

**An Analysis of The Planning of The Direct Regional Election
in The New Normal Period (A Conceptual Study on The Implementation of the Regional
Election in Tidore)**

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Abstract:

This study aimed to find out the planning, challenges, rational vision and mission offers, and the implementation of the 2020 regional election in Tidore during the new normal period. The applied method in this study was descriptive-qualitative using an interactive model approach. The results of this study can be stated with the following conclusions. (1) In the context of planning and preparation for the 2020 regional election in Tidore, it is necessary to pay attention to the successes and possible failures of the 2019 general election by setting a transparent and integrated planning and preparation concept for all parties who will determine the success of this regional election; (2) The general challenge faced by the government and the people of Tidore, especially for the Regional General Election Commission (in Indonesian: Komisi Pemilihan Umum Daerah (KPUD)) in organizing the 2020 regional elections, is how to carry out the regional elections democratically based on the direct, general, free, secret, honest, and fair principles as a process of maturing public political behavior; (3) The special challenge faced by each pair of candidates is to offer a concept of a realistic, actual, accurate, and precise development vision and mission according to the development, needs, potentials, and problems of the people of Tidore.

Keywords: *new normal; planning; regional election*

Abstrak: Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui dan menganalisis perencanaan pelaksanaan pilkada langsung di Kota Tidore Kepulauan pada masa new normal. Metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah deskriptif kualitatif dengan pendekatan model interaktif. Hasil penelitian ini dapat dikemukakan dengan beberapa kesimpulan sebagai berikut. (1) Dalam rangka perencanaan dan persiapan Pilkada 2020 di Tidore, perlu memperhatikan keberhasilan dan kemungkinan kegagalan Pemilu 2019 dengan menetapkan konsep perencanaan dan persiapan yang transparan dan terintegrasi bagi semua pihak yang akan melaksanakan Pemilu 2019. menentukan keberhasilan pilkada ini; (2) Tantangan umum yang dihadapi oleh pemerintah dan masyarakat Tidore, khususnya Komisi Pemilihan Umum Daerah dalam penyelenggaraan Pilkada 2020, adalah bagaimana penyelenggaraan pemilihan kepala daerah. secara demokratis berdasarkan prinsip langsung, umum, bebas, rahasia, jujur, dan adil sebagai proses pendewasaan perilaku politik publik; (3) Tantangan khusus yang dihadapi oleh setiap pasangan calon adalah menawarkan konsep visi dan misi pembangunan yang realistis, aktual, akurat, dan tepat sesuai dengan perkembangan, kebutuhan, potensi, dan permasalahan masyarakat Tidore.

Kata kunci: *new normal; perencanaan; pemilihan kepala daerah*

1. Introduction

Tidore has a population of around 111,431 in 2017 and is divided into 8 constituencies, i.e. Tidore, East Tidore, North Tidore, South Tidore, Oba, Central Oba, North Oba, and South Oba (the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, 2017; Central Statistics Agency of Tidore, 2020). The Regional Elections (in Indonesian: *Pemilihan Kepala Daerah* (Pilkada)) in 2020 is a development momentum that has a double meaning and a broad impact. It has a double meaning because this regional election is not only for the sake of running the State Government at the local level but also for the interests of development in Tidore. It has a broad impact because the results of this regional election will directly or indirectly touch the interests of all people of Tidore and become a determining factor in the development policy direction of Tidore for the next 5 years. This is in line with the opinion of Imeldalius (2020) & Hanafi (2014) that direct Regional Head Election is a new institutional framework, in order to realize the democratization process in the regions and can expand local people's access to influence the decision-making process related to them.

These meanings and impacts arise because the 2020 regional election in Tidore is the first Mayor and Vice Mayor election which was carried out directly by the people of Tidore during the COVID-19 pandemic. As confirmed in KPU Regulation 15/2020, that the implementation of the Pilkada was held on December 9, 2020 or in the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic and was attended by 270 regions including the City of Tidore Islands. (Ika Prawitasari, Dewi Erowati. 2021) In this case the central government makes Law 10/2016 an important instrument in implementing simultaneous regional head elections in 2020. (Nasution, 2020)

Therefore, in 2020, it can be considered as a development momentum that provides meaning, opportunities, and democratic challenges for all Tidore people to determine for themselves the "fate of Tidore" in the future.

Although the success of the 2020 regional election in Tidore functionally and technically depends on the implementation of the duties and functions of the Regional General Election Commission (in Indonesian: *Komisi Pemilihan Umum Daerah* (KPUD)) of Tidore, we need to realize that the success of the 2020 regional election in Tidore correlates with the participation and responsibility of all parties involved in all sectors and levels. Therefore, this study is intended to analyze the planning of the direct regional election in Tidore during the new normal period.

This study applied a descriptive-qualitative method. According to Sukmadinata (2011), a descriptive-qualitative method is used to describe existing phenomena both naturally and unnaturally, which pay more attention to characteristics, quality, and linkages between activities. Therefore, it means that a descriptive-qualitative method, in this case, is a series of research activities to obtain actual data without undergoing certain conditions where the results emphasize the meaning. The researchers chose to use a descriptive-qualitative method because this study explored the phenomena of the planning of the direct regional election in Tidore during the new normal period. In addition, this study is also inductive where the results emphasize the meaning.

The applied data collection techniques in this study were (1) literature review on documents that are relevant to the object of research and (2) observation on the readiness of the planning of regional election and several phenomena related to the object of research.

The employed data analysis technique was an interactive model as described in the following figure.

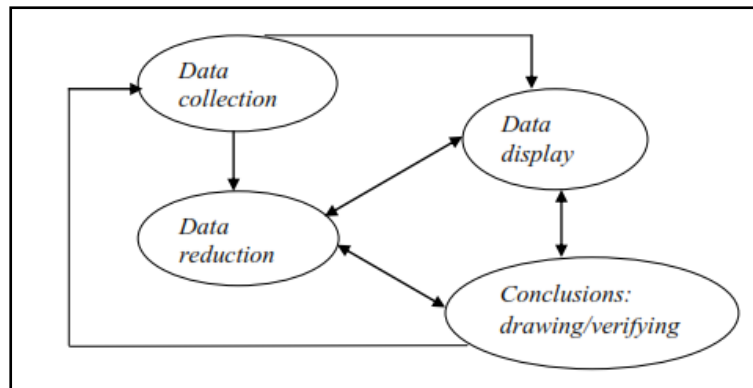


Figure 1. Components in Data Analysis
(Interactive Model)

Source: Matthew B. Miles and A. Michael Huberman (2009: 16-21)

Based on the figure above (Miles, 2009), it shows the steps in carrying out analysis using an interactive model, namely data collection, data reduction, data display, and conclusions consecutively.

2. Result and Discussion

2.1 The Threat of the COVID-19 Pandemic and the Implementation of Regional Elections

During the current pandemic, even though it has been declared a new normal period, the COVID-19 outbreak is still a big threat for the people. The number of cases still does not decrease and tends to fluctuate day by day. It proves that the role of the government and public awareness is still lacking. Therefore, the participation of all parties is needed to realize the importance of adhering to health protocols that have been made by the government which is stated in the Minister of Health Regulation concerning PSBB Guidelines which include restrictions on certain activities of people in an area suspected of being infected with the COVID-19 including restrictions on the movement of people and/or goods for a certain province or regency/city to prevent the spread of the COVID 19 (the Minister of Health of the Republic of Indonesia, 2020).

In this case, people feel their sovereignty needs to get important attention from the government regarding health issues. Furthermore, the existence of regional elections is actually something that injures them internally in which the government still takes care of political issues where health problems should become a priority. The implementation of Large-scale Social Restrictions (in Indonesian: *Pembatasan Sosial Berskala Besar* (PSBB)) plus the government regulation regarding the New Normal (the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, 2020) is considered to be still insufficient to deal with various turmoil that has arisen related to the economic problem in the middle of society. Aknolt Kristian Pakpahan said that Indonesia is one of the countries affected, especially in the economic sector. Indonesia, which is dominated by Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), needs to pay special attention to this sector because the contribution of MSMEs to the national economy is quite large (Aknolt Kristian Pakpahan, 2020).

As we know, the government's participation has not been maximal in dealing with public health, but on the other hand, the mandate of Indonesia's law also needs to be carried out such as regional elections. The Indonesian 1945 Constitution also guarantees that state power must be exercised in ways that do not violate human rights. Furthermore, the 1945 Constitution also imposes a burden on the state, especially

the government, to protect, promote, enforce, and fulfill the human rights of every citizen (Saldi Isra, 2014).

Whether the 2020 regional election is implemented or not is a quite difficult choice to carry out in a nowadays situation because decisions that must be taken must be wise and correct. Regarding the decision-making mechanism that involves the people widely and directly, the 1945 Constitution contains provisions on general elections in particular. This is a consequence of the change in the formulation of people's sovereignty in the provisions of Article 1 Point (2) of the 1945 Constitution. With the change in the formulation of sovereignty, the stream of the mandate of sovereignty owned by the people can flow periodically and directly to people's representative institutions and heads of government (president) through direct, free, and secret general election processes (Asshiddiqie, 2004).

Therefore, in this case, the implementation of the regional election is actually not something that threatens people's sovereignty because, from a statutory point of view, it is still valid and legal. However, it is true that it needs circumspection and the right time to carry it out because it is feared that the people do not understand how the actual decision-making must be taken. Furthermore, it is also to make no misperception in the middle of the community that will result in mental injury and social psychological conditions. (Ristyawati, 2020, Rizki & Hilman, 2020)

What is needed currently is good leadership from the government which focuses on preserving the people's sovereignty. However, on the other hand, our democratic interests must continue to run well. With good leadership, the resulting decisions will prioritize the interests of the people.

2.2 The Analysis of the Planning of the Regional Election in Tidore 2020

The simultaneous regional election in 2020 should become a step to build a quality democracy. The democratic regional elections must be always strived to be effective and efficient. It must also result in regional leaders who are representative of the interests of the people in the regions they lead (Bathoro, 2011). Therefore, the analysis of the implementation planning of the regional election is needed as a certainty that will be implemented thereafter. Related to this election planning aspect, the number of voters of direct presidential and vice-presidential election in 2019 also needs to be the most important part of updating the latest voter data for the 2020 regional elections. The recorded number of polling places (in Indonesian: *Tempat Pemungutan Suara* (TPS)) and voters in 2019 can be seen in the following table.

Table 1.
The Number of Polling Places and Voters in 2019 in Tidore

No	Districts	Polling Places	Voters		Total
			Males	Females	
1	Tidore	67	6,677	7,082	13,826
2	East Tidore	28	2,934	2,980	5,942
3	South Tidore	52	5,008	5,237	10,297
4	North Tidore	59	5,860	5,947	11,866
5	North Oba	52	5,656	5,682	11,390
6	Central Oba	33	3,105	2,990	61,28
7	Oba	40	4,235	4,083	8,358
8	South Oba	20	2,070	2,018	4,108
Total		351	35,545	36,019	71,915

Source: The Report from the Bawaslu of Tidore, 2019

Based on the data above, it is found out that, during the 2019 presidential election, the number of permanent voters in 8 districts in Tidore reached 71,915. In the 2020 regional election, it is estimated that

this number will increase. If compared with the total population of Tidore which only reaches 111,431 people, the number of citizens who cast their votes during the 2019 Presidential Election can be considered significant. This means that the political participation of the people of Tidore in democracy implementation is quite high. We can make this condition the basic capital for the success of the 2020 regional election.

The legal basis for the implementation of the regional election in Tidore is Article 56 concerning Regional Government which states that (1) regional heads and vice regional heads are elected in one pair of candidates which is carried out democratically based on the direct, general, free, secret, honest, and fair principles, and (2) the pair of candidates as meant in paragraph (1) should be proposed by a political party or a coalition of political parties (Indonesia' Law No. 32/2004 concerning Regional Government)

The 2020 regional election in Tidore cannot be separated from the dynamic conditions of the 2019 Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections. It is not even an exaggeration if many people that perceive that the 2020 regional election in Tidore is influenced by the success and failure of the 2019 general election. This means that there are several notes that must be paid attention to from the implementation of the 2019 presidential election, namely as follows.

- (1) The public has a critical perspective on the performance of the general election commission (in Indonesian: *Komisi Pemilihan Umum* (KPU));
- (2) The public has a critical perspective on the political figures nominated by each party participating in the election;
- (3) The public has a critical perspective on the concept of leadership and public policies from each candidate in which, with the presence of the mass media, the public can find out the capacity, integrity, and readiness of each candidate;
- (4) Although there are weaknesses and shortcomings that need to be corrected, the 2019 Presidential and Vice-Presidential election generally takes place democratically, safely, and smoothly.

By paying attention to the critical perspective from the public and examining the weaknesses and shortcomings of the 2019 general election, the planning of the 2020 regional election in Tidore must be carried out as best as possible so that this regional election may take place safely and smoothly and can achieve the expected goals and objectives. For this reason, it is necessary to carry out various preparations and planning for this regional election which is completely unified and integrated.

In Article 2 Point (c), it explains that the implementation planning includes the procedure and schedule for the implementation stages of the regional election, the establishment of the supervisory committee (in Indonesian: *Panitia Pengawas*), District Election Committee (in Indonesian: *Panitia Pemilihan Kecamatan* (PPK)), Voting Committee (in Indonesian: *Panitia Pemungutan Suara* (PPS)), and Voting Organizing Groups (in Indonesian: *Kelompok Penyelenggara Pemungutan Suara* (KPPS)), and the notification and registration of election observer (Indonesia's Government Regulation No. 6/2005 concerning Election, Approval of Election, and Dismissal of Regional Heads and Vice Regional Heads).

The determination of election procedures should be conducted in a transparent manner and based on the prevailing laws and regulations. Furthermore, it must avoid any ways that might reduce the concept of direct elections that are democratic, honest, fair, and secret.

For this reason, Article 5 in the same government regulation also explains that the KPUD as an election organizer has the following duties and authorities.

- (1) Planning the implementation of the election;
- (2) Determining the procedure for the implementation of the election based on the stages stipulated in statutory regulations.
- (3) Coordinating, organizing, and controlling all stages of the election.
- (4) Determining the date and procedure for implementing a campaign and voting for the election;

- (5) Examining the requirements of a political party or a coalition of political parties that nominate candidates;
- (6) Checking the requirements of the proposed regional head and vice regional head candidates;
- (7) Determining pairs of candidates who have met the requirements;
- (8) Accepting the registration of the candidates and announcing the campaign team;
- (9) Announcing the campaign fund donation report;
- (10) Determining the results of the recapitulation of the vote count and announcing the results of the elections;
- (11) Evaluating and reporting the implementation of elections;
- (12) Establishing PPK, PPS, and KPPS in their working areas; and
- (13) Designating a public accounting firm to audit campaign funds and announcing the audit results.

As the front line of the election implementation, the role of PPS needs to be optimized because their role will highly determine the success of the election. Article 11 still in the same government regulation indicates as follows.

- (1) PPS works in a village/sub-district level.
- (2) PPS has duties and authorities.
 - a. registering the voters;
 - b. appointing registration officers and registrants;
 - c. submitting the voter list to PPK;
 - d. conducting the recapitulation of vote counts from all TPS in their working area and preparing an official report and a certificate of the recapitulation of vote counts; and
 - e. helping PPK in conducting their task.
- (3) The total number of members of PPS as referred to in point (1) is three people coming from independent community leaders.

In order for the implementation of PPS duties and authorities to be effective, there are several notes that need to pay attention to, namely the membership of PPS must consist of people who are truly independent (not party administrators), selected from local community leaders, youth leaders, and/or religious leaders, and considered capable of carrying out their duties properly. Apart from that, the implementation of KPPS duties needs to be optimized as regulated in Article 12 which states that the KPPS has the duty to carry out voting and vote counting at TPS. Furthermore, to carry out their duties in each TPS, the KPPS is assisted by 2 security officers from the civil defense/community protection unit. The KPPS is also obliged to prepare an official report and certificate of vote count to be submitted to the PPS. In this case, the important factors that need to pay attention to are the guarantee of security and order in the implementation of elections at each TPS.

The 2020 regional election in Tidore is a momentum of development that needs to be actualized carefully and critically so that the results are truly in line with the aspirations and expectations of the community. This is related to the implementation of Article 37 Point (6) which states that, in the process of determining pairs of candidates, a political party or a coalition of political parties are obliged to pay attention to the opinions and responses of the public. Therefore, it requires the stage of introducing the candidates to the public in which it must also be transparent. For this reason, the KPUD needs to create an open dialogue mechanism with the public before those pairs of candidates are determined.

Although Article 38 Point (1) Letter (c) states that the candidates for regional head and vice regional head must have "education level at least senior high school and/or equivalent" (Indonesia's Government Regulation No. 6/2005 concerning Election, Approval of Election, and Dismissal of Regional Heads and Deputy Regional Heads), it is not mistaken if people hope that the candidates for Mayor and Vice Mayor of Tidore have education level at least a Master's degree. This requirement is proposed because Tidore, that is in a developing stage, full of social plurality, challenges, and problems and sociologically being

part of the current capital of North Maluku Province, requires leadership figures who are reliable, have extensive knowledge, and most importantly he must have experience leading the government bureaucracy of Tidore. This experience factor is considered important and needs to be used as criteria for a candidate for Mayor of Tidore because researchers are sure that the public will definitely want a reliable Mayor figure. It is even more convincing that the public will definitely want a Mayor figure who has proven his ability and work performance in leading the management of the government of Tidore. Furthermore, we must not close the opportunity for other leadership cadres. It means that the public also needs to consider the ideal partner for the Mayor candidate with the criteria previously mentioned. In this context, Mayor candidates are ideally senior bureaucratic figures who are reliable, are experienced, and have proven their work performance accompanied by Vice Mayor candidates from young people which has a minimum education of Master's degree, has an experience in overseeing the management of the government of Tidore, and is not from the elements of the government bureaucracy. A Vice Mayor with these criteria needs to be highlighted because the public needs further steps to reform and refresh government performance.

The requirements and criteria that researchers mentioned above need to be considered because, to build Tidore, we must face challenges that come from as follows.

- (1) Problems regarding limited human resources, poverty, and an unemployment rate that are difficult to reduce,
- (2) Regional economic problems from rising prices for goods and services triggered by an increase in fuel prices, the lower rupiah exchange rate, low labor salaries, and the limited employment opportunities,
- (3) Limited financial resources, limited infrastructure and facilities, and spatial planning problems,
- (4) Problems concerning unproductive, ineffective, and inefficient government performance, and
- (5) Problems related to public services carried out by regional apparatus units and the increasingly critical thinking of the public towards the performance of these public services.

For this reason, it is expected that there will be a pair of candidates who have the capacity, integrity, and totality concerning preparation and readiness with the criteria previously mentioned. Specifically, in the middle of a pandemic and new normal situation, a responsive leader is highly needed in dealing with uncertain situations (Oskar Hutagaluh, Andi Rustam, Suwandi S. Sangadji, Ilfan Baharuddin, & Ardhariksa Zukhruf Kurniullah, 2020).

Meanwhile, the general challenge in the implementation of the regional election is how to organize the 2020 regional election democratically based on direct, general, free, confidential, honest, and fair principles. Furthermore, the specific challenge for each pair of candidates is how to offer a concept of government management and development programs that are truly realistic, feasible, and in line with regional developments, needs, and problems. These developments, needs, and problems usually can be seen from the aspirations and hopes of the community towards the figures who appear.

Competing using the development concept or vision and mission that is offered to the public through various meeting forums and mass media is an intellectual way that each pair of candidates needs to actualize. Therefore, besides having careful and precise campaign policies and strategies, one indicator of the capacity, integrity, and totality from preparation and readiness of a pair of candidates can be assessed from the concept of the development vision and mission that they offer to the public. In this context, it needs a campaign concept that educates the public to be rational and objective in assessing each pair of candidates. More importantly, the regional election is not the main objective and goal of organizing the pattern of life in society or nation. The main goals and objectives that must be achieved through the regional election are the realization of an honest, trustworthy, and professional governance in realizing an optimal level of welfare and justice for all citizens of Tidore.

Meanwhile, the opportunities that are wide open from the implementation of the 2020 regional election of Tidore include as follows.

- (1) Political participation of every citizen can take place in its entirety, serves as a determining factor for the future of the region, and becomes an indicator of the success in developing democratic values in the implementation of regional autonomy policies. In this context, it is necessary to develop various social interaction forums that can function as a learning process for democracy for the community, especially for students, youth, and non-governmental organizations.
- (2) Based on the political participation of the public, each pair of candidates for the regional election can promote a concept of vision and mission for the development that will characterize government performance and at the same time become the color of development management in the next 5 years. Through the campaign of the concept of development vision and mission, each pair of candidates can show their potential and idealism in leading society and in serving the community and nation. This potential and idealism will be more meaningful if it is highlighted by proven figures who are capable and have extensive experience in leading society. In this context, ideally, a pair of candidates consists of senior figures who are known to be capable and experienced accompanied by young figures who are not only experienced but also have the capacity, integrity, and high spirit of dedication. Furthermore, they must have clear and conceptual concepts of vision and mission in responding to regional developments, needs, potential, and problems.

With the concept of a development vision and mission that is careful, precise, and comprehensive and can be realized through a collaborative process that involves all parties at all sectors and levels, the opportunity to realize people's hopes through the 2020 regional election in Tidore becomes more obvious. Therefore, it requires active participation from all parties in all sectors and levels. In particular, the press is expected to participate more actively to guard the 2020 regional election in Tidore to be a direct election that is democratic, honest, fair, and secret. Furthermore, it can result in an ideal pair of candidates based on the aspirations and expectations of the people of Tidore.

3. Conclusion

Based on the description of the analysis that has been presented, the main conclusions of this study are as follows.

- (1) The planning and preparation for the 2020 regional election in Tidore need to pay attention to the successes and possible failures of the 2019 general election by setting a concept of planning and preparation that is transparent and integrated to all parties who will determine the success of the regional election.
- (2) The general challenge faced by the government and the people of Tidore, especially for the KPUD, in organizing the 2020 regional election is how to carry out the regional election democratically based on the direct, general, free, secret, honest, and fair principles as a process of maturing the political behavior of the community.
- (3) The special challenge faced by each pair of candidates is to offer a concept of a realistic, actual, accurate, and precise development vision and mission based on the development, needs, potentials, and problems of the people of Tidore.
- (4) The development vision and mission offers that are realistic, actual, accurate, and precise based on the development, needs, potentials, and problems of the people of Tidore are one of the needed strategic approaches to optimize the planning and preparation for the 2020 regional election in Tidore.
- (5) The simultaneous implementation of regional elections in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic situation or the New Normal period should ensure the safety of voters and officials, especially the members of the KPPS as the technical implementers of regional elections. In addition, the guarantee

of the constitutionality of voters' rights (the right to vote or to be voted) is carried out in a good and measurable legal framework. Other guarantees are in the form of adequate and timely facilities or infrastructure. Furthermore, a conducive political atmosphere cannot be ignored so that the implementation of regional elections can fulfill legal objectives in the form of legal certainty, justice, and meaningfulness.

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