

Submission	Review Process	Revised	Accepted	Published
22-06-2022	24 s/d 30-06-2023	29-08-2024	30-08-2023	30-08-2023

*Ampera: A Research Journal on Politics and
Islamic Civilization, Vol. 4 No.3, August 2023 (147-158)*

The Rationality of Political Parties in Selecting Regional Head Candidates (Dodi Reza Alex Noerdin – Beni Hernedi) in Musi Banyuasin Regency in 2017

Aji Wahyu Putra

Universitas Islam Negeri Raden Fatah

Email: adjiwahyu912@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

This study examines the rationality of political parties in selecting regional head candidates (Dodi Reza Alex Noerdin – Beni Hernedi) for Musi Banyuasin Regency in 2017. This paper describes the rationality of each political party, including PDIP, Golkar, PKB, PKS, and the Democratic Party, in choosing and determining regional head candidates based on arguments and reasons derived from the candidates' qualifications, political experience, proposed programs, and their popularity. These factors served as benchmarks for selecting the regional head for Musi Banyuasin in 2017.

The method used in this study is qualitative, involving analysis, understanding, and investigation of phenomena to describe the issues related to the research object. Data collection was conducted through interviews and documentation.

The research findings indicate that the factors underlying the rationality of political parties in selecting regional head candidates (Dodi Reza Alex Noerdin and Beni Hernedi) for Musi Banyuasin Regency in 2017 include high potential observed in this candidate pair regarding electability, political experience, popularity, and the programs proposed. The candidate pair of Dodi Reza and Beni Hernedi was deemed highly qualified to improve the performance of Musi Banyuasin, meeting the requirements for candidacy. The parties mentioned believe that the candidate pair's experience and quality make them well-suited for the 2017 regional election.

Keywords: Rationality, Political Parties, Regional Head, Musi Banyuasin Regency

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini mengkaji yang berkaitan dengan Rasionalitas Partai Politik Dalam Menentukan Calon Kepala Daerah (Dodi Reza Alexnoerdin – Beni Hernedi) Kabupaten Musi Banyuasin Tahun 2017. Tulisan ini mendiskripsikan bagaimana masing-masing Rasionalitas Partai Politik yang terdiri dari PDIP, Golkar, PKB, PKS, Demokrat dalam memilih dan menentukan calon Kepala Daerah berdasarkan argumen dan alasan yang memang dilihat dari kualitas dari calon Kepala Daerah Muba (Dodi Reza Alexnoerdin dan Beni Hernedi), pengalaman politik, program-program yang diusulkan dan popularitas yang dimiliki beliau sehingga menjadi tolak ukur untuk menjadi Kepala Daerah Muba tahun 2017.

Metode yang digunakan pada kajian penulisan ini adalah metode kualitatif dengan menganalisis, memahami dan meneliti suatu fenomena yang terjadi dengan bertujuan untuk menggambarkan permasalahan objek penelitian. Pengumpulan data dalam penelitian dilakukan melalui wawancara dan dokumentasi.

Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa faktor yang melatar belakangi Rasionalitas Partai Politik menentukan calon Kepala Daerah (Dodi Reza Alexnoerdin dan Beni Hernedi) Kabupaten Muba tahun 2017 karena dari rasionalitas yang ada dari Partai PDIP, Golkar, PKB, PKS, dan Demokrat mengatakan adanya potensi yang tinggi dari pasangan calon ini baik dari elektabilitas, pengalaman berpolitik, popularitas, dan program-program yang di sosialisasikan dari calon Dodi Reza dan Beni Hernedi dianggap sangat bagus dan dapat meningkatkan kinerja daerah Muba, serta alasan dari beberapa Partai yang telah di sebutkan tadi bahwa dari sosok pasangan calon ini sudah mencukupi persyaratan dan layak mecalonkan diri menjadi kepala daerah dan wakil kepala daerah sesuai dengan pengalaman-pengalaman dari pasangan calon Dodi dan Beni serta kualitas yang dimiliki beliau memang sudah sangat baik untuk maju pada Pilkada Muba tahun 2017.

Kata Kunci : Rasionalitas, Partai Politik, Kepala Daerah, Kabupaten Musi Banyuasin

INTRODUCTION

The presence of political parties in Indonesia can be traced back to the Dutch colonial era. Political parties in Indonesia emerged alongside the growth of nationalist movements that marked the era of national awakening. Various organizations emerged as platforms for the national movement to achieve independence. Although initially, many organizations did not explicitly refer to themselves as political parties, they did engage in political programs and activities. The rise of these political organizations was triggered by modern education introduced through the ethical policy (*politiek ethisch*) implemented by the Dutch government.

Political parties are a crucial component in the political dynamics of a nation. They are viewed as a means for individuals or groups to gain power. Such arguments are commonly discussed in various media and seminars, particularly those focused on political parties. Etymologically, politics originates from the Greek word "polis," meaning city or city-state. From this, the terms "polities" (citizens), "politike techne" (political skill), and "politike episteme" (political science) are derived. Politically, it is the effort to achieve or realize ideological goals.

Political parties reflect a democratic state, which is considered a prerequisite for modern nation-states. Regardless of which interests are represented or by whom, it is clear that political parties are institutions that channel interests, both of the people and of the rulers. As institutions for interest articulation, political parties function as a two-way communication channel: from top to bottom and from bottom to top. If this communication is effectively implemented, the roles of political parties in political socialization, political participation, political communication, interest articulation, interest aggregation, and policy-making can be successfully carried out, thus contributing to the realization of desired political development.

LITERATURE REVIEW

To strengthen the theoretical description above, several relevant studies previously conducted will be presented, including:

First, the journal titled “Rationality of Political Parties in Determining Legislative Candidates for Central Lombok 2019,” authored by Agus and Zakaria Ansori. This study focuses on the political rationality in the recruitment of legislative candidates. The reality of the 2019 legislative elections in Central Lombok shows two bases of rationality among political party leaders in candidate recruitment: voter demands and financial demands. The political rationality of the 2019 Central Lombok legislative elections tended to be pragmatic compared to political ethics, with this pragmatic rationality emerging because political parties needed numerous candidates to attract more voters. On the other hand, candidates also required political parties for administrative requirements and to become legislative candidates. In this context, the relationship between party leaders and legislative candidates is characterized by instrumental political rationality.

Second, the journal titled “Political Rationality of PDIP in the 2014 Election,” written by Iding R. Hasan, focuses on the political rationality of PDIP. The study discusses how Megawati and her team advanced Jokowi as a presidential candidate due to significant rational reasons and strong support from the party, believing that Jokowi had high potential if nominated as a presidential candidate in the 2014 election. Moreover, from Aceh to Papua, the representation of supporters, including the DPD (Regional Representative Council), was very high for Jokowi, with only a few choosing candidates other than Jokowi, such as Megawati and Puan Maharani from PDIP. The public's expectations for Jokowi as the most anticipated presidential candidate were extraordinary. With his transformative leadership style, effective communication, and popular appeal, Jokowi became a political magnet. It is not surprising that all opinion polls from various survey institutions in Indonesia consistently placed the former Solo Mayor at the top.

Third, the journal titled “Political Rationality of First-Time Voters in Tegalsari Surabaya,” authored by Diah Astanti and Moh. Mudzakkir, examines the political rationality of first-time voters in the 2014 presidential election. The study aims to understand the causes and goals of political rationality among first-time voters and their political participation. It reveals that the causes of first-time voter participation are driven by political socialization, peer group influence, and organizational experience. The goals include seeking experience, entertainment, filling free time, and reducing apathy. Additionally, participation is encouraged by the provision of money, staple foods, t-shirts, and other gifts.

Fourth, the journal titled “Preferences and Rationalization of Political Choices Among Urban Minangkabau Women in Padang in Election Behavior,” written by Yoserizal and Asrinaldi A., focuses on the forms of preferences and rationalization of political choices among urban Minangkabau women. It examines their voting behavior based on rationality in considering, weighing, and deciding on political actions according to the current political reality, and estimating the benefits of decisions in both the short and long term.

Fifth, the thesis titled “Rationality of Island Communities in Choosing Leaders (Case Study of Village Head Election in 2013 in Sepanjang Village, Sapeken Subdistrict, Sumenep Regency),” prepared by Rizaul Insan, examines how the rationality of the Sepanjang village community influenced their choice of village head. This study is positively relevant to the development of democracy in the post-reform era.

METHOD

In this study, the researcher employs a qualitative method that emphasizes a deep understanding of issues rather than merely examining problems for research purposes. This method involves in-depth analysis or case-by-case examination, as each case has unique characteristics and issues. In other words, the data generated is descriptive, aiming to elucidate a problem and gather supporting data related to the political party's support for regional head candidates pertinent to this research.

The research is conducted through descriptive interviews and documentation to obtain information about the Rationality of Political Parties in Determining Regional Head Candidates (Dodi Reza Alex Noerdin – Beni Hernedi) in Musi Banyuasin Regency in 2017. The subjects of the study are members of the supporting parties, namely Golkar, PDIP, PKS, PKB, and the Democratic Party.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the rationality of political parties, these parties can determine and establish who is suitable to be a leader at both the regional and provincial levels based on the party's collective decision and by assessing the quality of the candidates who meet the necessary criteria and are serious about becoming regional leaders. This ensures they can effectively implement their programs for the benefit of their communities once they assume office.

In the case of the 2017 Musi Banyuasin local election, the political parties supporting the candidacy of Dodi Reza Alexnoerdin and Beni Hernedi are as follows:

Factors Behind the Political Party's Support and Selection of the Candidate Pair (Dodi Reza Alexnoerdin – Beni Hernedi) for the Musi Banyuasin Regency Head Election in 2017:

1. Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI Perjuangan)

The Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI Perjuangan) was instrumental in supporting its cadre, Beni Hernedi, to run as the vice-regent candidate alongside Dodi Reza Alexnoerdin. According to Sodingun S.H., a cadre of the PDI Perjuangan in Musi Banyuasin,

“Beni Hernedi had a very significant opportunity to run for the regent position of Musi Banyuasin because he had previously served as the Vice Regent from January 15, 2012, to December 24, 2015, and as Acting Regent from December 24, 2015, to January 15, 2017. This experience was a key factor for PDI Perjuangan, as Beni Hernedi is also a member of PDI Perjuangan.” (Interview with Sodingun, June 30, 2022).

The party has a high level of confidence in Beni Hernedi's suitability for the 2017 Musi Banyuasin local election, running alongside Dodi Reza Alexnoerdin. Additionally, PDI Perjuangan believes that Beni Hernedi's numerous achievements will significantly contribute to the advancement of the region, particularly Musi Banyuasin.

Beni Hernedi also has substantial local experience, with the following organizational roles:

1. Head of the PDI Perjuangan BPSN in South Sumatra Province from 2015 to 2020.

2. Advisory Board Member of GP ANSOR in Musi Banyuasin Regency from 2015 to the present.
3. Mentor for SEKNAS Jokowi in Musi Banyuasin Regency from 2014 to the present.
4. Chair of the Alliance of Indigenous Peoples of the Archipelago (AMAN) from 2013 to the present.
5. Chair of the DPC PDI Perjuangan in Musi Banyuasin Regency from 2010 to 2015.
6. Chair of the PAC PDI Perjuangan in Musi Banyuasin Regency from 2003 to 2005.
7. Chair of the Muba Sejahtera Foundation for Sekayu Polytechnic.
8. Chair of the Grassroots Unity Organization in Muba.
9. Deputy Secretary/Regional Coordinator for Musi Banyuasin of the Banteng Muda Indonesia Sumsel.
10. Head of the National Election Witness Agency (BSPN) of the PDI Perjuangan DPD in South Sumatra Province (2015-2019).
11. Chair of the Indonesian Red Cross (PMI) Branch in Musi Banyuasin (2019-2024).

As an incumbent, Beni Hernedi, and Dodi Reza, who had previously been defeated in the 2012 Musi Banyuasin regency election, should have seen the PDI Perjuangan party consider nominating Beni as the regent candidate rather than as Dodi Reza's vice-regent candidate. Had the PDI Perjuangan party taken the bold step of nominating Beni Hernedi as the regent candidate for Musi Banyuasin in 2017, it would have sparked a healthy competition and potentially increased public interest in the election. Instead, the party supported Beni as the vice-regent candidate for Dodi Reza. Consequently, both candidates were backed by two parties, namely PDIP and Golkar, followed by other parties such as PKS, PKB, and Demokrat, which formed a coalition to promote the regent and vice-regent candidates, Dodi Reza and Beni Hernedi. These candidates were perceived as high-quality and had a significant chance of winning the positions of regent and vice-regent in Musi Banyuasin Regency, with Dodi Reza being a cadre of the Golkar Party and Beni Hernedi a cadre of the PDI Perjuangan Party.

2. Golkar Party

The Golkar Party was the principal supporter of the candidate pair Dodi Reza and Beni Hernedi in the 2017 Musi Banyuasin regency election. This support was due to the fact that both candidates were members of the Golkar Party itself. According to research obtained from Islan Hanura, a cadre of the Golkar Party in Musi Banyuasin Regency, he stated:

“Regent candidate Dodi Reza is a Golkar cadre with extensive experience, having served as a member of the Indonesian House of Representatives (DPR-RI) for two terms from 2009 to 2019. In 2017, he ran for regent of Musi Banyuasin. The primary reason Golkar cadres support Dodi Reza as regent candidate is due to his experience, integrity, and broad knowledge.” (Interview with Islan Hanura, June 24, 2022).

From the perspective of Golkar cadres, Dodi Reza, as a regent candidate, has the potential to realize the "Muba Maju Berjaya" (Advanced and Prosperous Muba) slogan promoted by the Dodi Reza and Beni Hernedi pair. His ability to address issues related to infrastructure, education, and health could enhance the recognition of Musi

Banyuasin both within and outside the regency. It is undeniable that his father, Alex Noerdin, who served as regent from 2001 to 2008, laid the foundation for Musi Banyuasin's development, including free education, free medical services, infrastructure, and notable achievements in sports. However, after his term ended in 2008, development in Musi Banyuasin faced delays. Thus, the Golkar Party views Dodi Reza as a promising candidate for regional and potentially national leadership.

Although Dodi Reza has already made an impact on the international stage, the Golkar Party in Musi Banyuasin strongly supports him for the position of regent in 2017-2022. This support underscores the belief that he possesses a wealth of achievements and high integrity, which could drive further progress in Musi Banyuasin. His political career includes the following notable positions:

1. Chair of the Golkar Party DPD in South Sumatra (2020-2021).
2. Member of the Indonesian House of Representatives (FPG) (2009-2014) and (2014-2017).
3. Chair of the Golkar Party DPP (2014-2017).
4. Secretary General of the Golkar Party DPP (2009-2015).
5. General Treasurer of BMK KOSGORO (2010-2011).

3. National Awakening Party (PKB)

The National Awakening Party (PKB) was also a supporter of the candidate pair Dodi Reza Alex and Beni Hernedi. According to Rustam, the Chair of the PKB Faction in the Musi Banyuasin Regency DPRD:

“Both candidates have a strong relationship with each other and each has significant experience in government. Previously, Mr. Beni served as Vice Regent of Musi Banyuasin from January 15, 2012, to December 24, 2015, and Mr. Dodi had served as a member of the Indonesian House of Representatives (DPR-RI) for two terms from 2009 to 2019. He is also running for regent in 2017. The primary reasons PKB supports Dodi Reza as regent candidate are his experience, integrity, and ability to enhance governmental performance, especially through educational programs like free schooling and health services such as free medical care.” (Interview with Rustam, July 9, 2022).

Thus, PKB has formed a coalition to support the candidacy of Dodi Reza and Beni Hernedi, placing high trust in this pair as they campaign for the positions of Regent and Vice Regent of Musi Banyuasin. Both candidates have strong popularity in Musi Banyuasin and are expected to further develop the region towards greater progress and prosperity for its people.

4. Prosperous Justice Party (PKS)

According to Mr. Musheni S.Pd.i, Chair of the PKS DPD in Musi Banyuasin, the process within PKS involves political communication between various candidates and PKS officials, culminating in a proposal of candidates to the provincial and central levels, including Dodi Reza Alex Noerdin as a regional head candidate for Musi Banyuasin, supported by Golkar and other parties. PKS also supported the candidacy of Dodi Reza Alex Noerdin and Beni Hernedi. He also noted:

“The rationale for PKS supporting Dodi Reza Alexnoerdin and Beni Hernedi includes first and foremost his capacity. This means Dodi Reza Alexnoerdin has

commendable educational qualifications, administrative management skills, and electoral success potential for the 2017 Musi Banyuasin election, indicating his significant chances of winning and his strong intellectual capacity.” (Interview with Musheni, August 1, 2022).

Secondly, his popularity is evident as Dodi Reza has previously been a member of the DPR RI, active in various political and non-political organizations, including sports organizations. This level of visibility and recognition contributes to his strong candidacy. From these aspects, PKS views him as a suitable candidate for the regional leadership of Musi Banyuasin, based on the party's evaluation of his capacity and popularity.

PKS's support for Dodi Reza Alex Noerdin also aligns with the party's platform, which encompasses several criteria: nationalism, Islamic vision and advocacy, and pro-people economic vision. The party assesses a candidate's commitment to nationalism, which includes adherence to Pancasila, the 1945 Constitution, Bhinneka Tunggal Ika (Unity in Diversity), and the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia. Additionally, PKS considers the candidate's Islamic vision and advocacy, such as Dodi Reza's previous initiatives like fundraising for Palestine and supporting Islamic boarding schools and various organizations. Economic vision focuses on pro-people development that benefits the poor. PKS expects that candidates align with these platforms and commit to implementing these programs effectively. Dodi Reza Alex Noerdin's commitment to these principles and his adherence to PKS's platform were key factors in the party's endorsement of his candidacy for the regency of Musi Banyuasin. The Prosperous Justice Party (PKS) has proposed its platform, outlining whether candidates are willing to implement its vision for nationalism, Islamic values, and pro-people economic policies. The pro-people economic vision focuses on economic development oriented towards benefiting the poor, including programs aimed at aiding disadvantaged communities. Following this, the candidate, Dodi Reza Alex Noerdin, has committed to implementing these programs based on the PKS platform. Essentially, this means that Dodi Reza Alex Noerdin has agreed to adhere to the PKS platform, which emphasizes a clean government, pro-people policies, and Islamic advocacy. This commitment reflects his serious intent to develop and advance the Musi Banyuasin region according to the programs proposed by PKS, ensuring that the administration will be transparent, people-centered, and aligned with Islamic principles and advocacy.

5. Democratic Party

The Democratic Party is one of the supporters of the candidate pair Dodi Reza and Beni Hernedi in the 2017 Musi Banyuasin regional election. According to Hairul Ilyasa, Chairman of the Democratic Party's DPC in Musi Banyuasin, the reasons for the party's support are as follows:

“The candidate pair Dodi Reza and Beni Hernedi possess integrity, intellectual capacity, and extensive knowledge in politics, which can contribute to the development of Musi Banyuasin. Their programs focus on infrastructure development, as well as education and health initiatives for the welfare of the Musi Banyuasin community. Additionally, Dodi is recognized as a public figure with

significant international exposure, while Beni Hernedi, a cadre of PDIP, previously served as Deputy Regent from 2012 to 2015. His experience as Deputy Regent is seen as valuable for advancing the program 'Muba Maju Berjaya' (Muba Forward and Prosperous)." (Interview with Hairul Ilyasa, August 12, 2022).

The Democratic Party has not only endorsed the candidate pair but has also assisted in disseminating and socializing the programs of Dodi Reza and Beni Hernedi during the 2017 Musi Banyuasin regional election. Furthermore, the Democratic Party coalition has supported this candidate pair due to their high electability in the 2017 regional election. The interest from various parties, beyond PDIP and Golkar, in supporting Dodi Reza and Beni Hernedi underscores their strong confidence in the candidates' potential to serve as Regent and Deputy Regent of Musi Banyuasin in 2017.

Reasons Five Parties Supported the Nomination of Candidates for Regent (Dodi Reza Alexnoerdin and Beni Hernedi)

Factors Leading Political Parties to Nominate Dodi Reza Alexnoerdin and Beni Hernedi as Candidates for Regent and Vice Regent

1. PDI Perjuangan Party

Within the context of the PDI Perjuangan Party, the support for the candidacy of Dodi Reza Alexnoerdin and Beni Hernedi is based on their high integrity and quality, which are deemed essential for advancing the development of the Muba region, particularly in the fields of education, sports, and health.

Moreover, Beni Hernedi, a member of the PDI Perjuangan Party, was initially expected to run for the position of regent of Musi Banyuasin. However, after considerable deliberation, it was decided that Beni Hernedi would run as the vice-regent candidate alongside Dodi Reza Alexnoerdin in the 2017 Musi Banyuasin regional elections. Beni Hernedi had previously served as the Vice Regent of Musi Banyuasin from January 15, 2012, to December 24, 2015, and as the Acting Regent from December 24, 2015, to January 15, 2017. Consequently, the PDI Perjuangan Party placed its trust in Beni Hernedi to run as the vice-regent candidate for Musi Banyuasin in 2017.

2. Golkar Party

Golkar Party is the primary supporter of the candidacy of Dodi Reza Alexnoerdin and Beni Hernedi. The reason Golkar supports and endorses Dodi Reza Alexnoerdin as the regent candidate for Musi Banyuasin in 2017 is because he is a dedicated member of Golkar and is regarded as a figure with extensive experience and broad insights. Golkar believes that Dodi Reza Alexnoerdin can improve and develop the Muba region, making it well-known both within and beyond the district, particularly in terms of infrastructure, education, and health.

Dodi Reza Alexnoerdin previously served as a member of the Indonesian House of Representatives from the Golkar faction for two terms: 2009-2014 and 2014-2016. He is also recognized as a public figure with significant international engagement. Dodi Reza Alexnoerdin aims to continue the programs initiated by his parents, including infrastructure development in Muba, free schools, free medical care, and

advancements in sports. These initiatives are intended to foster significant progress in the Muba region and enhance its reputation both locally and beyond.

He is also known as a leader capable of elevating the Muba district and fully supports Dodi Reza Alexnoerdin as the regent candidate for Muba from 2017 to 2022. His achievements and high integrity are seen as crucial factors in advancing Muba's development.

3. PKB Party

In this case, the PKB Party supports or endorses the regional head candidates for Muba, Dodi Reza Alexnoerdin and Beni Hernedi, based on the party's survey which assessed the potential of each candidate. The survey revealed that both candidates possess high potential in terms of intellect, knowledge, and extensive experience. Therefore, PKB supports Dodi Reza Alexnoerdin and Beni Hernedi because both have held public office roles: Dodi Reza was a member of the Indonesian House of Representatives for two terms, from 2009 to 2014 and from 2017 to 2019, while Beni Hernedi served as the Vice Regent of Musi Banyuasin from 2012 to 2015. This background leads PKB to believe that both candidates have the necessary intellectual capacity and valuable experience in governance.

PKB also forms a coalition with other parties to support the candidacy of Dodi Reza Alexnoerdin and Beni Hernedi. They have confidence in these candidates due to their strong and broad networks, which can further enhance the Muba region. This includes improvements in infrastructure, the implementation of free school programs, and the advancement of achievements in sports. In summary, both candidates are seen as highly committed to making Muba a progressive and continuously developing region through their planned programs.

4. PKS Party

The PKS Party also plays a role in supporting the regional head candidates Dodi Reza Alexnoerdin and Beni Hernedi based on their observed abilities and capacities. The reasons for PKS's support include the fact that Dodi Reza Alexnoerdin meets the requirements and has the capacity aligned with the party's platform that was previously presented by PKS. Dodi Reza Alexnoerdin also enjoys good popularity, having served as a member of the Indonesian House of Representatives and being active in the party, mass organizations, and various sports organizations. From the perspective of PKS, the support for Dodi Reza Alexnoerdin as a regional head candidate is based on his capacity and popularity, which makes him a deserving candidate for the head of Musi Banyuasin in 2017.

He is also committed to implementing aspects based on PKS's evaluation in supporting regional head candidates, including aspects of Islam and da'wah. PKS hopes that his commitment to Islamic and da'wah aspects will be evident. After taking office, his commitment was demonstrated through various programs, including fundraising for Palestine and supporting Islamic boarding schools, mass organizations, NU, and Muhammadiyah. Additionally, PKS considers the orientation of economic development that supports the poor and programs that aid underprivileged communities. Dodi Reza Alexnoerdin is willing and committed to executing these programs based on the PKS party platform. Essentially, Dodi Reza

Alexnoerdin is serious about implementing the programs consistent with the PKS platform and is committed to advancing and developing the Muba region. His governance is expected to be clean, pro-people, and aligned with other PKS values.

5. Democratic Party

The Democratic Party supports the regional head candidates Dodi Reza Alexnoerdin and Beni Hernedi due to their high electability. The interest in choosing Dodi Reza Alexnoerdin and Beni Hernedi as regional heads is very high, leading the Democratic Party to believe that both candidates have the potential to become the Head and Deputy Head of Region, given their prior public service experience. Dodi Reza Alexnoerdin has served two terms as a member of the Indonesian House of Representatives, while Beni Hernedi served as Deputy Head of Region from 2012 to 2015 in Musi Banyuasin.

Additionally, Dodi Reza Alexnoerdin's high popularity in the 2017 regional elections, along with his programs, is strongly supported by the Democratic Party. These programs include infrastructure development, continuing the initiatives of Mr. Alex Noerdin such as free schooling and free healthcare, as well as promoting achievements in sports and economic programs that favor the small people, which were previously implemented after he assumed office. Therefore, the Democratic Party has strong confidence that Dodi Reza Alexnoerdin and Beni Hernedi are qualified to be the regional head and deputy regional head in the 2017 Musi Banyuasin elections, due to their integrity, intellect, and extensive knowledge in politics, which can contribute to better development of Muba and expand its progress through infrastructure development, and educational and health programs for the welfare of the people of Muba.

CONCLUSION

Factors Influencing Political Parties in Selecting Regional Heads (Dodi Reza Alexnoerdin and Beni Hernedi) for Musi Banyuasin in 2017, and Why Political Parties Supported the Candidacy of Dodi Reza and Beni Hernedi:

1. Partai PDI Perjuangan supports the candidacy of Dodi Reza Alexnoerdin and Beni Hernedi due to their substantial experience in governance. Beni Hernedi, a member of Partai PDI Perjuangan, is deemed qualified and suitable to run as Vice Regent of Musi Banyuasin. Additionally, Beni Hernedi previously served as Vice Regent from January 15, 2012, to December 24, 2015. Both Dodi Reza and Beni Hernedi are recognized for their high integrity and strong qualifications, which leads to the belief that they are capable of advancing the development of Musi Banyuasin through improvements in regional infrastructure, education, healthcare, and sports.
2. Partai Golongan Karya (Golkar) supports the candidacy of Dodi Reza Alexnoerdin and Beni Hernedi because Dodi Reza is a member of Golkar who is considered to have extensive experience and has represented the party at an international level. The main reason Golkar supports the candidacy of Dodi Reza Alexnoerdin is the belief that he can advance the development of Musi Banyuasin and enhance its recognition both within and outside the region through infrastructure development, and programs such as free education and healthcare. Dodi Reza Alexnoerdin previously served as a member of the Indonesian House of Representatives from the Golkar faction, and he is noted for his integrity, broad knowledge, and numerous achievements. These

attributes contribute to Golkar's confidence in his capability to lead Musi Banyuasin as its head in the 2017 elections.

3. Partai Kebangkitan Bangsa (PKB) supports the candidacy of Dodi Reza Alexnoerdin and Beni Hernedi because both candidates have established strong relationships and have prior experience in government. PKB places high trust in the pair, believing that they can enhance the performance of the Musi Banyuasin regional government. This trust is based on their commitment to implementing programs such as free education and healthcare, as well as improving infrastructure development in the region.
4. Partai Keadilan Sejahtera (PKS) considers that the candidacy of Dodi Reza Alexnoerdin and Beni Hernedi meets the necessary criteria for running as candidates for regional head and deputy regional head. PKS evaluates their qualifications based on educational background, management skills, and their ability to win in the 2017 Musi Banyuasin local elections. They possess strong intellectual capacity and have a high chance of winning the Musi Banyuasin regional head election. Dodi Reza Alexnoerdin's popularity is notable, given his previous role as a member of the Indonesian House of Representatives (DPR RI), his active involvement in the party, mass organizations, and sports organizations. PKS sees these qualifications as essential for leading Musi Banyuasin.
5. Partai Demokrat supports the candidacy of Dodi Reza Alexnoerdin and Beni Hernedi, citing their integrity, intellectual capacity, and extensive political knowledge. They believe these qualities will contribute to better development and broader progress in Musi Banyuasin. Partai Demokrat is convinced that their experience will drive infrastructure development and improvements in education and healthcare, ultimately benefiting the community.

REFERENCES

- Asrinaldi dan Kusdarini . (2005). *Prefensi dan Rasionalisasi Pilihan Politik Perempuan Minang Diperkotaan Pada Perilaku Pemilih Dalam Pemilihan Umum*.
- Rosana. (2012, Juni). *Partai Politik, Vol 8*.
- Affan. (2015). *Demokrasi, Partai Politik, dan Pemilihan Kepala Daerah*.
- Septiana. (2019). *Analissi Fungsi Partai Politik Pilkada Musi Banyuasin 2017*, vol 3, 28-29.
- Abella, A. (2008). *Soldier of Reason: The RAND Corporation and the Rise of the American Empire*. New York : Harcourt.
- Anand, P. (1993). *Foundations of Rational Choice Under Risk*. Oxford.
- Budiarjo, M. (2008). *Dasar-Dasar Ilmu Politik*. Jakarta : Gramedia Pustaka Utama .
- Cangara, H. (2009). *Komunikasi Politik: Konsep, Teori, dan Strategi*. Jakarta: Raja Grafindo persada.
- Isharyanto. (2017). *Partai Politik, Ideologi, dan Kekuasaan*. Yogyakarta: Absolute Media.
- Richard S. Katz, W. C. (2006). *Handbook of Politic Party*. London: SAGE Publications.
- Safa'at, M. A. (2011). *Pembubaran Partai Politik*. Jakarta : PT. Raja Grafindo Persada .