

# Building Community Participation through Participatory Oversight in the 2024 Simultaneous Elections

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## ABSTRACT

Democratic elections require public involvement in all stages of the electoral process, including election monitoring itself. This community service project is carried out with the aim of helping novice voters understand the importance of participatory supervisors in the simultaneous elections of South Buton Regency in 2024. The answer to the occurrence of election violations is the existence of participatory supervisors, which will be able to assist and facilitate the task of supervisory institutions in supervising sustainable democratic participants, this is done for the sake of creating honest, fair, clean and integrity elections. Then Bawaslu must provide thorough training and direction to participatory supervisors so that they know and fully understand their duties and obligations in overseeing the democratic party. After this service activity is carried out, the output objectives to be achieved are patterns of knowledge and awareness of the relevance of participatory supervision in the 2024 simultaneous elections in the South Buton region. This activity was carried out through socialization, therapy, and questions and answers. The result of this community service activity is the existence of participatory supervisors in the elections in South Buton district, which will provide awareness for political actors, election organizers, and stakeholders to take care of themselves, maintain the spirit of their parties to stay on the rails according to their respective portions, so as to produce post-conflict elections that are honest, fair, and have integrity both in terms of process and results.

## A. Introduction

Indonesia adheres to a democratic system where the head of government is governed by the President and Vice President who are elected by the people in general elections. Every citizen has the right and authority to choose the person who will lead them in the next five years directly, freely, privately, honestly and fairly. Election supervision is conducted at all stages, including planning, preparation, implementation and assessment. They all play an important and integral role in ensuring the establishment of fair elections (Kusuma, Permatasari, and Suntara 2022). Meanwhile, it is the responsibility of an institution to make these elections a success, specifically the Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu), to oversee the implementation of elections. Bawaslu is responsible for overseeing and enforcing the election stages, receiving complaints, and handling cases of administrative violations, election crimes, and violations of the code of ethics (Linus et al. 2022; Sa'ban et al. 2021). The existence of Bawaslu is burdened with the aim of making the supervisory role more competent, effective and efficient.

General elections are organized by Bawaslu. As a broad and strong entity, Bawaslu is not only a supervisor but also an executive judge who decides cases based on the mandate of Law Number 7 of 2017 concerning General Elections (Ilman Hakim and L. Iztighfari 2021). The implementation of Bawaslu's duties and responsibilities is being tested for its strategy in overseeing elections with integrity for the progress of the country. The implementation of elections is monitored at all stages,

from planning, preparation, implementation, and assessment. As the official authority in charge of monitoring and enforcing the electoral stages, Bawaslu collects complaints and resolves cases of administrative irregularities, electoral crimes, and violations of the code of ethics. The existence of Bawaslu is predicted to influence supervision to be more competent, effective and efficient.

The participation of many parties in supervision is essential for an honest and fair election. As an institution that conducts election supervision, Bawaslu must answer the issue of how to include all parties in the implementation of supervision, especially by encouraging the community to actively participate in election supervision (Ferdian and Khaidir 2021; Kusdianita et al. 2022). The community should not only guard their voting rights, but also monitor or supervise them (participatory supervision). The direct involvement of the community in monitoring elections makes election results easily accepted by the community because the community is actively involved in protecting their voting rights. Participatory supervision provides enormous benefits to Bawaslu through the implementation of supervision.

However, most Indonesians are still unaware of the application of participatory control, and even those who are meant to defend their voting rights are involved in voting rights violations. Without public political understanding, voter awareness is the first prerequisite for effective engagement. Election monitoring will not be conducted in a fair and honest manner. The role of election supervision as mandated by Law Number 7 of 2017 is carried out by Bawaslu as a legal institution, as well as the role and function of supervision that has independent, credible, and integrated supervision, so that the output of elections with large funds is not a dangerous leader, but a choice of leaders who can benefit everyone they lead. Article 94 paragraph (1) of Law Number 7/2017 on General Elections states that Bawaslu is tasked with preventing election violations and disputes over the election process, Bawaslu is tasked with increasing community participation in election supervision, and Provincial Bawaslu and Regency / City Bawaslu conduct participatory supervision with related ranks.

Election supervision by the community is part of strengthening the implementation of democratic elections, because supervision institutionalized by the community component will be a counterweight to election activities carried out by election participants and official election management institutions such as KPU and Bawaslu. The public can observe the political dynamics that occur and learn indirectly about the organization of elections and all procedures that take place by participating in direct election monitoring activities. The existence of broad public supervision will protect and remind election organizers to always be careful, honest and fair in organizing elections.

This is related to the need for participatory supervision for the community in approaching the 2014 simultaneous elections in South Buton Regency. The purpose of this community service program is to help communities in South Buton Regency appreciate the importance of participatory supervision in the 2014 simultaneous elections. This community service project is useful in raising community awareness of the importance of participatory supervisors in the 2014 simultaneous elections.

## **B. Literature Review**

Understanding democracy can be achieved through two approaches: empirical-minimalist and normative-maximistic. Empirical-minimalist democracy is based on Schumpeter's views (Bidja 2022; Murafer 2018). Schumpeter defines democracy as a system for making political choices in which individuals achieve power by competing for popular votes. Various studies of democracy in political science and sociology attempt to evaluate it from various angles. Democracy has no specific measure as it requires context, both in the public and scientific sectors. Various studies of democracy in political science and sociology seek to evaluate it from various angles. Democracy does not have a specific measure because it needs a context, both in the public and scientific sectors.

Democracy and freedom are often used interchangeably, and both can be used at the same time. Democracy can be seen as a collection of institutionalized activities and ideals that safeguard freedom itself (Kristian et al. 2021). Democracy must encompass its context, but at a minimum, the requirements of democracy include: a government elected by popular vote and supported by the people, free and fair elections, protection of minorities and human rights, equal treatment under the law, judicial process, and political pluralism (Djuyandi, Hidayat, and Hendra 2019). This suggests that democracy goes beyond incorporating people's freedom in the political system to mechanisms of people's engagement in democracy. Political engagement begins with the articulation of interests where someone has political power, such as a political party leader or military ruler. Their position as political aggregators will be critical for the next stage of political engagement.

People's political engagement in Indonesia is still centered on channeling political ambitions through elections. Instead of an alternative tool, political parties are still considered the only platform for the sentiment of political desire. Nonetheless, Indonesians have learned a lot from the democratic process that has been implemented since 1999, especially during the transition period after the fall of the New Order. Efforts to revive democracy and increase civil society participation are needed to mitigate the negative impacts of mass conversion. For example, the process of preserving democracy in Indonesia appears to have had unintended consequences that endangered society (Hilmi 2022). This situation arose as a result of the transition phase from a non-democratic government to a very broad democracy, which may have led to the establishment of additional democracies. Kebarian experimentation with broader democratic systems, as well as Indonesia's background as a 'new democracy', should be recognized as a common aspiration of the Indonesian people as well as a public agenda in reforming the political life of a multicultural nation. Finally, 'electoral governance' innovations support new efforts to make work more effective. For example, how election organizers develop volunteer groups/agents, leaders with integrity and professionalism, and how the electoral process truly brings people closer to the aspects of democracy (broad public participation).

Elections are conducted in accordance with the ideals of honesty, fairness and cleanliness. In this aspect, competent electoral governance is essential. Electoral governance can help prevent electoral fraud, malpractice and vote processing errors. As a result, fraudulently conducted elections have a negative impact on voters' satisfaction with electoral democracy. Therefore, it is imperative that elections are conducted honestly and in accordance with the principles of good electoral governance. This procedure is highly dependent on an independent and impartial election organizer, namely Bawaslu.

The implementation of the early stages of the 2019 Election shows Bawaslu's expertise in carrying out elections with integrity. Even if the nomination stage of political parties results in dissatisfaction with the verification process, it shows that there is tremendous concern with the implementation of good electoral governance standards. Electoral procedures in Indonesia already begin with the registration of political parties for the election. It is necessary to check whether the party meets the standards for registration as a political party. So far, almost every step taken has led to administrative disagreements. Election candidates are often unhappy with the performance of election organizers who are considered unprofessional to the detriment of their parties. Nonetheless, the case of Article 173 of Law No.7/2017 is still being heard in the Constitutional Court, and there is no difference of opinion on this matter.

Another aspect of the electoral process that is expected to cause complications is the submission of regional legislative candidate lists and their selection. Another aspect of verification that is also an indication of the implementation of elections with integrity is the development of the commitment of political parties and Bawaslu and stakeholders in organizing elections. Another topic that must be examined for credible elections is election regulation. Election practices are classified

into four types. First, there is election monitoring (Bidja 2022; Hilmi 2022). In this section, stakeholders try to collect information about the organization of elections, which includes all stages of elections at the national and local levels. Secondly, Election Monitors, these watchdogs have the ability to conduct election monitoring and intervene in the process if anything deviates from election standards. Third, the Election Supervisor is a state-established institution tasked with monitoring elections. This institution also has the ability to proclaim the validity and legitimacy of the election stages, from preparation to the determination of results. Fourth, institutions refer to the assistance of supervisory oversight that includes institutions, organizations and individuals in the early stages of supervision carried out by those participating in this process.

People are defined as (agents) who are responsible for producing and reproducing the production system within the established social order (Yarni et al. 2019). So, if the agent is not satisfied with the existing structure, he can change and create a new one. Structuration theory, which focuses on the repetition of social behavior, is essentially a theory that links actors and structures with diverse features or 'dualities'. However, he argues that agent activity can be interpreted as repetition. This suggests that social actors do not produce activities once and instantly, but rather constantly recreate them in some form, and in doing so, they refer to themselves as 'actors'. Structures such as expectancy connections, group roles and norms, communication networks, and social institutions impact and are influenced by articulated social activity (Ferdian and Khaidir 2021). Individuals benefit from structures by having guidelines to guide their activities. However, their actions are equally geared towards generating new norms and duplicating existing ones.

According to structuration theory, human societies or social systems would not exist without human action; however, this does not mean that the actor creates the social system; rather, the actor reproduces or changes it by reorganizing what already exists in survival practice. Agents produce the circumstances for such activity by engaging in and through their actions. Thus, activity is not shaped by consciousness or reality building, nor is it created by the social system. People instead participate in social behaviors that produce consciousness and structures by making themselves agents.

### **C. Method**

The socialization / counseling method is used to educate novice voters about the need for participatory supervision in the 2024 Simultaneous Elections in South Buton Regency. The implementation of community service activities with the subject matter "Building a Community Movement in Participatory Supervision in the 2024 Election" began with an appeal to the Chairperson of the South Buton Regency Bawaslu. The Chairman of Bawaslu South Buton welcomed the activity plan.

Volunteers were recruited to reach the number of participants who would take part in community service activities, in South Buton Regency. Due to limited funds to conduct this community project, the service team limited the number of people who would participate in the program. Furthermore, needs identification is part of a very important preliminary effort in community service activities. This is due to the availability of various demands that are required to play a key role in ensuring that the activity runs successfully. The service activity has shown demand for activity equipment such as space, chairs, tables, LCD, sound system, consumption, and individual resources.

### **D. Results and Discussion**

This service activity was carried out is socialization, socialization is carried out in order to convey knowledge about the need for participatory supervision in the simultaneous elections of the South Buton district in 2024. This counseling activity has a beneficial impact on increasing public awareness of the importance of participatory supervision in the 2024 simultaneous elections in the

South Buton region. Meanwhile, a question and answer session was organized to gather various ideas or different points of view on the steps taken to avoid election violations by participatory supervisors in the 2024 South Buton Regency simultaneous elections.



Figure 1. Socialization of Participatory Supervision in the 2024 Simultaneous Election in South Buton Regency

This socialization activity was opened by the Chairperson of the South Buton Regency Bawaslu and continued with the distribution of material. The following material was presented:

1. Supervision in Elections

According to (Saidi Andi, Yunani, and Sompia Andi 2022), the definition of supervision is "the process of witnessing the implementation of all organizational actions to ensure that every job that is being carried out is in accordance with the predetermined plan". (Mahpudin 2021) says that: "managing is the process of assessing performance and taking action to secure desired results". Election oversight is the act of monitoring, observing, documenting and analyzing the results of observations, followed by verifying the conformity of the rules and assessing the right or wrong, as well as the impact of the electoral process.

2. Oversight through Participation

The following are the bases for the establishment of participatory watchdogs: 1. There is an increase in the number of novice voters who have a high potential to abstain from voting. According to Bawaslu, there is still an issue of understanding the electoral process and the lack of knowledge of new voters about electoral participation. 2. To maximize the success of participatory supervision with efforts to equalize perspectives between stakeholders while increasing awareness to dare to reveal indications of violations in the implementation of the election stages. 3. For political education, prioritizing public awareness to be involved in all stages of election implementation so that people are not allergic to political parties. 4. To introduce Bawaslu to the community so that they recognize and understand their responsibilities and are eager to support their efforts in carrying out their election monitoring responsibilities.

The following are the objectives of establishing participatory supervisors: 1. To carry out election supervision with integrity and credibility; 2. To seek optimal cooperation from government agencies and CSOs in the implementation of elections; 3. To encourage the involvement of the community and mass media in the implementation of election supervision; 4. To assist independent institutions in carrying out their duties; 5. To assist independent institutions in carrying out their duties; 6. To assist independent institutions in carrying out their duties; 7. Assist independent bodies in carrying out tasks such as election monitoring and voter education.

The following are general principles that should be followed: 1. Mutual respect, without coercion, beneficial to both parties, transparent and accountable; 2. Non-dependent, planned and measured, legal certainty; 3. Proportional, professional, effective and efficient.

The following are the implementation principles: 1. Clarity of objectives and results of collaboration; 2. Mutual respect, need, and benefit; 3. Conducted by officers who understand the

concepts, theories, and processes and are experienced in collaboration; 4. Involving various parties deemed necessary and interested in a proactive manner; 5. Internally and externally accountable; 6. Implemented regularly and continuously; 7. Based on performance indicators, effective and efficient; 8. Institutional in nature.

The following are some examples of Participatory Supervision: a) Monitoring the implementation of elections; b) Conducting electoral studies; c) Participating in preventing violations; d) Submitting reports of election violations; e) Providing information on alleged election violations; f) Supporting the compliance of election participants and election organizers with laws and regulations; g) Other roles.

## E. Conclusion

Based on the results of socialization activities, it can be concluded that this counseling activity was carried out well because it was supported by several supporting factors, although there were inhibiting factors in its implementation, this did not become an obstacle in the implementation of activities. Because the material presented is closely related to the importance of participatory supervision in the 2024 simultaneous elections in South Buton Regency, the delivery of material using the socialization or counseling method and question and answer sessions received a very positive response from the participants who attended. Various comments and opinions from participants in the activity will be taken into consideration in an effort to avoid or at least limit the incidence of election violations.

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