Synergy Between the General Election Commission (KPU) and the Election Supervisory Board (BAWASLU) of Palembang City in the Ongoing Data Updating During the COVID-19 Pandemic

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ABSTRACT

Institutional Relationships Between the General Election Commission (KPU) and the Election Supervisory Board (BAWASLU) can be analyzed based on their respective, inseparable roles and authority as election organizers. To enhance the synergy between the KPU and BAWASLU in Palembang City for the ongoing data updating process during the COVID-19 pandemic, it is crucial to ensure that updated data will be accurate for any upcoming elections, thereby achieving the expected success. Conversely, if communication between these agencies is not well-established, it may lead to conflicts, potentially hampering the democratic process of elections. Therefore, establishing effective communication between the KPU and BAWASLU is essential to achieving a successful election and ensuring that the data updated by the KPU remains current.This interest led the author to conduct research titled "**Synergy Between the General Election Commission (KPU) and the Election Supervisory Board (BAWASLU) of Palembang City in Ongoing Data Updating During the COVID-19 Pandemic**," with the following research questions: 1. How does the synergy between the KPU and BAWASLU in Palembang City contribute to ongoing data updating during the COVID-19 pandemic? 2. What challenges does the KPU of Palembang City face in the ongoing data updating process during the COVID-19 pandemic? Based on the research findings and supported by data collected in the field regarding the synergy between the KPU and BAWASLU in ongoing data updating during the COVID-19 pandemic, the researcher concluded that the General Election Commission not only serves as the election organizer but also has the responsibility to manage and continuously update voter data on a monthly basis for election data renewal. The synergy between the KPU and BAWASLU in ongoing data updating during the pandemic is found to be very effective, as it requires close coordination between the two agencies to address the challenges faced in data updating amidst the pandemic's movement restrictions, such as issues related to data sources, public participation in data renewal, and budget constraints.

Keywords: Institutional relationship between KPU and BAWASLU, Ongoing data updating

ABSTRAK

Hubungan kelembagaan antara KPU dengan Bawaslu dapat dikaji dari hubungan tugas dan kewenangan masing-masing yang tidak terpisahkan sebagai penyelenggara pemilu Untuk meningkatkan sinergitas KPU dan Bawaslu Kota palembang dalam rangka pengimputan data pemutakhiran berkelanjutan di masa pandemi covid -19, sehingga jika akan ada pemilihan selanjutnya data yang telah di mutakhirkan sudah sesuai dan pemilihan ini akan sukses seperti yang diharapkan. Sebaliknya jika komunikasi antara lembaga ini tidak terjalin dengan baik, maka akan menimbulkan konflik. Dampaknya proses demokrasi dalam bentuk pemilu ini akan terhambat. Oleh karena itu, untuk menjalin komunikasi atau hubungan antara KPU dengan badan pengawas pemilu (Bawaslu) untuk mencapai keberhasilan pemilu yang diharapkan, sehingga data yang akan dimutakhirkan oleh KPU akan terus dimutakhirkan. Oleh karena itu penulis tertarik untuk meneliti dengan judul penelitian''*Sinergitas KPU dan BAWASLU Kota palembang dalam pemuktahiran data berkelanjutan di masa pandemi Covid-19* '' dengan perumusan masalah sebagai berikut: 1. Bagaimana sinergitas KPU dan Bawaslu Kota palembang dalam pemutakhiran berkelanjutan di masa pandemi covid-19? 2. Bagaimana faktor kendala yang di hadapi KPU Kota Palembang dalam pemutakhiran data berkelanjutan di masa pandemi covid-19?. Berdasarkan hasil penelitian yang dilakukan serta diperkuat dengan data-data yang di temukan di lapangan terhadap penelitian yang menyangkut masalah sinergitas KPU dan BAWASLU dalam pemuktahiran data berkelanjutan di masa pandemi covid -19. Peneliti mendapatkan hasil penelitianya bahwasanya komisi pemilihan umum tak hanya sebagai penyelenggara pemilu,melainkan mempunyai tugas untuk mengelola data pemilih berkelanjutan harus selalu di muktahirkan setiap bulan untuk pembaharuan data pemilu.Untuk sinergitas yang terjalin antara KPU dan BAWASLU dalam hal pemuktahiran data berkelanjutan pada masa pandemi, terjalin sangat baik karena sangat membutuhkan adanya koordinasi yang terjalin antara dua instansi terkait untuk memecahkan permasalahan yang dihadapi dalam hal pemuktahiran data di masa pandemi covid-19 yang sangat terbatas pergerakannya di karenakan adanya kendala seperti sumber data, partisipasi masyarakat terhadap pembaharuan data serta anggaran dana.

Kata Kunci : Hubungan antara lembaga KPU dan BAWASLU, Pemutakhiran data berkelanjutan

INTRODUCTION

In Indonesia, general elections serve as a key indicator for establishing the democratic system (Budiardjo, 2008). Therefore, accurate data on voter rights is essential for elections. It is necessary to update data regularly so that, for future elections, the updated information is accurate and the elections proceed as expected. Effective communication is crucial in achieving these goals. Communication is a transactional, symbolic process that requires individuals to manage their environment by building relationships through the exchange of information (Cangara, 2016).

Conversely, if communication between these agencies is poor, it can lead to conflicts, potentially hindering the democratic process of elections (Furi Ayunindya,

2014: 29). Hence, establishing good communication between the KPU and the Election Supervisory Board (BAWASLU) is essential for achieving successful elections and ensuring that voter data is continuously updated by the KPU for future elections.

Voter data updating involves renewing voter information based on the permanent voter list from the last election or vote, considering the DP4, by verifying factual data and subsequently preparing the Preliminary Voter List (DPS) managed by the General Election Commission (KPU).

The process of updating voter lists involves sensitive aspects that could impact citizens' constitutional rights, as demographic data is highly dynamic—people are born, die, reach voting age, move, or leave. Therefore, continuous data updating is necessary. Updating and preparing voter lists is a crucial and important phase.

Ongoing voter list preparation is conducted to maintain voter data, facilitating the data updating process and the preparation of voter lists for future elections. The roles and actors in an election organization are essential. These include the election organizers such as the KPU at the district/city level, BAWASLU/Panwaslu, and other election-related institutions.

LITERATURE REVIEW

This research will include several previous studies related to the issues addressed in this study on "Synergy Between the KPU and BAWASLU of Palembang City in Ongoing Data Updating During the COVID-19 Pandemic."

Firstly, researcher Muhammad Syaifudin's study titled "Synergy in Resolving Duplicate Data in the Permanent Voter List in Jepara Regency" utilized a grounded theory approach. Data was collected through observation, interviews, and documentation. The conclusion of this study is that synergy was achieved in the implementation of the 2019 general election, which proceeded smoothly due to cooperation, coordination, and collaboration conducted in accordance with existing regulations (Syaifudin, 2019: 1).

Secondly, the journal by Furi Ayunindya and Fajar Arofah titled "General Election Commission (KPU) vs. Election Supervisory Board (BAWASLU)" explores the disputes between the KPU and BAWASLU during the 2014 general election. The KPU and BAWASLU are actors mandated by law as election organizers, with distinct roles in conducting and overseeing the election process. However, in practice, these two institutions do not always work in harmony (Ayundia, 2016, p. 29).

Thirdly, researcher Nugrahaeni Kenyo Palupi's study titled "The Working Relationship Between the General Election Commission (KPU) and the Election Supervisory Committee (Panwaslu) of Banjarnegara Regency in the 2014 Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections According to Law Number 42 of 2008" used process research methods with triangulation techniques and qualitative data analysis. The discussion is conducted by narrating valid data in the thesis (Palupi, 2015, p. viii).

Fourthly, Lusy Liany's journal titled "Designing Institutional Relationships for Election Organizers" explains that to improve the quality of election administration, professional election organizing institutions are needed. However, achieving this is challenging due to ongoing disagreements among the election organizing institutions, namely the General Election Commission (KPU), the Election Supervisory Board

(BAWASLU), and the Honorary Council for Election Organizers (DKPP). This is due to unclear regulations regarding the resolution of election disputes, particularly concerning the process of resolving disputes over party nominations. Therefore, regulations need to be improved and clearly define the authority and responsibilities of each election organizing institution (Liani, 2016, p. 51).

Fifthly, researcher Lukman Ibrahim's study titled "Implementation of Supervision of Voter List Updating in the Permanent Voter List (DPT) for the 2019 Election (Case Study: Election Supervisory Board (BAWASLU) of Mataram City)" used qualitative research methods. This study aims to describe the implementation of the Mataram City Election Supervisory Board's supervision in updating the voter list for the Permanent Voter List (DPT) in 2019 (Ibrahim, 2020, p. xiii).

METHOD

This study employs a descriptive qualitative research approach. According to Arikunto (2019:136), research methods are the primary means used by researchers to achieve objectives and determine answers to the posed questions. Thus, research methods are the means or tools used by researchers to address a series of questions formulated in the problem statement.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The synergy in authority between the KPU and BAWASLU of Palembang City in updating population data is very effective, despite the many challenges faced during the pandemic. For ongoing data updating during the pandemic, strong synergy is essential because the pandemic has limited the movement required for data updating activities. Therefore, the synergy between KPU and BAWASLU is crucial for assisting in updating population data during the COVID-19 pandemic in Palembang City.

The General Election Commission (KPU) of Palembang City carries out its duties and functions within the context of inter-agency relationships. The synergy between the KPU and BAWASLU in Palembang City in implementing the ongoing data updating program is closely tied to their communication activities. BAWASLU plays the role of supervising the election process, while KPU is responsible for organizing the elections. This mutual role requires KPU and BAWASLU to collaborate both internally and externally. Each communication activity undertaken by the KPU of Palembang City begins with planning, which serves as the foundation for executing tasks, such as planning for ongoing data updates.

However, during the COVID-19 pandemic, which affected the world and led to a peak in virus spread including in Indonesia, nearly all institutions, including the KPU of Palembang City, decided to implement Work From Home (WFH) policies to reduce the spread of the virus. This policy led to the temporary suspension of some activities, such as plenary meetings related to ongoing data updates.

The impact of COVID-19 on the KPU of Palembang City's data updating duties has somewhat hindered the effectiveness of the updating process and made coordination between KPU and BAWASLU less conducive. To address this, KPU and BAWASLU of Palembang City have strived to maintain intensive coordination during the pandemic through online meetings, as in-person meetings were restricted. During quarterly

meetings, the KPU of Palembang City provides updates on the progress of data updating and the steps taken for voter data. BAWASLU then offers recommendations for improving the updating process and suggests solutions for the issues encountered, fostering mutual synergy to resolve data updating challenges.

The process undertaken by KPU and BAWASLU in ongoing data updating involves the KPU of Palembang City receiving aggregate population data processed by the Ministry of Home Affairs through the Population and Civil Registration Office, starting from the database. The cooperation between KPU and BAWASLU of Palembang City utilizes population databases, National Identity Numbers (NIK), and E-KTPs, which makes the data updating process more accurate and systematically managed.

However, the KPU and BAWASLU face several challenges in the ongoing data updating process, including:

1. **Data Sources**: Challenges arise from data sources. The KPU strives to update data by removing deceased individuals and adding new voters. In Palembang, where no elections have recently occurred, public enthusiasm or response is low, even though citizens can report and verify their voter data. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the KPU of Palembang City also faces significant restrictions in data collection for ongoing voter updates. The primary data source issue is obtaining accurate information on deceased individuals, as the KPU primarily relies on cemetery records, which do not cover all of Palembang. Thus, the KPU must filter and select which data to include in the updated records. Additionally, challenges arise in updating data for new voters or individuals who have moved, as the KPU is restricted from receiving data directly from the Population and Civil Registration Office (Disdukcapil) due to bureaucratic procedures. Data must go through the Directorate General of Population and Civil Registration before reaching the KPU, which aims to prevent data breaches.

2. **Public Participation in Data Updates**: Updating data for elections is often hindered by low public awareness of the importance of data updates. Citizens are generally reluctant to report deceased family members or those who have changed addresses. "Reporting data updates is challenging due to the lack of socialization from relevant agencies about the importance of updating data" (RIO, 2022). The lack of participation complicates the KPU's efforts to map voter lists in each area. Effective and efficient data updating requires cooperation from various parties, including public participation. This situation indicates that both the KPU and related institutions need to enhance their efforts in socializing the importance of data updates.

3. **Budget Constraints**: Budget limitations also pose a challenge. Even when KPU Palembang City goes to the field, the data collected cannot be immediately processed due to insufficient funds. With a significant amount of data issues, such as around 100,000 duplicate records from KPU RI and 62,000 records lacking matching information, the KPU requires considerable time and resources to resolve these issues. Due to budget constraints, KPU Palembang City continues to work on reconciling data with the DP4 and verifying its accuracy.

In summary, the synergy between KPU and BAWASLU of Palembang City in ongoing data updating during the COVID-19 pandemic is well-established and essential for addressing the challenges faced. However, obstacles such as data sources, public participation, and budget constraints must be managed effectively to ensure successful data updating efforts.

CONCLUSION

Based on the data analysis and discussion, the conclusions are as follows:
1. The research findings indicate that the General Election Commission (KPU) not only functions as an election organizer but also has the responsibility to manage ongoing voter data, which must be updated monthly for election data renewal. The synergy between KPU and BAWASLU in Palembang City for ongoing data updating during the pandemic has been very effective, as it requires strong coordination between the two agencies to address the issues related to data updating.
2. During the pandemic, the KPU experienced significant limitations in its ability to gather data for voter updates. This was due to challenges such as data sources, public participation in data updates, and budget constraints.

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