

Analysis of Simultaneous Village Head Elections in Sumedang Regency 2021

Agus Toyib^{1*}, Budiman Rusli¹, Entang Adhy¹, Nina Karlina¹

¹Faculty of Social and Political Science, Universitas Padjadjaran, Indonesia

*Correspondence Email: agustoyib@ipdn.ac.id

Received: January 13 2022; Revised: April 25 2022; Accepted: May 30 2022

Abstract: *The purpose of this study is to explore the transfer of power at the local level through the form of democracy in the village, with an emphasis on the description of the simultaneous Village Head Elections in the Sumedang Regency in 2021. The research in this thesis employs qualitative methodologies, with the sort of research employed descriptively in the form of words, written reports, or oral descriptions of observed behavior. Data was gathered through interviews, observation, and documentation. This study's data analysis approach included the steps of data collection, data reduction, data presentation, and data conclusion. According to the study's findings, the simultaneous village head elections in Sumedang district refer to the Sumedang Regent Number 334 of 2021 decision, which will be held on October 27, 2021, in four stages: preparation, nomination, voting, and determination. Several hurdles were discovered in simultaneously picking village chiefs, including the formation of the committee, public interest, campaign implementation, and ballot counting.*

Keywords: *Village Head Election, Simultaneously, Implementation, Sumedang Regency.*

Introduction

Democracy, in general, has the meaning of a form of political government that the people determine. The people determine who they are, have power, and have the right to govern (Irawan, 2016). Indonesia is a country that adheres to a democratic system. Indonesia holds general elections every five years (Akbar, 2016). The quality of democracy is based on many things, especially regarding budget transparency, participation of local institutions, and accommodation of the community's interests in making decisions or regulations in the region (Wahyudi, 2009). Elections may vary, but the essence remains the same for all democratic societies, namely access for all eligible citizens to vote, protection for

each individual against the influence of votes, and an honest and open calculation of the results of the poll (Hariantati, 2003).

Since the introduction of Law No. 22 of 1999 concerning Regional Government, which was then followed by Law No. 32 of 2004 concerning Regional Government, as well as Law No. 23 of 2014, provinces and districts/cities have had greater authority and autonomy than the previous government (Yusyanti, 2015). The emergence of a paradigm shift in government administration also allows villages to manage and regulate their families based on their unique qualities. In-Law No. 23 of 2014 concerning Regional Government, namely in Chapter 1 General Provisions, Article 1 Paragraph

43 states that "Villages are villages and traditional villages or what are called by other names, from now on referred to as villages, are legal community units that have territorial boundaries." "Those authorized to regulate and manage government affairs, the local community's interests based on community initiatives, origin rights, and traditional rights recognized and respected in the system of government of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia."

We can start with the understanding that the village results from a combination of various groups of human activities and their environment. The village is a legal community unit with territorial boundaries authorized to regulate and manage the local community's interests based on local origins and customs recognized and respected by the Republic of Indonesia (Ramadana, 2013). In the sociologist's opinion, Tonnies & Loomis (2002) suggest that the village is where a society lives that is "gemeinschaft," which is bound together by feelings and unity that are still close. Based on the sociological dictionary, the village contains interrelated complexities among its elements; the town is still considered the standard for maintaining social life and indigenous culture such as cooperation, personality in dress, customs, moral life, and so on. Linton in Soemardjan & Soemardi (1964) defines society as any group of people who have lived together long enough to organize themselves and consider themselves as a social unit with clearly defined boundaries.

The legal basis is the importance of special rules governing villages and village recognition by the state; therefore, Law No. 6 of 2014 concerning Villages was born. At least for two reasons: first, through village law, it is hoped that a clear and specific legal basis for village regulations will be formed

because, since the reformation of village regulations, they are regulated in government law (Pulungan, 2017). Second, it is hoped that this village legislation would be a watershed moment in implementing village revitalization toward democratization and perfecting the spirit of autonomy reflected in the constitution. Furthermore, the condition for the election of the Village Head, as formulated in articles 31 to 39, which specifies the new design for the election of the Village Head, among other things, is that the election be held simultaneously in all districts/cities. Furthermore, the village head either appears three times in a row or does not appear three times in a succession (Rudiadi & Herawati, 2017).

The election of the Village Head is governed by Government Regulation Number 72 of 2005 Concerning Villages, Article 43, which states that the BPD notifies the Village Head in writing (six) months before the end of the Village Head's term of office. The Village Head election is processed by the BPD no later than four (4) months before the end of the Village Head's term of office. According to paragraphs 47 to 52, the BPD creates an election committee comprised of elements of the village machinery, management of social institutions, and community leaders for the nomination and election of the village head. The election committee verifies the identity of prospective candidates according to predefined criteria, conducts voting, and reports the Village Head's implementation to the BPD. The election committee screens and screens prospective Village Head candidates in accordance with the standards; Village Head candidates who meet the qualifications are designated by the Election Committee as Village Head candidates (Raharjo, 2021).

Furthermore, the Village Head Election method is inextricably linked to the dynamics of local political events. A power struggle happens in the election of village leaders, as it does in every election round in Indonesia (Rohmawati, 2013). Candidates for village heads employ a variety of strategies to gain authority in the village during the village head election process. Furthermore, the Village Head Election system is inextricably linked to the dynamics of local political developments (Yuningsih & Subekti, 2016). In the village head election, there was also a power struggle, as is common in every election round in Indonesia. Candidates for village heads carry out various ways in the village head election process to win power in the village (Fauzi, 2016). Power is always present in every political process, which is the goal of every leader's election. So, in order to win the village head election process to gain control at the village level, it is necessary to have a campaign strategy or other strategy that contains elements of fraud that justifies various ways to win the election (Hidayat et al., 2018).

Sumedang Regency, located in West Java Province, is one of the districts that carry out the simultaneous Pilkades, which will be held on October 27, 2021, namely through Sumedang Regent Decree Number 334 of 2021 Concerning Amendments to Regent's Decree Number 186 of 2021 Regarding the Determination of the Day, Date, Month, Village Name, and Amount of Financial Aid to Villages in the Implementation of Simultaneous Village Head Elections in 2021 on August 10, 2021. Initially, the voting was carried out in 89 villages in the Sumedang Regency area, which previously would have been held simultaneously on September 8; it was finally postponed to October 27, 2021. The policy issued by the Sumedang Regency Government is a follow-up to

the Letter of the Minister of Home Affairs Number 141/4251/SJ dated August 9, 2021, regarding the Delay of the Implementation of Simultaneous Pilkades and Inter-Time Elections (PAW) during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

From the description above, it is clear that the author is interested in compiling research with problems that can be arranged as follows: How is the implementation of simultaneous village head elections in Sumedang Regency in 2021? What obstacles are found in the concurrent village head election process in Sumedang Regency? It is hoped that this research can be a reference material for future research and a reference that adds scientific insight.

Method

This research makes use of a qualitative methodology and a descriptive approach to research in order to describe the process by which the Simultaneous Village Head Elections will be held in the Sumedang Regency in the year 2021. According to Bogdan and Taylor (1993), qualitative research may be understood as an investigation that results in the production of descriptive data concerning the written and spoken words as well as the behavior of the individuals who are being investigated. According to Sugiyono (2011), qualitative research is a tradition in social science that is primarily based on observations of humans in its domain. In the meantime, this definition describes qualitative research as follows: Qualitative research methods can be defined as research procedures that yield descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words from people as well as observable behavior.

Result And Discussion

Stages of Simultaneous Pilkades in Sumedang Regency in 2021

The elections for village heads, known as Pilkades, are generally regarded as the most visible form of democracy. Free competition, community involvement, and direct elections conducted according to the "one man, one vote" principle are all hallmarks of the Pilates method (Haq et al., 2020). Pilates makes the atmosphere of democracy in villages in a district feel more alive and can spur a very high level of community participation (Dian, 2017). God's will can be said to be non-existent. Many people who cannot exercise their right to vote complain that they cannot vote at the time of voting due to work or traveling outside the region. This indicates that the political awareness of the village community is very high.

Implementing the simultaneous Pilkades in 2021 and beyond will be different from before, as it has been announced that the Sumedang Regency Government will inaugurate the implementation of simultaneous village head elections (Pilkades) in 2021. The 2021 village head elections are selecting village heads simultaneously for all villages whose term of office for the village head has ended, and some have already been elected. Replaced by the Village Head Officer The basis for implementing the simultaneous Pilkades in 2021 is Article 31 paragraph (1) of the Village Law. Differences in the implementation of village head elections can be seen from various aspects as follows:

Financing: in the simultaneous Pilkades, most of the funds come from the APBD, and the value is relatively high, which is used for the procurement of ballots/voting cards, invitation letters, ballot boxes, and honoraria for election committees, inauguration fees, and other equipment. While the funds for voting

needs are charged to the APBDes of each village.

From the Nomination Aspect: In the simultaneous Pilkades, there is a provision for the number of candidates. The simultaneous Pilkades can only be held if the candidates for village head who meet the requirements are at least 2 (two) people and at most 5 (five) people. Suppose there are less than 2 (two) prospective candidates. In that case, the Pilkades Committee extends the registration period. If there are fewer than 2 (two) candidates within that time, the Regent postpones the Pilkades implementation until a later determined time.

In carrying out the simultaneous Pilkades process in 89 villages in Sumedang Regency in 2021, a series of stages must be passed. Based on the provisions of the Sumedang Regency Regional Regulation Number 334 of 2021 concerning the Village Head Election, the election was held in four stages, namely:

Steps of Preparation through:

a) Establishment of an Election Committee

The Regent appoints a Regency Village Head Election Committee of 21 (twenty-one) members, as well as a District Village Head Election Committee comprised of Muspika, Danramil, Sekcam, and other designated officials. The Village Head Election Committee at the Regency level develops the work program and schedule of activities based on the authority granted by the Sumedang Regency Regional Regulation Number 334 of 2021. Based on the schedule of activities determined by the Regency level Pilkades Committee, the BPD of each village holding the simultaneous Pilkades of Sumedang Regency in 2021 had a meeting for 3 (three) days for the formation of the Pilkades Committee to hold elections at

the village level as outlined in the respective BPD Decrees for each village.

b) Announcement of Village Head Candidate Registration

Based on Article 14 letter (a) of the Sumedang Regency Regional Regulation Number 334 of 2021, the Village-level Pilkades Committee, referred to as the Pilkades Committee, which will hold the 2021 Pilkades, announces the registration of Candidate Village Heads through the village notice board.

c) Voter Registration

Voter registration is carried out by Pantarlih (voter registration officer) and the Pilkades Committee. The voter list derived from the previous regional head election results shall be updated based on improvements from the neighborhood unit, community unit, or other designations and additional voters who meet the requirements. After that, voter data validation is carried out by visiting the voter's house, which can be done actively by the voter.

d) Preparation of the Voter List

The voter list is then compiled within 2 (two) days after the election registration is carried out, to be later designated as a DPS (provisional voter list). The provisional voter list is then widely announced in strategic places. It is easily accessible by the villagers, such as through the notice boards of the neighborhood and community units, and bulletin boards located at the village hall, to get input and feedback from the community for 3 (three) days. Then the Pilkades Committee revised the provisional voter list based on information and feedback from the community. Suppose some voters have not been registered on the provisional voter list. In that case, the voters are registered as additional voters, which is carried out no later than 3 days from the end of the input and responses from the community. Then the additional voter lists will be announced by the Pilkades

Committee in strategic places and easily accessible by villagers within 3 days from the end of the period for compiling the additional voter lists. The revised provisional voter list and the additional voter list as referred to are collected and determined as DPT (permanent voter list) by the Pilkades Committee and announced for 3 days as of the end of ratification and stipulation of DPT. Residents who have been determined in the DPT will then be given a notification letter/invitation letter no later than one day before voting.

The Nomination Stage includes:

a) Registration of Head Candidates

Village candidates who will register as village heads can register at the village level Pilkades Committee Secretariat during working hours.

b) Research Requirements for Village Head Candidates

The Pilkades Committee then examines the completeness of the administrative requirements of the prospective Village Head Candidates. It can make clarifications to the competent authorities if necessary and receive input from the community regarding the validity of the requirements for the Village Head Candidates. Suppose the research results produce candidates who meet the requirements of less than 2 (two) people. In that case, the Pilkades Committee re-opens the registration of the Village Head Candidates no later than 20 (twenty) days after the completion of the requirements for the Head Candidates. If there are still fewer than 2 (two) candidates who meet the requirements after the extension of the registration period, the Regent postpones the Pilkades implementation until a later determined time. The Regency Level Pilkades Committee will hold additional selections if more than five village head candidates meet the requirements.

c) Determination of Village Head Candidates

The Pilkades Committee determines a minimum of 2 (two) Village Head Candidates and a maximum of 5 (five) Village Head Candidates. A draw accompanies the determination of the serial number, attended by the candidate for village head, the Pilkades committee, and the community.

d) Campaign Implementation

The forms of campaigns that will be carried out in the next Pilkades-pilkades, including the simultaneous Pilkades in 2021, are as follows: 1) Limited meeting; 2) Face-to-face and dialogue; 3) Dissemination of campaign materials to the public; 4) Installation of props at the campaign site and in other places determined by the Election Committee, and 5) Other activities that do not violate the laws and regulations.

Quiet period

The quiet period is a period of rest from all activities related to the implementation of the Village Head Election. During the silent period, the Village Head Candidate is prohibited from conducting campaign activities, and the Village Head Candidate must clean the campaign display.

Stages of Voting

Voting is carried out at the time set by the Regency level Pilkades Committee, namely simultaneously in all villages on October 27, 2021. Voters carry out the voting process securely by voting on ballot papers containing numbers, photos, and names of candidates entitled to be elected by the voters. Voting is carried out at voting booths that have been provided at the TPS, where the voters are registered in the DPT.

Determination Stage

The Pilkades Committee carries out vote counting at TPS after voting ends. The calculation is witnessed by the Village Head Candidate or can be represented by each witness from the

Village Head Candidate, BPD, and the community. After the counting of ballots has been completed, the Head of the Pikades Committee announces the vote count results, which are declared valid, and informs the elected Village Head Candidates. The Regent may receive reports of election breaches relating to vote count results that impact the election of a Village Head Candidate. The information can be presented in writing, accompanied by documentation, by Indonesian residents with voting rights or election participants. The protest is sent to the Regent via the Camat no later than three (3) days after the election of the village head candidate. The Regent must respond within 30 (thirty) days of receiving the objection, and the Regent's response is definitive.

The BPD submits the elected Village Head candidate through the Camat, complete with the official report selection file, to be ratified as the elected Village Head. The inauguration of the Village Head as a result of the Simultaneous Pilkades in Sumedang Regency in 2021 will be held at the same place at the State Building on November 5, 2021.

Obstacles in the Implementation of the 2021 Sumedang Regency Village Head Election

The execution of the Simultaneous Village Head Election in Sumedang Regency in 2021 has been carried out in accordance with the provisions of the applicable law, but this does not guarantee that no impediments will arise during the course of these activities. The author will explain the problems that will occur in administering the Simultaneous Village Head Election in Sumedang Regency in 2021 in this section. The following are the obstacles that arise and the efforts made to overcome them:

a) Establishment of the Village Pilkades Committee Most village-level Pilkades Committees have low potential to use IT even though most of the implementation stages use IT facilities.

b) People are very interested in becoming village heads in the majority of the simultaneous Village Head Election areas in Sumedang Regency in 2021. But this does not apply in one village because, until the extension of the registration period for the Village Head Candidate, only 1 (one) person registers as a Village Head Candidate; this is also due to elite games at the village level, which cause only one person to register as a Village Head candidate even though the regulations contained in the Regional Regulations have a minimum number of 2 (two) Village Head Candidates.

c) Execution of the Campaign Problems related to the campaign that occurred in the simultaneous Pilkades in Sumedang Regency in 2021, namely the absence of restrictions on campaign funds such as in the Regional Head Election and the allegation of money politics (money politics). The age following the campaign happens because the community considers the campaign an entertainment event.

d) Ballot Counting. At the time of counting the ballots, the Regency level Pilkades Committee urges that the counting be combined into 1 (one) TPS so that it does not take a lot of time and does not run until the evening because, in general, the TPS in each village is set up on open land with minimal land lighting at night. This appeal has been implemented in the majority of the simultaneous Village Head Election regions in Sumedang Regency in 2021.

Characteristics of prospective village heads that are considered necessary must be carried out, such as being kind, firm, and alert in community activities (Karyanto, 2016); this is to seek sympathy in winning the

competition with other candidates. Each candidate will use separate ways to get the support of the vote, either by using a commendable way or in a way that disturbs the public. And not infrequently, the village head candidate who has been elected to the village head shows an attitude that is less liked by the community. Aside from the fight between pairs of candidates for public sympathy, another important factor to be observed and supervised is the aspect of the village head election executive committee (Lestarini, 2016).

Irregularities in the implementation of village head elections range from the intervention of the district government formed by the Regent directly in the election process, namely in the selection process for village head candidates, to even the requirements for nomination of unique criteria. Of course, this is considered to damage the values and spirit of democracy. In addition, several problems occur in the implementation of simultaneous village head elections, including: first, voter data collection. There are still villagers in the village head election who the voting committee does not register. This is based on the absence of administration of voter population data.

Second, there is no clear regulation regarding who has the authority to arbitrate disputes regarding village head elections. Third, the practice of money politics in the conduct of village head elections has become a common occurrence that is extremely challenging to eradicate. Seeing the challenges of money politics practices, most people are reluctant to report and make problems because, juridically, the community feels that the social sanctions received by individuals who report money politics practices are considered by the individual or community to say it.

Conclusion

The execution of the village head election refers to the legal basis of the Regency Regional Regulation in each region pertaining to the village head election and the Regent's Regulation as a technical guide for the implementation of the village head election. Sumedang Regent Decree Number 334 of 2021 Concerning Amendments to Regent's Decree Number 186 of 2021 Concerning Determination of Day, Date, Month, Village Name, and Amount of Financial Assistance to Villages in the Implementation of Simultaneous Village Head Elections 2021 governs the implementation of village head elections in Sumedang Regency. The selection of the Village Chief is comprised of four stages: the preparation stage, the nomination stage, the vote stage, and the determination stage. The organization of the village level pilkades election committee, the lack of interest in becoming a village head candidate in a number of villages, the implementation of the campaign, and the vote-counting process are hurdles to selecting village head candidates.

Acknowledgment

Thank you for all of your help from our colleagues at Padjadjaran University, Indonesia. We hope that this research will benefit a large number of people.

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