

Functions and Duties of the KPU in Increasing Community Political Participation

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Abstract

The general election commission (KPU) has an important role in facilitating a democratic and inclusive general election process. The main functions of the KPU, such as preparing general election lists, disseminating general election information, monitoring campaign implementation, and transparent vote counting are key factors in increasing public political participation. The research method used is a qualitative research method. The research location is the general election commission in East Lombok district. The research data sources are primary data and secondary data using observation, interview and documentation data collection techniques. The research results show that the implementation of the functions and duties of the general election commission in increasing community political participation in East Lombok district is good. Based on data from the 2024 DPT final election list, there is more political participation from the public compared to the previous year.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The success of elections is determined by the high level of political participation of the community in exercising their voting rights. The amount of community political participation is influenced by the political awareness of the community in elections by using their voting rights to cast their votes in the general election process (Harizka, 2019). One form of community political participation in a democratic government is community participation in general elections. In the context of democracy, community participation is very important to maintain the sustainability and quality of the government system (Mayang, 2020). Political participation includes various forms such as elections, public debate, and discussion and return of collective decisions. A high level of community political participation will strengthen government legitimacy and increase accountability in the policy return process (Ambarak, 2022). One of the institutions that has a central role in organizing and holding general elections is the general election commission (KPU), the KPU is tasked with carrying out its duties in accordance with Law Number 7 of 2017 concerning elections to ensure the implementation of fair, honest, transparent and involving elections. active transparency from all elements of society. However, there are still several challenges in implementing the KPU's functions and duties in increasing community political participation. Several factors such as the low level of political literacy among the community or the lack of socialization of KPU programs can become obstacles to increasing optimal political participation.

General election commissioners or political parties are responsible for providing political education to the community so that it becomes one of the determining factors for the level of political participation in the community. The general election commission is an independent institution that is given authority from this institution. In this case, the success

or failure of elections in Indonesia is also influenced by the performance of the general election commission itself. Therefore, the general election commission also has an obligation to conduct general election outreach to the public.

General elections are a manifestation of people's sovereignty in order to produce a democratic government. The holding of elections that are direct, public, free, secret, honest and fair can only be realized if the election organizers have high integrity and understand and respect the civil and political rights of citizens. Weak election organizers have the potential to hinder the realization of quality elections. As mandated by the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, election organizers have the task of holding elections with institutions that are national, permanent and independent. One of the important factors in the success of holding elections lies in the readiness of the professionalism of the election organizers themselves, namely the general election commission, election supervisory body, elections as a unified function of election organizers.

Talking about elections in East Lombok district. As an election organizer, the KPU has a big agenda to encourage public participation in every election, including efforts to encourage the participation of vulnerable groups such as women, first-time voters, people with disabilities, marginalized groups and so on. in relation to political matters and political education, as the constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, the 1945 Constitution has mandated that every country has the same degree and position in the eyes of the law and government. Every individual without exception has basic rights inherent in him or her given by the creator, as we know that human rights have a very broad scope. The outline of the rights summarized in human rights, one of which is political human rights or what we know as political rights.

Elections in Indonesia since 1955 until now have experienced many developments in terms of the general framework, organizers, stages, institutions, participants, supervision, dispute resolution and violations, and the implementation management of the election legal framework as the main requirement should be able to provide a basis that guarantees legal certainty and fulfillment of the objectives and principles of elections. Unfortunately, even though every time before an election there are always changes to the election law and its implementing regulations, in fact there are still shortcomings here and there. However, Indonesia should be noted as a country that has succeeded in holding regular elections and electing people's representatives to the DPR and DPRD as well as DPD members, as well as DPD members, as well as the president and vice president.

General elections during the New Order period General elections (elections) during the New Order period were held 5 times, namely 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, and ended in 1997. The electoral system used in elections during the New Order government led by President Soeharto was also still the same. with what was implemented in the 1971 election, the party system in the 5 elections was also simplified through Law Number 3 of 1975 concerning political parties and work groups. The general election during Soeharto's reform period was the beginning of the development of democracy in Indonesia after decades of authoritarianism. Although there are still obstacles in its implementation, these steps pave the way for changes to the political system that is more inclusive and represents the aspirations of the Indonesian people.

General elections are a process for selecting people who will occupy government seats. General elections are held as a manifestation of a country that adheres to a democratic system and also a real implementation of the process of implementing democracy itself. One of them is exercising the right to vote as a citizen in general elections.

According to Sarbaini (2015) states that general elections are an arena for fighting to fill political positions in government which are carried out using the election method carried

out by conditional citizens. In general, elections are a way for the people to find their leaders or representatives in government and can be said to be the people's right as citizens to elect their representatives in government.

Apart from the definition above, Morissan (2005) stated that general elections are a way or means to find out the wishes of the people regarding the direction and policies of the State. It could also be said that the implementation of elections is the implementation of a real democratic implementation system.

The equality of the age limit of 17 years is based on the development of political life in Indonesia, that the Republic of Indonesia which has reached the age of 17 years, apparently already has political responsibility towards the State and society so that it is naturally given to elect its representatives in elections and members of the body. people's representatives.

Based on Law Number 7 of 2017 concerning elections, the KPU is an election organizing institution that is national, permanent, independent and independent. The KPU is independent as intended in article 7 paragraph (3) of Law Number 7 of 2017. In holding elections, the KPU is free from any party regarding the implementation of its duties and authority. To assist the implementation of the KPU's duties and authority, a general secretariat was formed which is led by the general secretary and is a government body. In carrying out its duties, the KPU is assisted by the sub-district electoral committee (PPK) located in each sub-district, and the voting committee (PPS) located in each village or sub-district and the overseas election committee (PPLN) which is tasked with holding elections abroad. Apart from that, the KPU also formed a voting organizing group (KPPS) to conduct voting at polling places and (KPPSLN) to conduct voting at overseas polling places.

One of the successes of the KPU in holding elections can be seen in the level of public participation. Community participation is a right that the community has to take part in decision making in the stages of the development process, starting from the initial planning, implementation, monitoring and environmental conservation of the community, not only as recipients of facilities and benefits but as subjects of sustainable development (Dewi, Fandeli, & Baiquini, 2013).

Zamroni (2011) said that participation is all members of the society of a country who have a voice in the formation and making of decisions that act directly or through organizations and represent the interests of the general public. Apart from the opinion above, Mulyadi (2009) said that community participation is the participation of the community in the decision-making process or implementing a program, where the community also feels the benefits of the program policy. Apart from that, in carrying out an evaluation, the community is also involved in order to improve community welfare. Based on what is stated above, it can be concluded that community participation is the involvement of all community members in the creation and implementation of programs and policies that are able to provide prosperity for the community itself.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

The method in this research is qualitative research. The researcher chose this method because it was considered the appropriate method to describe the formulation of the problem that the researcher would study, namely "implementation of the functions and duties of the East Lombok district commission". Qualitative research is research that describes utterances or words, as well as behavior that occurs. This research prioritizes describing data into information using narrative. Qualitative research is also known as interpretative research or natural research.

3. RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Implementation of the Duties and Functions of the General Election Commission in Increasing Community Political Participation

a. Through Social Media Education

Along with the development of internet-based information technology, the increasingly important role of online social media as a factor that can have a positive effect in increasing political participation. The use of social networks, with the establishment of voter education, it is hoped that the community can increase their political participation for democracy. In the current era of globalization, the media has a very big role in providing information to the public so that in socializing the election the General Election Commission (KPU) utilizes social networks to convey information that can be easily seen by the public. In this way, in increasing people's political participation, the media is expected to be able to provide encouragement to people to want to exercise their right to vote in elections. Providing information, namely conveying all information related to elections to the public through print mass media and electronic mass media.

1) Print Mass Media

The use of print mass media used by the KPU in disseminating information relating to the general election is important in increasing public political participation in elections. To find out the print mass media used by the KPU in conveying information related to the election, an interview was conducted with the head of the technical and community relations sub-division, indicating that the KPU conveys information through print mass media such as newspapers, pamphlets, ballot papers, brochures and also billboards.

The results of the research show that in conveying information about the holding of elections, the East Lombok Regency KPU carried out several information via print media such as pamphlets, brochures and billboards with the aim of increasing community participation in East Lombok Regency.

2) Electronic Mass Media

Electronic mass media is a medium that really helps the East Lombok Regency KPU in conveying information quickly to the public. With the existence of Electronic Mass Media, all information related to elections can be seen directly by the public wherever they are. To find out the type of electronic mass media used by the East Lombok Regency KPU in conveying information related to the election, an interview was conducted with the head of the technical sub-division and the Head of Public Relations and revealed that the East Lombok Regency General Election Commission (KPU) has used social networks to convey all forms of information related to the implementation. general election to the public so that the entire community can easily find out the information conveyed via social media about the schedule for holding the election, the number of candidates who will nominate, the importance of the election, and raising awareness to the public about the importance of the election so that the public is more aware of their rights as citizen. Using social media is also able to increase people's political participation because it makes it easier for users to obtain and provide information quickly, especially to novice voters, the majority of whom are young people who use social media more often to find out the latest information.

b. Through face-to-face outreach to the beginner, disabled, marginalized and female voter base

As a process for conveying information on the stages of the selection program, face-to-face socialization activities must continue to be carried out to all members of society

according to the layers and strata of society in their respective regions. This activity can collaborate with other institutions and agencies. This can be done with education offices, educational foundations, universities and community organizations. The aim of face-to-face socialization activities is to increase community political participation. This means that by using face-to-face socialization, the community is expected to be able to actively participate and be involved in every activity.

Conveying information in face-to-face socialization activities has various objectives. These include disseminating information on the implementation of election stages, schedules and programs, increasing public knowledge, understanding and awareness of their rights and obligations in elections and increasing voter participation in elections. An important point in face-to-face socialization is to increase public knowledge. So who are the community groups whose participation should be increased? Socialization activities have a very broad target, especially at first-time voters, people with disabilities, marginals and citizens.

1) Outreach to first-time voters

The aims and objectives of the socialization are to provide an understanding of the importance of political participation among novice voters and to provide awareness to the younger generation and to educate young people, especially novice voters, with knowledge of political participation and information for novice voters to exercise their right to vote in elections. This socialization is an opportunity to increase the knowledge of the younger generation in dealing with democracy in Indonesia, especially in the general elections which they will face for the first time.

2) Socialization of people with disabilities

One of the most important stages in general elections to accommodate the political rights of people with disabilities apart from the voting stage is the socialization stage. For this reason, the outreach carried out by election organizers requires special policies and strategies, one of which is so that the participation of voting rights users with disabilities can increase or have a high participation rate. Moreover, in socialization there needs to be special treatment according to the type of disability you have.

One of the main things is the goal achieved. Which is not only the dissemination of election information and increasing knowledge about rights and obligations in elections. However, there has also been an increase or high voter participation rate, especially for the segment of people with disabilities, and there have been real changes not only in participation but also in the implementation of accessible elections, especially at the voting stage. Interviews with the head of the technical and Hupmas sub-division said that conveying information to the community, especially in East Lombok district, regarding the general election to all residents of East Lombok district without discrimination, including those with disabilities, they also have the same voting rights as ordinary citizens.

3) Socialization of Marginals

The general election commission (KPU) has an important role in conducting socialization about the implementation of general elections in order to increase public participation in exercising their voting rights. Providing voting rights during general elections is a form of active political participation in the sustainability of a democratic political system. As an agent of socialization, one of the targets of the East Lombok Regency General Election Commission (KPU)'s socialization activities is marginalized groups or community groups who have been marginalized to attend the socialization and discussions during the socialization activities.

4) Socialization of women

Women are often seen as second-class creatures who prioritize feelings, so that their participation in politics is predicted to have very poor performance. However, feminism is increasingly aware of the importance of equality between men and women in every aspect of life, including in political aspects. This awareness then becomes a spirit that encourages women to take part in appearing and managing the government. The appearance of women in public, in the world of politics, shows the existence of women's political participation.

Women's participation in politics is very necessary, because their existence can improve the welfare of women's groups by representing, monitoring and influencing the agenda and policy-making process. Forms of women's participation in political activities include being active as voters, taking part in government discussions, election outreach and as political party sympathizers.

Increasing access to information and expanding information regarding the election process systematically needs to be carried out to be able to reach female voters in peripheral areas and from various social groups and layers. choose to take part in the election

c. Through Car Free Day Activities

Apart from that, the strategy used by the East Lombok district general election commission is to increase community political participation by carrying out various types of outreaches such as car free day events to increase community political participation because, during the car free day moment we can reach a wider community because of the location. This will meet people from all segments, from beginner voters to seniors.

Carrying out outreach during car free day activities is a form of effort to meet the community directly, so that it can attract the community and inform them about the importance of community participation to increase community political participation. To find out about socialization through the car free day, an interview was conducted with the head of technical sub-department and the Head of Community Affairs who stated that: "We deliberately carried out socialization during this car free day so that we could reach a wider community.

d. Through Communications, Media, Universities and Schools

1) Collaboration with the transportation department

The general election commission (KPU) collaborates with the transportation service in several matters related to the implementation of general elections. The following are several examples of collaboration between the KPU and the transportation department.

- a) Logistics provision: In general elections, the KPU needs logistical support to send ballot papers, ballot boxes and other equipment to polling stations. The transportation department can assist in arranging the necessary transportation so that the logistics arrive on time.
- b) Interviews with implementation staff in the general and logistics sector stated that: "We are indeed collaborating with the transportation service to help organize the election. Procurement of voting places: The KPU is collaborating with the transportation service to determine strategic locations as voting places (TPS). The transportation department provides input regarding accessibility, parking and security around the TPS.
- c) Traffic coordination during election day, traffic around the polling stations may be very busy because of the large number of people who will come to vote. In this case, the transportation department can help to regulate traffic flow so that it does not disrupt the smooth voting process.

1) KPU Cooperation with the Media

The general election commission collaborates with the media in various ways to ensure accurate and equitable delivery of information to the public regarding the general election process. The following are several examples of collaboration between the KPU and the Media:

- a) The general election commission carries out campaigns aimed at increasing public political participation in the democratic process. The media supports this campaign by providing public space for broadcasting public service advertisements about the importance of exercising your right to vote.
- b) The media is often the main platform for holding public debates between political candidates or parties or during election campaigns. The KPU facilitates these debates by collaborating with the media to broadcast live so that the public can get further information about the candidates' visions and missions as well as comparisons of their policies.
- c) Coverage of the election process on voting day, the media covers the election process directly to provide information about public participation, level of enthusiasm, and problems that may arise at the polling place. This helps increase transparency and accountability during the election process.

2) KPU collaboration with MDI (Indonesian mosque council)

The General Election Commission is responsible for organizing, organizing and supervising the general election process in Indonesia. Meanwhile, DMI (Indonesian Mosque Council) is an institution that focuses on managing mosques and empowering religious activities. However, there are several forms of cooperation between the KPU and DMI.

The General Election Commission can collaborate with DMI (Indonesian Mosque Council) in conducting outreach to mosque congregations about the importance of community participation in the general election process. This can be done through religious lectures.

3) KPU collaboration with universities or schools

In several ways to increase people's political participation by providing a better understanding of the democratic process. The following is an example of collaboration between the KPU and universities or schools:

- a) The General Election Commission collaborates with universities or schools to organize voter programs including activities such as discussions that provide knowledge about the importance of voting, the general election process, as well as the rights and obligations as citizens.
- b) Election Socialization the General Election Commission carries out election socialization by collaborating with universities or schools in the context of election socialization to pupils and students, they can give presentations regarding the stages of the election, voter list, vote voting mechanism, and vote counting.

4. CONCLUSION

As a result of the discussion, it can be concluded that to increase community participation in East Lombok Regency, the East Lombok Regency General Election Commission has the following functions and duties:

1. Carrying out outreach to the community to increase community political participation in East Lombok district, outreach carried out through the use of social media or face-to-face outreach.
2. Providing information to the East Lombok Regency General Election Commission. Conveying election-related information to the public through print mass media and electronic mass media. Electronic mass media used include radio and social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube). Meanwhile, printed mass media are used, such as pamphlets, banners and also billboards.
3. Providing knowledge or understanding to first-time voters, people with disabilities and marginalized groups about the importance of political participation, so that they can take part in general elections using their voting rights as citizens.

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