

Citizen resistance to the nepotism politics of the Head of Pulau Tinggi Village

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ABSTRACT

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This study aims to examine how village heads carry out nepotism politics against citizens in high island villages and how citizens in high island villages carry out resistance politics in the face of high island village head nepotism politics. The research method used is qualitative with a Case Study strategy. This study seeks to find the politics of nepotism carried out by the village head and the politics of resistance used by citizens in the high island village. The results showed that the politics of nepotism carried out by the village head was a form of support given to his family in the election that occurred in the high island village. Citizen Resistance to Nepotism Politics of the Head of Pulau Tinggi Village in holding elections was carried out due to citizens' awareness of participation in democracy.

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INTRODUCTION

The socio-political dynamics of society in this country after the end of the New Order regime show very interesting developments to observe. How not, during the time when the New Order regime was still in power, there was almost no dynamic in society. This was caused by the New Order's political policies that did not provide opportunities and space for the public to voice their aspirations. Society is regulated and restricted in its behavior and actions by prevailing norms, values and legal systems. Only in the reform era did society have a political stage so that it could freely express its political interests and aspirations.

The shift in the order of national life from previously tending to authoritarian to democratic order is considered to have an effect on the emergence of various socio-political dynamics in this country (Feber & Christover, 2021; Haripin et al., 2020; Haryanto, 2020; Takdir et al., 2021; Wiratraman, 2022). These dynamics are expressed in various ways and forms ranging from constructive to destructive ways. Political communication is used, as a form of human interaction that influences each other, intentionally or unintentionally (Bormann et al., 2022; Krafft & Donovan, 2020; A. H. Y. Lee, 2021; E. J. Lee et al., 2020; Papakyriakopoulos et al., 2020). It encompasses not only spoken language but also nonverbal cues like painting, technology, and facial emotions.

Delivering a message in the form of a significant symbol, such as ideas, facts, beliefs, hopes, or appeals, is the process of communication (DiRusso & Myrick, 2021; Sulaeman et al., 2021). It is also a guide carried out by someone to others, either directly face-to-face or indirectly through the media, with the aim of changing attitudes, views or behavior. Communication consists of several components and each component has its own task. The tasks of each of these components relate to each other to produce a communication. If one component does not function properly, it will affect the overall communication process, because one component will affect other components that are integrated in a system such as elections.

General elections are a form of implementation of the democratic system as well as from the application of the fourth precept of Pancasila and article 1 (2) of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia (Arifani, 2022; Patarai, 2021; Purnama & Manitra, 2023; Silalahi & Tampubolon, 2021). General elections are not born without purpose but to elect representatives of the people in order to realize the government of, by, and for the people (Agus et al., 2021; Dwijayanti & Edwinarta, 2023; Haris, 2021; Syahril & Redi, 2023). Representative democracy and elections are three concepts that are closely related and

inevitable. For this reason, public participation is clearly needed in order to implement the meaning of democracy absolutely.

It is crucial that elections be held on a regular basis for a number of reasons. First, people's views and goals about different facets of everyday life in society are fluid and change with time. Second, in addition to people's opinions, which are subject to periodic change, the circumstances of everyday life in a society can also alter as a result of domestic or global variables that can arise from both internal and external human elements. Third, as the population is growing and mature individuals—particularly recent voters—may not have the same values as their parents, shifts in people's goals and viewpoints may also occur. Fourth, elections must be undertaken on a frequent basis to ensure that state leadership changes from both the

The 2019 election is different from the previous election, because in accordance with the decision of the Mahkamah Constitution Number 14 / PUU-XI / 2013 the election in 2019 will be held simultaneously. With this ruling, elections in 2019 will be carried out with five ballot boxes, namely for the President and Vice President, Regional Representative Council (DPD), People's Representative Council (DPR) at the Central, Province, Regency / City levels. Mahkamah stated that simultaneous elections are an effort to avoid political bargaining that is tactical in nature for the sake of momentary interests, so as to create negotiations and strategic coalitions of political parties for longer interests.

The electoral legal framework has also changed compared to previous elections which were separated in three laws, this time regulated into one in Law Number 7 of 2017. The 2019 election was marked by the politics of Nepotism. Nepotism in its history is good because it refers to a person who is given authority to hold power in a community because of his intelligence, strength, charisma, and character, so that he is elected or appointed as the head of the community group. When the head of the group dies, he is usually succeeded by his son to become the ruler of society, so far called "genootschappen". The meaning of the word *genootschappen* refers to legal societies that are still influenced by their customs, in such a society there is a power: The tribal leader is the chieftain and also the traditional head who is considered as *Primus Interparis*, meaning the first person among the same.

Resistance is any action taken by a race or group aimed at reducing or rejecting claims (Chenoweth, 2021; Flood et al., 2021; Shain et al., 2021). It focuses on forms of resistance that actually exist and occur in everyday life which illustrates clearly how the form of resistance of weak minorities is those who do not have the power to resist. There are two forms of resistance: Open Resistance (Social protest or demonstration; Organized, systematic, and principled forms of resistance used in violent means resistance such as rebels) and Closed Resistance (symbolic or ideological; Resistance in the form of rejection of categories imposed on society (Chenoweth, 2021; Dudouet, 2013; Vinthagen & Johansson, 2013). For example: gossip, slander, or withdrawal of respect for the ruler. The resistance is carried out because there is oppression that occurs in people's daily lives). Resistance is used by oppressed peoples as a tool to defend their rights, and therefore it is an excuse for those who feel oppressed to maintain existing subsistence by resisting the changes established through resistance movements. The resistance categorized by Scott is distinguished by the articulation of resistance, form, characteristics, social and cultural territory.

Cases of resistance that indirectly occurred against indigenous peoples who opposed the leader's policies also occurred in Kampung Pulau Tinggi in the 2019 general election. There are different choices for legislative candidates chosen by village or tribal chiefs with the communities they lead. Meanwhile, in activities regarding customs carried out by the village head or tribe, the community he leads will always follow the policies he implements.

This study aims to examine how village heads carry out nepotism politics against citizens in high island villages and how citizens in high island villages carry out resistance politics in the face of high island village head nepotism politics. The research is expected to give more insight into citizen resistance in Indonesia, especially in political cases.

METHOD

This qualitative research explores the Politics of Citizen Resistance in Pulau Tinggi Village and the Politics of Nepotism of Village Heads. Data is collected from primary and secondary sources, with secondary sources being community and village heads in Pulau Tinggi Village. Data collection techniques involve systematically searching and compiling data from interviews, field notes, and other materials. Data analysis involves organizing data into categories, breaking it down into units, synthesizing, arranging into patterns, choosing important ones, and making conclusions. The validity of the research results is tested through triangulation, which involves checking data from various sources in various ways and at various times. This research aims to provide insights into the politics of citizen resistance in Pulau Tinggi Village.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The High Island community has a village head in community life. In elections, the village head or tribal chief can have a significant influence on the outcome of the election. They often function as local leaders and have strong political connections in their communities. As local leaders, they have access to resources and power that they can leverage in supporting a particular candidate.

Village heads can use their influence to promote their family members as candidates in elections. They can provide financial support, campaign infrastructure, or political support to their family members in hopes of gaining political gain or influence in the future.

Based on the results obtained, the village head does not have enough power to lead the community to vote in making their choices. Although the community participated in the activities carried out by the village head in the election, but did not go with the choice of the village head.

Citizen resistance to the politics of nepotism of village heads from the reaction or rejection shown by the community to the practice of nepotism that occurs in elections is an effort to fight for justice, transparency, and accountability in political decision making. By voicing opposition to the practice of nepotism, people hope that elections can be based on competence and integrity, not family relationships or personal connections. In general, citizen resistance to the politics of nepotism of the head of Pulau Tinggi Village in holding elections is carried out due to citizens' awareness of participation in democracy.

CONCLUSION

The village head in Pulau Tinggi Village used his power to implement nepotism politics by instructing citizens to give their choices to family members who participated in the 2019 election. This demonstrates the existence of nepotism politics. In response, citizens used closed resistance politics and agreed to give voting rights to family members of the village head, but did not implement this during the polling. The village head's customary activities will be followed by the high island village's citizens.

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