

# Integrity and Professionalism of Election Organizers to Realize The Reality of Democratic Elections

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Abstract- Elections are a form of people's sovereignty in the formation of a democratic government. The fate and direction of the government for the next five years will be determined by a leader elected by the people. To hold democratic elections, election organizers play an important role. To create representatives for the people who will sit in government as a result of democratic elections, fair elections are very important. Integrity is unwavering adherence to moral views and values without accepting any favors. Therefore, the subject of this essay is how the integrity and professionalism of election organizers impacts the success of democratic elections. This essay adopts a normative perspective, arguing that honest and capable election administrators are necessary for the success of democratic elections. The independence of election organizers has not been well established through the implementation of elections. According to Article 22E paragraph 5 of the 1945 Constitution, the National, permanent and independent General Election Commission is responsible for holding general elections. Because the number of commissioners at that time was very large and the majority were associated with political parties, the KPU could not agree on the election results. Elections are carried out by election organizers who behave honestly and competently in an effort to ensure legal clarity and election fairness. Therefore, election organizers must be responsible for ensuring the success of holding elections in order to increase their integrity and professionalism in carrying out their responsibilities and commitments.

Keywords- Election, Integrity, Democratic

## I INTRODUCTION

Elections are a form of people's sovereignty which enables the realization of democratic government.[1] Democratic government will result in the election of a nation's leader through popular sovereignty. The phrase "Sovereignty is in the hands of the people and is implemented according to the Constitution" is contained in Article 1 paragraph (2) of the 1945 Constitution and refers to the sovereignty of the people. Furthermore, the community has the authority, obligation and responsibility to elect leaders to establish a democratic government, regulate and serve all levels of society, as well as elect people's representatives to supervise the running of the government in the Elucidation of Law Number 7 of 2017. Concerning General Elections, Gazette Republic of Indonesia 2017 Number 182, and Supplement to the State Gazette of the Republic of Indonesia 2017 Number 6109.

Over the next five years, the fate and direction of the government will be determined by the leaders elected by the people. In the framework of holding democratic elections, the function of election organizers is very important.[2] According to Jimly Asshiddiqie, the aim of election organizers is to (1) enable changes in the government structure in an orderly and peaceful manner, (2) enable the replacement of representatives of the people's interests in representative institutions, (3) implement this concept. popular sovereignty in these institutions, and (4) implementing the concept of citizens' human rights.[3]

In the sense that democratic elections must give birth to new elites who are significantly more competent than the elites they replace, then the next election must be of high quality

(Solihah, 2018). Therefore, standards must be created to determine the degree of democracy being practiced.[4] According to Przeworski, if it cannot provide a higher level of democracy, it will be a "minimalist democracy", indicating that democratic political procedures have been followed but the legitimacy of democracy is not disputed. Election organizers may make blunders that hinder the implementation of democratic norms because elections cannot be postponed. As a result, the minimalist democracy argument is unable to produce quality democracy.

To create representatives for the people who will sit in government as a result of democratic elections, fair elections are very important according to [5] A successful election is one that can show that political democratization has been implemented well, both in terms of procedures and political dynamics. Freedom and equality, which Morlino claims are the two (two) fundamental components of democracy, are the basis for the normative definition of democracy.[6] Political, civil, and social rights encompass these two categories of rights. Political rights include the freedom to vote, the freedom to run for office, and the freedom to be elected by the general public. Political rights, however, take priority over other rights in a high-quality democracy.[7] Regarding civil rights, they may include things that are not political, such as the right to privacy. Meanwhile, social rights are the ability to work.[6] However, these rights are interconnected and cannot be separated to hold credible elections. Apart from that, it is very important to implement equality in democracy.[8] Because everyone is treated equally when subject to the law, the concept of equality is intended more as a guarantee of justice.[6] It is very important to implement equality in democracy.[8] Because everyone is treated equally when subject to the law, the concept of equality is intended more as a guarantee of justice. [6] It is very important to implement equality in democracy.[8] Because everyone is treated equally when subject to the law, the concept of equality is intended more as a guarantee of justice.[6]

Rule of law, accountability and responsiveness are three other dimensions that Morlino sees as procedural aspects that determine the quality of democracy (the substance of which is found in the dimension of freedom

and equality). The relationship between these three supporting aspects has an impact on each other.[6] Diamond and Morlino try to define parameters that can be used to measure the effectiveness of democracy. Morlino also argues that empirical views about what is best suited to an established rule of law are more correlated with the quality of democracy. The term "quality" must be understood in various contexts, including: (1) quality is related to procedural aspects in the sense that the product is the result of a process; (2) product structure characteristics, with primary emphasis on content; and (3) product quality based on user satisfaction. Or, in other words, Morlino underlines that it is the process, substance and results of democracy that determine its quality.[6]

All Indonesian people must participate so that democratic governance can be achieved.[9] In a democracy, one way that people can participate is by exercising their political rights, namely by voting in fair elections and with integrity. The election in question is the election stage carried out by election organizers to elect people's representatives who will sit in government, in accordance with Article 1 Number 2 of Law 7/2017. Article 22E of the 1945 Constitution, paragraph 5, clearly regulates this, requiring election organizers, a constitutional institution, to be able to hold credible elections.

Elections follow the ideals of democracy, namely direct, general, free, secret, honest and fair elections, and these values can only be achieved if election organizers have high moral standards and are aware of and respect the civil and political rights of voters. The ability of election organizers to hold excellent elections is also anticipated to realize people's sovereignty in a democratic state government based on Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution.[9] Election organizers who are professional and have honesty, skill and responsibility are needed if election organizers want to develop and guarantee the implementation of voters' political rights.

Integrity is devotion without bribery or without compromise to moral principles and beliefs. To be able to state that someone has high integrity means that they have acted in accordance with moral principles and cannot be bought with money or favors. Therefore, integrity or disintegrity is imposed on people or institutions as a social problem.[10] The election organizer is one of the functional entities of the General Election Commission (KPU), the Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu), and the Election Organizer Honorary Council (DKPP). The Election

Organizer Honorary Council (DKPP), Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu), General Election Commission (KPU) are among the election organizers.

As a result, election organizers must be ready to hold elections. Therefore, the issue that concerns this article is how the professionalism and honesty of election organizers influence the success of democratic elections. This topic is interesting considering that election challenges or disputes often arise during the implementation of elections, especially when determining how to hold free and impartial elections. Therefore, it is considered important to examine further how election organizers can carry out democratic elections in every election.

Although it is unavoidable that ideas may overlap, the purpose of this straightforward writing is not to prove that the elections that have been held so far have not resulted in democratic elections, but rather to provide readers with a choice of other points of view. that the key elements in ensuring democratic elections are the honesty and professionalism of election organizers. To ensure that elections are held in line with the mandate of Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution, research will be carried out in this article to find out how important it is for election organizers to behave honestly and professionally. As more research is conducted on this topic, regulators and election administrators can use it as feedback and a resource.

### II. RESEARCH METHOD

This paper takes a normative stance, arguing that democratic elections are possible with the honesty and competence of election officials. The positivist legislative method is used in this research, which argues that law is identical to written standards created and disseminated by institutions or authorities. He also uses normative juridical methodology[11] or in Wignjosoebroto's terms, research.[12] Furthermore, law is seen as a normative framework that stands alone, closed, and apart from individual lives.

### III. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Elections are held in accordance with international criteria for democratic elections, namely direct, general, free, secret, honest and fair. These democratic principles are regulated in the 1945 Constitution. The aim of holding democratic elections is to ensure that the purpose of the election is to successfully channel and fulfill the people's voice in an election in accordance with its ideals. The success of holding elections is a victory and victory for all corners of the country, not just election participants. To carry out democratic elections, support is needed from various election organizers, such as (1) the rules that regulate them; (2) election organizers; (3) bureaucracy; (4) community political involvement; and (5) political parties or election participants cannot be separated.[13] The many components of election management must support democratic election norms or rules.

The election fair and effective should be a byproduct of democratic elections. As a result, all election-related items can accept the results or acknowledge and practice them. The support of election organizers is an important determinant of election results. Consequently, election organizers must have honesty and expertise. Integrity in elections is very important for a democratic society. The absence of fair elections has a very significant impact; at some point, it can even delegitimize the elected administration and ultimately cause political instability in the country.[14]

Apart from that, a code of ethics must be adhered to by election organizers in order to hold elections. Thus, election organizer violations and fraud are intended to be avoided or minimized. Therefore, election organizers are required to maintain a code of ethics. According to Article 456 of Law 7/2017, election organizers must take an oath and/or make promises before carrying out their duties. Violating this rule is considered an ethical violation. As long as elections are held fairly, democratically and to a high standard, the democratic system is run in accordance with its principles.

This is also referred to as false election when it comes to election administration. The main idea here is that the elections were not conducted in a manner consistent with their intent or spirit. The election did not run as it should have due to a number of anomalies and accidents. The pastor reportedly stated this. In Pastor's definition of a flawed election, an "election" is defined as 'an election in which some or all of the major political parties refuse to participate or reject the results".[15] Political parties that contest an election but refuse to be involved in the process are called election participants Even election participants, in this case political parties, rejected the results.

According to Elkit and Reynolds, the quality of elections can thus be seen in terms of how political players at all levels and differences in ideology consider the electoral process to be legitimate and binding to prevent flawed elections. "Electoral quality can be defined as the extent to which political actors at all levels and from various political streams view the electoral process as legitimate and binding,".[16] Because each election is unique due to varying conditions, many experts support defining election integrity using specific criteria, Ham claims. Even though elections do not meet the criteria for ideal democracy, they are still valid (legal) in the context as long as domestic stakeholders can accept them.[17]

A process-based approach, concept-based approach, or a combination of both are used to understand electoral integrity.[17] While the process-based approach considers the electoral process before, during, and after voting day, the concept-based approach bases election integrity on democratic values. By utilizing the phrase "electoral governance", Mozaffar and Schedler's concept serves as an illustration of a process-based approach. In addition, according to Mozafar and Schedler, election governance is an important factor in achieving election legitimacy. "A set of related activities involving rule creation, rule application, and rule decision" is how electoral governance should be understood. At every level of activity where competitive voting and elections take place, the primary role of electoral governance is to create and maintain the broad institutional framework for elections. Therefore, election governance is a series of actions related to elections that starts with making rules and ends with encouraging regulations.

Furthermore, Elklit and Svensson use a mixed approach, defining electoral integrity as the idea of free and fair elections as they progress through each stage of an election, including the lead-up to the actual election and its aftermath.[16] Election integrity, according to Elklit and Svensson, is seen from the perspective of free and fair governance, not only on election day but also before and after. By considering all factors before, during, and after election day, a process-based approach provides benefits for understanding and assessing election integrity as a whole.[16] As a result, it is possible to assess election integrity before, during, and after the election—right down to the national vote tally.

Additionally, according to Norris, electoral integrity is "an international treaty and universal standard on elections that is a global norm that applies to all countries around the world throughout the political cycle, including campaigns, election day, and following".[18] Election integrity covers the entire process of conducting elections, including the lead-up to voting, campaigning, voting day, vote counting, and resolving disputes if there are complaints about the results. This agreement on global rules that apply to all countries in the world reflects international agreements and universal standards that related to elections.

Election integrity is crucial for the legitimacy factor because it fosters public trust in various political institutions. Similar principles apply to characteristics of mass political behavior, where electoral credibility can increase voter participation, involve the public in governance, and curb large-scale protest actions. Improving the quality of political representation can be helped by electoral integrity. Resolving conflict, ensuring stability, and providing additional benefits to the political system are further effects of electoral integrity. [18]

Trust in political institutions is weakened by fraudulent elections.[18] This will result in low voter participation at polling stations and often lead to protests, large-scale riots and outbursts of violence. The credibility of a democratic system will ultimately be weakened by the ability of pseudo-contestation to inflame tensions between followers of winners and followers of losers. Norris further said that, in some cases, "persistent and sustained public dissatisfaction with electoral malpractice, coupled with dissatisfaction with the broader political system, has the capacity to mobilize significant reform of the electoral process." Public dissatisfaction with long-standing election irregularities,

In addition, Lehoucq argued that attention should be paid to the inability to conduct elections with integrity as a result of various violations (election fraud) and vote tampering in various forms (ballot fraud). Lehoucq further argued that this situation could lead to a decline in public engagement and increased public emotion, both of which would undermine democratic stability and cast doubt on elections. The peak is that the democratic system as a whole will be weakened and eroded.[19] A number of experts also discussed the detrimental impacts caused by fraudulent elections. Elections

riddled with irregularities will ultimately be annulled as a way to ensure accountability and legitimacy of elected officials.[20] Besides that, Fighting electoral malpractice is also important to realize electoral integrity in order to achieve democratic elections. Birch said that there are three (3) ways in which leaders can interfere with elections: (1) electoral institutions; (2) voter preferences; or (3) organizing elections and the election process. Meanwhile, high levels of corruption, inequality, low levels of urbanization, limited press freedom, and limited ability to protest are often the main reasons for election violations. Therefore, election fraud can hinder the realization of democratic elections, which can reduce the quality of the elections held.

In terms of election fraud, Law 7/2017 strictly limits violations of all election fraud which are classified as election crimes in Indonesia. Article 551 of Law 7 of 2017 states that "Members of the KPU, Provincial KPU, Regency/Municipal KPU, PPK, and/or PPS who deliberately omit or change the minutes of recapitulation of vote results and/or certificate of recapitulation of vote results shall be punished by imprisonment. a maximum of 2 (two) years and a maximum fine of Rp. 24,000,000.00 (twenty-four million rupiah)." Thus, election organizers must prioritize maintaining election integrity. If election integrity is not guaranteed, election fraud will undoubtedly occur.

DKPP removed a number of chairmen and members of the Serang Regency KPUD after the 2014 election because they were proven to have violated the code of ethics, namely accepting bribes in the form of requests for security funds. This is related to cases of election fraud that occurred in the 2014 election as well as previous cases that occurred in Indonesia. Apart from that, in the 2018 regional elections, the Garut KPUD Commissioner and the Chair of the Election Supervisory Committee (Panwaslu) were both detained for accepting bribes or gratifications from one of the regional head candidates in the form of cash and cars. A member of the Depok District PPK in Sleman Regency, Yogyakarta, was found guilty of intentionally committing election violations, namely manipulating the results of many political parties, and was sentenced to 4 (four) months in prison. As a result, he is now in prison. Election violations occurred during this election. Legislative elections in the Senate in 2019. Thus, electoral integrity can guarantee democratic elections as well as honest and fair elections. The level of public trust in the implementation of elections is also influenced by this.

Consolidation of democratic government is needed so that political leaders can participate in producing democratic elections in countries holding elections. The dedication of political leaders can promote standards of free and fair elections even in undemocratic environments. In other words, the integrity of election organizers is necessary to realize free and fair elections. Therefore, if election organizers and voters behave honestly, then the election is considered quality and effective. Therefore, election integrity is a crucial factor. Consequently, we can use the notion of electoral integrity in this work.

Integrity is a reflection of the harmony of words with actions or behavior. According to the definition of integrity, elections are held based on:

- 1. Legal certainty and election law;
- 2. Equality among people in terms of voting, counting them, and drawing electoral districts;
- 3. Campaign funds;
- 4. Voter participation during elections;
- 5. Election organizers who are impartial, capable, ethical, productive, and have a strong leadership spirit;
- The ideals of democratic, transparent and accountable elections are the basis for the process of voting and counting votes;
- 7. Voter registration;
- 8. Electoral violence is any act that causes harm to individuals or threatens to do so in connection with an election; no violence during the election process;
- 9. Institutions capable of resolving election disputes.

To produce elections that are in accordance with electoral ideas and ideals, the theory of electoral integrity becomes very important. Election organizers with integrity uphold the principles of accountability, honesty, transparency, care and thoroughness in carrying out their responsibilities. To hold democratic elections with integrity in accordance with the teachings of Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution, all stakeholders—including election organizers—must have integrity. This includes voters, related institutions, and citizens of 1945.[21]

Furthermore, the integrity of election organizers can produce leaders who are trustworthy and qualified for public office. On the one hand, having integrity as a leader will prevent the political system from becoming authoritarian because everything must comply with the law or norms in a legal society. As a result, this situation can also help in preventing and even eradicating election fraud.

Fabrice Lehoucq also mentioned factors that contributed to election irregularities, including: (1) efforts to protect economic interests; (2) intensity of political competition; (3) lack of strong societal traditions and weak civil society organizations (social differentiation); (4) high poverty rate; (5) low literacy of citizens, which results in weak ability to maintain civil liberties, including the proportional representation electoral system. Lehoucq continued, "...it seems likely that the incumbents, parties, and machines will try to get away with anything to maintain or gain control of the country." as the main justification for many election violations. A point of view on the true nature of electoral politics.[19]

Apart from that, the expertise of election organizers is very necessary for the realization of democratic elections. To realize a democratic government, it is necessary to guarantee the existence of independent election organizers with competent, moral and professionally trained commissioners. Elections are a symbol of people's sovereignty. Election organizers with superior character will encourage the holding of democratic elections, this is in line with improving their personal qualities as professionals in organizing elections.[22]

It is a professional's responsibility to provide adequate, timely, and correct information about public policy and decision-making processes. Professional election organizers really uphold an approachable public attitude. To achieve accountability in the election administration process, information must be disclosed. If the public has access to sufficient, accurate and timely information, it will be easier for them to monitor election-related policies. The greatest gains for society will result from doing this, which will also avoid deception and manipulation that unfairly benefits some groups.[22]

The independence of election organizers is not yet fully visible in the implementation of elections. Article 22E paragraph 5 of the 1945 Constitution states that "The National Election Commission carries out elections, permanently and impartially". As a result, election management institutions must be independent in a different sense from other state powers, including the executive, legislative and judiciary. Election organizing members must also come from institutions other than state power institutions that are elected transparently and include the community, and must have financial autonomy, performance and accountability.

Apart from that, according to Josner Simanjuntak, there is independence from the election organizers. This is due to the low level of functional independence of commissioners, lack of objectivity and professionalism as well as the continued influence of institutions on them at the administrative and institutional levels.[22] Due to the expertise of election administrators, elections must be administered by individuals with a high level of dedication and training. The implementation of elections is handed over to the President during the political transition period towards the reform era. In accordance with Law 3/1999, the President formed a KPU consisting of government representatives and political parties registered as voters. The management sends 5 (five) members, while each political party sends a representative.

At that time, the KPU could not agree on the election results because there were so many commissioners and most of them were affiliated with political parties. Although there were several violations, the only reason for rejecting the election results was because the party the candidate represented did not get the required number of votes. The DPR and the President updated Law Number 3 of 1999 concerning General Elections by writing Law Number 4 of 2000 to avoid traffic jams. The KPU's function as an impartial and non-partisan election organizer was increased, and the number of members was reduced to 11 (eleven). In connection with the implementation of balanced and impartial elections, MPR Decree Number IV/MPR/1999 concerning Outlines of State Policy (GBHN).

Supplement to the State Gazette of the Republic of Indonesia Number 4277, General Explanation of Law Number 12 of 2003 concerning General Elections of Members of the People's Representative Council, Regional Representative Council and Regional People's Representative

Council, states that the KPU's independence makes it free from interference from any party in holding transparent elections. Thus, the ability of election organizers to function impartially, honestly and professionally can have an impact on the success or failure of election organizers. In the framework of holding democratic and credible elections (das sein), appropriate laws and regulations issued by legislative institutions also have a significant role in determining the honesty and professionalism of election organizers.

### IV. CONCLUSION

Every five years, general elections are held in the Republic of Indonesia, a unitary state based on Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution as an effort to guarantee the sovereignty of the people. This election was carried out directly, openly, freely, secretly, honestly and fairly. Elections seek to provide legal certainty and election fairness by being held by election organizers who act honestly and expertly. Therefore, to strengthen their integrity and professionalism in carrying out their duties and obligations, election organizers must be responsible for ensuring that superior elections are held.

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