted in 48 political parties. However, the development of democracy has made the political order in Indonesia increasingly advanced. This was indicated by the large number of political party participants in the 1999 general election, as mentioned above the amount, and resulted in a democratic presidential election process through the People's Consultative Assembly (abbreviated MPR) and the House of Representatives (abbreviated as DPR). In the *Pemilu* in 1999, Abdurachman Wahid or often better known as *Gusdur* was chosen as elected president. *Gusdur* is the elected president as a result of the first post-reform *Pemilu*. The political dynamics of the *Gusdur* government have caused a change of president by the MPR and the DPR. Furthermore, vice president Megawati Soekarno Putri was elected as the new president.

The process of democracy in the *Pemilu* continues to grow, namely by conducting a presidential election process that is directly elected by the people. The next presidential election has chosen Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono (hereinafter SBY) as the first president of the direct election results by the people. In general, democratic elections are elections that are conducted regularly, and are held based on free principles, as well as being honest and fair [3]. Furthermore, Dahl states that two of the six characteristics of political institutions needed by large-scale democracy are those related to elections, namely elected officials and free, fair and periodic elections [1].

The Presidential Election in 2004 was held by the KPU freely, fairly and periodically. So that the vote counting process results from quick counts, real counts, and manual counts by the KPU can be accepted by all parties. Based on the results of these calculations, the KPU has appointed SBY as the president who is directly elected by the people. The fact is that in the Presidential Election process, direct public participation was high and its role was large. In the Presidential Election in 2009 SBY defeated pair candidate Megawati Soekarno Putri and Prabowo Subianto. In the 2014 Presidential Election Prabowo Subianto again ran for president in pairs with vice-presidential candidate Hatta Radjasa. In the Presidential Election Prabowo Subianto and Hatta Rajasa opposed candidates Joko Widodo and Jusuf Kalla. Competition in the 2014 Presidential Election is quite tight and the pressure is hot has set the pair Joko Widodo and Jusuf Kalla as president. The political dynamics of the 2014 Presidential Election heat up because Prabowo Subianto announces his victory before the official vote results

from the KPU are collected. Similarly, Joko Widodo announces his victory. Finally, the Presidential Election set the pair Joko Widodo and Jusuf Kalla as president and vice president elected by the people.

Political developments the Presidential Election in 2019 is increasingly dynamic and heated so that it has become a concern because the two presidential candidates are still the same as the 2014 elections, namely Joko Widodo as incumbent and Prabowo Subianto as challengers. The incumbent vice president is KH. Ma'ruf Amin and the vice president of the challenger is Sandiaga S. Uno. Because the two presidential candidates had competed in the previous Presidential Election, political friction and political dynamics were getting higher. Some political observers say that the 2019 presidential election is a rematch of the 2014 Presidential Election.

II. RESEARCH METHODS

This study used qualitative method which can be used to examine topics such as contextual conditions, social, institutional and environmental. Qualitative research as a form of systematic empirical inquiry into meaning; According to Bricki and Green that qualitative research is generating words, rather than numbers, as data for analysis [4]. The function of qualitative research is: (a) when there is rarely any information available about the topic; (b) when the variables are unclear and unknown; and (c) when a relevant theory base is missing in any sense. The type of research is descriptive to describe a situation, subject, behavior, or phenomenon. It is used to answer questions of who, what, where, and how to deal with a particular research question or problem.

III. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Democracy is understood as one form of government rooted in the words "*demos*" and "*cratos*" which means the power that is in the whole people. It is at the same time to distinguish from the form of an oligarchic government where power resides in a few people, and a monarchy of power that is in the hands of one person [5]. Arora and Awasthy state that the word democracy originates from Ancient Greek, which means a form of government by a population opposite the rich and aristocratic groups [6]. According to Ancient Greek, democracy was a power by ordinary people who were poor and uneducated. So that democracy at that time was placed as a degenerate or bad form of government [7]. There are criticisms by Schmitter and Lynn Karl who mention four weaknesses of democracy, namely: First, democracy is not by itself more economically efficient than other forms of government; second, democracy is not automatically more administratively efficient. The capacity of democracy to make decisions can be slower than the regimes it has replaced; Third, democracy is not able to show a situation that is more orderly, full of consensus, stable, or able to govern rather than the autocratic system that they overthrow; Fourth, democracy does allow the public and political life to be more open than the autocracy which it removes, but does not necessarily make the economy more open [6]; Theoretically, Posner views the practice and understanding of democracy as two types, namely deliberative democracy and elite democracy.

Deliberative democracy is a democracy that is conceptually idealistic, theoretical and top down. Whereas elite democracy is conceived pragmatically as a competition for power by political elites to gain mass support [8]; the main premise of deliberative democracy lies in the idea that every adult has the moral right to participate equally in government. Moral rights give birth to a moral duty to give sufficient attention to public problems and to be able to participate in government intelligently, discuss political issues in openness of mind with other citizens, and make honest opinions as the basis of opinion and political choices formed through careful consideration for the good of society as a whole [8,9]; Huntington and Nelson state that political participation is a citizen activity that aims to influence decision making [10]; According to Budiardjo political participation is the activity of a person or a group of people to actively participate in a political life by choosing a state leader and directly or indirectly influencing policy [11]. While Surbakti said that political participation is the participation of ordinary citizens in determining all forms of decisions that concern or affect their lives [12]. Furthermore, Huntington and Nelson argue that participation is limited in several respects: First, political participation only includes activities and not attitudes; Second, political participation is ordinary citizens not government officials. They say that widespread political participation is a hallmark of political modernization. In this case, the term politics has been used in various meanings relating to behavior, attitudes and perceptions which are an absolute requirement for political participation. Huntington and Nelson argue that citizen activities designed to influence government decision making are a form of political participation. The nature of participation is diverse as individual or collective, organized or spontaneous, sustainable or sporadic, peaceful or violent, legal or illegal, effective or ineffective [10].

The General Election or *Pemilu* in 2019 is held jointly or simultaneously to elect the president, legislative candidates at the central, provincial, city and district levels throughout Indonesia. In addition, there was also the election of candidates for the Regional Representative Council (abbreviated as DPD). This joint and simultaneous election was the first to be held as well as a new paradigm in Indonesian politics. This joint and simultaneous electoral system is not an easy matter because there are many elements and variants that must be done such as socialization programs for all activities. For example, the number of ballot papers was disseminated and each ballot paper was distinguished by its colour. The colour of the grey ballot paper to elect the President and Vice President; Yellow ballot paper to elect candidates of the DPR RI; Red ballot paper to elect candidates for the DPD; Blue ballot paper for selecting candidates of the Provincial DPRD; and the green ballot paper to elect candidates of the district /city DPRD.

However, community participation is the most important thing for the implementation of peaceful, fair and democratic elections. The General Election can be said to be successful not only seen from the implementation of all stages until the election of members of President and Vice President, DPR, DPRD, and DPD legislative candidates. It cannot be said as a General Election if they are elected through violations and fraud because this is contrary to the principle of direct, general,

free, and confidential (*Luber*) and honest and fair (*Jurdil*) [4]. Direct, general, free, and confidential principles are related to a voter in delivering his voice directly without being represented. While the principle of honesty and fairness is not only for voters or participants but also the KPU as the main organizer. This principle is not only manifested in the procedural mechanism of the election but must also be realized in all actions of the organizers, participants, voters, and even government officials. Thus, the principle of honesty and fairness is the spirit of the overall implementation of elections. Asshiddiqie said that the *Luber* principle concerns the objective nature that must be present in the process of implementation or the mechanism of elections, especially when someone is exercising their right to vote. While the principle of *Jurdil* is mainly related to the subjective nature of the implementation and implementation of elections which must act honestly and fairly [5].

In the democratic process, simultaneous General Election held in 2019 has gone through a long process. In the first stage of holding the election the KPU announced to the public that there were two presidential candidates, namely Joko Widodo as incumbent and Prabowo Subianto as challengers. The political dynamics in the 2019 presidential election are very strong. Both candidates use social media a lot for their socialization and campaign programs. But the public often gets a variety of negative social media messages such as hoaxes, hate speeches, and the like. Some negative messages are released by the buzzers. This has led to public debate and social media wars, for example the twitter war. Ironically, with the openness of social media, as a medium of social interaction, it has caused people to consume various news hoaxes or hate speeches. The other negative impact of holding joint and simultaneous General Election is that the election of legislative and DPD candidates is less attractive. This is due to public interest more interested in the presidential election activities.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

At present the development of democracy in Indonesia is increasingly advanced and widely opens, where the political dynamics are increasing rapidly into the area of public participation which has a very large role in the national political arena. In the General Election in 2019 the democratic process selects presidential candidates, central, provincial, district, and city legislative candidates, and candidates for DPD are conducted simultaneously. This new system must be known by all people as voters. From various perspectives that exist in the modern era democracy has an important meaning for society because it gives the community the right to determine the course of the state organization. As stated by Mahfud MD that democracy at the last level of the people gives decisions in the main problems of life, including in assessing state policy because the policy will determine people's lives [12].

In the General Election in 2019, most people focused more on the Presidential Election than on the process of selecting legislative and DPD candidates. They attention is only on two candidates, Joko Widodo and Prabowo Subianto. While the public does not seem to pay attention to the candidates for the legislature and the DPD, thus influencing the public in knowing who the legislative candidates and DPD are from the

regions to be elected. The lack of socialization programs for legislative candidates carried out, both by the KPU and the party, led to the focus of public attention on the two presidential candidates.

There are two types or models of democracy based on the way government is carried out by the people, namely direct democracy and representative democracy. Direct democracy means government by the people themselves where all decisions are taken by all people who gather at the same time and place. Perhaps this method can only occur in small countries, both in terms of area and population [13]. The model of direct democracy is not possible in modern times because it will cause various obstacles and problems. Therefore, a mechanism has been developed which is able to guarantee the interests and will of citizens through the people who represent them, namely representative democracy [14]. In the idea of representative democracy, supreme power or sovereignty remains in the hands of the people. But in its implementation carried out by people's representatives elected by the people themselves [14] indeed, the process of selecting legislative candidates is very important for the community because those who are elected will occupy positions in the DPR and DPD as people's representatives. The aspirations of the people will be voiced by their representatives, namely members of the House of Representatives, as stated in representative democracy is a form of democracy that is made to be carried out for a long time and covers a wide area [15].

John Locke said that power had been handed over to state organs, the community as a political entity could still express their aspirations and demands. To form a political society, laws were made so that a law-making body or institution was chosen and formed by the people [16]. These organs were the DPR, DPD, state institutions whose task was to serve the people and give the people their best right.

The KPU as the organizer open space for anyone to become a presidential candidate and a representative of legislative body with the provisions set by the KPU in General Election in 2019. Since this process began in 2018, only two names appeared on the surface as presidential candidates, namely Joko Widodo as incumbent and Prabowo Subianto who had fought in the 2014 elections. While the name KH. Ma'ruf Amin as vice president candidate appeared towards the end of the announcement. Whereas Prabowo as presidential candidate has received many input who will be accompanied by his vice presidential candidate. Sandiaga S. Uno as a Prabowo presidential candidate was only heard towards the end of the declaration. The declaration of the vice presidential candidate that appears at the registration deadline is one of the candidates' political strategies. This also illustrates that the political battle in the Presidential Election was very hard.

Since the two candidate pairs have been declared legitimate and have been designated as the official participants of the 2019 Election, the two camps immediately carried out a lot of political manoeuvring through various media, especially social media, such as Twitter. In the Presidential Election campaign, the role of social media is very large and effective in conveying political messages so that any news will be quickly accepted by the public; both true and hoax news written by the buzzers.

Most people do not select the truth of the news. Most of the news published on social media has become public consumption every day. Large public participation in the presidential election can affect the votes for both candidates. Therefore, each candidate tried hard to attract sympathy from them. However, the community needs to be involved both directly and indirectly to safeguard government policies. Miriam Budiardjo defines political participation as the activity of a person or group of people to participate actively in political life, among others by choosing a state leader directly or indirectly, and influencing government policies. These activities include actions such as voting in general elections, attending public meetings, holding relations or lobbying with government officials or members of parliament, becoming members of a party one of the social movements with direct action, etc. [11].

The movement of public participation in the national political situation is a feature of modern society as Huntington and Nelson say that broad participation is a feature of modern society. Pair number one and pair number two each have their own distinctive characteristics of supporters, where the participation of the community at large participates in regulating and participating in mobilizing the masses and socializing each candidate pair. In fact, not a little from the participation of the people who issued their own funds for the candidate they propose.

Political battles between the two candidates have seized the public's attention, and so much community participation has led to friction and conflict among the people. Not a few people deal with the law because of the way it supports or political attitudes which causes the community to be very free in playing a role in the political arena. The dynamics of national politics are very thick with the participation of the public at large and large, not only the people of urban areas but also the people in the villages who are very concerned and participate and are active in supporting the two presidential candidates. Elections held jointly and simultaneously on April 17 have involved all communities in the voting and monitoring program. Society is part of the course of democracy in Indonesia. Voters provided five types of ballots to be punched. But most people know more about the presidential election while the election of legislative and DPD candidates is less due to a variety of factors, for example the lack of socialization regarding the election of legislative candidates and DPD. Besides that, the attention of most of the people was more focused on the presidential and vice-presidential elections. This must be considered again whether a joint election is needed and simultaneously or returned as the previous election which is not at the same time between legislative elections and presidential and vice presidential elections.

V. CONCLUSION

Democracy has been rolling in the midst of Indonesian society which also shows that the Indonesian people are increasingly smart in the national political arena. This shows that the dynamics of national politics are increasingly mature and broad, increasing public participation as shown in the process of selecting presidential and vice-presidential candidates as well as the election of legislative candidates.

Elections are a mechanism for forming state organs, especially the law-forming organs that will become the basis for the administration of state government. Therefore, elections are an integral part and pre-condition for a form of representative democracy. This is in accordance with the definition of government representative formulated by the international commission of jurist.

Representative democracy in the modern era is a form of democracy on a large scale that requires certain political institutions as a guarantee of the implementation of this democracy. One of these political institutions is a free, fair and periodic election. Besides that, the selection of state organs is formed to form and implement the legal norms chosen by the subject and regulated by the established norms.

The existence of community participation in elections is part of democracy through community participation in supporting the process of selecting presidential and legislative candidates. Community participation is a modern form of state because of the participation of the community in choosing representatives of the people and according to the wishes of the community itself. With the participation of the community, it is not difficult for the organizers of the General Election to socialize the results of the General Election and encourage the participation of the community in electing their representatives. Even the people were very enthusiastic in the presidential and vice presidential election. But in the selection of legislative and DPD candidates the role of the community is minimal so that the understanding and introduction of candidates for people's representatives is limited.

Currently, the dynamics of national politics are in the spotlight of the world because they are interested in seeing how Indonesia as a large and pluralist country in carrying out joint and simultaneous elections. In addition, the extent to which the effectiveness of the Election needs to be evaluated by the KPU as the organizer and the legislative body as policy makers for General Election law.

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