

Discourse on Reporting Political Campaign Funds in Regional Head Elections in Indonesia

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ABSTRACT - In the regional head election discourse, reporting campaign funds is a central issue in realizing democratic practices that comply with the rules. This study aims to discuss the issue of reporting campaign funds in the implementation of regional head elections in Indonesia. Through a qualitative approach with descriptive narratives and the instruments used are interviews with informants who understand the issue of campaign finance reporting, especially in the 2020 regional head election. The use of the campaign finance information system application is considered effective in reporting campaign funds if it is judged by the ease of access, the usefulness of time, and disclosure of information in unraveling the chaotic reporting of campaign funds at every political stage. Although the issue of verification of report data is a concern that needs to be constantly criticized so that related parties can improve the quality of verification according to an open and sustainable procedure.

Keywords: Discourse; Campaign Fund Reporting; Local Election

Introduction

The election of regional heads is expected to be a mechanistic and technocratic instrument, and also to be part of political education as a solution to public apathy. The election of regional heads is a means for the people to fill government positions within the executive framework within a certain period with a democratic process (A'yun, Mustari, Harakan, & Hartaman, 2022). Direct regional head elections were implemented for the first time since 2005 based on Law No. 32 of 2004 concerning Regional Government (Respatono, 2013). Although previously elected by the local Regional House of Representatives (Respatono, 2013). The transition from the form of regional head elections from elections held at the local DPRD building to elections held in public places accessible to the people requires the submission of reports related to the track records of regional head candidates. The track record in question is not only a question of candidate profiles but also related to campaign finance issues.

The issue of campaign funds is a crucial issue because it is related to the accountability of regional head candidates regarding the sources of campaign funds and their use which must be in accordance with applicable regulations. The General Election Commission (KPU) as the election organizer is responsible for overseeing the entire process, one of which is the process of selecting regional heads (Putra, 2018). In terms of detailed technical instructions, the technical features of each step are controlled individually in the PKPU (KPU Regulation) and Kep. KPU (KPU decision). The Pilkada process begins with the stages of preparation, implementation, and assessment (Putra, 2018). Reporting and auditing campaign finance is one of the steps taken throughout the stages of implementing regional head elections (Putra, 2018).

In PKPU No. 5 of 2017 KPU regarding Campaign Funds that the Participants in the Election of Regional Heads of Governors and Deputy Governors, Regents and Deputy Regents as well as Mayors and Deputy Mayors. Based on Law Number 6 of 2020 concerning Regional Head Election Article 74 and Article 75, the issue of campaign funds has been regulated as the need for reporting

campaign financing activities carried out by pairs of regional head candidates as the management of campaign stages in the form of donations, expenditures, and receipts in principle. transparent and accountable according to national accounting standards. This is intended to prohibit the mixing or use of campaign money outside the specified parameters (Andini, Monteiro, & Soebandi, 2018).

In a different regulation, campaign funds are classified based on General Election Commission Regulation (PKPU) Number 13 of 2020, which is the number of funds or costs in the form of money, goods, and services used by a Pair or Political Party or Combined Political Party in terms of financing campaign activities. . Reporting on campaign funds is a form of awareness or accountability that the public can assess. The Regional Head Candidate Pair is the protector of corruption and collusion prevention. Reporting honestly and accountably will give birth to bureaucrats who are clean from corruption (Chandranegara et al., 2020).

Various studies and publications, there are several related to the issue of campaign finance reporting. This issue was studied and studied by Putra (2018) discussing the need for transparency of accountability and campaign finance, Fuad & Palupi (2018) the Institutionalization of Campaign Fund Reporting, Prasetyo (2019) the relationship between explaining campaigns and money prevention strategies), and Neina, Azhari , & Enggarani (2022) who revealed the importance of reporting campaign finances with integrity and according to procedures. These studies have been successful in various scientific publication media.

In a detailed explanation, Putra (2018) has the idea that the campaign funds must be submitted to the General Elections Commission as a form of accountability through campaign finance reports. This campaign finance report is then audited by a Public Accounting Firm which is officially appointed by the KPU to ensure that the submitted report meets the compliance aspect or not. The administrative sanctions are given for any violations related to the use and reporting of campaign funds. With the above set of rules, it is hoped that it will encourage transparency and accountability of campaign finance reports for election participants.

Fuad & Palupi (2018) have an alternative understanding in campaign finance reporting, according to them the process of institutionalizing campaign finance reports starts from the pressure in the institutional environment that surrounds political parties or success teams. The first pressure was from the community, represented by NGOs and election-related activists who wanted transparency and accountability in the implementation of the campaign. In addition to Putra (2018), and Fuad & Palupi (2018), the idea from Prasetyo (2019) about preventing money politics can be done by optimizing the work of campaign fund disclosures. As long as the disclosure of campaign funds is not optimal, during that time the prevention of money politics will not work effectively.

A study by Neina, Azhari, & Enggarani (2022) explained that election results have a significant impact on Indonesia's democratic order from year to year. If a regulation is implemented properly, it will have an impact on the pattern of sustainability of the general election process. The regulation on transparency of campaign funds is an absolute must for the organizers and participants of the democratic party. Referring to the urgency of reporting campaign funds and a series of studies and publications that have been described, this article focuses on the discourse on reporting campaign funds in regional head elections in Indonesia by examining the role of the General Elections Commission in responding to campaign finance reporting issues and structuring the management of regional head elections, especially in issues of funds being prepared and the use of funds by pairs of candidates for regional heads.

Method

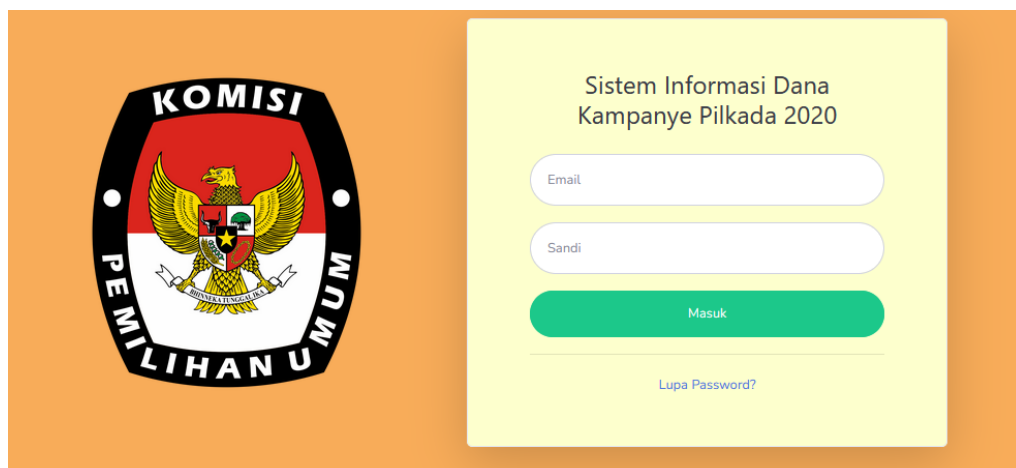
This study of the discourse on campaign finance reporting uses an approach with a descriptive presentation on the implementation of regional head elections in Indonesia. Qualitative studies lead to the need for limitations on focus that arise as problems in a study. Therefore, this study focuses on reporting on campaign funds for regional head elections in Indonesia by examining the role of the General Election Commission in responding to campaign reporting issues and structuring the implementation of regional head elections, in particular the issue of funds prepared and used by regional head candidates in 2020. Data from the search accurate information during the internship at the General Elections Office of the Republic of Indonesia in October-December 2021. The information obtained is elaborated in the description obtained. In addition, literature studies and limited focus group discussions were conducted to strengthen the research foundation with detailed and structured discussions.

Result and Discussion

The management of regional head elections in Indonesia is exploring an important stage in the process of democratization and public maturity. The important stage in question is the realization of good Local Election governance with the General Election Commission as the organizer (HR & Harakan, 2017). Governance in the renewal of campaign finance management and reporting by the KPU, supported by a public reporting system that can monitor the results of the campaign finance reports of candidate pairs for the 2020 simultaneous elections, is undoubtedly a good step in mitigating fraud from candidate pairs to manipulate campaign finance reports and audit system, especially corruption. Elections and Corruption are the moments of the practice of relations between followers or supporters of candidates for regional heads, both from political parties and individuals (Soemeri et al., 2011).

In order to build public trust in elections with integrity and transparency, it is necessary to use efficient and effective information technology as a data repository for Campaign Fund Reporting. The utilization of technology for campaign finance information service systems can be used through the website-based Campaign Fund Information System (SIDAKAM). SIDAKAM is a campaign fund reporting tool that is used in democratic events such as Pilkada (Suryana, 2014). This system can be accessed through the website <https://sidakam.kpu.go.id> which is closed and requires an account to access the system as shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Screenshot of Campaign Fund Information System

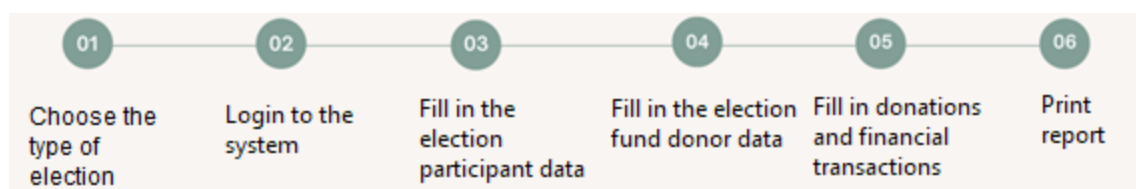


Source: General Election Commission of the Republic of Indonesia (2022)

There are three types of campaign finance reporting that must be met, namely the initial campaign fund report, the report on receipt of campaign fund donations, and the report on the receipt and expenditure of campaign funds. In accordance with applicable regulations, these three types of campaign finance reporting should be fulfilled by each pair of candidates.

The SIDAAM workflow starts when each pair of candidates who already have an account can login. Then the participants of the candidate pair choose the type of election for the 2020 Regional Head Election, namely the Election of Governor/Deputy Governor, Election of Regent/Deputy Regent and Election of Mayor/Deputy Mayor. After selecting, then enter the username and password that have been obtained in the registration process. After that, the candidate pairs are expected to fill in the election participant data such as the personal information of the candidate pairs, then fill in the donor data and after that fill in the donor transactions, taking into account who are the parties who can be considered as contributors. Then the last stage is filling out the expense transaction. It is hoped that the candidate pairs can report their campaign spending activities honestly. The visualization of the SIDAAM workflow can be seen in Figure 2.

Figure 2. Workflow of SIDAAM



Source: Result of research (2022)

The existence of this system is very helpful in carrying out campaign finance reporting, especially when the Covid-19 pandemic outbreak is declared to have infected people in Indonesia. Indonesia has the most victims of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Southeast Asia region. The current condition is increasingly worrying because the spread of the virus is getting higher, while health facilities in some areas are on the verge of collapse. In the midst of the pandemic, Indonesia is also facing deteriorating democratic living conditions (Khalyubi, 2021; Setiawan, 2021). Democratic channels are considered not functioning as before the pandemic (Habibi, 2021). Such a chaotic situation certainly demands the establishment of democratic events and improving the quality of campaign finance reporting by changing the form of reporting from manual and offline to a systemic process through a system available with the online method.

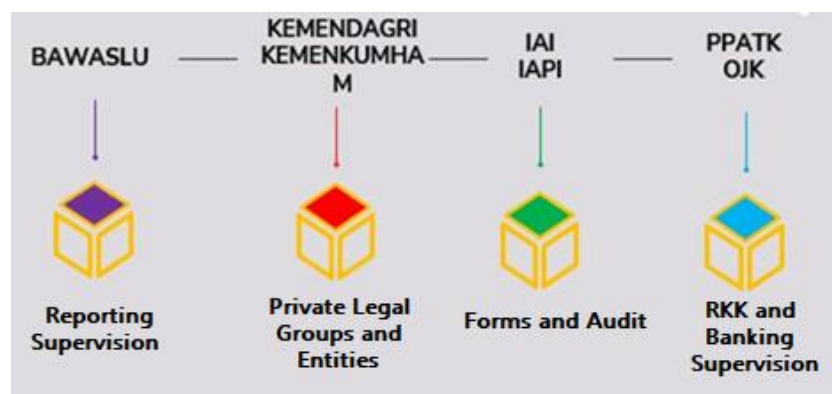
This system provides services with easy access, time utilization, and information disclosure between organizers and participants in unraveling the chaotic reporting of campaign funds at every political stage. The organizer needs to detect the limit on the amount of campaign money that has been set. Limits on the amount of campaign money are regulated in Article 7 paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) PKPU Number 5 of 2017 concerning Campaign Funds: (1) Political Parties or Campaign Funds Related to Political Parties As stated in Article 5 paragraph (2) The maximum amount of Rp.750,000,000.00 (seven hundred and fifty million rupiah) for each Political Party during the campaign season is stated in Article 5 paragraph (2). (2) During the campaign, the maximum value of campaign funds generated from donations from each party as regulated in Article 5 paragraph (3) letter a is Rp75,000,000.00 (seventy-five million rupiah). (3) During the campaign, campaign funds are generated from donations from other parties from private organizations or legal entities as referred to in Article 5 paragraph (3) letters b and c, with a maximum value of Rp. 750,000,000.00

(seven hundred and fifty million rupiahs).). Then, in Article 9 paragraph (1) letter c PKPU Number 5 of 2017, it only says whether there is an excess of funds received solely from the state for a period of no later than 14 (fourteen) days from the end of the campaign period or the last day.

The 2020 regional elections were followed by 270 regions, with details of 9 Provinces (Governor and Deputy Governor), 37 Cities (Mayors and Deputy Mayors), and 224 Regencies (Regents and Deputy Regents) or about 53 percent of the total 537 provinces and regencies/cities. in Indonesia (Saihu, 2021). The implementation of the 2020 Pilkada encountered many obstacles so the implementation was postponed several times (Rizki & Hilman, 2020). The postponement of the implementation of regional elections many times has an effect on various sentiments in various media, especially on social media (Muzaki & Witanti, 2021). The implementation of the 2020 regional head election is one concrete example of the implementation of campaign finance reporting through SIDAAM. According to data released by the General Election Commission of the Republic of Indonesia, there were 739 pairs of regional head candidates from political parties and individuals who reported campaign funds through the system. It is necessary to understand that each competing regional head pair has diverse exclusivity within the framework of electoral democracy (HR & Harakan, 2017).

Based on the evaluation of the General Elections Commission of the Republic of Indonesia, the campaign finance report in the 2020 Regional Head Election detected 9 pairs of candidates spread across nine regions who returned the money to the state treasury for receiving prohibited donations, namely Bengkayang (West Kalimantan), Nunukan (North Kalimantan), Ngada (East Nusa Tenggara), North Luwu (South Sulawesi), Medan City (North Sumatra), Serdang Bedagai (North Sumatra), Pak-Pak Bharat (North Sumatra), Simalungun (North Sumatra), Sibolga (North Sumatra). This finding was obtained through SIDAAM during the campaign finance reporting process. This finding indicates the effectiveness and efficiency of the existence of a website-based application to minimize campaign finance violations. The good side of this system is that it still involves institutions other than the General Election of the Republic of Indonesia in the campaign finance Commission reporting process. The institutions involved are the Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu) in monitoring and reporting, the Indonesian Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Law and Human Rights in the data collection group and private legal entities, the Indonesian Institute of Accountants (IAI), and the Indonesian Institute of Public Accountants (IAPI) in the preparation campaign and audit fund forms as well as the Financial Transaction Analysis and Analysis Center (PPATK) and the Financial Services Authority (OJK) in the campaign fund account reports and reporting as visualized in figure 3.

Figure 1. Involvement of Other Institutions in Campaign Fund Reporting



Source : General Election Commission of the Republic of Indonesia (2022)

This system is considered to still have crucial obstacles because the process of stages in SIDAKAM, especially in the data verification session, is carried out closed so that it cannot be accessed openly by the public as a whole. Campaign Fund Reporting is said to be successful if it reports the initial campaign fund reports, reports on receipt of campaign fund donations, and reports on receipts and expenditures of campaign funds. The public can only access the final results of campaign finance reporting through <https://infopemilu.kpu.go.id>. The public must have the democratic capacity to screen these elites, including those related to campaign finance reporting. This political process is quality education for the community.

Simultaneous regional head elections are a field of political contestation with a set of rules that do not automatically produce transformational leader figures. The figure of a transformational leader needs to be in line with political maturity and democracy (HR & Harakan, 2017). The discourse of systemic campaign finance reporting is one stage of the effort to realize maturity in democracy. Democratic maturity that is not monotonous is marked by the awareness of pairs of regional head candidates, election organizers, and the community by fulfilling all stages of the regional election and minimizing various violations that can damage the image of democracy and the ideals of executive election reform (Khaerah, Prianto, & Harakan, 2021).

Conclusion

Since the change in the form of the implementation of the regional head election, which was originally carried out by the Regional People's Representative Council as a representative of the people, to an implementation that directly involves the people as voters, the model for identifying candidate pairs has changed. Not only identifying profiles but tracing campaign funding trails to prevent acts of corruption and collusion as well as violations of election rules.

The General Election Commission as the organizer of the regional elections responds to the current situation, political changes, and effective and efficient implementation of democratization by providing campaign finance information system services (SIDAKAM). A web-based system with features that support reporting of campaign funds that have easy access, the usefulness of time, and openness of information whose final results are accessed by the public through election information. Efforts that have been made by the organizers through SIDAKAM and election information are aimed at realizing democratic maturity for regional head candidate pairs, organizers, and the community as voters. Obstacles and improvements to a more adaptive system and a process that is open from beginning to end for the community is an important task for the election organizers to make it happen at the next local election stage.

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