

Creating a Conducive Environment for The General Election

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Abstract—Democracy is a symbol of a country that authorizes its people to control and monitor how the state organizations run although democracy implementation has not been able to manifest the welfare desired by its people. In addition, general elections, which are a means of establishing democracy, often come off with conflicts. Democracy in Indonesia is based on Pancasila that characterizes the nation and distinguishes Indonesian democracy from other countries. A comprehensive understanding of democracy needs to be acquired by the society, election organizers, and election participants, due to an effort to minimize and even eliminate all kinds of problems related to the general election as a form of democracy. To create a conducive democracy, a commitment of the community is needed to prepare adequate facilities and infrastructure, competent human resources, and a stronger morality of each component of the implementation of public elections to establish democracy.

Keywords—*democracy, general election, election organizers*

I. INTRODUCTION

General election carried out to elect legislative, or a president, governors, regents, and mayors candidate. The general election has become the main and first symbol or benchmark of democracy. Therefore, every country that implements or claims to be a democratic country will definitely carry out the general election. The important meaning of democracy for the people who support it is that the people have the right and guarantee to determine the path of their state organizations. Therefore, almost all of the notions given for the term democracy always provide an important position in the principles of democracy. As a basis for state life, democracy provides provisions in the main issues concerning people's lives, including in assessing state policies. Hence, these policies determine the lives of the people [1].

A democratic country is a country run based on the will of the people. Viewed from the point of view of an organization, a country could also mean a state organization run by the people or with the consent of the people. This is because sovereignty is in the hands of the people [2]. Although in that sense people are put in the central position of "People in Power" (government or rule by the people). The idea of democracy is considered ambiguous or has a double meaning. There is ambiguity or uncertainty about the institutions or the methods used to implement ideas, or about cultural and historical conditions that influence democratic terms, ideas, and practices.

The practice of democracy in the execution of general elections and regional head elections has resulted in problems and conflicts. A number of factors contribute to the

problems and conflicts such as 1) the state institutions are not stable yet, 2) the rules for the execution of the general elections have flaws which are misused by the organizers and the election participants to benefit themselves or groups, and 3) election equipment is not adequate, such as the voters' inaccurate data, not yet supported by E-KTP (electronic ID card). This article aims to contribute to solving the problems related to the implementation of general elections in Indonesia that tend to be not conducive and often trigger fraud, re-election, horizontal conflicts, violence, etc. The conflicts that occur in general elections and regional head elections can culminate in a distrustful society against the government.

II. METHODS

This article used library research method that is reviewing the literature and fact related to democracy, general elections, and their implementation. There are some previous studies which conducted the concept of democracy in different countries, and some of them used library research as their research approach [2]–[5]. Because of library research, the data collection technique used is just documentation. There are some theories used to explain a conducive environment for the general election. Concepts, theories, and phenomena discussed in the literature were analyzed using substance analysis or content analysis. This analysis technique was used to find the relationship between one concept/theory and another theory related to democracy and general elections to find solutions to the problems that occur.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This article discusses the concept of democracy and elections, both the legislative elections and the election of presidents, governors, regents, and mayors as an effort to find solutions to the problems that arise from its implementation. Ideally, the conception described in the following sections is a concept or theory that becomes a reference in realizing conducive democracy in the implementation of elections.

A. Pancasila Democracy

Democracy which officially crystallized in the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia and which currently applies in Indonesia is called Pancasila democracy. Although the constitutional foundations for democracy in Indonesia have existed and been applied long before 1965, the term Pancasila democracy was only popular after the birth of the new order in 1966. It is not surprising that the implementation of various aspects of national and state life

refers to Pancasila, including the implementation of democracy. Many experts have defined Pancasila democracy in their own opinion. Pancasila democracy is a democratic notion derived from the identity and philosophy of life of the Indonesian nation in which its embodiment is regulated by the provisions of the Preamble of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia.

Based on the GBHN of 1978 and 1983, Pancasila democracy is defined as political development directed to further strengthen the realization of Pancasila democracy. In order to strengthen dynamic political stability and the implementation of Pancasila, constitutional and democratic stabilization and law enforcement are necessary. Furthermore, Pancasila democracy, based on the Indonesian Encyclopedia, refers to the concept that Pancasila covers political, social, and economic aspects. To solve national problems, Pancasila democracy will attempt to go through deliberation to reach consensus.

Pancasila democracy in Indonesia certainly has particular characteristics that are contrary to democracy in other countries, such as 1) Pancasila democracy is family and mutual cooperation based on the belief in a divinity that is an ultimate unity. 2) Pancasila democracy must respect human rights and guarantee minority rights. 3) Pancasila democracy should be based on deliberation to reach consensus. 4) Pancasila democracy must be joined with the law.

In general, Pancasila democracy has the following characteristics: 1) Sovereignty vested in the hands of the people. 2) Always based on family and mutual cooperation. 3) Decision making through deliberation to reach consensus. 4) No recognition of the existence of government parties and opposition parties. 5) Recognition of harmony between rights and obligations. 6) Respect for human rights. 7) Disagreement with government policy stated and channeled through people's representatives. Demonstrations and strikes are discouraged due to the possible harms caused to parties. 8) Not adhering to a one-party system. 9) Elections implemented in a direct, public, free, and confidential manner. 10) Rejection of dictatorship and tyranny, and 11) Public interests put in priority.

Generall, Pancasila democracy is formed by two principles which consist of popular principle and deliberative consensus principle. The popular principle, the principle of awareness to devote people, of unity with the fate and ideals of the people, and of having a popular spirit or living in the same consciousness and aspiration. Another principle is deliberative consensus principle which is a principle that concerns and respects all people's aspirations in a deliberative forum in order to express a different point of views and reach consensus adhered by people with compassion and sacrifice to achieve peace and harmony.

B. The Conception of General Election

General elections serve as the means to uphold the democratic order (people's sovereignty) that could nourish and perfect democracy but are not the goal of democracy [6]. Another notion stated that elections are at the heart of the practical means for the people to assert their sovereignty. Therefore, the government is obliged to carry out elections [7]. A different view said that elections are a means of implementing the principles of democracy and have an important meaning in the process of state dynamics [8].

The essence of elections is equivalent in any country that is the act of voting a person or group of people to lead the citizens or the country. The elected leaders are expected to manifest the will of their people. There are at least two goals to be achieved by conducting political elections: 1) the establishment of legitimate power (authority) and political representativeness and 2) the direct objectives related to the implementation of elections in a relatively short amount of time and the indirect objectives related to the whole activities performed by all who participate in the elections, including the elections' candidates, executors, and supervisors in a relatively long period of time. Furthermore, elections serve four main functions, namely 1) the establishment of the legitimacy of rulers and government, 2) the formation of people's political representation, 3) circulation of political elites, and 4) political education [9]. This conception of the election shows that election is the means used by the people to support their aspirations through their chosen representatives and to choose the country's leaders and regional leaders. This conception shows how a democracy runs. It cannot be denied, however, that democracy is not always fruitful and sometimes causes society's dissatisfaction.

C. Dissatisfaction with Democracy

The weakness of democracy has become apparent because the control of global political policies has also been carried out by global capitalism. Therefore, democracy is threatened by crisis and paralysis. The normative problem posed by global capitalism at the international level includes the occurrence of a global justice deficit because there will be stagnation in fulfilling the economic rights of the people. In addition, there will also be a global democratic deficit because the participation and the accountability of public decisions from government agencies and transnational organizations are getting lower. Public trust in democracy has indeed seen a decline based on the result of a survey in a number of Western countries. As a matter of fact, the decreasing public trust in democracy is not caused by the conceptual framework of democracy, but by the politicians and the orthodox democratic procedures, especially about the freedom of participation in a democracy [10].

A different view was expressed Álvaro Moisés who said that the support for democracy as a broad concept has declined, too [11]. The three researchers conducted the research in Asian countries (the Philippines, South Korea, Thailand, Taiwan, and Mongolia) in 2001-2003. The research found that (80%) of the respondents viewed that democracy was relevant to an independent state and 70% believed that democracy could overcome their various problems. This is called democratic support. More than two years (2005-2006) had elapsed when it turned out that the average percentage of the image and the support for democracy in those five countries experienced a decline. People's belief that democracy could solve a number of different problems and that democracy was relevant to be applied in their respective countries had dropped to 8%.

Huang explained that "the new democratic Asian countries" were constantly facing challenges and problems that disrupted the government [12]. The problems include, among others, scandals, political conflicts, and the collapse of the bureaucracy, as well as disappointing economic growth. These discoveries indicate that the effectiveness of democracy has been doubted because democracy was

initially expected to be able to provide solutions. As a result, the support for democracy has been decreasing. The democracy in Indonesia has also been facing the same problems after 16 years of the implementation of the democracy which is influenced by the Western model as an anti-thesis from the New Order era which was seen as less democratic.

The disappointment with democracy is caused by the facts that more and more political parties and politicians have been discovered to be involved in corruption. Political parties as one of the pillars of democracy are unable to serve their functions, especially because they are unable to solve various increasingly complex social, political, and economic problems. The declining image of the political parties among the people has also occurred in several developed and developing countries, such as Latin America, Asia, and Africa as in Egypt today (2015). The political parties in several countries in Latin America have been dragged into a role crisis and put the democracy in these countries in danger. The political party in Peru is considered to fail to satisfy not only its people but also the politicians themselves. Likewise, the relationship between political parties and the people is increasingly weak in Europe. Frans Beker and Rene Cupurs in Christoffersen [13] suggested that a number of cases occurring in the developed and developing countries show that the image of a political party has declined in the eyes of its people. This has created an anti-political party attitude strongly adopted by the people in those countries. Consequently, democracy is currently expected to be in a vulnerable condition. The effectiveness of democracy is increasingly doubtful in realizing the welfare and social justice for the people.

D. The Nation's Progress

To uphold democracy, the government enhances their role in implementing the welfare of the community and by establishing better administration, including the implementation of conducive elections. History has shown that the concept and the implementation of democracy or popular sovereignty which includes the concept of the welfare state as a form of indigenous democracy have been dealing with challenges, dilemmas, and paradoxes. At the beginning of the 20th century, the nation's intervention or role was viewed as a solution to achieve people's welfare, and the etatism process occurred everywhere. At the end of the 20th century, decapitation, especially the privatization, has occurred in various countries leading to the individualism and liberalism. This has become the challenge and dilemma for Indonesia because the popular sovereignty, included in Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, is against to the idea of individualism and liberalism.

The occurrence of defeatism in different countries indicates that the popularity of socialism and communism is weakening due to the dissolution of the Soviet Union (December 8, 1991) a decade before the end of the 20th century. The tendency of privatization has started to occur in the last decade of the New Order and is increasingly encouraged in Indonesia during the 1998 multidimensional crisis. The breakdown of the collectivity and socialist paradigm towards capitalism and neoliberalism is a conceptual challenge that threatens the national ideology Pancasila. The concept of welfare and welfare state has changed into a workfarist country, the nation's responsibility

in the social field is reduced. As a result, the greater responsibility is given to the people themselves. This causes anxiety and worries to the people if, at any time, the function of the nation turns into a private state.

Political and economic dynamics having occurred in Indonesia are inevitable, especially in the era of globalization that is flooded with liberal or neoliberal democracy and supercapitalism conception. However, as a result of supercapitalism, the occurrence of an economic crisis in several countries in Europe and in the United States at the beginning of the 21st century raises a new paradigm of economics and politics. Moreover, various moral hazards in the economy of neoliberalism in the United States finally force the capitalist state to activate the political economy pendulum to bring the elements of socialism through the back door so that the country becomes strong again.

Fukuyama warned that the role of the nation must be strengthened in the 21st century in order to maintain security, order, and freedom and to perform economic intervention as a result of deregulation, de-bureaucratization, privatization, individualization, and liberalization leading to malignant capitalism that has spread since the 1980s [14]. Fukuyama's view about the strengthening the state as a form of governance in the 21st century is a kind of reaction from his own thesis in 1992 about the victory of capitalism and liberal democracy as the end of history due to the decline of communism in the Soviet Union. This can be seen as the increasing role of the political pendulum from the weakening role of the state in the economic field towards the stronger role of the state in creating justice and prosperity, and socio-economic justice, as well as changes from liberalism and capitalism to new etatism and socialism in the 21st century. The state in this sense refers to a social democratic country that does not embrace liberalism and capitalism, but that protects people's welfare and social justice.

As capitalist countries increasingly are shifting to the position that has socialist elements, Indonesia, where the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia takes a neutral position as a welfare state that has elements of socialism, is shifting towards capitalism and neoliberalism. This is very paradoxical which needs to be realized as collective neglect that must be rectified. The actualization and vitalization of the welfare state as an implementation of the principle of popular sovereignty must also be restored to achieve social justice. As an effort to overcome the symptoms, facts, and assumptions mentioned above, the actualization of the people's welfare and sovereignty in the sense of social, political, and economic democracy must absolutely be conducted creatively in order to remain on the right track. Individuality and collectivity must be balanced. The role and the function of the state as a welfare state must be maintained so that social, economic and information inequality can be overcome and people's poverty can be abolished. Capitalism in many countries has been proven to oppress the poor and to preserve poverty.

E. Conducive Democracy in General Election

Democracy is supposed to mean how people can determine their fate by their own will. They have the freedom to accept or to reject something offered to them and to have a belief that something is right or wrong. The implementation of democracy can potentially cause conflicts because each individual takes part in achieving or defending

their respective group, opinions, and choices. The government does not provide adequate supporting facilities, as well as adequate human resources. To create a conducive democracy, a rule is needed. In this sense, the law in the form of legislation becomes the rule of the game as a substance in carrying out this democracy. Furthermore, a government, as a structure in implementing and regulating how to run a democracy, provides facilities and infrastructure, as well as adequate human resources. However, negative legal culture, such as not being able to accept defeat, to cut in line, to take shortcuts, etc., should be demolished.

Moreover, to the government, community leaders, teachers, and parents contribute to creating a comfortable, safe and controlled situation in the community, not violent commotion when there are elections. As a preventive effort, the young generation is provided with knowledge, attitudes, and skills regarding democracy through formal and non-formal education. One of the strategies to actualize the goal is by giving the youngsters Civic Education learning. At the higher education level, the strategic value of this learning is to increase students' comprehensive awareness of the nation's problems. In turn, it will lead to people's involvement or the effective participation and the growing awareness of responsibility to improve the quality of social and political life as a whole.

Pancasila as the national ideology of Indonesia implies that living every aspect of life must be based on the principles of Divinity, Humanity, Unity, Democracy, and Social Justice. The principles of Pancasila are essentially a basic legal source in Indonesia. As an objective source of the Indonesian law, Pancasila holds a view of life, awareness, legal ideas, and noble moral ideals which include the Indonesians' psychological state and the characters. On 18 August 1945, those ideas were compacted and abstracted by the founders of the country into five principles that were formalized to be the basis of the philosophy of the Republic of Indonesia. The principles of Pancasila are formulated based on the Indonesian people's ways of life so that the country is a materialist cause (origin of the material) of Pancasila. The principles of Pancasila were formulated by the founders to be the national ideology of Indonesia. This paper seeks to provide the spirit of struggle for the Indonesian people to preserve independence and to face globalization. The young generation as Indonesian citizens and as the successors to the ideals of the nation need to have the insight and awareness of the country, to have positive behavior and attitude, to love the homeland and to prioritize the unity and integrity of the nation above the personal and group interests in the context of defending the country, the Republic of Indonesia.

IV. CONCLUSION

General elections are a means of promoting people's aspirations in determining their own destiny to achieve prosperity. General elections are also a means of determining leaders in the government and policies as a manifestation of

democracy that has the potential to cause conflicts because of inadequate supporting facilities and human resources, as well as incompetent attitudes of the society. To comprehend democracy, it is necessary to prepare the society through both formal and non-formal education, especially the education of Pancasila which is the national ideology that becomes the basis of democracy in Indonesia. Through education and law enforcement, conflicts can be overcome, and a conducive situation can be built in society.

Democracy must be built and strengthened in accordance with the cultural, social, economic and political conditions of each country. Indonesia has its own characteristics in building democracy, namely Pancasila democracy with the fundamental principles that distinguish it from democracy applied in other countries, namely: 1) Pancasila democracy is family and mutual cooperation based on the belief in a divinity that is an ultimate unity, 2) Pancasila democracy must respect human rights and guarantee minority rights, 3) Pancasila democracy should be based on deliberation to reach consensus, and 4) Pancasila democracy must be joined with the law. Democracy cannot be imposed from outside, especially from those who like to censure. Democracy should be born, grown, and developed healthily from within the society of every country that implements it.

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