

Analysis of Procedural Negligence by Election Officials and Efforts to Resolve Them in the 2024 General Election

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Abstract

This study aims to analyze procedural negligence by the election organizing groups and their resolution efforts during the 2024 General Elections. The research method used is qualitative. The study is located in Paguyaman Pantai District. Data sources include primary data obtained from election organizing groups in the research area, and secondary data from archived reports, journals, and books to support the research. Data collection techniques include observation, interviews, and documentation. The research findings identify several instances of procedural negligence, such as errors in distributing ballots to specific polling stations, damage or loss of crucial documents like the C-Notification (containing vote count results), errors in filling out documents like the C-Results, discrepancies between the number of ballots and the Voter List (DPT), and administrative issues related to document delivery. Resolution efforts involve diverse follow-up actions across various polling stations. For example, replacing damaged or incorrectly placed ballots, reconciliation after vote counting, assistance during the counting process, discussions to address absenteeism issues, and re-elections with redistributions of ballots. In conclusion, addressing these instances of procedural negligence requires diverse strategies to ensure the integrity and success of the electoral process. These efforts are crucial to minimize negative impacts on the validity and integrity of democratic processes at each Polling Station.

Keywords: Procedural Negligence, Voting Organizing Group, General elections



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INTRODUCTION

General elections are a representation of democracy, as through this process, the populace has the opportunity to elect representatives and leaders who will make critical decisions for the nation. Elections grant citizens the right to participate in shaping public policy and governance, ensuring that the voice of the people is accommodated within the governmental structure. This process reflects democratic principles such as equality, transparency, and accountability, serving as a mechanism to assess and replace leaders based on performance and the will of the people. With fair and transparent elections, democracy can function effectively, allowing society to directly control and influence their government. Experts have diverse views on the definition of elections, yet they unanimously agree on their significance as a democratic mechanism.

Miriam Budiardjo (2008) defines elections as a democratic mechanism enabling periodic selection of representatives who sit in legislative bodies and renew government legitimacy based on popular sovereignty. Ramlan Surbakti (1992) describes elections as a means to select government leaders and representatives periodically, implementing the principle of popular sovereignty. Similarly, M. Solly Lubis (2000) views elections as a process to select individuals to represent the populace in government and legitimize political power democratically. Sri Soemantri (1987) adds that elections are a democratic tool to organize state power executed directly by the people or through their fairly elected representatives. According to Syamsuddin Haris (2010), elections are a process to acquire political legitimacy and form a government legitimate in the eyes of the populace, ensuring the government remains accountable to the people. In the context of debates about democracy and elections, several key issues arise regarding how elections can strengthen or even weaken democracy.

First, there is a debate about representation and inclusivity in elections. Critics argue that certain electoral systems may not be fully inclusive or representative, potentially marginalizing segments of the population. Second, election integrity is a major concern, where fraud, manipulation, and unfairness in the election process can undermine public trust and the legitimacy of election outcomes. Third, there is debate about the frequency and cost of elections, where excessively frequent and expensive elections can strain national resources and cause voter fatigue. Fourth, in some countries, there are concerns that elections can become a tool for political elites to maintain power, especially without adequate oversight and media freedom. Therefore, the fundamental principle to be considered in conducting general elections is the values of democracy itself.

The development of democracy and electoral systems, throughout history has involved significant transformation from ancient Greece to the modern era. Georg Sorensen defines democracy as originating from Greek, where "demos" refers to the people and "kratos" means government. Thus, democracy is a form of government organized by the people, derived from the people, and aimed at serving their interests (Shobahah, 2019). Initially in Athens around 600 BC, democracy began as a direct system where citizens gathered to collectively make political decisions. However, participation in democracy was limited to specific groups, such as adult males, and experienced fluctuations during the Peloponnesian War. Over time, the medieval era was marked by authoritarian feudal systems.

Democratic thinking resurged during the Renaissance period, and Enlightenment ideas in the 18th century, such as those of Montesquieu and Rousseau, influenced the American and French Revolutions, resulting in constitutional documents that underpin democratic principles. In the 19th century, democratic development involved expanding suffrage to previously excluded groups. The 20th century witnessed the dominance of the representative democracy model, where citizens elect representatives to make political decisions. Post-World War II, processes of decolonization, the formation of the United Nations (UN), and the spread of democratic values further influenced global democratic development.

In addressing this, (Rosana, 2016) Democracy has always been linked to human rights issues, and efforts to fight for democracy are steps taken by humanity to guarantee and protect its fundamental rights. This is because democracy is seen as a political system that respects basic human rights. Democracy encompasses not only civil and political rights of society but also closely relates to the extent to which the economic, social, and cultural rights of the people are ensured in its development. To maintain a coherent democratic order, John Locke also stated that in order to control the power of the state ruler and protect the fundamental rights of its citizens, the state's power must be divided into three parts, namely legislative (responsible for making laws), executive (tasked with enforcing regulations and adjudicating), and federative (authority that does not fall under the previous two powers). (Purnamawati, 2020). It can be interpreted, Democracy is seen as a political system that respects basic human rights, engaging human efforts to protect its fundamental rights, whether civil and political or economic, social, and cultural.

In Indonesia, the development of democracy and the electoral system in Indonesia has recorded a long and challenging journey from the colonial period to the present day. At the beginning of the 20th century, the Netherlands implemented political suppression against indigenous populations, but the Japanese occupation brought about changes in dynamics and prompted nationalist movements. Post-Proclamation of Independence in 1945, the Constituent Assembly elections in 1955 marked the initial steps in Indonesia's democratic journey. The Old Order and New Order eras were characterized by elections with manipulative tendencies, especially in supporting the ruling regime at the time. (Sahi et al., 2023).

The 1998 Reform brought significant changes, opening up space for a more open democracy and direct presidential elections in 2004. Changes to the electoral laws in 2008 solidified the proportional representation system. Despite Indonesia's ongoing democratic development, challenges such as military involvement and justice issues remain a focus, while the 2014 and 2019 elections reflect ongoing political dynamics. Facing the future, Indonesia is challenged to build a stronger, more inclusive, and responsive democratic system that reflects the aspirations of its people.

Furthermore, recent challenges and developments in Indonesian democracy involve understanding and addressing critical issues. Although the military's role in politics has diminished, concerns remain about its involvement in various aspects of national life. Issues of justice, transparency, and human rights fulfillment also remain relevant. Efforts to build a stronger democratic system also include institutional reforms, improving the quality of political education, and addressing corruption comprehensively. While tackling these challenges, Indonesia has solidified its position as one of the world's largest democracies with regularly held participatory elections.

One form of democracy, especially in Indonesia, is characterized by direct elections known as elections. Law Number 7 of 2017 states that elections are the means of people's sovereignty to elect members of the People's Representative Council, members of the Regional Representative Council, the President and Vice President, and to elect members of the Regional People's Representative Council, conducted directly, openly, freely, secretly, honestly, and fairly within the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia based on Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia. Elections are the embodiment of people's sovereignty and democracy. Elections are one implementation of democratic practices in Indonesia.

Citizens as nationals participate in determining the direction and leadership figures of the country through the political process carried out through the homeland's democratic festivities. (Dedi, 2019). In the 2024 elections, the General Election Commission (KPU) simultaneously inaugurated 5.7 million, precisely 5,741,127 members of the Polling Station Committee (KPPS) for the 2024 elections on January 25, 2024. All KPPS members have also undergone technical guidance (bimtek) organized by the district/city KPU. Unlike the 2019 elections, where only 1 KPPS member attended the bimtek, in the 2024 elections, all KPPS members were involved. They were inaugurated simultaneously at 71,000 locations in 514 districts/cities since January 25, 2024, and will serve at 820,161 polling stations (TPS).

In line with the statement of the Chairman of the Indonesian KPU, Hasyim Asy'ari, for the 2024 elections, the KPU mandated that all 7 members of the KPPS attend the bimtek held from January 25 to 27, 2024. This was done to ensure that technical knowledge and understanding are not limited to just one person. Therefore, it is hoped that they can remind each other and control any problematic situations that may arise. According to Law No. 7 of 2017 concerning General Elections, KPPS has several duties, including conducting voting and vote counting at TPS, preparing minutes of voting and vote counting, and issuing vote counting certificates that must be handed over to election participants' witnesses, TPS supervisors, and PPK through PPS.

Based on Article 49 of KPU Regulation No. 25 of 2023, the vote counting at polling stations (TPS) begins after the voting process ends and concludes on the same day as the voting. If the vote counting is not completed, it can be extended for a maximum of 12 hours without interruption. However, the KPU's decision not to implement the two-panel vote counting method as previously planned for the 2024 elections indicates that the workload of the KPPS remains heavy. Observations from the implementation of the general election in Paguyaman Pantai District, Boalemo Regency, Gorontalo Province, show procedural negligence by the polling station committees, which resulted in disputes over election results.

The findings indicate that in this area, several challenges disrupted the smooth conduct of the voting process at some polling stations (TPS). One of them was the issue of Legislative Election ballots accidentally being placed in the wrong ballot boxes at several TPS. Although this issue was resolved by replacing the ballots, there were still delays in the voting process due to assistance constraints at some TPS, despite approval from witnesses and the Polling Station Committee (PPS). At several TPS, there were discrepancies between the number of ballots and the Permanent Voter List (DPT). However, these issues were corrected based on accepted facts. Additionally, some TPS faced challenges with missing C-Notifications, which were subsequently replaced with National Identity Cards (KTP) as identification. Moreover, there were incidents where ballot distribution to other TPS was erroneous, but this was rectified after redistribution.

Several TPS also encountered issues such as not receiving ballots for the Regional Representative Council (DPD RI), voters mistakenly placing ballots in the wrong boxes, witnesses refusing to sign all C-Result forms, and requests to replace damaged ballots for District/City Regional Representatives (DPRD). Errors in filling out and writing C-Result forms also occurred at various TPS, which were corrected using correction fluid. Problems also arose with C-Result forms not signed by all political party witnesses at some TPS, but this was resolved by obtaining their signatures. Mistakes also occurred in writing PPWP and DPR RI C-Result forms, and ballots for District/City Regional Representatives were mistakenly placed in Provincial Regional Representatives' ballot boxes at some TPS. Therefore, based on the outlined issues, the aim of this study is to determine the nature of procedural negligence by the Polling Station Working Group and the efforts to resolve it in the implementation of the 2024 General Election (Case Study at Polling Stations in the Paguyaman Pantai District).

RESEARCH METHODS

The research method used is qualitative. According to Sugiyono, D. (2013), qualitative methods are referred to as new, postpositivistic, discovery, and interpretative because they differ from traditional quantitative methods. This means focusing on the complexity of reality and subjectivity, discovering new patterns and insights through in-depth exploration, and interpreting the meanings of the collected data. Consequently, this method often emphasizes postpositivism philosophy, which highlights contextual understanding and human perspectives, allowing researchers to interpret social experiences and phenomena more comprehensively. Data collection includes both primary and secondary data. Primary data refers to information obtained by the researcher from the subjects being studied, namely the election organizers, specifically the Voting Organizing Group in Paguyaman Pantai District. Secondary data is sourced from archives of election implementation and findings of procedural negligence by the research focus subjects. Additionally, secondary data is supplemented by journals and books that provide further information for the research. The data collection techniques include observation, interviews, and documentation. Observation involves the researcher actively viewing events and then reducing them into hypotheses. To explore the results of the observations, the hypotheses developed by the researcher aim to reinforce or deepen the initial observation findings through structured and unstructured interviews, adapted to the existing conditions. The final stage of documentation is where the researcher summarizes and compiles the events documented during the research.

RESULTS OF RESEARCH AND DISCUSSION

Portrait of the Distribution of Procedural Errors by KPPS in the Paguyaman Pantai District Area

Portrait of the Distribution of Procedural Errors in the Paguyaman Pantai District Area is a depiction that illustrates the distribution of issues or procedural errors that occurred at

various Polling Stations (TPS) in the Paguyaman Pantai District during the election process. This portrait includes types of errors such as issues with ballots, errors in ballot distribution, discrepancies between the number of ballots and the Permanent Voter List (DPT), loss of important documents such as C-Notifications, errors in writing C-Result forms, and other issues affecting the smooth voting process. This portrait provides an overview of how frequently these issues occurred at various TPS in the area, as well as efforts to resolve them. The findings are outlined in the following points: At Polling Station (TPS) LITO, several issues arose during the general election process. At TPS number 1, the first recorded problem was the delayed assistance for voters with disabilities, resulting in a slowdown in the voting process. Additionally, there were issues with the distribution of ballot papers for the Indonesian House of Representatives (DPR RI), where only 301 ballot papers were found in the ballot box instead of the expected 303 (which should be 2% more than the 297 registered voters). Similar issues occurred with ballot papers for the Regional Representative Council (DPD RI), where only 302 or 300 ballot papers were found instead of the expected 303. At TPS number 1, incidents were also reported where Presidential and Vice Presidential Election (PPWP) ballot cards were accidentally torn. Similar incidents occurred with district-level ballot cards. At TPS number 2, there was an issue where DPR RI ballot cards were mistakenly placed in the DPD RI ballot box, causing confusion during the vote counting.

Furthermore, at TPS number 2, there was an incident where the collection of notifications (C notifications) and voter identification cards (KTP) was delayed until 13:00, affecting the timely recording of voter attendance to ensure their voting rights. At TPS number 5, issues arose with the District Election Commission (DPK) attendance list signed by voters on the Permanent Voter List (DPT). Similar problems occurred with the distribution of ballot papers, where PPWP and Provincial DPR ballot papers were mistakenly placed in the DPD RI ballot box, and DPD RI ballot papers were distributed to TPS 4 with a shortage of 20 ballot papers. Additionally, at TPS number 5, there were incidents where DPD RI ballot cards were accidentally torn, and C notifications could not be distributed because the individuals were not present and had no trusted family members available to receive them. It appears that the voting process at several polling stations (TPS) faced a number of issues including delays in the process, errors in ballot distribution or grouping, damage or errors on ballot cards, and administrative issues related to document delivery. To address these issues, stricter supervision by the polling station officers (KPPS) is needed, increased awareness of the importance of maintaining the accuracy of election materials, and ensuring a clear understanding of established procedures. This will help maintain the integrity and validity of the overall election process.

Polling Station (TPS) APITALAWU 1 experienced an issue where the ballot papers for the Provincial Legislative Council (DPR Provinsi) exceeded the expected count. There were supposed to be 187 ballot papers, but 188 were found instead. This issue requires attention to ensure the integrity and accuracy of the election process at this polling station. TPS APITALAWU 2, 3, and 4 did not report any specific issues based on the available information. The issues at TPS Apitalawu are focused on discrepancies between the number of ballot papers and the number of eligible voters, as seen at TPS 1 where the Provincial Legislative Council (DPR Provinsi) ballot papers exceeded the voter count by 1. This highlights the need for stricter supervision over the distribution and counting processes to ensure alignment with the registered voter count. Additionally, it is essential to ensure that any excess or shortage of ballot papers is identified and rectified appropriately before the voting process begins. At the Polling Stations (TPS) in Bubaa Village, several issues were noted during the election process. Firstly, at TPS BUBAA 1, the KPPS chairperson did not provide ballot papers for the Regional

Representative Council (DPD RI) to voters, causing confusion as voters inserted ballots into boxes intended for the District Council (DPRD Kabupaten). At TPS BUBAA 2, a voter accidentally placed a ballot paper for the House of Representatives (DPR RI) into the wrong ballot box, which was only discovered after counting began. In TPS BUBAA 3, witnesses refused to sign all formats of the official tally report (C results), only agreeing to sign for the Presidential and Vice Presidential election results and the District/City Council (DPRD Kabupaten/Kota). They were also absent during the counting of ballots for DPD RI, DPR RI, and Provincial Legislative Council (DPRD Provinsi). Lastly, at TPS BUBAA 4, a voter requested a replacement ballot for the District/City Council (DPRD Kabupaten/Kota) due to it being folded while voting. These issues underscore the importance of better coordination among KPPS officers, voters, and witnesses to ensure smooth and integrity-laden election processes.

At the Bubaa Polling Stations (TPS), several issues occurred that impacted the integrity of the voting process. Firstly, at TPS 1, there was a failure to distribute the DPD RI ballots to voters, causing confusion among the officers and voters about the correct ballot box. Secondly, at TPS 2, an incident occurred where a DPR RI ballot was accidentally placed in the wrong box by a voter. Thirdly, at TPS 3, witnesses refused to sign the C results format for certain reasons, which could undermine the validity of the voting process. Fourthly, at TPS 4, a voter requested a replacement ballot for the District/City Council (DPRD Kabupaten/Kota) because it was folded while voting, highlighting the need for increased oversight of the election materials and process. To address these issues, the KPPS needs to enhance coordination, strengthen supervision, and provide training to the officers to ensure that the voting process runs smoothly and in accordance with the established regulations. Furthermore, at the Polling Station (TPS) in Limbatiu, several issues occurred throughout the election process. At TPS Limbatiu 2, there was negligence resulting in the loss of the C-notification for Asnita Tumewu and Weldi Hasan. Additionally, there was an incident where a ballot for DPD RI was damaged when opened at 08:25 by Mrs. Reni Djihu. Other problems included discrepancies between the NIK KTP of An. Nurhayati Mohamad and the one listed in the Permanent Voters List (DPT), and a torn ballot for DPRD Provinsi An. Johan Pontoh when opened at 09:24. Furthermore, several sheets of C-Plano results for DPR RI were torn, and there were errors in the signing of witnesses' signatures, which should have been signed only by witnesses for candidate PPWP number 2. At TPS Limbatiu 3, issues arose from errors in writing the number of valid votes for several political parties on various C-Plano models for DPRD Kabupaten/Kota, DPR RI, and DPRD Provinsi, as well as errors in writing the political parties and candidates on the C-Plano model for DPR RI. There were also leftover DPD votes that had already been signed by the KPPS chairperson, totaling 9 sheets.

In TPS Limbatiu 4, it was found that several voters registered in the DPT required assistance due to disabilities. A sudden rainwater puddle fell from the tent roof at 12:30, soaking some C-notifications and voter attendance books. Additionally, there were errors in filling out and correcting numbers in the DPT using correction fluid. Other issues included errors in writing on the C-Copy Results model for the Presidential and Vice Presidential elections, and two damaged ballots for DPRD Kabupaten/Kota returned by voters before casting their votes. At TPS Limbatiu 5, it was discovered that KPPS 3 and 4 made mistakes in filling out the C-Results on the number of valid votes for DPR RI, and errors in writing the time on the C-Results for DPR RI. There were also errors in writing on the C-Results model for DPD RI, including mistakes in digital numbers and capital letters that required correction. These issues underscore the importance of enhanced supervision and better coordination among KPPS officers, witnesses, and voters to ensure the integrity and validity of the election process at TPS Limbatiu. At Polling Station (TPS) Limbatiu, several issues occurred during the voting

process. At TPS 2, negligence led to the loss of C-notifications and damage to ballots for DPD RI. Problems also arose regarding errors in recording the number of valid votes for various political parties at TPS 3, and at TPS 4, where some registered voters with disabilities did not receive necessary assistance. TPS 5 and 6 experienced errors in filling out C-Results documents by KPPS, necessitating manual corrections using correction fluid. Remedial actions include enhancing supervision of the voting process, training relevant personnel, and implementing stricter procedures to ensure the accuracy and integrity of the entire election process.

The same issue occurred at TPS Tawayu, focusing on errors made by the KPPS during the filling of the C Results documents. At 18:10 local time, there was a mistake in recording the valid votes for DPR RI, which should have been marked in a zigzag pattern but instead was marked with a cross (X), later corrected using correction fluid. A similar incident took place at 04:30 local time during the filling of the C Results for the DPRD Kabupaten/Kota, where the valid votes that should have been marked in a zigzag pattern were also marked with a cross (X) and had to be corrected with correction fluid. These problems highlight the need for enhanced training and supervision in the process of filling official documents during the voting process to ensure accuracy and integrity. At TPS Tawayu, similar issues arose concerning errors in filling out the C Results documents by the KPPS. At 18:10 local time, there was an error in filling out the DPRD RI C Results, where the valid votes that should have been marked in a zigzag format were instead marked with a cross (X), necessitating correction with correction fluid. A similar problem occurred at 04:30 local time during the filling out of the DPRD Kabupaten/Kota C Results. These errors in document completion highlight the need for enhanced training and supervision of KPPS at TPS Tawayu to ensure the accuracy and integrity of the voting process. It can be concluded that the distribution of procedural errors by KPPS in the Paguyaman Pantai District reflects a series of issues during the voting process at various TPS locations. Problems such as negligence in distributing ballots, damage or loss of crucial documents like C-notices, and errors in document completion such as C Results all exemplify imperfections in the procedures carried out by KPPS. Therefore, to enhance the integrity and accuracy of the voting process, it is crucial for KPPS to conduct comprehensive evaluations of existing procedures, provide adequate training to personnel, and improve coordination and supervision to minimize or prevent such errors in the future.

Discussion

Alternative Solutions to Resolve Procedural Errors by KPPS in the Paguyaman Pantai District

Law No. 7 of 2017 on General Elections in Indonesia regulates various aspects of the election, including voter registration, campaigns, voting, and vote counting. This law sets strict procedures to ensure fair, transparent, and credible elections. However, failure to comply with these procedures can have significant impacts on the integrity of the elections, which can be analyzed using the theory of procedural negligence impact. One critical area regulated by this law is voter registration. According to Article 200, voter registration must be carried out accurately and verified to ensure that every eligible citizen can participate in the election. Negligence in voter registration, such as failing to update the voter list or neglecting data validation, can lead to a loss of public trust. The public may feel that the election process is non-transparent or manipulative if they find many voters unregistered or registered incorrectly. This impact potentially decreases voter turnout due to distrust in the integrity of the voter list.

Furthermore, in the campaign process, Article 276 stipulates that campaigns must be conducted according to the principles of fairness and transparency. Procedural negligence here could include misuse of campaign funds or media abuse. If there is evidence that candidates or political parties violate campaign procedures, it can cause dissatisfaction and protests from the

public and other election participants. Consequently, conflicts can arise, disrupting political stability and reducing the legitimacy of the election results. In the voting and vote-counting stages, Article 373 and beyond mandate that voting must be conducted directly, publicly, freely, secretly, honestly, and fairly. Negligence in adhering to these procedures, such as failing to maintain ballot secrecy or manipulating vote counts, can have more serious impacts. Election results deemed invalid can trigger conflicts, mass protests, and significant political instability. This reflects the theory that procedural negligence in critical stages like voting has a significant potential impact on political stability and public trust.

Legal sanctions for procedural negligence are also regulated in this law. Articles 488-489 provide sanctions for election organizers found negligent or violating procedural rules. This indicates that Law No. 7 of 2017 not only aims to establish clear procedures but also enforces compliance through sanction mechanisms. Although these sanctions are intended to prevent negligence, inconsistent implementation and enforcement can lead to perceptions of injustice and further erode public trust in the electoral system. In this comprehensive analysis, it is clear that procedural negligence in elections has broad and profound impacts, ranging from loss of public trust, decreased voter participation, political conflicts, to legal sanctions. Law No. 7 of 2017 strives to address and mitigate these impacts through strict rules and sanctions, but effective and consistent implementation remains key to maintaining the integrity and legitimacy of the electoral process.

At TPS 1 - LITO, the main issue was related to voter assistance and ballot handling. To ensure all voters could exercise their voting rights properly, damaged ballots were replaced with new ones. After completing the count for DPR RI, the process continued by opening the DPD RI ballot box and conducting reconciliation. Additionally, discussions were held with witnesses and PTPS to address issues of absenteeism among witnesses during the vote count. Meanwhile, at TPS 2 - LITO, the focus was primarily on addressing ballot-related issues. Damaged or improperly inserted ballots were replaced, and after the DPR RI vote count was completed, reconciliation was conducted to ensure each ballot was placed in the correct box. This process also required assistance to ensure smooth conduct of the entire vote count. At TPS 3 - BUBAA, there are several issues that need to be addressed regarding the management of the voting process. The main issue revolves around replacing damaged or incorrectly inserted ballots. This process is crucial to ensure the integrity of the voting process, thereby accurately counting every valid vote. Additionally, to address the problem of absenteeism among witnesses during the vote count, intensive discussions are held with witnesses and PTPS (Voting Organizing Group). This aims to find the best solutions to ensure a smooth voting process in accordance with applicable regulations. Such efforts are key to ensuring transparency and the success of every election held at that TPS.

And, TPS 5 - LITO faces several challenges that need to be addressed regarding the voting process. One of the main issues is the replacement of damaged or incorrectly inserted ballot papers. This process is crucial to ensure that every valid vote is counted correctly, thereby maintaining the integrity of the election process. Additionally, there are logistical issues concerning the distribution of ballot papers, where undistributed ballot papers need to be returned to their designated boxes. This action is necessary to prevent confusion or errors during the vote count and to ensure that all ballot papers are correctly placed according to their respective boxes. By addressing these two issues, it is hoped that the voting process at TPS 5 - LITO can proceed more smoothly and meet the required standards to uphold accuracy and transparency in the election.

TPS 4 - LIMBATIHU faces several challenges that need to be addressed regarding the voting process. One of the main issues is the need for assistance to ensure that voters with

disabilities have easy access. This is crucial to ensure that every voter can exercise their right comfortably and without obstacles. Additionally, there are issues related to replacing damaged or incorrectly inserted ballot papers. This process is important to ensure that all valid votes are counted correctly, maintaining the integrity of the election process. By addressing these two issues, it is hoped that the voting process at TPS 4 - LIMBATIHU can run more smoothly and in accordance with established standards to ensure fairness and accuracy in the election. TPS 6 - TOWAYU faces several issues that need to be addressed regarding the voting process. One of the main issues is the need for a re-election to adjust to the number of voters who should have exercised their voting rights. This is crucial to ensure that every registered voter has a fair opportunity to cast their vote. Additionally, there are issues related to the absence of witnesses during the vote counting process. To address this, intensive discussions are conducted with witnesses and PTPS (voting committee members). The aim of these discussions is to find the best solutions to ensure that the voting process runs smoothly and complies with applicable regulations. By addressing these two issues, it is expected that the voting process at TPS 6 - TOWAYU can be more effective and meet the necessary standards to uphold fairness and integrity in the election.

The follow-up actions to resolve cases from various polling stations (TPS) demonstrate diverse efforts to address occurring issues. At TPS 1, actions include replacing damaged or improperly inserted ballot papers, as well as reconciliation after the counting of DPR RI votes. At TPS 2, besides replacing damaged ballot papers, assistance is required to ensure the smooth process of vote counting. TPS 3 faces similar issues requiring replacement of incorrectly inserted ballot papers, while discussions are used to resolve absentee witness problems. TPS 4 focuses on assisting voters with disabilities and replacing damaged ballot papers. TPS 5 prioritizes replacing damaged ballot papers and redistributing undistributed ballots. TPS 6, on the other hand, opts for re-election and discussions to address absentee witness issues. These efforts reflect varied strategies to ensure the integrity and success of the election process at each polling station.

Laurence Whitehead (2002) emphasizes that failure to comply with electoral procedures can undermine public trust in electoral institutions, ultimately weakening the legitimacy of the elected government. Pippa Norris (2014) argues that electoral integrity is highly dependent on adherence to fair and transparent procedures, where procedural negligence can reduce voter turnout and trigger political instability. Andreas Schedler (2002) highlights procedural manipulation as a form of negligence that can degrade the quality of democracy, with various forms such as voter list manipulation or voter intimidation, which not only affect election outcomes but also public trust in democracy itself. Samuel P. Huntington (1991) underscores the importance of clear and consistent procedures in maintaining political stability and public trust, as procedural negligence can exacerbate political polarization and trigger conflicts, thereby questioning the legitimacy of the elected government. Collectively, these experts' views indicate that procedural negligence in elections has broad and profound impacts, ranging from loss of public trust, decreased voter participation, increased political conflicts, to the delegitimization of the government, necessitating that election organizers ensure each stage of the electoral process is conducted in compliance with established procedures to maintain the integrity and legitimacy of elections.

As a consideration for addressing procedural negligence, the Law provides embodiments of these matters. In fact, Election Violation is an action that contradicts or is not in accordance with the election-related regulations. Election violations can originate from findings or reports. This is stipulated in Article 454 of the Election Law. Furthermore, Election Violation findings are the result of active supervision by Bawaslu, Provincial Bawaslu, District/City Bawaslu,

Subdistrict Panwaslu, Village Panwaslu, Overseas Panwaslu, and Polling Station Supervisors (TPS) at every stage of the election administration. According to Law Number 7 Year 2017 concerning General Elections, there are 3 (three) types of election violations, namely ethical code violations, administrative violations, and electoral crimes, as follows:

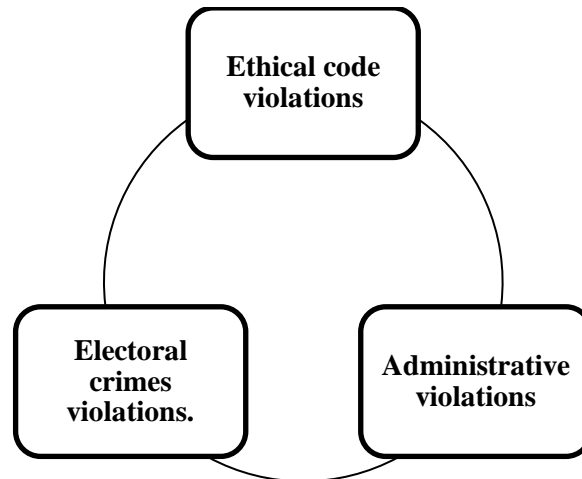


Figure 1. Types of Election Violations

The description of the image is as follows: (1) Ethical code violations. Ethical code violations are violations of the ethical standards of election organizers regarding oaths and promises before carrying out their duties as election organizers. Ethical code violations are handled by the Honorary Council of Election Organizers (DKPP) and its decisions result in written warnings, temporary dismissal, permanent dismissal, or rehabilitation. (2) Administrative violations. Administrative violations are violations of procedures, processes, or mechanisms related to the administration of election stages. Election administrative violations are handled by Bawaslu and its decisions result in administrative improvements to procedures, processes, or mechanisms in accordance with regulations, written warnings, exclusion from certain stages in the election administration, or other administrative sanctions as stipulated in the election law. (3) Electoral crimes violations. Electoral crimes violations are criminal offenses and/or crimes against the provisions of electoral crimes as regulated in the election law and laws on regional head and deputy regional head elections. Electoral crimes violations are handled by Bawaslu, the Police, and the Public Prosecutor's Office, which are part of the Integrated Law Enforcement Forum (Gakkumdu). Electoral crime cases are adjudicated by district courts, and the decisions can be appealed to high courts. The decision of the high court is final and binding, and no further legal action can be taken.

This Law serves as a crucial reference for addressing various potential issues that may arise during the electoral process. By identifying and classifying possible violations, Law Number 7 of 2017 concerning General Elections provides a clear and structured framework for election organizers to handle and resolve violations firmly and fairly. Firstly, by regulating Ethical Code Violations, the law ensures that the ethics and integrity of election organizers are upheld. With the Honorary Council of Election Organizers (DKPP) overseeing and enforcing discipline, any violations of oaths and commitments by election organizers can result in appropriate sanctions, ranging from written warnings to temporary or permanent dismissal. Secondly, concerning Administrative Violations, the law empowers Bawaslu to ensure that each stage of election administration adheres to prescribed procedures. Actions taken may include administrative improvements, written warnings, or other administrative sanctions

commensurate with the level of violation. This not only ensures compliance with rules and procedures but also maintains transparency and accountability in the conduct of elections.

Thirdly, regarding Electoral Crimes Violations, the law mandates that criminal acts such as ballot manipulation or misuse of campaign funds be seriously addressed by law enforcement agencies, including Bawaslu, the Police, and the Public Prosecutor's Office under the Integrated Law Enforcement Forum (Gakkumdu). This legal process aims not only to uphold justice and prosecute offenders but also to restore public trust in the democratic process. Thus, this law not only provides a legal framework for addressing violations but also serves as an instrument for building a stronger and more trustworthy electoral system. Consistent and effective implementation of this law is key to maintaining the integrity and legitimacy of the democratic process in Indonesia, and as a foundation for fostering greater public confidence in electoral institutions.

CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that procedural errors committed by the KPPS (Kelompok Panitia Pemungutan Suara, or Polling Station Committee Groups) in the Paguyaman Pantai District encompass several significant issues that occurred during the voting process at various Tempat Pemungutan Suara (TPS), or Polling Stations. These errors highlight fundamental challenges in ensuring the integrity and fairness of the electoral process. Firstly, negligence in distributing ballot papers emerged as a critical issue. Errors were observed where ballot papers intended for specific TPS were mistakenly placed in incorrect ballot boxes. This oversight could potentially lead to discrepancies in vote counts and undermine the credibility of election outcomes. Secondly, the district faced challenges related to the damage or loss of essential documents, particularly the C-Pemberitahuan (notification documents) which contain crucial vote count results. Such incidents not only jeopardize the accuracy of the election results but also raise concerns about the security and handling of sensitive electoral materials.

Moreover, procedural errors extended to inaccuracies in documenting valid votes for political parties on critical forms such as the C-Hasil. These inaccuracies could influence the final tabulation of votes and potentially alter the electoral landscape, highlighting the importance of meticulous record-keeping and verification processes. Another significant issue was the discrepancy between the number of ballot papers available and the entries in the Daftar Pemilih Tetap (DPT), or Permanent Voter List. Such discrepancies can create confusion among voters and raise doubts about the transparency of the electoral process, necessitating robust mechanisms for verifying and reconciling voter data. Administrative challenges also surfaced concerning the delivery and handling of electoral documents. Instances of lost or damaged documents, particularly the C-Pemberitahuan, posed obstacles to the timely and accurate reporting of election results, impacting the overall transparency and accountability of the electoral process.

These procedural errors underscore the critical need for enhanced supervision, coordination, and adherence to established electoral procedures by KPPS members. Addressing these challenges requires initiatives such as heightened awareness campaigns on the importance of procedural accuracy, comprehensive training programs for KPPS officials, strengthened oversight of ballot distribution processes, and systematic evaluations of existing procedures. By implementing these measures, it is anticipated that procedural errors can be minimized or avoided in future elections. This would ultimately uphold the integrity, fairness, and success of the electoral process in the Paguyaman Pantai District, ensuring that every voter's voice is accurately represented and counted.

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