

Strengthening the Role of *Sagoe* Leadership Council in Developing Political Education: Study on Aceh Party

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ABSTRACT

This article aims to highlight efforts to strengthen the role of the Aceh Party *Sagoe* Leadership Council in carrying out Political Education. The *Sagoe* Leadership Council -best known in Indonesia by the abbreviation DPS (Dewan Pimpinan *Sagoe*)-is one of the elements of the Aceh Party management. DPS is likened to the spearhead of the party, because DPS is more in direct contact with the community and becomes a bridge that connects the people with the party elite. Referring to the Aceh Party's AD/ART, DPS is between the Aceh Leadership Council (DPA), Regional Leadership Council (DPW), Branch Leadership Council (DPC) and Mukim Leadership Council (DPM), Gampong Leadership Council (DPG). Political education carried out by the Aceh Party is considered not optimal and has not touched its substance. Strengthening political education by empowering leadership elements involving community leaders is expected to realize the mandate of the Helsinki MoU, namely the welfare and intellectual development of the Acehnese nation.

Keywords: *sagoe leadership council, political education, partai aceh*

1. INTRODUCTION

In essence, political education is intended to ensure the continuity and continuation of National Development which is based on the Pancasila political and state life system. Some of the steps formulated include (1) the formation of national and state awareness, (2) being able to create life and harmony living together, (3) growing achievement motivation, (4) practicing equality of rights and obligations, (5) social justice, (6) respecting human dignity, (7) developing political abilities and personal abilities to realize the need and desire to participate in politics, (8) establishing personal, social and national discipline, (9) fostering trust in the government, and (10) building trust on sustainable development.

Political education is expected to be able to raise the awareness of the wider community to develop their political abilities and take part in the development of political abilities and personal abilities. Political parties are one of the effective agents for conducting political education.

The phenomenon that exists in society, the practice of political education has not shown maximum results in its achievement. The role and function of political

parties as agents of political education, which is assumed to be the cause of the lack of achievement of these goals. Political education is in fact translated only as a means of party campaigns and is not carried out properly so that it is only carried out according to the campaign schedule. The form and mechanism of implementation are also not well planned and structured.

The political party that is the subject of the research is a local political party, namely the Aceh Party (PA) with the consideration that so far, PA is an influential party and is able to dominate votes in the regional elections since the 2009 election to date in North Aceh district. In addition, PA has undergone a political transformation from an armed movement to a political movement which of course has its own uniqueness in carrying out political education, which in practice certainly creates an ideological dilemma of ethno-nationalism and nationalism. The decline in the victory of power in the province of Aceh in general has become the attention and urgency of research on this phenomenon so that it motivates researchers to carry out this study.

2. THE ROLE OF ACEH PARTY

As well as the role of other political parties, local political parties also have a role as stated by [1], namely: (1) Providing institutional bridges between citizens and government, (2) Drafting and producing policies that offered to the electorate and to be implemented by the government as a result of the election, and (3) a pathway for the process of cadre and selection of politicians to fill public positions. The three roles of political parties must be carried out by local political parties (parlok). The existence of Parlok is detailed by Law No. 11 of 2006 concerning the Government of Aceh.

Furthermore, the above definition of parlok was refined by the issuance of Government Regulation Number 20 of 2007 [2] concerning Local Political Parties. In this PP, the definition of parlok is a political organization formed by a group of Indonesian citizens domiciled in Aceh voluntarily on the basis of the same will and ideals that fight for the interests of members of the community, nation and state through the election of DPR/DPRK, Governor, Regent/ Deputy Regent, and Mayor/Deputy Mayor.

The Aceh Party is a direct transformation of the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) which was born after the signing of the Helsinki MOU between GAM and the Government of the Republic of Indonesia. This party won the most votes (43.9%) in its participation in the first general election in 2009.

The author concludes that the main purpose of the formation of a local party is to bring about just and prosperous welfare for all levels of Acehnese society. The existence of local party is expected to connect the interests of the people among the elite officeholders in the Aceh government.

3. POLITICAL EDUCATION

According to [3] political understanding means understanding conflict. The explanation is as follows, many conflicts in society are caused by controversies or differences in various kinds of thoughts, opinions, and ideas, as well as the diversity of human behavior in society. In other words, living in society is living in the midst of the "conflict dimension". In this regard, "political action" is influencing and participating in decision-making in the midst of political and political conflicts.

Considering the statement above, it is not expected that political education is synonymous with "political propaganda" or the popular term "indoctrination". Indoctrination will only show a narrow and fanatical view, so that his behavior is often contrary to the real reality he is facing, even against his own conscience.

Still according to [3], the first objective of political education is to make the people: a) able to deal with conflict situations, b) be firm in giving constructive criticism to the authorities if there are conditions in society that are problematic, c)) active in the democratization process, both individuals and social

institutions and state institutions, d) fighting for certain interests and ideologies.

Furthermore, the second goal of political education is to seek: a) the role of the individual as a citizen, b) develop the ability to be intelligent, critical, positive, and skilled so that people can actively participate in the political process, for the sake of self-development, the surrounding community, nation and state. .

So in the context of the description above, political education in Indonesia in general can be stated as:

1. A series of systematic and intentional educational efforts to strengthen political awareness and awareness of the state, in preserving Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution as a philosophy of life and a constitutional basis;
2. Efforts to reform the political life of the Indonesian nation, in the context of establishing a democratic political system.

The main foundations used in carrying out political education are Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution, GBHN and the 1928 Youth Pledge. Specifically for the younger generation, the objectives of political education in Indonesia are:

1. Building a young generation of Indonesians who are politically aware, aware of their political rights and obligations as citizens, in addition to being aware of the life of the nation and state based on Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution.
2. Developing the young generation to become fully Indonesian human beings, whose manifestation is reflected in all Indonesian personality traits/characteristics, namely;
3. Aware of rights, obligations, ethical/moral and political responsibilities towards the interests of the nation and state; prioritize the unity and integrity of the nation, and provide a good example,
4. By consciously obeying the law and the 1945 Constitution, having personal discipline, social and national discipline that is firm and not narrow,
5. Looking far ahead (futuristic) with the determination to achieve a higher, just and prosperous nation's standard of living,
6. Actively participate, and be creative in the life of the nation and state, especially in national development activities and political development,
7. Continuously promote national unity and integrity with awareness of the diversity of ethnic groups and religions, as well as support a democratic national life system.
8. Aware of the need to maintain the human environment and the surrounding natural environment so that it is sustainable and balanced.

To describe the role of political parties in political education, [2] states that the roles and functions of political parties have internal and external functions. The internal function is the function of political parties in coaching, education, debriefing, and cadre for members of political parties, while the external

functions of political parties include fostering the wider community, nation and state.

Several other experts have different views on the function of political parties. But broadly Dr. Hasanuddin M.Si et al, in their research entitled "Parties and Political Education in Buluh Cina Village, Siak Hulu District, Kampar Regency", grouped the role of political parties in political education as:

1. Political recruitment
2. Political socialization
3. Political communication
4. Conflict Management
5. Government Control.

4. SAGOE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

The Sagoe Leadership Council (DPS) is one of the core administrators of the Aceh Party, the central builder is called the Aceh Leadership Council (DPA) which consists of the Supervisory/Advisory Council (Majeulih Tuha Peut), and the Party's Daily Leadership Council, furthermore the Regional Leadership Council (DPW), Mukim Leadership Council (DPM), and Gampong Leadership Council (DPG). In carrying out party activities in coordination, each party level is formed assemblies of Tuha Peut Party and Tuha Lapan Party. The following is an explanation for Tuha Peut who assisted the DPS: (1) The Tuha Peut Sagoe Assembly is an element of the Sagoe Party Leadership Council which is authorized to make draft decisions related to basic and strategic matters to be implemented by the Sagoe Party Leaders, (2) Tuha Peut Assembly Sagoe is determined based on knowledge through the Sagoe Deliberation, (3) the Tuha Peut Sagoe Council is led by a chairman and a secretary, (4) the Chairperson of the Tuha Peut Sagoe Council is elected by the Tuha Peut Sagoe assembly meeting, (5) the Chairperson of the Sagoe Leadership Council because his position is concurrently as members of Tuha Peut in the Sagoe region [4].

From the order of the management, the DPS, which is headquartered in the sub-district, mediates between the party elites (DPA and DPW) and the administrators below them. (DPC and DPG). In practice, DPS makes many strategic decisions regarding urgent needs and actions among cadres and the community.

So far, the activities of political education are the regulations of the Aceh Party. Political education activities with the aim of strengthening the command line for the victory of the Aceh Party. The cadre is carried out by calling the heads of the DPS, DPW, and DPG. So far, political education agents are carried out by party leaders, academics, ulama, and community leaders.

5. SAGOE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL (DPS) EMPOWERMENT IN POLITICAL EDUCATION

The explanation from the Chairperson of the DPS when asked about the form of the implementation of political education in Aceh Party briefly explained that in its

implementation it requires a mentor and is carried out in the form of training or training, and it is left to the majority of the respective DPS in its implementation. Centrally, the form of activity was integrated in Aceh Party coordination and consolidation meeting in Banda Aceh.

The implementation of political education refers to the implementation of the Roles and Functions of political parties [2]. Roles and Functions of Political Parties are broadly divided into internal and external functions, then 4 other questions are asked that lead to these functions:

1. Are there any coaching activities in the form of education or debriefing, as well as cadre for members of Aceh Party? If so, what has been done? is there a scheduled agenda?
2. Are there any coaching activities in the form of education or outreach to the general public? If so, is there a scheduled agenda?
3. So far, has the coaching and political education carried out had a positive impact on your cadres? Especially cadres who have become part of the government?
4. Is there a political education program in collaboration with the government?

Of the 12 main speakers, all mentioned the existence of coaching in the form of education or debriefing, as well as cadre for members of Aceh party. Most mentioned that there had been training on Acehnese seminars, management training, and management in addition to regular meetings. The cadre is carried out in stages through the chairman of Sagoe Leadership Council. The cadre is usually carried out before the general election along with socialization for novice voters.

For the second question, almost all answered that there were activities for the general public, but for the implementation agenda, all answered that the socialization to the community was carried out in conjunction with the campaign ahead of the election. This means that there is no clear agenda in the implementation process.

For the third question item, some of the DPS said that it had not had or had little impact, including mentioning that those already sitting on the council forgot the party's mandate, stayed away from party activities, and lacked communication with the party.

For the fourth question item, DPS answered that there had been cooperation with Kesbangpol in organizing election socialization. However, in other activities in the corridor of political education there is no such thing. DPS chairman all answered that the implementation was carried out by Aceh Party. In fact, several DPS members stated that so far the implementation has been initiated by the respective Sagoe Leaders, even in funding the implementation of activities, such as meetings with young village cadres to consolidate winning activities.

Furthermore, in the implementation of political education, Aceh Party does not yet have a formal plan

specifically for its activities, but the field implementation runs spontaneously and directly based on an order/command system on a spontaneous initiative. In other words, political education programs are implemented in the form of informal mechanisms or spontaneous initiatives.

Teungku Fauzan Hamzah added that DPS ordered the council members from PA to be people, for example by sitting with the community in coffee shops as before, lowering the car windows when passing through the constituency, and so on to continue to build a positive image in the eyes of the public.

In addition to imaging through positive communication with the community, DPS members participate in physical development, such as infrastructure. For example, during Aceh Party government at the beginning of its leadership, the people's support increased significantly. The construction of irrigation canals for agriculture and plantations is very much needed by the community, the majority of which are farmers.

Another step, can be done through economic empowerment. So far, a lot of economic development in North Aceh has been carried out by PA, but it is recognized that this kind of activity lacks socialization to the wider community, especially non-PA voters.

In addition to external factors, the chairman of the DPW of North Aceh district also acknowledged the existence of internal Aceh Party officers who incidentally were former GAM combatants whose attitudes were not popular.

Interviews with DPS were represented by the head of DPS I in Muara Batu and Sawang areas. In the organizational structure of the PA in the North Aceh region, there are 4 DPS. The selection of DPS I as representative of the resource persons from the 4 existing DPS is in accordance with DPW's direction to the author. The chairman of DPS I is Asnawi's brother who lives in Cot Trueng, Muara Batu, North Aceh.

In Sagoe Muara Batu, programmed and structured political education activities have not yet been carried out, the activities carried out are informal and spontaneous, but will begin to be carried out soon in the future.

6. CONCLUSION

The Aceh Party must improve itself to be able to become an exemplary agent in society by empowering the Sagoe Leadership Council (DPS), because exemplary is an "agent of change" in society. The Aceh Party must turn into an agent, not just an actor.

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