

Political Cultural Orientation of Politicians in Buleleng Regency Ahead of the 2024 Simultaneous Regional Elections

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Abstract. Following the 2024 Election, Buleleng's citizens anticipate the Regional Elections on November 27, 2024. Political parties are strategizing and forming new coalitions. This study examines the political culture of Buleleng's politicians in the lead-up to the elections, with politicians as primary informants. The study constantly monitors political actions until data saturation, using the qualitative data analysis method developed by Miles and Huberman (1984). The kinds of pre-election activities politicians participate in reveal the political culture. Their legal awareness, which includes knowledge, comprehension, attitudes, and legal behavior, reflects their awareness of the role that political education plays in promoting an egalitarian political culture. Activities such as consolidation, cadre formation, political socialization, campaigns, political safaris, recess, and social services are part of political education efforts in Buleleng Regency.

Keywords: Political Culture, Politicians, Simultaneous Regional Elections.

1 Introduction

The residents of Buleleng will shortly welcome the 2024 Simultaneous Regional Elections following the conclusion of the voting and vote recapitulation for the 2024 Legislative Elections and the Presidential and Vice Presidential Elections. On November 27, 2024, these regional head elections will take place concurrently in Indonesia. A number of trends are coloring the time leading up to the 2024 Regional Elections, political parties are starting to measure the magnitude of the opportunity to pass regional head candidates. Political calculations by political parties are also carried out through the opening of opportunities for building new coalitions [1].

In a country with a democratic system, elections or regional elections are important instruments in running the democratic machine [2]. If the Indonesian state and government system has eight enabling components, such as (1) an open political system; (2) an

equitable participatory political culture; and (3) a democratic culture, then efforts to establish democracy can be achieved. People oriented focused political leadership; (4) well-educated, perceptive, and compassionate individuals; (5) political parties that emerge from the bottom up; (6) adherence to the law; (7). the existence of a responsive and responsible civil society; (8). support from foreign parties. Taking these thoughts, it seems that elections or regional elections are a manifestation of the implementation of the 8 supporting factors of democracy.

Pilkada is an abbreviation of Regional Head Election. This is a democratic process carried out by the community directly to elect leaders at the regional level. Leaders elected in Pilkada can be Governor and Deputy Governor to lead a province, electing a Regent and Deputy Regent to lead a district, and electing a Mayor and Deputy Mayor to lead a city. The main purpose of Pilkada is to provide an opportunity for the community to elect leaders who they believe will be able to bring change and progress to their region. Through Pilkada, the community can directly participate in the government process and determine the direction of regional development. The Pilkada process involves various stages, starting from nomination, campaign, to voting. Each of these stages is regulated by law and implemented by the General Election Commission (KPU).

Pilkada is one form of implementation of democracy in Indonesia, where the people have the right to choose their leaders. In 2024, the people of Buleleng will enjoy political entertainment in the 2024 simultaneous regional elections. Ahead of the simultaneous regional elections in Buleleng Regency, a number of political culture trends from prospective regional head candidates and their supporters have begun to appear. Political culture is identified with the attitudes, beliefs, and behavior of the community in responding to the existing political system, namely how the people of Buleleng participate in politics, how they view the role of government, political parties, and other political institutions, and the political values they adhere to.

One of the prominent political cultures is the tendency to form a pattern of patronage relationships, both among the rulers and the community. James Scott (1976) calls it a *patron client* relationship [3]. The relationship pattern in this context is individual. Two individuals, namely *patron* and *client*, have a reciprocal or reciprocal interaction by exchanging the resources they have [4]. Power, status, office, protection, attention, and tangible resources (money, land, and riches) are all resources that the patron possesses. On the other hand, the client possesses resources like loyalty, support, and energy. This relationship pattern will be maintained as long as each party continues to have these resources [5].

Theoretically, researchers suspect that the emergence of several political buying trends of politicians in Buleleng Regency is caused by the orientations of citizens towards political life. In this view, Budi Winarno (2007) distinguishes three political cultures which are explanations of the above [6]

First, participant culture. This culture lives in a society whose people involve themselves in political activities. Second, subject political culture. This political culture is found in a society whose people passively obey government officials and laws, but do not

involve themselves in politics or vote in elections. Third, parochial political culture. People in this culture are either totally ignorant of or disregard (lay) the existence of politics and governance.

Therefore, Budi Winarno (2007) [7] explains the tendency of Indonesian political culture is a combination of the three types of culture, namely parochial-subject culture, subject-participant culture, or, to put it another way, civic culture [8]. In this case, The political culture of Indonesia alternates between parochial-participant and subject-participant cultures. Subject-participant culture is characterized by the strengthening of political participation of society in political life towards political inputs, while at the same time a sense of inability of society to change policies develops.

In contrast to their concern for the political system's input process, they are only focused on the system's outcome since they feel like poor, marginalized, and insignificant [9]. This is due to the great hegemony of the politicians themselves and the hegemony of the rulers rather than the influence of demands or support from society.

Researchers are interested in examining the political culture of Buleleng Regency's lawmakers in light of the concurrent regional elections in 2024. With this study, it is hoped that it can provide a picture of the characteristics of the political culture of residents in Buleleng Regency which can later be a reference for initial data when the government wants to make policies that are in accordance with the characteristics of its society. This kind of thing also gives a signal that democratic life in Buleleng Regency is in accordance with the characteristics of the local culture.

2 Methods

According to Creswell (2008), this study employs a qualitative methodology and a qualitative descriptive research design [10]. In this instance, the issue is how to characterize the political culture of Buleleng Regency's politicians in order to welcome the 2024 Regional Head Elections by adopting political education. The study's participants include a number of informants, including "Politicians" in Buleleng Regency, who are thought to be knowledgeable about the issues under investigation. The qualitative data analysis activities in this scenario are interactive and go on constantly at every level of the research until it is completed and the data is saturated. The qualitative data analysis method developed by Miles and Huberman (1984) [11] was used in this investigation [12].

3 Results and Discussion

The Ahead of the simultaneous Pilkada in Buleleng Regency in 2024, the traits and kinds of political activities that politicians engage in while actively participating in politics can currently be used to describe the political culture of politicians in the region. Based on the findings of the researchers' observations and interviews, the following categories of political activities were identified: (1) actively registering themselves as potential voters and those who were elected; (2) educating their closest neighbors about voter

registration; (3) assisting the Village TPDP in registering potential voters; (4) actively taking part in the KPU's or the media's socialization of regional elections; (5) Actively implementing and participating in campaigns by candidate pairs for regent and deputy regent; (6) Actively participating in village meetings or by the KPU regarding the implementation of the Pilbup; (7) Actively and voluntarily becoming a successful team for one of the candidate pairs; (8) Actively discussing the quality of candidate pairs; (9) Actively as a chairman and/or member of a Political Party; (10) Actively becoming a witness/monitor of the implementation of the election; (11) Active in socializing on social media about regional elections and candidate choices; (12) Actively becoming a donor for one of the candidate pairs; (13) coming to the TPS and casting their vote.

However, from these characteristics, it can still be said that the political culture of Buleleng Regency politicians is still relatively low. This can be proven from several reasons that can be revealed as the motivation of residents to come to the TPS and vote. The following are the reasons from the community; first, residents are forced to follow the interests of others/follow what many people do, especially in practical political activities such as coming to the TPS and voting. Second, residents are simply carrying out their obligations as citizens. Third, because they receive material rewards or services from the candidate pair/party supporting the candidate pair. Fifth, to show their right to vote as citizens. Sixth, they want to participate in determining the candidate for Buleleng leader for the next five years. Seventh, they want to participate in determining the direction of Buleleng development for the next five years.

As outlined in the theoretical analysis of the recently emerging culture of political involvement. Similar to this, the political climate in Buleleng Regency prior to the simultaneous regional elections in 2024 is still influenced by the patron-client political culture, which is shifting toward subject-participant and parochial-participant cultures, and is still paternalistic, according to the findings of the analysis that has been done. This is demonstrated by the political culture of Buleleng Regency, which is characterized by the following characteristics: First, Patron-Client emphasizes that this culture is observed in the patterns of particular situations and relationships. This is an individual interaction, which means that the Patron and the Client have a relationship. The Patron has resources like power, status, protection, attention, and material resources like money, land, and wealth, while the Client has resources like loyalty, support, and energy. More concretely, the relationship between politicians, political elites and their constituents or supporters can be seen.

Second, Subject-Participant Culture is characterized by the strengthening of political participation of the community in political life towards political inputs, while at the same time a sense of inability of the community to change policies is growing. They are solely concerned with the political system's product rather than its input process because they feel like they are poor, disenfranchised, and disadvantaged. In the sense that what is developing is the culture of the politicians themselves, politicians who have the right to determine the type of support and demands on the existing political system, without returning to the people. Fourth, the development of regional speech following the

establishment of regional autonomy is a characteristic of parochial-participant culture. In this instance, there is significant pressure in multiple regions to select local sons for positions like governor and mayor/regent. In the sense that those who lead Buleleng are Buleleng people, with the principle of closeness and choosing figures. Fifth, remain paternalistic, in the sense that the leader is assumed to have become a role model for his supporters or the people and is personal, because a leader with a high level of exemplary behavior will encourage subordinates and the people to immediately follow him by making promises.

Based on the political culture that is currently developing in Buleleng Regency, as explained above, it will also affect the legal culture which will affect the level of legal awareness of the community in Buleleng Regency. According to the thesis advanced by Lawrence M. Friedmann in 1977 [13], legal culture encompasses the abstract ideas of what is good (obeyed) and what is bad (avoided) that form the basis of relevant laws. Judging from its definition, legal culture is defined as the attitude of society towards law and the legal system such as beliefs, values, ideas, and hopes, and is often interpreted as a situation of social thought and social power that determines how the law is obeyed, violated, and deviated from [14].

The culture of political volunteerism and participation that has emerged in Buleleng Regency as described above is essentially still centered on traditional practices with primordial principles, status quo, patron-client, paternalism, and kinship. As a result, it has an impact on the surrounding legal culture, which is Top-Down, meaning that it is influenced from leaders to subordinates, or, to put it another way, from politicians and political elites to their constituents. As a result, this pattern is referred to as the Rule-Model pattern, or exemplary, to persuade supporters (constituents) or influence subordinates.

It is possible to analyze, understand, and know the legal awareness of the politicians themselves as the influence of the legal culture that is in contact with their political culture by using the previously explained indicators, specifically the indicators of the legal awareness of politicians in Buleleng Regency, which can be seen from the levels: Legal Knowledge, Legal Understanding, Legal Attitude, and Legal Behavior Patterns. First, legal knowledge, namely the legal knowledge of politicians in Buleleng Regency regarding certain behaviors regulated by Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 2 of 2008 concerning Political Parties, especially the rules governing the function of political education. Second, Legal Understanding; Legal understanding is a number of pieces of information possessed by politicians in Buleleng Regency regarding the contents of the Law on Simultaneous Regional Elections in 2024. Or knowledge of the goals and provisions of the 2024 Law on Simultaneous Regional Elections, as well as the advantages it offers to parties whose operations are governed by the Law on Political Parties. Third, a Legal Perspective Acceptance of the 2024 Simultaneous Regional Election Law is a legal attitude. The fourth is the pattern of legal behavior. According to the 2024 Simultaneous Regional Election Law, which is an execution of the politicians' interpretation and actualization of the law, legal behavior patterns are the acts of politicians.

The legal awareness of politicians reflected in the knowledge, understanding, attitudes, behavioral patterns displayed will also affect the legal awareness of their constituents. Where as explained above, the existence of exemplary behavior and Rule-Models will be able to provide a positive influence on the legal awareness of the community through its constituents. so that society might be considered to experience the effectiveness of legislation. The following is a description of politicians' awareness of the role that political education plays in recognizing the political voluntarism of Buleleng Regency people in anticipation of the simultaneous regional elections in 2024.

Internal Political parties' internal political education Knowledge, comprehension, attitude instillation, and awareness of the behavioral patterns of politicians themselves are the goals of political education. This suggests that politicians within political parties receive political education in the manners outlined in the party's Vision, Mission, and Work Program, namely in the following ways: There will always be a process of socialization and consolidation among the politicians of Buleleng Regency, as seen by the organizational life of their political parties. Consolidation pertains to the party's interests (its platform), which are connected to the role of political party socialization in enhancing unity and identity within the party in question. Consolidation is manifested in the form of socialization activities about the ideology and platform of political parties, including: socialization of the AD/ART of political parties, Vision, Mission, and Work Program of the party which must be known, understood, responded to, and implemented by politicians in the political party concerned. The goal of consolidation is to instill the strongest possible sense of loyalty and solidarity among politicians, party leaders, and party cadres [1].

According to the political party's translation or understanding in Buleleng Regency, the work program of the political party under investigation in this study can be divided into multiple forms of consolidation. One of these forms of consolidation is Structural Party Consolidation, which takes the form of Party Branch Conferences and is conducted in nine (9) regencies/cities across Bali Province. Every subdistrict in Bali participates in the Party Sub-Branch Deliberation. Party Sub-Branch Deliberation, carried out by branches that have formed the management of the Party PAC throughout Bali, and Sub-Branch Meeting [2].

Non-Structural Consolidation, non-structural party consolidation is carried out in the form of; Forming and determining the Party's Regional Advisory Council; Forming and determining the Department in accordance with the division of tasks according to the fields that have been determined by the party. Internal Party Consolidation, in addition to the two forms of consolidation commonly termed by political parties, there is also another term which is a form of consolidation carried out by political parties, namely Internal Party Consolidation with the following main objectives; Strengthening the Party's loyalty to Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution and the integrity of the Republic of Indonesia. Enhancing the respect and adherence of party members and cadres to the core principles of the party's discipline, vision, mission, and fight. taking responsibility for the party's growth and advancement and reflecting on party performance based on experience. establishing and enhancing the party's reputation [3].

The successful attempts at party development and consolidation also include other forms of consolidation, such as ideological consolidation. In addition to upholding the Republic of Indonesia's integrity and strengthening the party's adherence to Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution, this consolidation seeks to promote party philosophy, moral consciousness, ethics, and exemplary behavior. Consolidation of Insight, The goal of this consolidation is to build global knowledge from the standpoint of national interests while fortifying national and archipelago insight. Organizational Consolidation, This consolidation tends to be like structural consolidation, namely concerning the fields of membership; institutional cadreship; fundraising and utilization; relations with social/community organizations and professions; the field of cooperative relations and synergy with other political parties; and the fields of information and mass media, research and development and legal and human rights development [4].

Second, is Cadre Formation. Cadre formation in any organization is an urgent matter for an organization, including political parties in Buleleng Regency. Cadre formation is the process of preparing human resources in a party so that in the future they will become leaders who are able to build the role and function of the organization better. In several political parties in Buleleng Regency, the cadre formation program is part of the recruitment function and consolidation program for party cadres/personnel which is implemented to realize; Preparing party cadres who have principles, identity and character to internalize, defend and maintain the party's ideology. Preparing party cadres who are ready and capable and consistent and disciplined in implementing/complying with the provisions of the AD/ART and party policies. Preparing party cadres who are ready and capable of managing the party more professionally. Preparing party cadres who are ready and capable of carrying out tasks, functions and realizing the goals and vision of the party's mission. Preparing party cadres who are ready and capable of carrying out political work wherever assigned in the community segment [5].

The cadre program is implemented to produce party cadres who meet; cadres to enforce party structures at all levels; cadres to drive village territorial (approach and mobilization of community figures and village structures); cadres to drive development/national cadres (cadres for the legislature, executive and others). Cadre formation is implemented to achieve cadre levels which include; young cadres at the branch level; cadres at the provincial level; and national cadres at the central level. The cadre formation process is implemented at every level, namely at the central (national) level, provincial level, branch level, sub-branch and sub-branch. The implementation of the cadre formation program includes planning materials, methods, tutors, resource persons, and schedules for implementation, then implemented consistently and continuously.

The strategies or methods in the cadre formation process in each political party in Buleleng Regency will certainly vary or have differences. Of course, in this cadre formation process, several aspects will be considered that can influence the process, namely: cadre formation by considering the Track Record of the person concerned, his/her period of service, loyalty to the party, motivation, and inevitably also colored by factors of closeness and family patterns.

4 Conclusions

Characteristics and types of political activities based on the results of observations and interviews conducted by researchers, several types were found, namely as follows; (1) actively registering themselves as prospective voters and those who are elected; (2) socializing voter registration to the nearest neighbors; (3) helping the village TPDP to record population of prospective voters; (4) actively following the socialization of regional elections from the KPU or from the media; (5) actively implementing and following campaigns by the candidate pairs for regent and deputy regent; (6) actively attending village meetings or by the KPU regarding the implementation of the Pilbup; (7) actively and voluntarily becoming a successful team for one of the candidate pairs; (8) actively discussing the quality of the candidate pairs; (9) actively as a chairman and/or member of a political party; (10) actively becoming a witness/monitor of the implementation of the election; (11) actively in socialization on social media about Pilkada and candidate choices; (12) actively becoming a donor for one of the candidate pairs; (13) coming to the TPS and casting their vote.

Politicians' Awareness in Carrying Out the function of political education in the framework of realizing an egalitarian political culture in Buleleng Regency in welcoming the 2024 simultaneous regional elections is reflected in the indicators of legal awareness of politicians in Buleleng Regency which can be seen from the levels: legal knowledge, legal understanding, legal attitude, legal behavior Patterns in carrying out internal political education of their political party, carrying out consolidation, cadre formation, then there is external political education of their political party, carrying out the function of political socialization, political campaigns, political safaris, recess and social services called *mesima krama*.

The development of citizen political volunteerism in Buleleng Regency and the realization of a participatory political culture can be influenced by a variety of factors, such as the personal traits of politicians, socioeconomic, cultural, and sociopolitical factors, the socialization of legislative products, the effects of globalization and modern democracy, communication and mass media, and factors related to law enforcement. A personal factor is anything that can influence a politician's legal knowledge while they carry out their internal political education duties.

From the descriptions above, the author provides several suggestions taken from the benefits of this study, namely: politicians in Buleleng Regency are expected to better understand and interpret, then implement their duties and functions in increasing the awareness of politicians in carrying out the function of Political Education in order to realize the political volunteerism of citizens in Buleleng Regency in welcoming the simultaneous regional elections in 2024.

In order to achieve the implementation of modern democracy based on the values of Pancasila and the 1945 constitution in Indonesia, it is hoped that political life in Buleleng Regency will shift towards a participatory political culture of the community and

abandon traditional practices with primordial principles, status quo, patron-client, paternalism, and family. In order to increase the Buleleng Regency community's participation in efforts to increase their rights and obligations as citizens to determine the direction of public policy so that national goals are achieved, political parties, through their politicians, are expected to further improve their political education function. This is not just limited to political participation in the election.

5 References

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