

Neutrality of the State Civil Apparatus during the 2019 General Election in Majene City

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ABSTRACT

This research was conducted in Majene Regency with the title Neutrality of the State Civil Apparatus during the 2019 General Elections in Majene City. The research approach used was descriptive qualitative research. Descriptive research aims to provide data as accurately as possible about a person, condition or other symptom. Descriptive research is research that aims to investigate situations, conditions, circumstances, events, activities, and others. The research results are presented in the form of a research report. Data collection techniques were carried out in three ways, namely library research, observation, and interviews. based on the results of the study showing the Neutrality of the State Civil Apparatus during the general election in Majene City in 2019, that in the 2019 Majene City Legislative Election, the ASN Secretariat of the Majene City DPRD office had not placed itself in a neutral position. This is because there are still ASNs who are indirectly involved in several political activities in the 2019 Majene City Legislative Election. The involvement of the ASN Secretariat of the Majene City DPRD office in the 2019 legislative elections is proof that the bureaucracy in Indonesia still cannot be categorized as an ideal bureaucracy. Because in reality the ASN Secretariat of the Majene City DPRD office has not been able to limit political interests with the duties that should be carried out as a servant of the state.

Keywords : *Neutrality, ASN, Election*

INTRODUCTION

The reforms since 1998 which took place 21 years ago have been the beginning of a change in the government system in Indonesia. Changes that have taken place include in the political field in the context of consolidating democracy and decentralizing government. To realize a democratic country, it is necessary to link various elements, especially in the administration of government by organizing the staffing system. Change through bureaucratic reform which is oriented towards forming a professional state apparatus towards better governance (Tome, 2012).

Civil Servant (PNS) is the main subject in bureaucratic reform which serves as an institutional goal and also for a democratic society "democratic polity". The role of civil servants who are professional and strategic in implementing public service policies is the success of sustainable development (Tome, 2012).

Based on law no. 5 of 2014, civil servants are part of the state civil apparatus (ASN). The politicization of ASN is one of the issues that is of concern and is of current concern. This condition affects the work ethic of ASN because it has the potential to

cause a conflict of interest. Parties that have the potential to politicize ASN can come from internal or external, namely from superiors or other parties. ASNs are expected to have professionalism in carrying out roles and functions that are difficult to materialize because they are faced with various interests (Hartini, 2017).

ASN neutrality is currently an issue that is widely discussed in the general public. This was caused by violations by ASN employees of the principle of neutrality, especially before, during and after the election that took place in Majene Regency in 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019 and could occur in the fourth batch of simultaneous local elections in 2020. ASN employees are required to always behave subjective, professional and impartial/neutral in carrying out their duties.

The results of a study in the field of Study and Development of the State Civil Apparatus Commission (KASN) System, explained that violations of ASN neutrality often occur in general elections. For example, an incumbent (incumbent) who contests the election for the chairman of the DPRD, through ASN who is in his working environment, deliberately makes activities sourced from the state/regional budget for the benefit of the incumbent (incumbent) such as socialization and/or distribution of groceries in order to attract sympathy people who benefit the incumbent. Another example is a covert campaign by deliberately placing billboards or banners that are used to increase the level of popularity of the incumbent by using the state/regional budget. In addition, there are other things that utilize regional programs and budgets to be used by incumbents as campaign instruments.

ASN's involvement in the preparation of work programs and/or campaign materials to be used by the incumbent (incumbent) in legislative elections is also another violation. This knowledge and experience is used in collaboration with the incumbent in preparing the vision and mission of the incumbent candidates, so that the design of policies and budgets for socialization and/or campaigning activities can be carried out covertly together with the work programs of legislators. This will greatly benefit the incumbent because it can easily socialize the program through the DPRD apparatus and with the regional budget.

Article 2 of Law no. 5 of 2014 concerning ASN states that the implementation of ASN policies and management adheres to the principles, principles, basic values, and code of ethics and behavior (neutrality). Bureaucratic neutrality is a system in which the bureaucracy will not change in performing and maintaining its services to the public, even if the leadership changes or if there are attempts to eliminate neutrality in an ASN. Bureaucratic duties as a service should not decrease in quality, even if the leader changes

Initial observations made by the author in searching for data related to the 2019 simultaneous election violations that occurred in Majene district. In the initial observation, writing found data sourced from the Election Supervisory Board in Majene district through articles/news under the following table:

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Number of Cases	Type Violation	Penalty
11 Case	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Deliberately making activities sourced from the state/regional budget for the benefit of defense officials, such as outreach or distributing groceries in the context of attracting people's sympathy that benefits the defense. 2. Covert campaigns deliberately placing billboards or banners used to increase the popularity of defense by using the state/regional budget 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 5 Person moral sanction 2. 3 person warning letters 3. 3 people sanction written warning

Based on the table above, there were 11 violations found by the general election supervisory body in Majene Regency and 6 of them involved civil servants. The violations committed by 6 civil servants included joining the success team in one of the legislative candidates and being found to be participating in promoting one of the legislative candidates. After it is found that civil servants are involved in political affairs and are not neutral, they are given a written warning and threats of sanctions if they are found to have committed a violation of civil servant neutrality for the second time.

Majene is still found to be a non-neutral civil servant. Cases of violations of bureaucratic neutrality in the 2019 simultaneous elections are prone to occur, one of which is in the Majene Regency DPRD Legislative election. Through the results of a brief interview, Bawaslu stated that the number of complaints related to election violations by bureaucrats in Majene Regency was quite large. A dilemmatic position is often faced by bureaucrats who are under patrons, especially incumbent candidates. Considering that DPRD synergizes with regional heads including political support and intervention. Based on the descriptions and problems above, the authors are interested in analyzing and conducting research entitled "Civil Servant Neutrality in the 2019 General Election (Case Study of ASN DPRD Secretariat Majene)". Based on the formulation of the problem above, the aim of this research is to find out the neutrality of the State Civil Apparatus in the implementation of the general election in Majene City in 2019.

METHOD

The author uses qualitative research methods. Data were obtained through direct interviews with selected informants who were assumed to know the problems. In addition, the authors collect data through books, documents, research results that are considered to strengthen or complement the information obtained from informants.

- A. Neutrality of ASN Secretariat of DPRD Majene Regency in the 2019 Majene City Legislative Election

The neutrality of the State Civil Apparatus (ASN) as stated in Law Number 5 of 2014 concerning ASN article 2 letter f, states "The principle of implementing ASN policy and management is Neutrality". anywhere and does not favor the interests of anyone. In the implementation of the 2019 legislative elections for Majene Regency, it is hoped that every ASN employee can be neutral. This is because the neutrality of ASN is an important pillar in the continuity of the implementation of good governance. Therefore, ASN employees are elements of the state apparatus that can provide services to the community in a professional, honest, fair and equitable manner (Iskandar. 2009).

According to Mr. Ridwan, as staff of the Chairman of Bawaslu Majene, he said: "The smooth implementation of governmental tasks and national development depends on the quality of the state apparatus, especially civil servants."

Therefore, in order to achieve the goal of national development namely realizing a law-abiding, modern civilized, democratic, prosperous, just, and highly moral civil society, civil servants are required as elements/parts of the state/government civil apparatus who serve as servants. society which must provide services in a fair and equitable manner to the community based on loyalty and obedience to Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution.

Neutrality in general elections must be implemented by ASN, this is because it has been regulated in the Government Regulation concerning the Prohibition of Civil Servants (PNS) from becoming members of political parties. In an interview with Ridwan, he said:

"Regarding the neutrality of ASN, in that position and task, civil servants must be neutral from the influence of all groups of political parties and not be discriminatory in providing services to the community."

Then in the general explanation section it is stated that in order to guarantee the integrity, cohesiveness and unity of civil servants, and in order to be able to focus all attention, mind and energy on the tasks assigned to ASN, ASN is prohibited from becoming a party member and or administrator. Therefore, a civil servant who is a member or administrator of a political party must be dismissed as a civil servant. Such termination can be done with respect or not with respect.

DISCUSSION

Analysis of the Involvement of ASN DPRD Secretariat Offices in the 2019 Majene City Legislative Election

The 2019 Legislative Election for Majene City was held on April 17 2019 simultaneously with the General Election, the Election for the DPR, DPD, and Provincial/City/Regency DPRD. In the implementation of the 2019 Legislative Election, ASN's position as a servant of the state is neutral, without being involved in political activities and not allowed to side with any of the candidates for members of the legislative council.

In the implementation of the 2019 Legislative Election for Majene City, there was involvement of ASN in the Secretariat Office of the Majene City DPRD in various practical political activities which were carried out clandestinely. These forms of

involvement include helping incumbent legislative candidates in campaigns, assisting the success team of incumbent legislative candidates, and abusing regional facilities in the form of official cars to consolidate politics with community leaders in the context of winning the incumbent legislative candidates they support..

Based on the involvement of ASN in the Majene City DPRD Secretariat Office in the 2019 Majene City Legislative Election, it can be said that ASN has committed a neutrality violation or is not being neutral. Because according to Kacung Marijan, bureaucratic neutrality is cleaning the State Civil Apparatus from involvement in political games (Sudrajat.. 2015).

ASN as a servant of the state should be neutral and not involve themselves in practical politics, in order to avoid abuse of power. The real purpose of the bureaucracy is as an instrument of the state to serve the public interest.

In line with bureaucratic political theory, Frederickson and Smith explained that, bureaucracy often dominates political affairs, or in other words the bureaucracy is involved in making policy agendas and political activities (Thoha, 2009). In this theory, the bureaucracy is seen as an individual who has emotions, values and goals that are not always appropriate or in line with organizational goals, so that he involves himself in profitable practical politics..

Ideally, the community is able to monitor and report ASN involvement in various practical political activities in the 2019 Majene City Legislative Election, so that the Majene City Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu) can follow up by giving punishment to ASN who have been involved and committed neutrality violations

This is as outlined in Law Number 7 of 2017 concerning General Elections. In Article 93 it is explained that the duties, obligations and authorities of ASN are to oversee the neutrality, prevent and take action against election violations committed by ASN.

Law No. 5 of 2014 concerning State Civil Apparatus. In article 9, paragraph 2 it is explained that: "The implementation of ASN policies and management must be free from the influence of political interests, the intervention of all groups and political parties and be based on the principle of neutrality

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the research and discussion as stated above, the author can conclude that in the 2019 Majene City Legislative Election, the ASN Secretariat of the Majene City DPRD office has not placed itself in a neutral position. This is because there are still ASNs who are indirectly involved in several political activities in the 2019 Majene City Legislative Election.

The ASN Secretariat of the Majene City DPRD office in the 2019 Majene City Legislative Election committed a violation of neutrality and involvement in practical politics and was reported to Majene City Bawaslu, and has strong evidence, so that Bawaslu can carry out punishment against ASN who have violated the principles of neutrality

Broadly speaking, the factors involving ASN involvement in practical politics in the 2019 legislative elections for the city of Majene are the existence of mutually beneficial cooperation between ASN and the incumbent Legislative candidate it

supports, or commonly referred to as a patron client culture, for personal gain, as well as the lack of integrity and ASN loyalty to be neutral. This is because the candidates for the incumbent legislature have considerable resources, for example protection, facilities, position, licenses, finances/funds, and so on. In the end, an attitude of reciprocation emerges that is carried out by ASN by providing support and expertise.

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