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Evaluation of the Implementation of Simultaneous Regional Head Elections 2020 During the Covid-19 Pandemic in Indonesia

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Abstract: *The Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic which occurred in the past year has hurt a negative impact on the world community in various sectors such as the economy, education, government, and politics. The Covid-19 pandemic also resulted in the postponement of simultaneous Regional Head Elections in Indonesia which was finally held on December 9, 2020. The simultaneous Regional Head Elections were held during the Covid-19 pandemic storm which did not show a decrease in the number of cases every day. This study aims to examine how simultaneous regional head elections have been carried out from the perspective of evaluation theory. The research method used in this research uses qualitative research methods with a descriptive approach. The results showed that the impact of simultaneous regional head elections caused the transmission of Covid-19 to tend to increase and had an impact on the low participation of the community in choosing candidate pairs. And, how are the efforts in implementing the regional elections simultaneously during a pandemic so that they can be carried out well? Researchers provide suggestions for the government to focus on preventing the transmission of Covid-19 and prepare the most appropriate selection method to face the challenges of a future pandemic in Indonesia*

Keywords : *Evaluation, Implementation, Corona Virus Disease, Regional Head Election*

1. INTRODUCTION

The Corona Virus Disease (Covid-19) outbreak that is occurring around the world is currently affecting almost all parts of the world. This case first occurred in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China over a year

ago in late 2019. Currently, the Covid-19 pandemic is likely to become an endemic with developments that have continued to date. The pandemic has resulted in crises in all parts of the world in terms of economy, society, culture, politics, education, and government. In Indonesia, the Covid-19 pandemic is rapidly spreading due to the culture and habits that often gather for friendship and other agendas.

In 2020, Indonesia continued to carry out a democratic party, namely simultaneous regional head elections / regional elections during a pandemic that was increasing from time to time. Initially, Indonesia was scheduled to hold a Regional Head General Election (Pilkada) on September 23, 2020. However, through Government Regulation instead of Law Number 2 of 2020 concerning the Third Amendment to Law Number 1 of 2015 concerning Stipulation of Substitute Government Regulations Law Number 1 of 2014 concerning the Election of Governors, Regents and Mayors becomes a law, the Indonesian Government decided to reschedule the regional elections to 9 December 2020.

At first, the general election in Indonesia was considered unrealistic considering the number of positive cases of Covid-19 continues to increase nationally. Many parties are worried that if the regional election continues, it will become a new cluster for the spread of Covid-19. Pilkada that has been held during a pandemic has had various impacts in its implementation, both positive and negative. The implementation of the simultaneous general election in December 2020 invited a lot of controversy in the community because the implementation of the protocol that the government has predicted to break the spread of Covid-19 has not been fully implemented by the Indonesian people.

Based on data from the Covid-19 Task Force, on December 20, 2020, 171 people died, which was the previous highest figure. With the total spread of cases of 592,900 plus 6,058 as of December 20, 2020. However, this data does not fully represent the spread of Covid-19 because many laboratories have not reported the results of PCR examinations, plus the number of People Without Symptoms (OTG) who have contracted Covid-19. The Covid-19 Handling Task Force noted that only 80 percent of polling stations monitored by the task force had voting stations according to standard health protocols. This is based on monitoring 6200 polling stations in 180 cities in 28 provinces.

Based on this background, the following problems can be formulated as follows: first, what are the positive and negative impacts of continuing to hold the 2020 regional election during the Covid-19 pandemic? And second, how are the efforts taken in the 2020 simultaneous regional elections so that they are carried out?

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Concept of Public Policy

The word policy is etymologically derived from the word polis which in Greek (greek) means city-state. In Latin, this word changes to politic which means country. Entering the old English (the Middle English), the word becomes policies whose meaning is related to government affairs or government administration (Dunn, 2003). According to Knoepfel et al in Wahab (2014), they define policy is a series of decisions or activities resulting from structured and recurrent interactions between different actors, both public and private, who are involved in different ways in the emergence, identification, and resolution of a problem defined politically as a public one (a series of decisions or actions as a result of structured and repeated interactions among various actors, both public or government and private or private who are involved in various ways in responding, identifying, and solving a problem politically defined as a public problem).

From the above opinion, it can be concluded that the focus of our attention now on studying or analyzing public policies is more on what the government does, and not just what it thinks or wants to do. If

traced, all policies are normatively problem solving, meaning that each policy is intended to solve or at least reduce the complexity of public problems, namely corrective problems that were identified and successfully entered the government's agenda (governmental agenda). Furthermore, Thomas R. Dye in Widodo (2011: 16-17) suggests that the public policy process includes the following:

1. Identification of policy problems can be done by identifying what are demands for government action
2. Agenda setting is an activity that focuses attention on public officials and the mass media on what decisions will be made on certain public issues
3. Policy formulation is a policy formulation stage through the initiation and preparation of policy proposals through policy planning organizations, interest groups, government bureaucracy, the president, and legislative bodies.
4. Ratification of policies (legitimizing of policies) through political actions by political parties, pressure groups, the president, and the congress
5. Policy implementation is carried out through the bureaucracy, public budget, and organized executive agency activities
6. Policy evaluation is carried out by government agencies themselves, consultants outside the government, and the public (public).

Based on the above policy process, it can be understood that: public policy consists of various stages to solve problems to achieve certain desired goals and objectives. This public policy process is related to what the government is doing and not just what it wants to do.

2.2 Concept of General Election

Indonesia is a constitutional state wherein realizing a constitutional democracy there must be a dynamic rule of law. The idea of a rule of law was first put forward by Immanuel Kant, a professor from Russia, but in its development, the rule of law has undergone significant changes. The International Commission of Jurist, which is an organization of international legal experts, formulates that to create a democratic country under the rule of law, basic conditions are needed, as stated by Miriam Budiardjo (1982: 60) as follows:

1. Constitutional protection, in the sense that the constitution, apart from guaranteeing individual rights, must also determine the procedural way to obtain the protection of rights that guarantee,
2. The independent and impartial tribunals,
3. Free elections,
4. Freedom to express opinions,
5. Freedom to associate /organize and oppose
6. Citizenship education

3. RESEARCH METHODS

This research is a descriptive study, which has the aim of producing an accurate picture of how the Regional Head General Election is held simultaneously amid the Covid-19 Pandemic. This research is intended to explore in-depth the impacts and efforts of the Simultaneous Regional Head General Election in the middle of the Covid-19 Pandemic by using qualitative research.

4. DISCUSSION

4.1 Positive Impact and Negative Impact of Simultaneous Regional Election 2020 during the COVID-19 Pandemic

With the simultaneous elections that have been held during the Covid-19 pandemic based on applicable regulations, several positive impacts have been found including:

1. The implementation of the mandate of the provisions of the applicable laws,

The implementation of simultaneous elections based on Law Number 10 of 2016 article 201 paragraph 6 can be carried out which reads "Simultaneous voting for the Governor and Deputy Governor, Regent and Deputy Regent, as well as the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of the 2015 election results" which should be held in September. 2020, but with further consideration that the general election was postponed to December 2020 with the issuance of government regulations Number 2 of 2020 concerning the Third Amendment to Law Number 1 of 2015 concerning Stipulation of Government Regulations instead of Law Number 1 of 2014 concerning Election of Governors, Regents, and Mayor becomes Law.

2. Prevent larger budget expenditures

Expanding costs from both candidate pairs and the government by delaying the implementation of elections simultaneously in terms of increasing operational costs in conducting outreach and other preparations.

3. Fulfillment of the rights of the community and general elections participants

Conducting simultaneous elections as a means of channeling the rights of citizens by continuing to prioritize health protocols. Meanwhile, general election participants are a means of channeling the right to vote and be elected.

The positive impact above was carried out by holding simultaneous elections through strict health protocols. Then, the simultaneous elections also have several negative impacts, including:

1. Increased transmission of covid-19

The holding of simultaneous elections that have been held in December 2020 has increased the transmission of Covid-19 with the fact that the election date is the day when the death rate is highest.

Such a forced implementation does not see how the preparation of health protocols will have a significant impact on the transmission of Covid-19.

2. The practice of cheating has increased

With a pandemic affecting the economic sector, our candidate pairs to win the fight. This kind of community condition is put to good use by candidate pairs who have financial strength without prioritizing the presentation of the vision and mission.

4.2 Efforts that have been carried out by the election organizer simultaneously

The democratic party that is realized through the simultaneous regional elections in 2020 is expected to run smoothly, the level of community participation remains high, and the community will also remain safe from Covid -19. Therefore, several efforts were made so that the 2020 regional elections could run well and effectively. These efforts include:

1. Improve health protocols

Health protocol during a pandemic is an absolute requirement that must be fulfilled by the election organizers simultaneously, but in fact, there are still many polling stations that do not heed health protocols properly. The lack of socialization plus the social culture of the Indonesian people is the main factor in the difficulty of holding elections simultaneously by prioritizing health protocols.

2. Upholding the integrity of the simultaneous election administration

Integrity plays a very important role in directing competence to produce good and quality performance. In holding elections, integrity can be seen from all sides of the subject. From the side of the election organizers, it can be seen how consistent they are in implementing the laws and regulations for regional head elections. From the perspective of election participants, it can be seen from the form of implementation of the election administration law and whether looking for loopholes to commit violations and after winning votes in the election will keep promises and implement programs and policies or not. From the voters' side, it can be seen from how to participate in overseeing the implementation of elections before and after and from how voters do not become election violators.

3. Commitment of participants and election organizers simultaneously

The enforcement of the health protocol discipline is prioritized considering that election activities, especially campaigns, are a stage involving the masses. This is a big challenge to carry out simultaneous elections in 2020 during the Covid -19 pandemic. Due to several violations regarding the enforcement of the Health protocol discipline, there are still many. It needs to be realized that the simultaneous implementation of regional head elections, does not only involve political competition between candidates but also between politics and health.

5. CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

5.1 Conclusions

Based on this discussion, it can be concluded that the implementation of simultaneous elections during the Covid-19 pandemic has both positive and negative impacts. The positive impacts include the implementation of the mandate of the prevailing statutory provisions, preventing larger budget expenditures, and fulfilling the rights of the people and general election participants. Meanwhile, the negative impacts include an increase in the transmission of covid-19 and an increase in the practice of cheating. As well as efforts that have been carried out by the election administrators simultaneously, among others, improving health protocols, upholding the integrity of the simultaneous election administration, commitment of participants and election organizers simultaneously.

5.2 Suggestions

Based on the discussion above, the researcher provides several suggestions for improving the implementation of simultaneous elections during the pandemic, including increasing socialization and understanding of health protocols in the community, significantly reducing the face-to-face campaign process for candidate pairs and directing the technology-based campaign process and increasing supervision of the practice of campaign fraud. amid the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on various sectors.

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