
THE ROLE OF THE GENERAL ELECTION SUPERVISORY AGENCY (BAWASLU) OF GAYO LUES REGENCY IN RESOLVING DISPUTES IN THE 2024 ELECTION PROCESS IN GAYO LUES REGENCY, ACEH PROVINCE

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Abstract

The Gayo Lues Regency Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu) has a huge responsibility in overseeing and resolving election process disputes and is at the forefront of maintaining the integrity of elections at the local level. In resolving disputes in the 2024 election process, Bawaslu Gayo Lues Regency implemented a resolution mechanism through mediation and adjudication as stipulated in the legislation. This study aims to determine and analyze the role of the Gayo Lues Regency Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu) in resolving disputes in the 2024 election process in Gayo Lues Regency, Aceh Province, and to identify factors that hinder the implementation of this role. The research method used was descriptive with a qualitative approach. Data collection techniques were carried out through observation, interviews, documentation, and literature study. Data analysis was conducted using the role theory of Horoeputri, Arimbi, and Sentosa, which includes roles as policy, roles as strategy, roles as communication tools, roles as dispute resolution, and roles as therapy. The results of the study indicate that the role of Bawaslu Gayo Lues Regency in resolving election process disputes The year 2024 has been implemented in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations, but has not yet run optimally because it still faces several obstacles, including limited human resources, limited budget, inadequate facilities and infrastructure, limited time in resolving disputes, and low public understanding of the election process and election process disputes.

Keywords: Role, Bawaslu, Election Process Disputes

INTRODUCTION

General elections (Pemilu) are a manifestation of the sovereignty of the people as guaranteed by the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia. Article 1 paragraph (2) of the 1945 Constitution states that sovereignty is in the hands of the people and is exercised in accordance with the Constitution. Elections, as a means of realizing the sovereignty of the people, must be conducted directly, publicly, freely, confidentially, honestly, and fairly, as mandated in Article 22E of the 1945 Constitution. Through elections, the people have the opportunity to participate directly in determining the direction and leadership of the government, so that the quality of the implementation of elections is crucial in determining the legitimacy and accountability of the government that is formed.

In the practice of organizing elections, various problems often arise, one of which is disputes over the election process. Disputes over the election process can arise due to dissatisfaction with the stages of the election, allegations of violations of the rules by election participants, or decisions by election organizers that are considered detrimental to certain parties. Disputes can arise at various stages, ranging from voter registration, political party verification, candidate list determination, campaigning, to the determination of election results. If disputes over the election process are not handled properly, this can disrupt the election process and undermine public confidence in the election results.

In order to ensure democratic and credible elections, the General Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu) was established as stipulated in Law Number 7 of 2017 concerning General Elections. Bawaslu has the authority to supervise all stages of the election and resolve election disputes through mediation and adjudication mechanisms. At the district level, the District Bawaslu plays a strategic role as the front line in maintaining the integrity of elections in their respective regions.

Gayo Lues District, as one of the districts in Aceh Province, also faces dynamics in the implementation of the 2024 elections. The Gayo Lues District Bawaslu received a request for the settlement of an election dispute related to the decision of the Gayo Lues District Independent Election Commission (KIP) regarding the determination of the Final Candidate List (DCT). This situation highlights the importance of the role of the Gayo Lues Regency Bawaslu in ensuring that the resolution of election process disputes is carried out fairly, transparently, and in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. Therefore, this study is important to examine in depth the role of the Gayo Lues Regency Bawaslu in resolving disputes in the 2024 Election process and the factors that hinder the implementation of this role.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The Concept of Role

A role is a dynamic aspect of a position held by a person or institution in a social structure or organization. According to Soekanto, a role is the exercise of rights and obligations in accordance with the position held, so that position and role cannot be separated from one another. A role reflects the behavior expected of individuals or institutions in carrying out their functions and responsibilities in accordance with applicable norms and rules.

Robert Linton states that role theory describes social interactions in terms of actors who perform their roles in accordance with the provisions set by culture and social systems. Thus, roles are not only understood as individual actions, but also as part of a system that regulates behavior in society and organizations.

In the context of public organizations, roles are important indicators for assessing the extent to which an institution performs its functions and responsibilities effectively. The roles of public institutions, including Bawaslu, are not only measured by the existence of organizational structures, but also by the implementation of their authority and performance in achieving their established goals.

This study uses the role theory proposed by Horoeputri, Arimbi, and Sentosa (2003), which views roles as interrelated dimensions that can be implemented in various situations to achieve specific goals. This theory emphasizes five dimensions of roles, namely:

Role as Policy, which is a role manifested in the form of decisions and actions carried out based on the provisions of laws and regulations; Role as Strategy, which is a role used as an effort to gain public support and trust in the implementation of organizational tasks; Role as a Communication Tool, which is a role carried out through the delivery of information, coordination, and interaction with relevant parties; Role as a Dispute Resolution Tool, which is a role aimed at reducing conflict and achieving resolution through fair and transparent mechanisms; Role as Therapy, which is a role that serves to restore public trust and reduce tension and dissatisfaction among the community.

These five dimensions are used as an analytical framework to assess the role of the Gayo Lues Regency Bawaslu in resolving disputes in the 2024 Election process.

The Concept of General Elections and Election Process Disputes

General elections are a means for the people to exercise their sovereignty by electing representatives and government leaders through a direct, public, free, confidential, honest, and fair process. Democratic elections must guarantee fairness, transparency, and legal certainty for all participants and voters.

Electoral process disputes are disputes that arise between election participants and election organizers or between election participants as a result of decisions made by election organizers at certain stages. These disputes can be resolved through mechanisms established in Law Number 7 of 2017, namely through mediation and adjudication by Bawaslu.

The Role of the Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu)

Bawaslu is an election organizing agency tasked with supervising all stages of the election and handling violations and disputes in the election process. Bawaslu's role is very important in ensuring the integrity of the election and providing legal certainty for election participants. In resolving election process disputes, Bawaslu has the authority to receive requests, conduct investigations, facilitate mediation, and carry out adjudication if mediation fails to reach an agreement.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study uses a descriptive method with a qualitative approach. This approach was chosen to obtain an in-depth description of the role of the Gayo Lues Regency Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu) in resolving disputes in the 2024 election process. Data collection was carried out through direct observation at the research location, in-depth

interviews with informants consisting of leaders and staff of Bawaslu Gayo Lues Regency and related parties, documentation, and literature studies. Data analysis was carried out by reducing data, presenting data, and drawing conclusions as per the Miles and Huberman analysis model. The analytical framework of this study used the role theory of Horoeputri, Arimbi, and Sentosa.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Role of the Gayo Lues Regency Election Supervisory Agency in Resolving Disputes in the 2024 Election Process

Based on the results of the study, the Gayo Lues Regency Bawaslu has carried out its role in resolving disputes in the 2024 election process in accordance with the provisions of the legislation. This role can be analyzed using the theory of Horoeputri, Arimbi, and Sentosa as follows:

- **Role as Policy**

The Gayo Lues Regency Bawaslu resolves election process disputes based on Law Number 7 of 2017 concerning General Elections, Bawaslu Regulation Number 9 of 2022, and applicable technical guidelines. Each stage of dispute handling is carried out in accordance with established regulations, thereby providing legal certainty for the disputing parties.

- **Role as a Strategy**

In carrying out its role, Bawaslu Gayo Lues Regency strives to maintain public trust by acting independently and professionally. The strategies implemented include opening up space for open dispute resolution and providing equal opportunities for the parties to present their arguments.

- **Role as a Communication Tool**

The Gayo Lues Regency Bawaslu acts as a communication mediator between the applicant and the respondent in the dispute resolution process. Through the mediation mechanism, Bawaslu seeks to facilitate dialogue and information exchange in order to reach a mutual agreement.

- **Role as a Dispute Resolution Tool**

If mediation fails to reach an agreement, Bawaslu Gayo Lues Regency conducts adjudication as a form of legal dispute resolution. The adjudication process is conducted transparently and based on evidence and statements from the parties.

- **Role as Therapy**

Through fair and transparent dispute resolution, Bawaslu Gayo Lues Regency plays a role in restoring the trust of election participants and the community in the democratic process, while also reducing the potential for conflict that could disrupt local political stability.

Factors Hindering the Role of Bawaslu Gayo Lues Regency

The results of the study show that the implementation of the role of Bawaslu Gayo Lues Regency still faces several obstacles, including limited human resources in terms of both number and competence, limited budget, inadequate facilities and infrastructure, limited time for dispute resolution, and low public understanding of the election mechanism and election process disputes.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of research and discussion, it can be concluded that the Gayo Lues Regency Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu) has carried out its role in resolving disputes in the 2024 Election process in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. However, the implementation of this role has not been optimal due to various internal and external obstacles. Therefore, efforts are needed to improve human resource capacity, provide adequate budgetary support, and increase public understanding so that Bawaslu's role in resolving election disputes can be more effective in the future.

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