

The Institutionalisation Of The Democrat Party in The Face Of Electoral Contestation In The 2024 Elections Province East Nusa Tenggara

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Abstract

This study aims to describe the Institutionalisation of the Democratic Party Facing Electoral Contestation for the 2024 Elections in East Nusa Tenggara Province. This research uses qualitative research methods. Data were collected using documentation, interviews, and direct observation techniques. The results of this study indicate that the institutionalization of the Democratic Party in facing the 2024 electoral contestation in East Nusa Tenggara has not achieved maximum results in realizing the strengthening of the institutionalization of the Democratic Party in East Nusa Tenggara Province for several reasons. This study finds that the biggest obstacle is funding, which is often minimal, while there are many consolidations and other activities. It can be concluded that if there are activities, contributions from members of the DPR RI / DPRD Province / Regency / City and the spontaneity of administrators/cadres when there are party activities are relied upon. Due to the Party's increasingly tricky internal financial conditions, contributions from administrators/members, mandatory contributions from cadres in the legislature, and executive and incidental donations, we unconsciously create pragmatic dependence. This results in the independence of the Party in making a decision. This condition implies that donors can take over or control the Party in various ways, including seizing the leadership through the internal funding conditions experienced by the Party.

Keywords: Institutionalisation of the Democratic Party, Electoral Constellation of the 2024 Elections, Elections Province

INTRODUCTION

This study examines the institutionalization of the Democratic Party in East Nusa Tenggara Province in the face of contestation in the 2024 election. Studying the institutionalization of political parties is critical because the Democratic Party of East Nusa Tenggara Province can play a role and function optimally as a party machine. In addition, changes in the political system in Indonesia since the fall of the ORBA Era and the transition to the Reformation Era in 1998, which was marked by the increasing complexity of national problems that occurred in society, required the presence of a political party institutionally so that a party would still be able to solve these problems. A party unable to adapt to changes will impact its inability to survive and gain support and sympathy from the community in a political competition. With their duties and functions, political parties must constantly maintain organizational stability through internal and external improvements. Under these conditions, an established political party institutional system is essential to win the competition in elections and participate in formulating public policy.

Budiarto (2008: 403) explains that the existence of political parties greatly determines the sustainability of the democratic system; without political parties,

democracy will not run well and adequately. Indonesia is one of the many developing countries implementing democracy to manage government and state life. Budiarjo (2008) further defines a political party as an organized group whose members have the same orientation, values, and ideals; this group aims to gain political power and make political positions by institutionally implementing its program.

Based on some of the thoughts above, it encourages the author to conduct this research. This study focuses on looking at the institutional system of the Democratic Party of East Nusa Tenggara Province for the following reasons: First, the Democratic Party is a political party that was born in the Reform Era, precisely on 9 September 2001, institutionally it proud because after its formation and competing in the 2004 presidential election, Mr. SBY was directly elected and won the presidential election in 2004-2009 and 2009-2014, for ten years leading this nation. Although in a local context, such as in NTT, the Party's votes in the legislature from the 2004-2019 elections were not equivalent to the victory in the presidential elections during the heyday of the Democratic Party when Mr SBY was President for ten years. This happened because all party administrators and cadres did not seriously consider party institutions. Thus, this study wants to measure the institutionalization of the extent to which the Democratic Party in East Nusa Tenggara Province competes and competes in facing the 2024 elections. Second, the Democratic Party of East Nusa Tenggara Province during the 3 (three) legislative elections in the Reform Era (2009, 2014, and 2019 elections) continued to experience a decline in the acquisition of around 60-50 percent of the number of seats or votes in the 2009 elections totaling nine seats, in the 2014 elections totaling eight seats, in the 2019 elections totaling four seats in the East Nusa Tenggara Provincial DPRD. Third, in the 2019 legislative elections, there was a significant decrease in votes, accompanied by a defeat in the acquisition of seats in the regional legislature. This is very influential on political decision-making for the interests of the people in East Nusa Tenggara Province, which does not benefit the existence of the Democratic Party in carrying out an agenda of improvement and change for Golden Indonesia in 2045, which is full of global competition.

The Democratic Party is one of the political parties that continued to be present and survived in the Reformation Era. It is. It is classified as a party that has competed on the national and regional political maps since its formation in 2001. This Party is a political party with parallels with political parties in the Reformation Era. The Democratic Party is a party that was born from a demand for improvement and change desired by the community in completing the reform agenda in various fields, including politics. The development and popularity of the Democratic Party can be seen from the results of the 2009, 2014, and 2019 legislative elections. The Democratic Party has always experienced ups and downs in acquiring legislative seats in the East Nusa Tenggara Provincial DPRD from election to election. The following table shows the seats gained by political parties in the 2009, 2014, and 2019 legislative elections:

Table 1. Vote acquisition of legislative election results in the East Nusa Tenggara Provincial DPRD in the 2009, 2014, and 2019 elections

No.	Political parties	year 2009	year 2014	Year 2019
1	Golkar	9 seats	11 seats	10 seats
2	PDI-P	8 seats	10 seats	10 seats
3	Nasdem	-	8 seats	9 seats
4	Democrats	9 seats	8 seats	4 seats
5	Gerindra	7 seats	9 seats	6 seats

6	Hanura	5 seats	5 seats	5 seats
7	ESC	-	5 seats	7 seats
8	PAN	-	5 seats	6 seats
9	PKPI	-	2 seats	-
10	MCC	1 seat	2 seats	-
11	PPP	1 seat	-	1 seat
12	PSI	-	-	1 seat
13	PDS	3 seats	-	-
14	Pioneer	1 seat	-	-
15	PPRN	1 seat	-	-
16	PDK	2 seats	-	-
17	PRN	1 seat	-	-
18	PPDI	1 seat	-	-
19	CCP	3 seats	-	-

Source: KPU NTT 2023 Processed by the Author

The data in Table 1.1 shows that in the last three elections, the Democratic Party has always occupied the 4th to sixth positions in the East Nusa Tenggara Provincial DPRD. The Democratic Party in East Nusa Tenggara Province has contributed a lot to the progress of development with the population, according to the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) of NTT Province, projecting that in 2023, the population in East Nusa Tenggara will grow to 6.6 million people (BPS Office in 2023) or the Central Statistics Agency in 2022 the population of NTT Province was 5,446,285 people, with a density of 114 people / km². In order to face the 2024 elections, competition between parties is getting higher. The competition faced by the Democratic Party is not only competing with the parties participating in the previous elections but also with new political parties just contesting the 2024 elections. Facing such a competitive situation, the Democratic Party, which has experienced national victories in previous elections, must be prepared to face contestation in the 2024 elections by improving the institutional structure or institutionalization of the Party.

Referring to some of the reasons mentioned above, it can be understood that indications of the decline of the Democratic Party in East Nusa Tenggara Province have begun to appear in the results of the 2009 legislative elections, which obtained nine seats, and the 2014 legislative elections obtained eight seats. Finally, the results of the 2019 legislative elections only obtained four seats in the East Nusa Tenggara Provincial DPRD. Moreover, those who always get legislative seats are first and second between the Golkar party and the PDIP party. This will impact the implementation of the 2004 legislative elections, where the vote/seat acquisition in the DPRD has decreased. The decline of the Democratic Party nationally, which began to be seen in the 2014 and 2019 legislative elections, will impact East Nusa Tenggara Province. Such a study must be conducted to find the root of the underlying problem.

This means that the momentum of the defeat in the acquisition of seats experienced by the Democratic Party in the 2009, 2014, and 2019 elections is the unit of analysis in this study. In the sense that this study focuses more on examining the efforts of the Democratic Party in East Nusa Tenggara Province to institutionalize the Party after the defeat of the Democratic Party in the 2009, 2014, and 2019 elections. The peak of the decline of the Democratic Party in East Nusa Tenggara Province occurred in 3 consecutive elections, namely the 2009, 2014, and 2019 elections. As cadres and administrators, they should deeply introspect into this condition and weaknesses as a starting point to start

building the institutional organization of the Democratic Party seriously to win public sympathy from 3 elections that periodically experience defeat.

Analysis of the Indonesian Political Indicator National Survey Release, 30 September 2023. This face-to-face survey was conducted on 25 August-3 September 2023 using the Multistage Random Sampling (MRS) method with a total sample size of 1200 in 38 provinces in Indonesia. In detail, the electability of the Party is as follows: 1). PDIP 26 percent. 2). Gerindra Party 12.6 Percent. 3). Golkar Party 9.2 Percent, 4). PKB 7.5 (Percent, 5). PKS 5.2 (Percent, 6). Demokrat 5.1 Percent, 7). Nasdem 4.8 Percent 8). PAN 4.5 percent, 9). PPP 2.4 percent, 10). Perindo 1.9 percent. The low electability of the Democratic Party, which is in the sixth position, will affect public confidence in the Democratic Party in determining its political choices in the legislative elections on 14 February 2024. Moreover, even worse, it will also affect the determination of national leadership and regional heads, such as in the presidential and regional elections 2024.

To face the 2024 election so that the Party will win, the Democratic Party of East Nusa Tenggara Province has several strategies based on the results of the provisions of the Regional Work Meeting (Rakerda) I DPD Democratic Party on 20 August 2022. The Rakerda produced three main agendas for accommodation: (1) Institutional Strengthening and Election winning. The recommendation must be carried out because it becomes the power of the party machine by involving as many voters as possible, categorized as farmers, laborers, fishermen, youth students, women, millennial voters, and novice voters. Require the installation of party attributes in the form of signboards, party flags, party banners, photos of the General Chairman (AHY), photos of DPD Chairmen, photos of DPC Chairmen, photos of Branch Chairmen and Branch Children in districts/cities throughout East Nusa Tenggara Province. Committed to fighting all-out to meet the political targets of the NTT Democratic party, namely maximizing eight provincial electoral districts, 92 district/city electoral districts, and 2 DPR RI electoral districts must be filled, with the principle of a recruitment and selection system for candidates for members of the DPR RI, DPD RI, Provincial DPRD, and Regency/city DPRD as well as pairs of candidates for regional heads and deputy regional heads strictly and with quality so that the Party can gain votes to win at the time of the Presidential Election, Pileg and simultaneous elections in 2024. Related to this, the Democratic Party has determined to screen and determine the list of legislative candidates at all levels and will follow the candidates for regional heads, governors, regents/mayors throughout East Nusa Tenggara. The entire Regional Leadership Council and Branch Leadership Council of the Democratic Party agreed to follow all the provisions of the election stages in detail, seriously according to the established electoral norms, starting from the registration stage to verification and even determination carried out by the local KPU. (2). Strengthening cadres and organizational governance. This recommendation resulted in several agreements: Conducting Research, Surveys, Research for the Purpose of Party Interests, Conducting coaching (MONEV) to strengthen the DPC-DPAC management structure, (Research) and Party Development in the Region, Strategy for Winning General Elections in the Region and Regional Head Elections in 2024, Strategy and Policy for the Development of Democratic Party Cadres in the Region, Policy for Education and Leadership Training for Democratic Party Cadres in the Region, including Effective Systems and Methodologies, Public Communication Strategies and Tactics, Including Public Relations to Increase the Popularity and Electability of the Party in the Region (Communicator Team, Social Media Team, 360° Gathering with Community Leaders, Religious Leaders, Academic Leaders, Media Leaders, NGO's, Activists), Strategy, Tactics and Methodology for Effective General Election Campaigns in the Region and Regional

Head Elections with DPP-DPD-DPC-DPAC-Ranting and Subsidiary Branches, Information Technology Applications to Strengthen Effective and Modern Party Management in accordance with the "Good Governance" Corridor, (3) Pro-People Democratic Party Programmes. The recommendations in this program are Rumah Demokrat (fostering farmer groups, MSMEs, and others), Establishment of Blue Teams and Disaster Response Assistance, Festive Events (Blood Donation, Free Wifi), public services such as making ID cards, birth certificates, and others, Establishment of a Legal Advocacy Division, Dispute Resolution Training at the Supreme Court, Para Legal Training, Public Discussions on Legal Issues.

From the 3 (three) recommendation points above, the author conducts this study to dissect it by using the concept and theory of political party institutionalization put forward by two experts who focus on discussing the institutionalization of political parties, namely Vicky Randall and Lars Svasand. These two experts try to see the institutionalization of political parties from two aspects: the first is internal-external, and the second is structural-cultural aspects. The combination of these two aspects will later emerge four dimensions used as indicators to help see how the institutionalization of a political party. The four dimensions resulting from combining these two aspects of institutionalization are systemness, decisional, autonomy, value infusion, and reification.

For this research, the author seeks to describe the institutional arrangement of the Party in the East Nusa Tenggara Provincial Leadership Council to win the presidential election, legislative election, and regional head in 2024. In the existing theory, it was previously said that the victory of a political party in the electoral Region is not a benchmark for the extent of the success of the Party's institutionalization. For this reason, the researchers looked further into how the institutionalization of the Democratic Party became research titled "The Institutionalisation of the Democratic Party in Facing the 2024 Electoral Contestation in Nusa Tenggara Province".

RESEARCH METHOD

This research uses qualitative research methods. This method is preferred because this research prioritizes descriptive analysis. Qualitative research intends to understand the phenomenon of what is experienced by the research subject holistically using descriptions in the form of words and language in a unique natural context and by utilizing various scientific methods (Moleong 2010: 6). To collect data in this study, the techniques used were: 1) Documentation. Data obtained through documents are data and documentation related to the activities of the East Nusa Tenggara Provincial Democratic Party, as well as minutes of meetings and results of decisions of the East Nusa Tenggara Provincial Democratic Party related to research topics and problems; 2) Interview. In order to achieve specific and in-depth information, answer the research questions, and confirm the documents obtained through documentation, interviews are necessary for this research. Interviews were conducted, focussed on the efficiency and effectiveness of time in this research; 3) Direct observation. Direct observation was conducted to see the dynamics of the East Nusa Tenggara Province Democratic Party after three defeats in the 2009, 2014, and 2019 legislative elections to institutionalize the Party. This research also directly observed the Party's activities internally and in interacting with the community.

The data analysis is carried out based on the assumption of answers to research questions made by going through stages in the form of research objectives to be achieved. In this case, the process of data analysis activities includes a) the data collection stage, b) reducing data to get the main themes that are considered to have relevance to the research problem, c) data assessment, which is done by categorizing primary data and secondary

data with a relevant recording system, d) interpreting data, which is done by critically analyzing the collected data and finally coming to a conclusion. So, the data obtained is directed to achieve the research objectives so that the data obtained can be used as a conclusion to answer the research question.

DISCUSSION

1. Degree of Systematicity

1.1 Internal Party Democracy

According to Atmosudirjo (1986), deciding means selecting from various possibilities or alternatives to solving existing problems to achieve predetermined goals. Meanwhile, according to Moesono (2001), decision-making is a process of choosing alternative actions powerfully and efficiently in certain situations. Then, the researchers concluded that the independence of decision-making is a decision-making process that includes the ability to select and determine the most appropriate decision. The decision-making process within the internal body of the Democratic Party is not done individually. However, it is done by consensus, sitting down to discuss together to determine a decision related to the interests of the Democratic Party. The independent decision-making process is carried out at the DPD office, such as discussing cadre education activities and strategies within the internal Party in facing the context of the election in 2024. About decision-making in the Democratic Party, there are excerpts from the results of the author's interview with Mr. Leonardus Lelo, Chairman of the DPD of the East Nusa Tenggara Democratic Party (20 July 2023), who said that in taking and making a decision means choosing one or many alternatives, generally a decision is made in order to solve problems or problems, where every decision made must contain a goal to be achieved. In the body of the Party, if there is a problem, then as Chairman of DPD, I do not make a decision myself, but I also have to ask the members by holding a meeting at the DPD NTT office so that it can produce a desired goal of taking the decision. However, on the other hand, in a critical matter, I, as the Chairman of DPD, use the prerogative to decide while not violating the constitution and bylaws stipulated in the Democratic Party in NTT. In this independent decision-making, for example, the attitude of the Democratic Party is to carry and support the best choice of superior cadres to advance in elections as regional heads and members of the People's Representative Council.

Based on the results of the author's interviews with informants, it can be analyzed that related to the indicator of independence of decision-making of the Democratic Party in NTT, it was found that decision-making in a party is through deliberation and consensus, but in a situation the Chairman of the DPD can use prerogative rights, this prerogative right is used during the DPD Party meeting which at that time does not produce a decision, therefore as a chairman of the DPD has the right to determine his rights as specified in the AD / ART article 103. To decide without hearing the direction of other party members. Because related to the independence of decision-making making, as said by Mr. Leonardus Lelo as C, Chairman of DPD (20 July 2023), I do not make decisions myself but also have to ask the management by holding a meeting at the DPD NTT office so that it can produce a desired goal for the decision making but on the other hand when in a precarious matter I as Chairman of DPD use prerogative to decide while not violating the party constitution and bylaws stipulated in the Democratic Party political party in NTT. In the bylaws of the Democratic Party in article 103 concerning the meeting of the DPD Democratic Party, it is explained that all deliberation decisions are taken based on deliberation for consensus based on Pancasila democracy; if the deliberation does not make a decision by deliberation for consensus, then as the leader

has the prerogative to make that decision. For example, meetings are held to determine candidates for governor or deputy governor, determine faction or commission leaders, and PAW members of the NTT DPRD.

1.2. Party System and Cadre

Procedurally related to the recruitment standards of members and administrators within the Democratic Party, it has been regulated in the Party's bylaws. The Democratic Party is an open party that accepts everyone who has fulfilled the predetermined requirements to join the Party. However, various efforts are taken by the Party to maintain the continuity of party membership. These efforts are made with various approaches that the Party tries to recruit new members and even administrators. Kinship and friendship approaches are among the efforts used to recruit party members.

Another thing that is done is to approach former administrators who work as civil servants, entrepreneurs, and professionals who left the Party because of the rules for civil servants not to engage in practical politics. The Party tries to collect data on them, and then, when they reach retirement age, they are invited to join the Party. Suppose we observe the recruitment pattern by the Democratic Party of East Nusa Tenggara Province as described above. In that case, we can see the Party's need for more innovation in introducing its ideology and platform to prospective members. This will impact the low militancy of members or new cadres always to be committed to the Party. This will impact the low militancy of members or new cadres who are always committed to the Party. The members who join are not based on interest in the Party's program but rather because of emotional approaches and family and friendship relationships. The impact, then, is that the level of awareness of cadres/members to fight to raise the Party becomes low.

Regarding management recruitment, symptoms of nepotism in the preparation of management within the Democratic Party of East Nusa Tenggara Province still exist. The standardization of recruitment that already exists according to the rules in the Party's bylaws does seem to be enforced, but what happens is that the dominance of family and close friendships of party figures and elites in the management structure is still visible. The emerging symptoms mentioned above show that the old patterns prevalent in the Democratic Party in the past still exist. Where relatives, children, and friends of figures or former figures and administrators of the Democratic Party of East Nusa Tenggara Province can easily occupy strategic positions in the Party and in the process of nominating legislative members. This condition will obstruct the cadre circulation process and cause jealousy among cadres. The East Nusa Tenggara Democratic Party itself, in order to succeed in the program mandated by the Party related to regeneration within the Party, has carried out several activities. At the time of this research, the Democratic Party of East Nusa Tenggara Province had and was inaugurating branch managers. This activity simultaneously consolidates cadres or strengthens the commitment to struggle to carry out further consolidation by the lowest-level administrators and cadres while trying to expand the Party's support base in the village / kelurahan. Therefore, it is expected that the administrators/cadres can approach various groups of people at the lowest level. However, from observations during the research, the author was able to participate in one of the inauguration activities; it was indeed seen at first glance that there were quite a lot of administrators and all structures recommended from the results of the 2022 Regional Meeting 1 were running well with the hope that with the existing strength, it could win the Presidential election, legislative elections and regional heads in 2024.

Cadre recruitment in a political organization naturally occurs as an organizational regeneration in terms of members adapting to leadership in a political organization. For

this reason, the Democrat party recruits party members openly for all Indonesian people who want to participate in political parties. The results of the author's interviews with informants can be analyzed regarding the indicators of the recruitment of Democratic Party cadres; the results show that the cadre recruitment process is open as widely as possible for all Indonesian people who want to join political parties, especially the Democratic Party as the destination of their political choices. Suppose you have become a member of a political party. In that case, you must participate in party activities such as cadre education, formal and informal discussions held every weekend, and other activities related to political parties. In the Democratic Party, the recruitment process of new members is sometimes through party wing organizations and existing community communities as an initial vehicle for developing members to be aware of the organization and the initial stage of learning the spirit of the struggle of the Democratic Party with the spirit of the ideology of the Party bearing the mercy symbol that the Democratic Party is based on PANCASILA (AD / ART article 2), The party ideology is Nationalist-Religious, namely hard work for the benefit of the people with a moral and religious foundation and paying attention to aspects of nationalism, humanism, and pluralism in order to achieve the goals of peace, democracy, and people's welfare (AD / ART, p. 3), with the doctrine of the Democratic Party doctrine called Tri Pakca Gatra Praja (AD / ART Chapter 1 p. 4).4 paragraph 2), and Tri Pakca Gatra Praja means that there are three solid wills or three resolutions in building the nation and state, which are embodied in the Party's Trilogy of Struggle, namely democracy, welfare, and security as well as the Party's Three Insights, namely nationalism, humanism, and pluralism (AD / ART article 4 paragraph 2) with the Democratic Party's Political Ethics, namely clean, bright, and polite (AD / ART article 5). Moreover, the Democratic Party is open to all citizens of the Republic of Indonesia without distinguishing ethnicity, race, profession, gender, religion, and belief in God Almighty (Article 6 of the bylaws).

The recruitment process, such as registration of new members, education for new members, training and coaching of new members, and provision of membership cards (KTA) for remarkable regeneration of new members, is carried out by the Party at the DPC, DPD, and even the DPP of the Party according to the target needs of the Party's struggle using a monitoring system by the AD / ART of the Democratic Party. To find out that someone who wants to become a member of the Democratic Party will fulfill several requirements to become a member in the AD / ART of the Democratic Party, namely: (1) The requirements to become a Member referred to in Article 11 of the Articles of Association are as follows: a). every Indonesian citizen referred to in Article 11, paragraphs (1) and (2) of the Articles of Association who wishes to become a member of the Party applies to the (Central et al. (Council; b). willing to participate in activities determined by the Party; c). not concurrently a member of another political party; d). register for membership by filling out the form provided; e). after the registration referred to in paragraph (1) letter d, the applicant is given the status of a Member and is entitled to receive a Member Identity Card issued and signed by the Central Leadership Council, Regional Leadership Council, and Branch Leadership Council. (2) Further provisions concerning membership, as referred to in Article 11 of the Articles of Association, shall be fully regulated by the Central Leadership Council.

Cadre education is an effort made by an organization, including a political party such as the Democratic Party, to create the next generation who agree and believe in the truth of the organization's goals and continuously strive to achieve the organization's goals. Based on the results of the author's interview with Mr. Marsel Tupen Masan, Head of the Education and Training Agency (Kabandiklat) DPD PD NTT (20 July 2023), it can be

analyzed related to the indicators of cadre education of the Democratic Party; it was found that for cadre education in this Democrat, there are three stages, namely primary level cadre education, middle-level cadre education, and central cadre education. For the Democratic Party, political education for cadres is critical because one of the functions of a political party is to carry out political education as well as regeneration so that the results of cadre education can produce prospective leaders both at the national and regional levels who are good in the eyes of the community.

1.3. Party Cohesiveness.

From the results of research with several interviews that have been conducted, in terms of cohesiveness, the Democratic Party of East Nusa Tenggara Province is relatively under control. Although sometimes divisions arise within the Democratic Party, these divisions do not lead to fatal excesses that disrupt the integrity of the Party organisationally. Divisions that occur due to disappointment with the succession of leadership changes in the NTT Democratic Party DPD, party policies deemed detrimental to specific interests, but this is part of the internal dynamics of the Democratic Party in East Nusa Tenggara Province. To avoid future conflict/division within the Party, the Democratic Party of East Nusa Tenggara Province seeks to reduce it by empowering its members. This was further revealed by the Chairman of the DPD Democratic Party of East Nusa Tenggara Province, Mr. Leonardus Lelo (20 July 2023), that one of the Party's efforts to reduce the emergence of divisions within the Party is to empower them and involve them in the decision-making process. Divisions often occur due to a lack of communication and coordination between administrators, resulting in misunderstandings that lead to disappointment among some members or administrators. Although management recognizes that the existing divisions within the Party do not lead to internal conflict, if they do, there are specific mechanisms and procedures to resolve the conflict. In the case of the Democratic Party of East Nusa Tenggara Province, in its efforts to handle conflicts, it is also always guided by the mechanisms determined by party rules. As described in the previous section, the conflicts within the Democratic Party of East Nusa Tenggara Province have not led to prolonged conflicts. The existing conflicts are usually only discussed outside but are still solid inside the Party. However, the experience that the East Nusa Tenggara Democratic Party has had with internal divisions was resolved with a family approach. In this case, we usually present figures or seniors or even former Chairmen of the DPD of the previous Democratic Party so that they can mediate and facilitate the resolution of the conflict.

2. Degree of Identity Value

2.1 Party Support Base

The Democratic Party of East Nusa Tenggara Province is a party that has only been active in the reform era since it was formed on 9 September 2001; after several years of running, the Democratic Party considers it essential that party support does not only come from the community in general but at least there are groups of people who want to join but due to limitations involved in management, it is considered essential to create a kind of forum so that these community groups can be structured so that together they can fight for the interests of the Party. There are several containers, including wing organizations, among others; there are 7 (seven) wing organizations (ORSAP) of the Democratic Party up to the Provincial and Regency / City levels throughout East Nusa Tenggara Province such as the Democratic Party National Committee (KNPD), Democratic Women of the Republic of Indonesia (PDRI), Democratic Party Communication and Declarator Forum

(FKPD), Insan Muda Demokrat Indonesia (IMDI), Bintang Muda Indonesia (BMI), Democratic Generation Cadre Communication Forum (FKKGD) and Angkatan Muda Penggerak Demokrat (AMPD). Many internal-wing organizations are an integral part of the Democratic Party. Within the Democratic Party, organizations are formed by the Party and community organizations affiliated with the Democratic Party. These organizations include party-wing organizations, founding organizations, and established organizations.

In the journey of these wing organizations with the Democratic Party in East Nusa Tenggara Province or even in districts/cities, there is a relationship between the Democratic Party of East Nusa Tenggara Province and these wing organizations, according to several informants who said they experienced obstacles. Among the obstacles faced is that some of these organizations are considered incapable of contributing significantly to the Party. Some of the existing wing organizations have experienced technical obstacles to management, and until now, the management structure has never been renewed. These conditions indicate that the East Nusa Tenggara Democratic Party does not have enough strength to maintain the solidity of its internal organization. This reality shows that there needs to be more harmonious relations within the Party. An indication of the need for harmony is the inability to manage organizational management among the people in the Party. Political figures should fill this wing organization, which is firmly committed to developing the Democratic Party in the future. The most important thing that must be understood is to avoid the interests of pragmatism and put the interests of the Party above all else.

In general, there seems to be a desire for the Party to maintain good relations with the wing organizations of the Democratic Party. However, this relationship still seems unproductive for the development and progress of the Party in the future because these wing organizations were formed for the benefit of certain groups to be used at certain moments. At the same time, actual activities are rarely carried out. Their presence is needed when activities require support from internal organizations, such as implementing party music/party congresses.

In addition to the wing above organizations, there are other efforts from the Democratic Party in the future to maintain the support base, such as increasing political education and political communication with constituents, being able to establish relationships with broad community groups such as groups of farmers, the business world, fishermen, religious leaders, and others who are used as potential segments that can gain support for the East Nusa Tenggara Province Democratic Party so that the wider community can love the Democratic Party. According to the informants interviewed, it is now very different from the previous times when Mr. SBY was president for ten years; at that time, the Democratic Party controlled almost most of the community groups. The results of another interview with one of the administrators of the DPD Democratic Party who lives in Kupang City said that currently, it is tough to determine the basis of support in the community, in addition to a large number of political parties as well as the pragmatism of the community in choosing a party. Moreover, it is rampant with buying votes or money politics carried out by specific candidates or couples with sufficient capital.

According to the Secretary of the DPD Democratic Party of East Nusa Tenggara Province, Mr Daniel Samuael Hake (20 July 2023), said that many activities have been carried out by the Party since being elected, we have made many visits to various community groups both in Kupang City and in almost every captain/city when we consolidate with DPC, PAC, Ranting and Anak Ranting. This activity is to build the Party's relationship with community groups at the grassroots level. Furthermore, Mr Samuel

Hake, the output of this kind of activity, brings a positive image to the Democratic Party because the community welcomes these activities. Various activities help the Party provide the community with an understanding that the Democratic Party's program is very positive. The momentum of activities like this should be utilized by the Democratic Party of East Nusa Tenggara Province to develop its network again through relationships and cooperation with community groups. With its historical tradition, it should strive to establish relationships with groups in the community.

2.2 The Influence of Clientelism in Parties

The recruitment system of administrators or party members seems to have not met the qualifications based on the competency standards of the ideological values of the Democratic Party; the implication is that the commitment of cadres to the Party is still far from the expectations needed. In the sense that cadres who join the Democratic Party are not due to the similarity of party ideology and the expectation of a common platform in the form of a Vision and Mission and work program as well as an agenda of change and improvement championed by the Democratic Party for the sake of justice and the welfare of the Indonesian people in general. However, some cadres who entered the Party as members or administrators were only based on kinship or friendship with one of the party elites. Likewise, the orientation of cadres or administrators to join the Democratic Party is partly only material interests in the form of obtaining political power, "becoming a legislator / regional head." If the desired expectations are not fulfilled, then it is likely that they will leave the Democratic Party and join another party.

This was acknowledged by the 1st Vice Chairman of the NTT Democratic Party DPD, Mr. Paskalis Angkur (20 July 2023), saying that young and even old cadres during my observation experience still lack commitment to political parties in general, especially in the Democratic Party, when they are disappointed with the uncomfortable situation of their existence there is still the possibility of moving to another party. It appears that many potential cadres of the East Nusa Tenggara Democratic Party have left and joined other parties. Some are now administrators of other parties, such as joining the PKN Party, PDIP, PKB, Golkar, PSI, and others. In the 2019 legislative elections, they became legislative candidates with different parties.

The influence of clients in the Party indicates that it is still relatively high, where some members who join are not based on the same ideology or platform of the Party but tend to be instrumentalist in the sense that members always expect tangible resources in the form of material from the Party. The low awareness of party cadres in carrying out the Party's mandate based on ideology and the party platform in the form of the Vision and Mission and Work Program of the Democratic Party, based on previous findings and explanations, is the inability of the Party itself to instill party ideology from an early age, starting from the initial process of recruiting members, recruiting administrators, regeneration patterns, to how to maintain relationships with the mass of voters of the Democratic Party of East Nusa Tenggara Province. The processes carried out are always just routine, or more than that, they are only used to pursue specific targets mandated by the DPP / DPD of the Democratic Party.

In addition, the influence of internal party elites who tend to dominate in various strategic decision-making causes some uninvolved members, who are often ignored, not to have the authority to do more. They can only feel proud to be part of the Party, with no effort to participate in various opportunities for party development. This pragmatic attitude causes cadres to join only to get a particular position or other material benefits. When these interests are not accommodated or even completely ignored, these cadres will likely determine an extreme attitude and even set an attitude to move to another party.

3. Degree of Autonomy

3.1 Party Financial Independence

The independence of the Democratic Party is related to party funding based on the AD / ART Chapter XII PSL. 117 regarding the Party's financial resources and decision-making that external parties do not influence. The research results on the independence of the Democratic Party's funding about the development of the institutionalization of the Democratic Party's political parties in East Nusa Tenggara Province facing the 2024 electoral contestation. Party finances are obtained from:

- 1) Member dues are incidental
- 2) Dues for members of the NTT DPRD faction Rp. 20,000,000/month
- 3) Contributions that are legal according to the applicable laws and regulations are incidental
- 4) Financial assistance from the Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget Rp. 200,000,000 / year

Fundraising for membership fees is running, but not all administrators and cadres are involved, which is back to their awareness. However, it has been regulated in the bylaws of the Democratic Party Chapter XII Article 117 Party Financial Sources regarding Finance, which is an obligation of all party members/administrators. However, in its implementation, it experienced significant obstacles. Even though this is a party decision related to the work program of the results of the Regional Meeting 1 of the NTT Democratic Party DPD in 2022, it is stated that one of the main priorities of the program is to strive for the implementation of membership fees and other financial sources by the AD / ART and Organizational Guidelines (PO). However, this difficulty occurs due to the need for more awareness of party administrators and cadres' obligations as party members. The participation of administrators/members, in terms of funding, can only be done incidentally. This means that administrators/members with sufficient income resources will usually be asked for an appeal in the form of a voluntary joint venture to contribute to supporting activities carried out by the Party. This is often done by limited cadres currently holding legislative and executive positions. Due to the limited sources of party financing, this also has consequences for party activities. This means that party programs that should be running, in the end, cannot be implemented due to the Party's financial limitations. Due to the Party's increasingly difficult internal financial conditions, contributions from administrators/members, mandatory contributions from cadres in the legislature or executive, and incidental donations, we unconsciously create pragmatic dependence. This can result in the independence of the Party in making a decision. This condition implies that donors can take over or control the Party in various ways, including seizing the leadership through the internal funding conditions experienced by the Party. The parameters of a party's financial autonomy can be established when it can finance, support, mobilize, and maximize its party funding through membership fees, not relying on government assistance or from specific individuals or groups both internal to the Party and external to the Party itself. Based on the results of the author's interview with the Treasurer of the DPD Democratic Party of NTT, Mr. Achmad A. Gudbang (22 July 2023), and Treasurer 1, Mrs. Ratna Mahmud (22 July 2023) that related to the indicators of party self-funding, it was found that the self-funding was the result of self-help from each party member, both from the DPR RI, Provincial DPRD, Regency / City DPRD while the donors donated to the Party were not fixed, they donated unless there were party activities such as training, education or other party activities, ordinary members, mandatory party member dues were voluntary systems and added funds from the local government of NTT Province, funds from the government according to the number of votes obtained by the

2019 election party. This independent funding is for the sustainability of party life in the regions, especially in NTT; this has been outlined in the Democratic Party bylaws in chapter XII, article 117 concerning party financial resources; each party member can donate to the Party voluntarily, members of the NTT Provincial DPRD donate IDR 20,000,000 / month, members of the DPR RI are incidental.

Meanwhile, administrators, cadres, and donors incidentally contribute in the form of goods or money. So, every member has the same rights and obligations to be able to contribute voluntarily to the Party, whether in the form of goods or money for the Party. Government assistance funds for political parties are regulated in Article 34 of Law No. 2/2011 paragraph 3 concerning political parties. This article gives financial assistance to political parties with seats in the DPR using the APBN and those with seats in the Provincial / Regency / City DPRD using the APBD of each Region. The funds provided are adjusted to the vote acquisition of political parties at the national and regional levels. The greater the votes of a political party, the greater the aid funds received for that Party.

3.2 Party Independence in Decision-Making

According to Atmosudirjo (1986), deciding means selecting from various possibilities or alternatives to solving existing problems to achieve predetermined goals. Meanwhile, according to Moesono (2001), decision-making is a process of choosing alternative actions powerfully and efficiently in certain situations. Then, the researchers concluded that the independence of decision-making is a decision-making process that includes the ability to select and determine the most appropriate decision. The decision-making process within the internal body of the Democratic Party is not individual. However, it is carried out by deliberation and consensus sitting together to determine a decision related to the interests of the Democratic Party. The independent decision-making process is carried out at the DPD office, such as discussing discussion activities to strengthen and educate cadres every weekend, or certain days can be made depending on strategic issues that need to be addressed and discussed and strategies within the internal Party in facing the election context in 2024.

Based on the results of the author's interview with the informant, it can be analyzed that related to the indicator of independence of decision-making of the Democratic Party, it was found that decision-making in a party is through deliberation to reach consensus, but in a situation, the Chairman of DPD can use prerogative rights, this prerogative right is used when the DPD Party meeting does not produce a decision, therefore as a chairman of DPD has the right to determine his rights as specified in the Articles of Association and Bylaws in Chapter X art. 115 on decision making. To decide without hearing the direction of other party members. Because it is related to the independence of decision making, as said by Mr Leonardus Lelo that as Chairman of DPD (20 July 2023), "I do not make decisions alone but also have to ask members by holding meetings at the DPD NTT office so that it can produce a desired goal of taking the decision, but on the other hand when in a critical matter I as Chairman of DPD use the prerogative to make a decision as long as it does not violate the constitution and bylaws stipulated in the Democratic Party political party in NTT. In the Party's bylaws in article 115 concerning the DPD Party meeting, it is explained that all deliberation decisions are taken based on deliberation for consensus based on Pancasila democracy; if the deliberation does not make a decision by deliberation for consensus, then the leader has the prerogative to make that decision. For example, a meeting to determine candidates for regional head and deputy regional head".

4. Degree of Public Knowledge

4.1 The Party's Role in Local Politics

Based on the results of the field study, it was found that the progress of the East Nusa Tenggara Provincial Democratic Party in the political arena in East Nusa Tenggara Province is solid, and strategic where many East Nusa Tenggara Provincial Democratic Party cadres occupy essential and strategic positions in the Legislative Field of the 2019-2024 election results as many as 56 members of the Regency / City DPRD, four members of the NTT DPRD and two members of the House of Representatives, the Executive Field, elections starting from the 2016-2026 period; Mayor of Kupang, Mr. Jefri Riwu Kore, period 2017-2022, Regent of Belu Regency, Mr Willybrodus Lay, period 2016-2021, Regent of Alor Regency, Mr Amon Djobo, period 2014-2019 and 2019-2024 and 2020-2024, Vice Regent of West Sumba Regency, Mr John Lado Bora Kabba, period 2021-2026. This is inseparable from policies and work programs focusing on small communities through Party Cadres in the Legislative and Executive Institutions, cooperation within the Party from the DPD, DPC, Ranting, and Subsidiary levels with good Culture and Communication. In facing the 2024 elections, institutionally, the Democratic Party has formed management starting from the DPC, PAC, branches, and branch children in 22 Regions/cities throughout East Nusa Tenggara Province. This party machine will be mobilized to win the Presidential, legislative, and regional head election contestation competitions in 2024, with the Democratic Party's campaign strategy by carrying out 14 agendas for change and improvement of the Democratic Party nationally to the corners of the country, namely: (1). Improving the welfare of the people so that their lives are more decent. (2). Increasing the availability of jobs for the people, including the younger generation and women. (3). Increasing protection and assistance to MSMEs through training, access to capital, and marketing. (4). Continue and revive all pro-people programs of the SBY administration. (5). Increase economic growth to 6 percent or more. (6). Promote and increase investment in the business world to create more jobs and significant tax revenues. (7) Stop government and state-owned enterprise debts that are too large. (8). Continue infrastructure development, including rural infrastructure, as has been done by previous governments. (9). Improving the development of Indonesia's human resources through quality and affordable education, from primary school to university. (10). Improving health infrastructure and facilities and the quality and convenience of health services throughout the country. (11). Saving the earth and our environment, which is increasingly threatened by the climate crisis. (12). Ensure that law enforcement (including eradicating corruption) is carried out fairly and without favoritism. (13). Restoring freedom for the people, including press freedom. (14). Re-establishing equality and balance between state institutions, according to the principle of "checks and balance" in the presidential system (DPD PD NTT, Year 2023).

5. The Party's Work in the Community

Based on the results of the field study, it was found that the efforts of the DPD Democratic Party of East Nusa Tenggara Province in instilling public knowledge of its existence through the Party's work in the community are with institutional and personal party activities for party cadres and the community in the form of political seminar activities as a manifestation of one of the functions of political communication and through other strategic momentum about important regional agendas, including giving attention to the community in the form of social assistance, attention to poverty problems, attention to stunting problems, making visits to orphanages, attention to maternal and child health problems, giving attention to the problem of school dropouts.

Result and Discussion are to objectively present of key results, without interpretation, and in an orderly and logical sequence using both illustrative materials (tables and figures) and text. Result and discussion should be organized around a series of Tables and/or Figures sequenced to present your key findings in a logical order. This section should include three parts: findings generated from the data and gathered information, the analysis based on research methodology, and interpretation and synthesis of findings. Include supported data such as table, graph, figure, and other tools that need to be presented a clear and concise argument.

Specially for Table, Image, and chart; it should be numbered sequentially and reviewed in the manuscript. The table title is typed in New Times Roman font 12 pt and, 12 pt in the source section and in the words "Table 1." "Table 2." and so on typed in bold. Tables using English. Tables cannot be in the form of images in the form of jpg, png, image files and must be in the form of tables created in Microsoft Word. The table title is written at the top of the table, aligned to the left and marked with a period (.) At the end of the table title. Images, Graphics and Photographs must be sharp and clear for the print to be of good quality and have the source from which the files were extracted or obtained. All symbols where to be. As with tables, the captions in pictures, graphs and photographs must be sufficient to be presented independently. Pictures, graphics, and photos must be reviewed in the manuscript. All information contained Pictures, Graphics, and Photos is required to use English. Images, graphics, and photos have a minimum depth of 300 dpi.

CONCLUSION

Political parties are national organizations formed by a group of citizens voluntarily on the basis of a common will and ideals to fight for and defend members' political interests. The function of the political Party itself is to realize the national ideals of the nation, as referred to in the opening of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia. Based on the discussion, the institutionalization of political parties focuses on the components, the first being the degree of the system (internal party democracy, party system, and regeneration, party cohesiveness). Structuring and cadre education, recruitment, and cohesiveness in this Democratic party system are open to all Indonesian people. Cadre education and training: In the Democratic Party, there are three levels of morning education for members and administrators that must be followed, namely primary cadre education, middle cadre education, and central cadre education. One of the efforts to reduce the emergence of divisions within the Party about internal cohesiveness is to empower members and administrators and involve them in the decision-making process. The party structure in facing the 2024 elections DPD Democratic Party has collaborated with the party wing organization despite many obstacles; in addition to being a manifestation of party institutionalization, it has formed a party structure as well as inaugurated in 22 districts/cities starting from DPC, PAC, Branches and Branch Children in order to win the Presidential Election, Pileg and Pilkada in 2024.

The second is about the degree of value identity (Party et al., Influence of Clientelism in the Party); within the Democratic Party, organizations are formed by the Party and community organizations affiliated with the Democratic Party. These organizations are known to include party-wing organizations and founding organizations. The NTT Democratic Party also establishes relationships with broad community groups such as groups of farmers, the business world, fishermen, religious leaders, and others who are used as potential segments that can gain support for the East Nusa Tenggara Province Democratic Party so that the people of NTT can love the Democratic Party. The influence of clients in the Party indicates that it is still relatively high, where some members who

join are not based on the same ideology or platform of the Party but tend to be instrumentalist in the sense that members always expect tangible resources in the form of material from the Party. There is still low awareness of party cadres in carrying out the Party's mandate based on ideology and the party platform in the form of the Democratic Party's Vision and Mission and Work Programme. The third is about the Degree of Autonomy (independence of political parties and party independence in decision-making). Party independence is related to independent funding sources; independent funding sources in the Democratic Party come from members of the DPR RI faction, Provincial DPRD, district/city, and donations from DPC-DPC and unbound party donors. The independence of decision-making in the Democratic Party must have a meeting. It can produce a democratic decision for the sake of the progress and development of the Democratic Party in the future. For election funding, the funds are from the Party and added from recruiting candidates and the spontaneity of members and administrators when there are party activities. The fourth concerns the Degree of Public Knowledge (Party Gait in Local Politics and Party Gait in the Community). The progress of the East Nusa Tenggara Democratic Party in the local political arena is solid and strategic where many East Nusa Tenggara Democratic Party cadres occupy essential and strategic positions in the Legislative Field as a result of the 2019-2024 election, as many as 56 members of the Regency / City DPRD, four members of the NTT DPRD and two members of the House of Representatives, who work in the Executive Field, starting from the Pilkada period 2016-2026 as many as four people, namely the Mayor of Kupang, Regent of Belu, Regent of Alor and Deputy Regent of West Sumba. In both legislative and executive leadership, the Party requires cadres in the two institutions to continue to promote and carry forward the Party's mandate in order to realize victory in the 2024 presidential, legislative, and regional elections with 14 Party agendas on Improvement and Change to realize the next Golden Indonesia 2045.

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Interview Results

Interview Results with the Chairman of DPD Democratic Party NTT; Mr. Leonarus Lelo.
Kupang, July 20, 2023, PKL. 14.00 WITA
Interview Results with Secretary of DPD Democratic Party of NTT; Mr. Sam Hake. Kupang,
July 20, 2023, street vendors. 12.00 WITA
Interview Results with the Treasurer of DPD Democratic Party NTT: Mr. Achmad A. Gudbang.
Kupang, July 22, 2023, PKL. 15.00 WITA
Interview Results with Treasurer 1 of DPD Democratic Party NTT: Mrs. Ratna Mahmud.
Kupang, July 22, 2023, PKL. 13.00 WITA
Interview Results with Vice Chairman 1 of DPD Democratic Party NTT: Mr. Paskalis Angkur.
Kupang, July 20, 2023, PKL. 12.00 WITA
Interview Results with Mr. Marsel Tupen Masan, as Head of the Education and Training
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