



Political Reform in General Elections

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Abstract

A country is called upholding democratic values if in the country there is a guarantee in freedom of thought and opinion. Of all it, one of them is realized by the election. As a country that adheres to the principles of democracy, Indonesians need to have a process of choosing people to occupy certain political positions. The objective of this study is to describe political reforms in elections in Indonesia, in the 2019 elections; competition for political parties to qualify for the People's Representative Council is increasingly difficult. The problem is 2019 election issue becoming a new chapter for Indonesia in holding elections, more than 187 million domestic and foreign voters will simultaneously elect legislative and vice-presidential candidates for the first time, the parliamentary threshold that must be reached by political parties to place their cadres in the general election rose to 4 percent in the 2019 general election. The number rose 0.5 percent compared to the 2014 legislative polls of 3.5 percent. This study was a library research using descriptive analysis method, by collecting data, compiling and interpreting it. Collecting data was done by selecting determinants and mental factors that were owned by the researchers. Method of analysis was done by inductive analysis. The result indicates that in the context of a democratic political system, one of the changes in the reform era occurred in the setting of a more democratic system in holding general elections and regional elections. General elections and local elections after the entry of the reform era were encouraged to the implementation of a more democratic political system, placing the people as the determinant of who they choose as the representatives or leaders who sit in parliament or government either at the center or in the region.

Keywords: Political Reform, Democratization, Legislative Elections, Indonesia

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INTRODUCTION

General Election is the election of political positions in Indonesia. Elections have been held since 1955, with a long history. General election is a means of democracy to form a system of state sovereignty and symbolic representation established by the 1945 Constitution, as a form of realization of people's freedom in the principle of free, direct, general, and secret.

As a country that adheres to the principle of democracy must hold free and scheduled elections. The first general elections were held in 1955, thereat, the Indonesian National Army was still allowed to vote. The elections thereat, the strength of political parties were well measured and resulted in parliament as a representative institution, which in the past was always a target of disappointment for the people and military groups (Retno, 2019). General elections is carried out directly and indirectly (Yusriadi, 2018a)

Elections in 1955 based on Law No. 7 of 1953 were held to elect members of parliament and the Constituent Assembly (Institutions that had the duty and authority to make changes to the country's constitution). The 1955 general election system was a proportional representation system. In this system, Indonesia's territory was divided into 16 electoral districts, although in the end, the 16th region, such as West Irian, failed to hold elections because at that time the Dutch still controlled the area (Heryansyah, 2017).

In its implementation, the second general election was held in 1971. State officials at that time were required to be neutral, whereas in the 1955 general election, state officials, including ministers as party representatives (Hari, 2017).

After 1971, general elections were held according to the schedule. The third general election was held with a gap of about six years after the 1971 general

election, namely 1977, after which it was always scheduled once in 5 years. The difference with the previous election was that there were fewer participants, namely three political parties, based on Law Number 3 of 1975 on Political Parties (Hadinoto, 2009).

The 1982 general election was held simultaneously on May 4, 1982, with three parties participating. The aim is to elect members of parliament using a system of representation, with a composition of 364 members who are directly elected by the people. Voting was carried out in 27 regions based on a proportional system with a party list.

Before the 1987 general election, the government made changes to several laws. First, the Election Law is amended by Law No. 1 of 1985, previously the Advisory Council led by the Minister of the Interior, with new laws. The Advisory Council added several ministers and also members of the Indonesian National Army. With the promulgation of Law No. 3 of 1985, affirms the political parties must have the same principle, namely Pancasila. United Development Party (PPP Party) must change its policy from Islam to Pancasila and from the symbol of the Kaaba to a star (Setiawan, 2014).

Elections held in 1992 are still based on the Election System law used like the previous elections, the referendum in 1992 aimed at electing 400 seats in the legislature directly, the total registered voters were 105, 565, 697 people with a total of valid votes 97, 789 , 534 (Basri, 1992). The general election held in 1997 was the last election for the New Order era. The election aims to elect 424 members of the legislature. The electoral system used is proportional to the party list; as many as 2,289 legislative candidates were approved to run as legislative members (Basri, 1992).

Since the New Order period ended in 1998, many changes have taken place in Indonesia, especially in the general

election. One of significant changes that occurred after the reform was the limited power of the president. In the New Order era, presidents could be elected many times without time limits. In the reform a, the democratic system began to be implemented well. Most importantly, the electoral system allows the president to be directly elected, no longer elected through the People's Consultative Assembly. This study describes the general election after post-reform until now.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research was a library research using descriptive analysis method, which are collecting data, compiling or clarifying, and interpreting. The method used was illustrative since this study aims to describe the object studied naturally and clearly. Research was started by formulating the problem, formulating focus, asking study questions, then collecting data by the researcher as an instrument. The data source of this research consists of journals, papers, online news related to research. Data collection was done by selecting the determining elements. Data analysis was done through inductive analysis.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

As a country that adheres to the principle of democracy, Indonesia needs to have a process to elect legislative members to fill certain political positions. The general elections are important since it is to elect the legislators who will determine the direction of policy in a country. Reform brings changes in various fields of human life (Yusriadi, 2018c).

The political reforms of 1998 was the gateway for Indonesia to a new history in the dynamics of national politics (Yusriadi, 2018b). The 1999 election was the first election in the Reform Period. This was carried out simultaneously throughout Indonesia. Since the 1999 election, democracy in Indonesia began to take

place. It can be seen by the number of participants participating in the general election. There were 48 political parties participating in the election.

The election was supposed to be held in 2002, but due to public pressure to reform and to replace legislators who had relations with the New Order, the election was accelerated from 1999 to 2002 by the government thereat.

Because of the pressure for reform, the government formulated Law Number 2 of 1999 concerning Political Parties, and Law Number 4 of 1999 concerning the composition and position of the People's Consultative Assembly, and the People's Representative Council.

The election held in 1999 was recorded as the election with the highest number of voters after the fall of the New Order regime. The number of registered voters in the 1999 elections was 118,158,778 voters. Of that number, 92.74 percent of voters used their voting rights, and 7.26 percent did not use their voting rights. The election in that year was recorded as the highest election for voter participation in the reform era (Tera, 2018).

In the 2004 general election, the people directly elected members of the People's Legislative Assembly, the Regional Representative Council, and the President and his deputies. The 2004 elections were held simultaneously on April 5, 2004, to elect 678 legislative members for the period 2004-2009, while the presidential and vice presidential elections were held on July 5, 2004 (round I) and September 20, 2004 (round II). The 2004 elections showed progress in Indonesian democracy (Anggraeni, 2018).

The elections held in 2004 were an important milestone in democratization in post-reform Indonesia; for the first time, the public could elect directly the president and vice president, and elect legislative members.

In the 2004 election, the public believed in implementing a proportional system in legislative elections; the people had the opportunity to choose people who were known and trusted, to give new hope and optimism that the 2004 elections are different from the previous elections (Salang, 2006).

The 2004 elections were held in a different system from the previous elections. The election to elect legislative members, including the central, provincial, and district / city governments, was conducted with a proportional representation system with an open candidate list system and participated by 24 political parties. Political parties would get seat in the number of suitable legitimate votes as they get. The seat would be occupied by candidates who meet the specified votes. If no one meets the vote, then the position would be given to the candidate by following the serial number in his party. The election to elect Members of the Regional Representative Council is carried out with the regional system by looking at the number of representatives (Arrsa, 2014).

The 2009 election was the second general election after the 2004 election, which was carried out by direct election of the president and deputy. Provisions in the presidential and vice-presidential elections stipulated that the candidate pairs elected were pairs that get more than 50 percent of the votes. Election members for the People's Representative Council, Regional Representative Council and Regional People's Representative Assembly in 2009 were joined by 44 Political Parties, consisting of 38 national parties and 6 local Aceh parties (Anggraeni, 2018).

The general election of the members of People's Legislative Assembly, Regional Representative Council and Regional People's Representative Assembly in 2009 was held to elect 560 members of the People's Representative Council, 132 members of the Regional Representative

Council and the Regional People's Legislative Assembly for the period of 2009-2014. Elections were held simultaneously in all regions of Indonesia (Anggraeni, 2018).

The election became a new chapter for Indonesia in holding general elections, more than 187 million voters both at home and overseas will elect simultaneously legislative candidates, their presidents and deputies for the first time.

The fundamental difference from the implementation of the 2019 elections is simultaneity. In 2014, the legislative and presidential elections were held separately. When in 2014, the first legislative elections were held, while the presidential elections were held three months later. In the 2019 elections, it was held simultaneously in one day. This simultaneous election was the result of the decision of the Constitutional Court number 14 / PUU-XI / 2013, which was decided on January 23, 2014.

The number of political parties competing in the 2019 elections compared to the 2014 elections is also different. In the 2014 election, there were 12 national political parties and 3 local Aceh political parties participating, while in the 2019 election, there were 16 national political parties plus four local political parties in Aceh.

President threshold or the requirements for political parties to nominate presidential candidates and their deputy candidates in the 2019 Election is also something new. In the 2014 election, the Presidential Threshold used the results of the legislative elections three months earlier. The provisions on the coalition of political parties can support the candidates for the president and deputy, by having 20 percent of seats in the People's Representative Council or 25 percent of the votes that are valid nationally. In the 2019 election, it was carried out simultaneously.

In the 2019 elections, the competition from political parties to qualify for the House of Representatives became increasingly difficult. The parliamentary threshold that must be reached by political parties to place their cadres in the People's Representative Council increases to 4 percent in the 2019 elections. That figure is up 0.5 percent compared to the 2014 legislative elections of 3.5 percent.

The method of calculating the number of seats in the 2019 elections is also different from the 2014 elections. The 2019 elections used the highest vote technique. In 2019 elections, the amount of campaign funds used was Rp. 2.5 billion, whereas in the 2014 election, contributions from individual were a maximum of one billion.

In the 2019 elections, the General Election Commission determined 80 selected regions throughout Indonesia for members of the House of Representatives, and additional regions including West Kalimantan, North Kalimantan and West Nusa Tenggara. This number increased from the 2014 election, which only 77 regions were elected in all of Indonesia.

CONCLUSION

After the end of the New Order regime which ended in 1998, this event marked the beginning of a new era in Indonesian history. Indonesia began a new phase known as reform. This era is seen as the beginning of a period of democracy with a policy of transparency. In this modern era, the broad autonomy policies are then given to the regions and are no longer fully controlled by the central government. Reform is the entry point for the amendments to several articles in the 1945 Constitution. The articles that are considered less democratic, such as giving too much power to the executive, are priorities for reform. The government restored the function of the Indonesian National Army and Civil Servants to return to neutral in politics.

The findings in this study after political reform indicates that the context of a democratic political system, one of the changes in the reform era occurred in the setting of a more democratic system in holding general elections and regional elections. The general elections and regional elections after the entry of the reform era are directed towards the application of a more democratic political system, placing the people as the deciding party to elect legislative members, regional heads, the president and vice of president.

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