

# COMMUNITY RESPONSE ON CHANGES OF REGIONAL HEAD ELECTION SYSTEM (STUDY ON THE SOCIETY OF WAY KANDIS PUBLIC HOUSING BANDAR LAMPUNG)

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**ABSTRACT** - *This study aims to determine the public response about Regional Head Election system changes that occurred in Indonesia as well as the public wants to know about the system of local elections process viewed from the perspective of science communication. The approach used in this study is a qualitative approach, collecting data using observation, interviews, and documentation.*

*The results showed that the public response of the society of Way Kandis, Bandar Lampung did not agree to a system of Regional Head election conducted by the Regional Representatives Council. The society prefers Regional Head election system is implemented directly, elected by the people. Thus the response shows that Indonesia is a country that adheres to the principles of democracy; the society has a control function to a policy made by the government.*

**Keyword :** Regional Head Election system

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The system of government in Indonesia's democratic system is known as the central government system and the system of local governance. There are two levels of local government, the provincial level, led by a governor and the level of district / city, led by regent / mayor. Kaloh (2007: 11) reported that:

In the midst of internal and external changes of the Indonesian nation, there is a central issue that becomes public discourse, namely the need for a balanced division of power between central and local governments in order to increase the independence of local processing of his own household in a harmonious relationship with other regions and of course with the central government.

The statement explained that the division of power between central government and local governments shall be determined fairly to promote the welfare of local people. Each region also has the right to have autonomy region in building and realizing the democratic state in order to strengthen the integrity of the country based on the values of Pancasila adopted by Indonesia.

In the development of the democratic system of Indonesia, about the head of the region, both the governor and regent / mayor have undergone several phases of change. In the Suharto government era better known as the New Order era the formation of regional heads is fully supervised by the president. Maschab (2013: 123) reveals, it was clearly outlined in the Act No. 5 of 1974:

Prioritization aspects of efficiency which then tend to lead to such centralization would be clearer if based on the process of the appointment of the Governor of the Province, and the Regent or Mayor of the Regional Level II and also the composition of the membership and leadership of the Regional Representatives

Council. In the appointment of regional heads, each candidate must first obtain approval or "blessing" in advance of the center. Meanwhile, the center itself has also "hinted" the desired candidate, so that the local parliament then adjusts with the sign from the central and finally the central desired candidate is "elected" with the most votes.

From the above statement it is clear that, in the era of the New Order government, whoever the prospective head region was if the central government did not approve it, then the nomination would be canceled. In other words, there was no right to vote when it was elected by the public, but rather the right to vote and the election of regional heads was determined by the central government, especially by the president based on Law No. 5 of 1974.

The pressure to Suharto to step down from the presidency was done by students and activists at the time, made BJ Habibie succeeded Suharto as the next president. As reported by Budiardjo (2008: 254), on May 21, 1998 President Soeharto resigned and handed it over to the Vice President Prof. Dr. B.J. Habibie. This was the first step of Indonesian democratic reform so that after the New Order era was known as the era of Reformation.

At the regional head election reform era is no longer based on Law No. 5 of 1974; but based on Law Number 22 Year 1999 on Regional Government (Kaloh, 2007: 66) in which regulates among other things the following:

Eleventh, the recruitment of the head area is fully carried out by the region without the intervention of the central government, except for the candidates for governor, after the names of the candidates has been determined by the leadership of Parliament, it is consulted prior to the president to obtain approval given status as a candidate for deputy governor of the Central

Government, in addition to his position as chief executive of the province.

Based on the views of less uphold democratic values, in 2004, Law No. 22 of 1999 amended. The law was changed to Law Number 32 Year 2004 on Regional Government, as revealed by Kaloh (2007: 69):

Many evaluations of sharing circles that are addressed in the implementation of Law No. 22, 1999, so needs to be revised, especially the negative flavorful among others that democracy developed by the spirit of this law is less support to the creation of a democracy that upholds the values of democracy itself. This law tends to produce democracy that is 'excessive', and brings up the 'small kings' in some areas.

Gaffar (2013: 140-141) states that, in addition to the election of members of central and local House of Representatives, and the election of President and Vice-President, on October 15, 2004 they passed Law No. 32 of 2004 on Regional Government which sets the election of regional head and deputy head of the region conducted directly by the people. The difference is apparent if it is seen from the content. If Law No. 22 of 1999 local elections is submitted by local governments, then in Law Number 32 Year 2004 local elections is submitted by the people through a direct election system. But in 2014 there was an attempt to change the system back where local elections were originally elected by the people, turned into a re-elected by the Members of the House of Representatives (DPRD) as disclosed in <http://politik.news.viva.co> sites. id (accessed on 7 November 2014, at 16:57 pm); head and deputy head of the region is no longer defined in the polls that are sometimes held in the open with the rain and the risk of overheating. Local leaders determined in the meeting rooms and the Provincial Parliament plenary of cities / regencies in Indonesia. The statement is emphasized in Law No. 22 2014 about Governor, Regent, and Mayor Election, Article 3 paragraph (1) which reads, Governor is elected by members of provincial parliament democratically based principle of free, open, honest, and fair. Paragraph (2) which reads, regents and mayors are elected by members of regency / city based on the principles of a democratic way of free, open, honest, and fair. Changes in the system of local elections raises a lot of response from in various circles of society. As described in the discourse of Kompas.com website (accessed on 10 November 2014, at 12:48 pm) which states that:

A political observer from Gadjah Mada University, Ari Sudjito, assessed that discussion of the bill on local elections (Bill elections), one of which interviewing Regional elections by Parliament is like returning Indonesia to the New Order. This mechanism, according to him would lead to collusion between the legislative and the executive.

The statement was also emphasized in Tribunews.com website (accessed on December 10, 2014, at 18:58 pm), which revealed the elections bill

working committee members of the PKB faction, Abdul Malik Haramain who says that his fractions consistently want head of the region election, ranging up to governors from regents and mayor, held directly and simultaneously. How is the response of the society in Way Kandis Bandar Lampung on the system changes the local elections is an interesting thing to look more deeply. This study aims to understand more deeply about the community response to changes in the system and the system of local elections expected by the community.

The response is a response to a stimulus communicant of a stimulus given by the communicator. The response formed from the communicant can be positive or negative, depending on stimuli derived from the communicator. In the explanation of communication commonly known as the model of stimulus - response (S - R). Mulyana (2005: 133) explains that,

Model S - R assumes that verbal words (spoken - written), nonverbal cues, drawings and specific actions will stimulate others to respond in a certain way. Therefore you can regard this process as an exchange or transfer of information or ideas. This process can be reciprocal and has a lot of effect. Each effect can alter the next action of communication (communication act).

## **2. METHODS**

This study aimed to understand human behavior to an event that occurred, causing a response. It is related to the field of social sciences including the field of communication concerning human relationships individually or in groups. Therefore, the methodology used in this study is closer to the descriptive qualitative aspects. The reason is because researchers are trying to get a real picture of the phenomena that occur in people's lives. Based on the description by Ruslan (2008: 214), to examine the social sciences and in particular the communication is more appropriate if done with qualitative methods, in-depth to find out more about the aspects of the phenomenon psychiatric aspects, behaviors, attitudes, responses, opinions, feelings, the desire and willingness of a person or group. The statement was reinforced by Bungin (2012: 6) which states that:

In the tradition of qualitative research, process research and science is not as simple as what happened in quantitative research because before the results of the qualitative research contribute to science, qualitative research phase is beyond the various stages of critical-scientific thinking, where the researchers begin thinking inductively, i.e. capturing a variety of facts or social phenomena through observations in the field then analyze it and then seek to theorizing based on what was observed.

The same thing expressed by Moleong (2011: 6) explains that

Qualitative research is research that aims to understand the phenomenon of what is

experienced by the subject of the study such as behavior, perception, motivation, action, etc., holistically, and by way of description in the form of words and language, in a specific context that is natural with utilizing a variety of natural methods.

In this qualitative study, the authors expected to decipher and describe the problem based on insufficient data compared to the quantitative method based on representative data besides being able to analyze and understand the conditions of the phenomenon that is happening in the research environment.

Qualitative research requires researchers to obtain information by way of a direct relationship with the resource person / people in the field. Lofland and Lofland (in Moleong, 2011: 157) state that the primary data source in qualitative research is words and actions. The rest is additional data and documents and such others. The same thing is done in this study in which information is obtained based on the words and behavior caused by the informant.

In the study, the informant is an important part in obtaining the data field. As revealed by Bungin (2012: 107) who states that, "the informant research in qualitative research is concerned with how the steps are taken by the researchers so that the data or information can be obtained". Informants in this study determined are based on the title of the study, namely the Indonesian citizens who live in Way Kandis Public Housing district of Tanjung Senang Bandar Lampung. In collecting data in this study, the authors use three steps namely, interviews, observation, and documentation. The measures were divided into three stages, namely: (1) the orientation phase, (2) the exploration phase, and (3) the stage member check. Data analysis technique used in this study is as described by Miles and Huberman (in Hernawan, 2004: 91) which is made through the process:

- 1) Reduction of data as the electoral process, focusing on simplification, abstraction and transformation of raw data that emerged from a recorded field.
- 2) Presentation of data as a set of structured information that gives the possibility of drawing conclusions and taking action.
- 3) Draw conclusions or verification.

Such steps are interactive.

### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The development of democracy in Indonesia has undergone several phases of change. Changes occur usually whenever there is the change of leadership / president that is held every five years. One of them is the change of the Regional Head Election Systems. In the end of the term of office of President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono (SBY) of the second periods, the debate on the Regional Head Election Systems Change cause various polemics. The incident began when there was 2014 presidential election between Prabowo - Hatta with Jokowi - Jusuf Kalla (JK). Previously Jokowi was an unexpired term of office Jakarta Governor.

Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-P) formed a coalition with various parties including the National Awakening Party (PKB), the National Democratic Party (Nasdem), as well as the People's Conscience Party (Hanura) incorporated in Indonesia Great Coalition (KIH). On the other hand, Prabowo was running for President that was carried by the Great Indonesia Movement Party (Gerindra). Gerindra also formed a coalition with several parties including the National Mandate Party (PAN), Party of the Functional Group (Golkar), the Prosperous Justice Party (PKS), United Development Party (PPP), and the Crescent Star Party (PBB) incorporated in the Red and White coalition (KMP) while the Democratic Party taken a stand as a party mediator did not take sides with one of the camps of KMP and KIH.

When the presidential election was won by Jokowi - Jusuf Kalla, the coalition began to heat up in the capitol. They are concerned about Regional Head Election Systems conducted directly (elected) or Election Systems Indirect (determined by the Local Council). Coalition of Superb Indonesia (KIH) wanted elections held directly (elected by the people). With reason, people should directly elect its leader. On the other hand, the Coalition of Red and White (KMP) wanted indirect elections (selected local parliament). The ground, the costs incurred to implement the election is too large. Meanwhile, President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono (SBY) as chairman of the Democratic Party who was not a member of the coalition also wanted election held directly. This is evidenced by the issuance of Government Regulation in Lieu of Law (Perppu), in order to cancel the law that was passed by members of Parliament. As stated in perppu No. 1 Year 2014 regarding the Election of the Governor, Regent, and Mayor Article 2 of the said election held democratically based on the principles of direct, general, free, secret, honest, and fair.

News about Regional Head System Change is also inseparable from the media spotlight. Society began to follow its development through the mass media. Media used were varied namely, print media (newspapers), electronic media (television), and online media (internet). Mass media as a container-reaching information delivery is widely performed. It is already done in conveying any information concerning lavatory especially crowds because basically mass media is a function of government control over a policy as well as a liaison between the government and the people of Indonesia. Most of the Indonesian people find out the latest and important information through the mass media, especially television. McQuail (in Subiakto and Ida, 2014: 131-132) states that there are at least six perspectives in terms of seeing the role of the media:

**First**, look at the media as a window on events and experience. The media is seen as a window that allows audiences to "see" what is happening out there or on themselves.

**Second**, the media are also often regarded as a mirror of events in society and the world, implying a faithful reflection. Namely mirror

events in society and the world, which reflects whatever as what it is.

**Third**, look at the media as a filter or a gatekeeper that selects various things to be given attention or not.

**Fourth**, the mass media too often seen as a guide, a guide or interpreter, who translated and indicated the direction of various uncertainties or alternative diverse.

**Fifth**, look at the media as a forum to present various information and ideas on the audience, allowing the occurrence of responses and feedback.

**Sixth**, the mass media as an interlocutor, which is not merely a place of information traffic, but also as a communications partner that enables interactive communication.

Explaining that the above statement, the mass media have a role each of which is adjusted by the needs of the community. Especially in political terms as well as the latest government policy, almost all levels of the Indonesian people know that information from the mass media. With the news that is presented by the media, it can give rise to a public attention to the events that are happening. In fact, the amount of news about Regional Head Election Systems delivered via the mass media makes a society has more critical response to the news.

When the plenary meeting that took place on September 25, 2014, which discussed the Regional Head Election system with two options, namely the local elections held directly or elected by Parliament buzzed with interruptions carried out by members of the board. At that time the Democratic factions proposed direct election system with ten improvements, but it was rejected by a number of political parties. The Democratic Party took a stance left the plenary session or commonly known as the walk out.

Walk-out attitude selected by the current Democratic Party in the plenary meeting makes KMP has a great chance to win in terms of ratification of the Law of the elections conducted by the Parliament. Different thing happened with KIH who had a sense of disappointment over the attitude of walkout issued by Democrats. Various criticisms eventually emerged from the other party members and the public attitude towards the Democratic Party. Those found that Democrats who called himself as a defender of the people's just an expression alone. The disappointment was expressed by Yasona Lauli of PDI-P in a plenary meeting. Because for KIH, with the departure of the Democratic Party who left the plenary meeting, there is a possibility that KIH cannot win direct elections (elected by the people).

In this case the Indonesian people speculate, if local elections are taken by Parliament, it makes the people of Indonesia go back to the Suharto regime, where the regional head candidate must get approval of Suharto, if approval was not obtained, then the nomination as head of the region will be canceled. In fact, after the reform Indonesian people were entitled to issue voice

in any case including in local elections. Therefore, in this case also the community wants to be involved in making a decision which indirectly makes the government listen to the people's aspirations. Alan R. Ball (in Suharizal, 2012: 175) explained:

Elections and democracy are closely related in substance and function. Election is a real actualization of democracy in the practice of the present state as the primary means for people to assert its sovereignty over the country and the government. Expressions of popular sovereignty are embodied in the community engagement process to determine who should run the government, especially in the regions.

The statement above is reinforced by Mawardi (2014: 78-79) who states that:

One of the practical implementation of the people's sovereignty within the framework of democratization is the implementation of the General Election regularly with the principle of free, direct, public and secret. Election is the mandates of the constitution which must be implemented by the government in this regard to ensure and protect the exercise of sovereignty in channeling their political rights in the general election. Election as one of the ongoing practice of power and governance on a regular basis should be based on the principles of equitable laws and values expediency.

From the statements above it can be seen clearly that the local election process is based on the principle of direct elections, in which the involvement of the Indonesian people in the local election process.

Results of field observations show that society of Way Kandis believes that if elections were indirect / chosen by parliament, it does not guarantee that every area will have a head area which can be trusted by the people. With a wide range of allegations that are not known by the people making the community of Way Kandis disagree when local elections are conducted indirectly / chosen by parliament. However, when people do a direct local election, people will have great confidence towards the candidate. In addition, the public can know the criteria and programs offered by the candidates of each party during the election campaign, so there is a certain satisfaction for people, especially in the activities of Way Kandis local elections. It is now embodied in the regulation No. 1 Year 2014 on local elections.

On January 20, 2015 the Government Regulation No. 1 Year 2014 on the election of regional heads has been officially approved as an Act. Various parties appreciate legislative action on the matter because the parties assess this incident is a democratic right that rightfully belongs to the people, in which the local elections are appropriately communities who were involved in the election process. It is also in accordance with the principles that are espoused in democracy, "of the people, by the people and for the people".

**4. CONCLUSION**

1) People in the society of Way Kandis showed various reactions to the Regional Head Election Systems Change, such as the attitude of the people who agree with Bill of local elections in which the election is determined by the Parliament with a variety of considerations. There is also the public who responded to the mediocre. However, the people in majority refused on the bill because the passage of the bill is as well as limiting community in speaking out, so that Indonesia embraced democracy as questionable if local elections are elected by Parliament.

2) In the election of Regional Head in the community of Way Kandis they do not want the General Election is held by Parliament, but people want the Election implemented directly elected by the people because of the directly elected, there is satisfaction for society to regional heads who will lead the region. In addition, the community has control functions to supervise the wheels of government, so that it is important to have Election activities that involve the public to choose the regional heads who will lead the region.

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