
Evaluation of the Implementation of KPU Regulation No. 13 of 2020 in Serdang Bedagai Regency in the 2020 Election of the Regent and Deputy Regent

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ABSTRACT

This study discusses the evaluation of the implementation of Regional Head Elections (Pilkada) in Indonesia during the Covid-19 pandemic. The entry of this pandemic had an impact on the general election which was originally scheduled for 23 September 2020, but was postponed to 9 December 2020. The General Election Commission (KPU) issued General Election Commission Regulation (PKPU) number 13 of 2020 in response to this pandemic. This study uses a qualitative approach with direct observation as a source of data. The purpose of this study is to evaluate the implementation of regional elections in accordance with KPU regulations no. 13 of 2020 and identify potential risks of spreading the virus. In addition, the research also observes challenges in the KPU socialization process to the public and candidates during the 2020 Pilkada. Socialization activities, voter education, and community participation is carried out using various methods, especially through online media due to face-to-face socialization restrictions to maintain health protocols. The results of the study show that the Pilkada campaign faces violations of health protocols that need serious attention so as not to exacerbate the spread of the Covid-19 virus. Therefore, new innovations are needed in the Pilkada implementation process during a pandemic to ensure public safety and security.

KEYWORDS: *Evaluation, PKPU No.13 of 2020, Pandemic.*

1. INTRODUCTION

One of the characteristics of a democratic country is the implementation of elections, both general elections, regional legislative elections and head elections. The role of elections here is as a mechanism for political change regarding the pattern and direction of public policy/or regarding periodic and orderly circulation of elites. As a medium for societal democracy, elections are a means of aggressing people's aspirations in expressing their will to determine leaders in government institutions, from the center to the regions (Asshiddiqie, 2008).

In Law number 7 of 2017 concerning general elections, general elections, hereinafter referred to as elections, are a means of people's sovereignty to elect members of the People's Legislative Assembly, members of the Regional Representatives Council, President and vice president and to elect members of the Regional People's Legislative Assembly, which are carried out by way of

directly, publicly, freely, confidentially, honestly and fairly in the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia based on Pancasila and the Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia. Elections here are used for the election of the president and vice president (executive) and the election of members of the representative council (legislative)(Burhani et al., 2019; M. Panjaitan, 2013).

Meanwhile, regional head elections are contained in law number 10 of 2016 concerning the second amendment to law number 1 of 2015 concerning the establishment of government regulations in lieu of law number 1 of 2014 concerning the election of governors, regents and mayors to become laws. Elections for Governors, Regents and Mayors, hereinafter referred to as elections, are the implementation of people's sovereignty in Provinces and Regencies/Cities to elect Governors, Regents and Mayors directly and democratically.

In 2020 Indonesia will carry out Regional Head Elections in 270 regions consisting of 9 Provinces, 224 Regencies and 37 Cities. But in early December 2019, the COVID-19 pandemic appeared which was reported for the first time in Wuhan, China. Around March 2020, the first cases of Covid-19 appeared in Indonesia (Alfikri et al., n.d.; Suharyanto et al., 2021; Tawai et al., 2021). The entry of the Covid-19 pandemic in Indonesia has an impact on the election that will be held on 23 September 2020 being postponed to 9 December 2020. This change is in accordance with Government Regulation in Lieu of Law (Perpu) Number 2 of 2020 concerning the Third Amendment to Law Number 1 of 2015 concerning the Stipulation of Government Regulation in Lieu of Law Number 1 of 2014 Concerning the Election of Governors, Regents and Mayors to Become Laws, which states that "the postponed simultaneous voting as referred to in paragraph (1) will be held in December 2020"

Responding to the implementation that will be carried out in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, the KPU issued General Election Commission Regulation (PKPU) number 13 of 2020 concerning the Second Amendment to the General Election Commission Regulation Number 6 of 2020 concerning the Election of Governors and Deputy Governors, Regents and Deputy Regents, and / Or the Mayor and Deputy Mayor Simultaneously Continuing in the Non-natural Disaster Conditions Corona Virus Disease 2019 (Covid-19). In this PKPU, it is stated that the implementation of simultaneous elections which must be carried out must comply with the health protocol for the prevention and control of Covid-19. Changes in implementation can be seen in the implementation of voter data matching (coklit), registration of candidate pairs, campaigns, socialization, implementation of voting and determination of elected candidates as well as holding coordination meetings for the implementation of elections (M. Panjaitan, 2013; Santoso. R, 2019).

Some research that has been done, such as Siregar, Humaizi and Kusmanto (2018), thatThe socialization innovation used by the North Sumatra General Election Commission prior to the 2018 Regional Head Elections is a citizen-based and digital-based socialization method (Siregar et al., 2018). Adhani (2012) from the Indonesian University of Education with the title Socialization of post-conflict local election regulations and mechanisms in forming the civic competence of first-time voters: a political case study at the DKI Jakarta Provincial Election Commission. Basically this research is how the socialization of regulations and mechanisms carried out by the DKI Jakarta Provincial Election Commission in forming the competence of first time voters (Adhani, 2012). Ana Maria. Implementation of KPU Regulation Number 13 of 2020 in Bandung Regency). Portrait of the implementation of KPU Regulation Number 13 of 2020 in the Pilkada during the Covid-19 pandemic situation in Bandung Regency. The implementation of regional elections in Bandung Regency during a pandemic situation was adjusted to the health protocol as contained in KPU

Regulation Number 13 of 2020, although in implementing these regulations there were various problems, including regulations on the implementation of Pilkada issued at the end of time or before implementation, the technical implementation of Pilkada related to health protocols was colored by violations, and the Pilkada budget to meet limited health protocol needs (Mariya, n.d.)

Based on this background, the purpose of this study is to evaluate PKPU 13 of 2020 in the 2020 Regional Head Concurrent Election in Serdang Bedagai Regency during the co-19 pandemic and the obstacles it faced.

2. RESEARCH METHODS

The form of research used in this study is a descriptive research method with a qualitative approach which aims to obtain a lot of information from rational symptoms, events, phenomena contained in the research object by using existing data (Sugiyono, 2019). The symptoms needed in this study are all events that occurred and are related to the implementation of PKPU 13 of 2020 in the implementation of the 2020 simultaneous elections in Serdang Bedagai Regency.

According to (Sugiyono, 2019) states that informants are individuals in a research setting, whose function is as individuals who are used to provide information about situations and conditions in research settings. Informants function to capture as much data and information as possible that will be useful for analysis, so that it is useful for forming concepts and propositions as research findings.

In this study, to obtain data from informants using purposive sampling. Purposive sampling according to Alston and Bowles in (Creswell, 2016) are informants who are deliberately addressed by having certain criteria. In this way, the researcher initially identified and studied all the characteristics of the informants to be studied. Then, the researcher determines the informants based on their own considerations. Informants in this study are key informants who understand and have various information needed by researchers. Key informant inside this research is the Chairperson of the Serdang Bedagai Regency KPU; The main informants are individuals who are directly involved in the social interactions studied. The main informants in this study are 1 the Head of the Technical and Public Relations Subdivision and 1 Division person Socialization and Participation; Additional informants are individuals who can provide information even though they are not directly involved in the social interactions studied, namely the community

The data collection technique used in this study is through primary and secondary data collection. Primary data is a data collection technique that is carried out directly at the research location obtained through observation. According to (Sugiyono, 2018) states observation as an act of the soul actively and attentively to be aware of stimuli. After the stimulation of the senses raises awareness to make observations. Observation is not just seeing, but also requires activeness to absorb, observe, interpret and finally record. Systematic observations were made to carry out this research by observing socialization innovations at the General Election Commission of Labuhanbatu Selatan Regency in the 2020 Regional Head Elections. The second is in-depth interviews, a face-to-face question and answer conducted by the interviewer with the interviewee to obtain information with informed informants. considered to have information representation that is relevant to in-depth research (Moleong, 2018). The in-depth interviews in the research were an interaction process with questions and answers to informants related to socialization innovations at the General Election Commission of South Labuhanbatu Regency in the 2020 Regional Head Elections.

Secondary data sources, is a data collection technique that is carried out by collecting library materials needed to support primary data obtained through literature studies (Moleong, 2018). Literature study is the collection of data obtained using various literature, such as scientific books, the internet and various materials related to research (Moleong, 2018). Documentation is the collection of data obtained from studying various types of documentation, including books, magazines, newspapers, meeting minutes, regulations and other sources of information related to research (Moleong, 2018).

In this study, data analysis was carried out through stages according to (Moleong, 2018) namely: Data Reduction Stage. At this stage the researcher focuses on the field data that has been collected. Data Presentation Stage, at this stage the researcher presents information through the form of narrative text first. Conclusion Stage (Verification), at this stage, the researcher always tests the truth of every meaning that arises from the data seen from the clarification of the data. Triangulation, at this stage, the researcher makes comparisons by obtaining information from other sources about the same thing from various parties so that the data they have can be trusted. The type of triangulation used is perspective and observer multiplication. This type of triangulation refers to the use of a number of observers, interviewers, and interpreters who depart from different points of view or perspectives. Discussions concerning differences in findings and data interpretation are expected to complement the understanding obtained. For example from the second, third and so on. This is to obtain reliable correct information and a complete picture of certain information. This method also prevents subjective harm. In addition, researchers can also use different informants to check the truth of the information. Through various perspectives or views it is expected to obtain results that are close to the truth. As opinion researchers can also use different informants to check the truth of the information. Through various perspectives or views it is expected to obtain results that are close to the truth. As opinion researchers can also use different informants to check the truth of the information. Through various perspectives or views it is expected to obtain results that are close to the truth. As opinion (Basrowi, 2008) who stated that there were three benefits of triangulation, namely improving the imperfection of data collection instruments, increasing the confidence of research results, and increasing the development of subsequent questions.

3. RESEARCH RESULTS & DISCUSSION

Evaluation of Serdang Bedagai District Elections

Election implementation adheres to the principles of Direct, Public, Free, Confidential, Honest and Fair so that elections and direct Pilkada can become a system for recruiting political officials who can meet the parameters of democracy (Nurtjahitjo, 2006; Suharyanto, 2017). Regional head elections in Indonesia in 2020 will be held simultaneously for regions whose term of office for regional heads ends in 2021. The simultaneous regional head election system in 2020 will be the fourth time it has been held in Indonesia. The voting is planned to be held simultaneously in December 2020. The total regions that will carry out simultaneous regional head elections in 2020 are 270 regions with details of 9 provinces, 224 regencies, including Serdang Bedagai Regency, and 37 cities.

Serdang Bedagai Regency is one of the regions that is holding simultaneous local elections in 2020. However, the 2020 Pilkada also certainly has enormous challenges starting from the stages

of voter registration, candidate registration, campaigning, voting and vote counting, and determination of candidates which will be held in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic. 19.

Evaluation of implementation according to KPU regulation No. 13 of 2020 will be a crucial point that is prone to the risk of spreading the virus. Then the next challenge is the process of outreach to the General Election Commission (KPU) to the public and candidates during the 2020 Pilkada. All parties certainly hope that this democratic party does not turn into the emergence of a new cluster of Covid-19 resulting in a lack of socialization and law enforcement.

The implementation of the 2020 simultaneous regional elections during the Covid-19 pandemic in Serdang Bedagai Regency was no different from the implementation of regional elections in normal times, such as outreach, voter registration, logistics management, campaigns, up to voting at TPS and determining the elected pair of candidates. It's just that every stage of the Pilkada implementation is required to implement health protocols and reduce the volume of parties involved in the Pilkada implementation.

The campaign becomes a communication activity, in terms of the aspect of communication studies, Campaign Props (APK), campaign materials, and campaign clans are a means for pairs of candidates to introduce themselves, as well as persuade audiences to vote for them in the Pilkada. Make boundaries from the notion of political campaigns as communication activities aimed at influencing other people so that they have the insights, attitudes and behaviors in accordance with the wishes of the information provider. For candidates who want to get wide publicity, advertising has become a promotional tool, both in terms of self-image and work programs that will be carried out if elected in the election. Advertising has become a "powerful weapon" not only to introduce oneself but to influence changes in voter behavior in deciding to vote for a candidate.

Socialization activities, voter education, and community participation during the Covid-19 pandemic were carried out using various methods, namely direct methods, indirect methods, contests and competitions, collaboration with other parties, as well as public information services. One of the socialization activities with direct method. This socialization activity was carried out with the provisions of implementing the Covid-19 health protocol. However, during the implementation of this activity as well as the introduction of the Mascot and Jingle for the 2020 Serdang Bedagai Regent and Deputy Regent Elections, violations of health protocols were found, such as not wearing masks and maintaining distance.

There are campaign restrictions for competent candidates to win the regional head election. The campaign stages for the simultaneous local elections in 2020 start from September 26 to December 5, 2020. The campaign method for the regional elections during the pandemic has been regulated in Article 58 PKPU Number 13 of 2020. This article explains that political parties, candidate pairs and campaign teams for candidate pairs prioritize campaign methods with limited meetings, face-to-face meetings and dialogue using social media and online media.

Serdang Bedagai is located in North Sumatra Province, whose capital is Sei Rampah with 85 percent of Muslims. Serdang Bedagai Regency is also an area close to the coastal sea with multi-religion and culture in it so that this area has a population of 616,396 divided into 17 sub-districts including, Pantai Cermin District, Bandar Khalipah, Sei Rampah, Dolok Merawan, Bintang Kayu, Sei Baman, Sipispis, Silinda, Perbaungan, Tebingtinggi, Tanjung Beringin, Serbajadi, Teluk Mengkudu, Kotarih, Cliff Syahbandar, Dolok Masihul and Pegajahan.

In addition, the implementation of the health protocol has resulted in a very limited number of direct face-to-face outreach and voter education activities so that the main focus of delivering electoral information and education by the Serdang Bedagai Regency KPU is through online media. The socialization was carried out through social media and the Serdang Bedagai Regency KPU website. Voter outreach and education through online media is less effective even though most people in the current era have devices to access all types of social media.

Then, during the implementation of the campaign, it was recorded that there were the most violations of health protocols. The violation in question is the implementation of a campaign that is attended by a large number of supporters of each candidate so that it exceeds the limit on the number of participants who can attend, namely a maximum of 50 (fifty) people in total, not keeping their distance and not wearing masks, and involving children when implementation of the campaign with the face-to-face method.

The Plenary Recapitulation and determination of the permanent voter list in the 2020 Serdang Bedagai Regent and Deputy Regent Elections were held on Friday, October 16 2020 with a total of 457,991 (four hundred fifty seven thousand nine hundred and ninety one) voters with details of the number of male 228,585 (two hundred twenty eight thousand five hundred eighty five) voters and female voters totaling 229,406 (two hundred twenty nine thousand four hundred six) voters spread across 17 (seventeen) sub-districts, 243 (two hundred forty three) Villages 1,482 (one thousand four hundred and eighty two) TPS in Serdang Bedagai Regency by carrying out the collection stages simultaneously with the implementation of the health protocol.

So, things that need to be evaluated in the implementation of the Serdang Bedagai District Election in 2020:

1. The pandemic side requires the implementation of health protocols to prevent the spread of Covid-19. Serdang Bedagai KPU and the government's socialization regarding the implementation of the health program had an impact on some of the awareness of the voters who were present at the voting.
2. The Pilkada organizers who were declared reactive reduced the number of organizers, although they did not interfere with the vote-counting process but reduced community participation.
3. The level of understanding and independence of election organizers at the sub-district level has a direct effect on the quality of the implementation of voting and vote counting.
4. There are deficiencies in the use of information systems. KPU uses SIREKAP (Recapitulation System)
5. There are natural conditions in December with rainy conditions so that it has the potential to disrupt the election stages, especially in securing voting equipment.

Obstacles in the implementation of PKPU No.13 of 2020

Overall the implementation on the ground ran safely, smoothly and in an orderly manner by implementing the Covid-19 prevention health protocol and the public was still enthusiastic about coming to the TPS to cast their vote. To avoid crowds, 31 (thirty one) districts were divided into several waves.

Serdang Bedagai KPU chairman in 2022 Fuad Hasan Lubis said that the implementation of the 2020 Pilkada was still experiencing problems regarding public concern about coming to the polling place (TPS) because it was still in the Covid-19 pandemic situation. As well as the low understanding and awareness of the public to exercise their right to vote in the 2020 election due to several things including the fear of contracting the Covid-19 virus. Then there are obstacles to reducing the election budget for handling the Covid-19 pandemic and there are still many face-to-face campaigns compared to online.

The KPU is mandated by law to work professionally in the context of holding Pilkada. In accordance with the mandate of the law, the KPU is an important component in terms of assisting the government's duties to support the proper running of regional democracy. The Serdang Bedagai Regency KPU as the organizer of the Serdang Bedagai Regency Regional Head Election has several policies in accordance with PKPU No. 13 of 2020 so that democratic elections can be carried out even during the Covid 19 pandemic, namely the policy of providing health protocol facilities and infrastructure in every Pilkada activity. The Bandung Regency KPU as the organizer of the Election provides various equipment to support the health protocol. These health protocol facilities are for various Pilkada activities, for example activities carried out in the village village hall,

In the 2020 local election procession, internet network infrastructure is also needed to support the implementation of regional elections, but different internet networks in each region are an obstacle. The weather factor and geographical location also have their own challenges when holding regional elections in Serdang Bedagai district. Then there are obstacles to changing socialization patterns using offline to online methods which require adaptation and are considered less effective, so that several outreach programs are not implemented as a result of the co-19 pandemic.

The availability of health protocol facilities for the simultaneous regional election stages in Serdang Bedagai Regency as a whole was sufficient, although initially there was uncertainty from the Indonesian KPU regarding the number of health protocol facilities that would be delegated to the Regency/City KPU. Furthermore, the policy protects the safety of election organizers, participants, voters, as well as other parties involved in Pilkada activities. Serdang Bedagai Regency KPU implements the Covid-19 prevention health protocol at every stage of the 2020 Pilkada to protect the safety of various parties involved with Pilkada activities.

Policies to increase public participation in regional head elections. Increasing community participation is very important in holding regional head elections because the community as voters has a large enough share in determining the winning candidate pair in the election process. The KPU of Serdang Bedagai Regency as the organizer of the Pilkada seeks to increase public participation in the 2020 Regent and Deputy Regent Elections so that people can cast their vote through outreach and voter education. Voter outreach and education activities aim to provide understanding to the public about voting day schedules, voting procedures, voter registration mechanisms, vision and mission programs for candidate pairs, invitations to come to polling stations, implementation of health protocols at every stage,

The policy of increasing voter participation during the Covid-19 pandemic carried out by the Serdang Bedagai Regency KPU is different from the policy of increasing voter participation during normal times, which can visit areas such as sub-districts and villages to conduct outreach

and voter education to the public directly while during a pandemic Covid-19 this is limited. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the KPU of Serdang Bedagai Regency carried out outreach and education for voters by making publications related to the Pilkada which were distributed through social media and online media owned by the district, sub-district, as well as sub-districts or villages. Apart from that, Serdang Bedagai Regency KPU is also working with local governments and various communities to disseminate publications that have been made by Serdang Regency KPU.

During the election of Regional Heads of Serdang Bedagai district which has ethnic, religious, and racial and inter-group (SARA) diversity, because these differences can lead to differences of opinion, mindset or choices that lead to the issue of SARA by provoking individual candidate pairs in the contest. Pilkada in Serdang Bedagai Regency in 2020.

In addition to the high number of cases of Covid-19 which limited the space for regional elections. The obstacle in implementing the 2020 regional elections is the spread of false news or hoaxes. Even though this matter was directly handled together with Bawaslu and related parties.

4. CONCLUSION

The implementation of the 2020 simultaneous regional elections during the Covid-19 pandemic in Serdang Bedagai Regency was no different from the implementation of regional elections in normal times, such as socialization, voter registration, logistics management, campaigns, up to voting at TPS and determining the elected pair of candidates. With the number of TPS 1,482 (one thousand four hundred and eighty two) TPS in Serdang Bedagai Regency by carrying out the collection stages simultaneously with the implementation of the health protocol. The Serdang Bedagai Regency KPU as the organizer of the Serdang Bedagai Regency Regional Head Election has several policies in accordance with PKPU No. 13 of 2020 so that democratic elections can be carried out even during the Covid 19 pandemic, namely the policy of providing health protocol facilities and infrastructure in every Pilkada activity.

Serdang Bedagai Regency KPU implements the Covid-19 prevention health protocol at each stage of the 2020 Pilkada to protect the safety of various parties involved with Pilkada activities with a policy of increasing public participation in regional head elections.

Voter outreach and education activities aim to provide understanding to the public regarding voting day schedules, voting procedures, voter registration mechanisms, vision and mission programs for candidate pairs, invitations to come to TPS, implementation of health protocols at each stage, as well as the role of the community in Pilkada so that the community will understand its role in the success of the Pilkada.

The policy of increasing voter participation during the Covid-19 pandemic carried out by the Serdang Bedagai Regency KPU is different from the policy of increasing voter participation during normal times, which can visit areas such as sub-districts and villages to conduct outreach and voter education to the public directly while during a pandemic Covid-19 this is limited. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the KPU of Serdang Bedagai Regency carried out outreach and education for voters by making publications related to the Pilkada which were distributed through social media and online media owned by the Regency, sub-district, as well as sub-districts or villages.

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