

Analysis of the Impact of Political Money on Threats to the Sustainability of Indonesian Democracy in Ponorogo

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Abstract

Money politics is a detrimental practice in the context of democracy in Ponorogo Regency. The negative impacts include unequal access to political participation, damage to the integrity of general elections, and a decline in public trust in political institutions. This research aims to analyze the impact of money politics on threats to the sustainability of Indonesian democracy in Ponorogo Regency. Money politics is a practice that involves the use of money or other financial resources to influence political processes and elections. This research is important because the sustainability of democracy is an important indicator in evaluating the quality of a country's democracy. This research uses qualitative methods with a library research approach to understand the impact of money politics in depth. Data is collected from various sources such as books, scientific journals, articles and websites. The case study in Ponorogo shows that money politics has threatened democratic principles such as transparency, accountability and political equality. The research results show that money politics has a significant negative impact on the sustainability of democracy in Ponorogo Regency. The practice of money politics causes injustice in political participation, damages the integrity of general elections, and reduces public trust in political institutions. The importance of handling money politics in maintaining democratic principles, such as fair political participation, transparency, accountability and freedom of opinion, is the main focus in efforts to improve the quality of democracy in Ponorogo. This research provides an in-depth understanding of the negative impacts of money politics.

Keywords: Money politics, democracy, sustainability, Ponorogo Regency.

Introduction

Indonesia, as a country that adheres to a democratic system, has established a system for selecting its country's leaders through general elections. General elections are a characteristic of a democratic country which aims to declare the sovereignty of the people over the state and government (Nabilah et al., 2022). The existence of a democratic state in Indonesia is regulated in the Preamble to the 1945 Constitution. Some of these provisions can directly reveal its democratic character,

but there are also those that are still neutral, so that its democratic nature is still very dependent on existing political policies (Febrianto et al., 2020). Many experts say that it is not only the people (constituents) who determine the image of elections (general elections), but anyone who influences the people to get support from the people also has a big influence on the image of democracy (Prasetyo, 2020).

Money is often used as a tool to buy and sell people's votes. Something that often arises when a general election is about to be held is the practice of money politics by buying votes (Ramadhan et al., 2024). Indonesia held simultaneous elections for the first time in 2019, precisely on April 17 2019 (Susanti, 2021). The proportion of voters involved in money politics in the 2019 election ranged from 19.4% to 33.1%. The very high scope of money politics according to international standards makes Indonesia the third country with the highest money politics in the world (Jupri et al., 2023). Basically, the practice of money politics is an activity that violates legal regulations as regulated in the legal regulations prohibiting money politics in elections as stipulated in article 187A of Law Number 10 of 2016 (Saragih et al., 2024).

Ponorogo Regency, East Java, has entered the list of 20 districts/cities in Indonesia that are prone to money politics practices (H Sujarwoko, 2023). Muhammad Bahrin Mustofa, Chair of the Ponorogo Regency Bawaslu, confirmed that Ponorogo was among the 20 regions, ranking ninth. Bahrin Mustofa explained that Ponorogo was included in the list because of a money politics case that was revealed during the 2019 election. At that time, Bawaslu succeeded in carrying out a money politics arrest (OTT) operation in one of the villages in Ponorogo (Muhammad Reza, 2024).

The Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu) of Ponorogo Regency has secured evidence of cash worth IDR 66,160,000 which is suspected of being used for money politics by legislative candidates. The Ponorogo Bawaslu team secured the cash at a resident's house in the Jambon District area, Tuesday (16/4/2019) evening (Kusuma, 2019). Securing the money suspected to be for money politics began when Bawaslu Ponorogo received information from residents. From this information, Bawaslu Ponorogo contacted Bawaslu at sub-district, village level and security forces to go to the location. At that location, the joint team found Rp. 20,000 and Rp. 10,000. Not only that, there is also a list of 1,500 recipients who were given money with an estimate of IDR per person. 70,000 (Al Alawi Muhlis, 2019).

However, in fact, money politics in Ponorogo is caused by several factors. One of them is the desire of a political candidate or political party to win the election by influencing voters through giving money or goods. Apart from that, the low level of political education in some regions can also strengthen the practice of money politics, low law enforcement against money politics. Another factor is economic needs, high needs among society can be a factor that strengthens the practice of money politics. When people face economic hardship or urgent needs, they may be more susceptible to offers of money or goods in politics. This makes people more likely to receive material rewards in exchange for their votes in elections (Adinugroho et al., 2022).

Democracy can be interpreted as a system of government in a country where sovereignty is in the hands of the people or the highest power is in the people's decisions. The definition of democracy implies that as the basis of social life in a

country, it is the people who make decisions regarding matters concerning their lives.(Ardi & Hidayah, 2023). A good democracy is based on the principles of truth and justice. However, irregularities often occur in the implementation of democracy, one of which is the emergence of money politics policies in elections. The issue of money politics is a classic problem of electoral democracy or the potential for electoral malpractice in Indonesia(Alina, 2022).

Money politics is the practice in which a person or group of people uses money to influence or manipulate the political process, which can include vote buying, bribery, or illegal financing of campaigns to gain political advantage or power. Money politics is a practice that harms democracy. Sadly, for most contestants, money politics seems to be a mandatory requirement to win, and for most voters, money politics is a normal and unavoidable practice(Abdurrohman, 2021). Money politics can make voters no longer vote based on rational considerations, but only based on money. This can lead to the election of leaders who are not qualified(Arqon et al., 2024). Based on the above background, this research was conducted with the aim of providing a specific understanding of how this problem affects the level of sustainability of democracy in Indonesia, damages the integrity of elections, harms citizen participation, and does not promote political equality.

Literature review

This theme was also discussed by I Wayan Febrianto, Ida Ayu Putu Widiati, Luh Putu Suryani in a journal entitled Analysis of Handling Money Politics Reviewed from the Regional Election Law, published by a legal interpretation journal. In this journal it is written that money politics is a disturbance in the political process where participants or cadres or success teams as well as parties supporting candidates carry out unlawful actions by providing rewards or material and/or rewards in other forms to influence the votes cast by voters. Money politics is not legally permitted. This will cause chaos in the legal and political paradigm in Indonesia. A new paradigm will emerge in the minds of the people, where those who will be in power are those who have money (Febrianto et al., 2020). This theme was also discussed by Retna Susanti in a journal entitled Money Politics in Elections Reviewed from a Sociological Juridical Perspective. In this journal it is written that Money Sovereignty is a new normal practice that determines the rhythm of the game in electoral competitions in Indonesia. Despite the fact that. Money politics is formally illegal, but over time it is considered a normal transaction during elections, and is rarely prosecuted legally. Because money politics has become commonplace, politicians refuse to be used as the only scapegoat and argue that voters no longer see elections as a window of opportunity to express their political preferences, but as a season of money harvesting(Susanti, 2021).

This theme was also discussed by Sarah Maharani Saragih, Maringan Panjaitan, Vera AR Pasaribu in a journal entitled Analysis of the Impact of Money Politics on Community Participation in Village Head Elections in Pertambatan Village, Dolok Masihul District, Serdang Bedagai Regency for the 2019-2025 Period. In this journal it is written that money political activities in elections have become something that often happens and has become a habit, money politics is a benchmark for a candidate to gain sympathy from everyone in the community in

order to win and achieve a position as a leader. This is because the understanding of politics in the Pertembaan village community is very minimal regarding political education itself, in fact they only interpret elections as something that brings benefits to voters (Saragih et al., 2024). This theme was also discussed by Mujiono Hafidh Prasetyo in a journal entitled Money Politics Crimes in Regional Head Elections Against Government Construction. In this journal it is written that most people are used to this practice (money politics) in political processes that occur directly. In fact, one of the considerations for direct elections is so that the practice of money politics can be minimized. Even in direct democracy, as has been the case so far, the practice of money politics is becoming increasingly uncontrollable. Various laws and regulations that prohibit this haram practice seem to have been created just to violate it (Prasetyo, 2020).

This theme was also discussed by Muhammad Arqon, Danil Mustafa, Muhammad Gogon in a journal entitled Prevention of Money Politics in Indonesia. In this journal it is written that there are ways to reduce the practice of money politics in Indonesia, namely by increasing public awareness of the dangers of money politics, strict law enforcement against perpetrators of money politics, and reforming the electoral system, namely the need to increase public awareness of the dangers of money politics. The public needs to realize that money politics can damage the integrity of the general election process and increase corruption. There needs to be strict law enforcement against perpetrators of money politics. The perpetrators of money politics need to be punished severely so that it can have a deterrent effect (Arqon et al., 2024). This theme was also discussed by Yuan Febriyanti Alina in a journal entitled "Reactualization of Political Education in Facing Money Politics Through the Anti-Money Politics Village Movement." This theme was also discussed by Yuan Febriyanti Alina in a journal entitled "Reactualization of Political Education in Facing Money Politics Through the Anti-Money Politics Village Movement.". In this journal it is written that in the midst of the vortex of money politics which continues to expand day by day in every election process in Indonesia, appropriate strategies are needed to minimize all the devastating impacts in all aspects of human life. Money politics is any intentional activity by a person or certain group by giving compensation in the form of money or goods to someone so that their right to vote is used in a certain way or not to use it in choosing a particular candidate or deliberately accepting and giving campaign funds, malpractice or pathology in the body democracy (Alina, 2022).

Research Methods

This research is a type of qualitative research, and this research uses library research which can study various references and results of previous research, which is useful for getting an idea of the problem to be researched. Data collection by understanding related original documents and reports. The research process includes selecting a topic, searching for information, determining research direction, collecting data sources, preparing data presentation, and making reports. Data sources for this research include books, scientific journals, articles and websites. The data collection method for this research is documentary, and the text is verbatim, meaning something that has been recorded. Using the documentary method, the

Results and Discussion

Based on the research results in the paper "Analysis of the Impact of Political Money on Threats to the Sustainability of Indonesian Democracy in Ponorogo," it was found that money politics has a significant impact on the sustainability of democracy in Ponorogo Regency. The practice of money politics not only tarnishes the political process and general elections, but also threatens the essential principles of democracy. The negative impacts include unequal access to political participation, damage to the integrity of general elections, and a decline in public trust in political institutions. This phenomenon highlights the need for strong preventive measures and firm law enforcement to eradicate money politics and ensure the continuation of healthy democracy in Ponorogo and throughout Indonesia.

Apart from that, money politics can also cause the election of leaders who are not qualified because the election is not based on rational considerations, but only based on money. This can harm the integrity of elections, harm citizen participation, and does not promote political equality. Therefore, handling money politics is very important in maintaining democratic principles such as fair political participation, transparency, accountability and freedom of opinion to improve the quality of democracy in Ponorogo and Indonesia as a whole. Collaborative efforts between the government, election monitoring institutions, political parties, civil society and all elements of society are needed to overcome the challenges of money politics and ensure that the political process runs in accordance with the principles of true democracy.

Money Politics Case in Ponorogo

Reporting from (Tribunnews, 2019) On Tuesday, April 16 2019, the Ponorogo Regency Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu) again confiscated evidence of money worth IDR 66,130,000 which was suspected to be used for money politics for legislative candidate members (candidates). Election Violation Enforcement Division Bawaslu Ponorogo, Marji Nurcahyo, when confirmed Tuesday (16/4/2019) afternoon confirmed the security of evidence of Rp. 66.1 million in cash which was suspected to be used for money politics in the simultaneous elections. Marji said that Bawaslu Ponorogo took action after receiving reports from the public. Marji said that evidence was found from the location in the form of Rp. 20,000 and Rp. 10,000 denominations. Apart from that, there are also campaign material cards for legislative candidates. Not only that, Bawaslu also found a list of 1,500 recipients who would be given money with an estimate of IDR 70,000 per person.

Reporting from (Solopos.com, 2023) On Wednesday, August 30 2023, the Indonesian Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu) released data on a list of 20 districts/cities in Indonesia that are prone to money politics in the 2024 elections. One of them on the list is Ponorogo Regency. In fact, Ponorogo Regency is the only area in East Java that is on the list. In the list released by Bawaslu RI and uploaded on a number of official Instagram social media accounts for the election monitoring agency, Ponorogo is in ninth place, just above Fakfak Regency, West Papua Province

and below Bulukumba Regency, South Sulawesi Province. According to Bahrun Mustofa, Ponorogo's inclusion in the RI Bawaslu release was inseparable from the impact of the 2019 elections, at which time Bawaslu succeeded in carrying out a money politics sting operation (OTT) in one of the villages in Ponorogo.

Reporting from (Surya FM, 2023) On August 30 2023, Bawaslu RI released Ponorogo as one of the 20 cities or districts with the highest risk of money politics. In fact, in this data, Ponorogo is the only district in East Java that is included in the data released by Bawaslu RI. Bahrun Mustofa, Chair of Bawaslu Ponorogo, admitted that Ponorogo Regency is in the top 20 regions that are prone to money politics. However, this happened during the 2019 election. In the 2019 election, Bawaslu Ponorogo carried out OTT money politics in one of the villages in Ponorogo Regency.

The factors behind the emergence of money politics cases

As we know, politics is a shared interest and responsibility, both for organizers, contestants, success teams and voters. Politics is not only the interest of a few people, elite groups or powerful groups. But all components of society have rights and responsibilities regarding the interests and success of democratic events, in this case political activities. Political Marketing delivered by contestants or their success teams helps provide awareness to the public about rights and responsibilities as well as political interests. Therefore, society is slowly realizing its obligations in political involvement. However, the problem in the field is how wrong successful contestants or teams are in trying to invite constituents, instead of providing awareness with positive things, they tend to lure them with feedback that is momentary in nature. So contestants and success teams must be fully aware that the people as voters need to be presented with good participatory invitations, not bribes like money politics (Korompis et al., 2022).

General elections are held every five years, so that people are happy to welcome general elections because people are happy with the practice of money politics. Weak law enforcement can lead to giving away goods or money. Law enforcement is less vigilant and firm, meaning that during elections, the authorities authorized to provide security only guard or guard the ballot boxes, they do not carry out supervision seriously and allow dishonest people from various candidates to roam and enter society to share their goals and objectives. contribute something so that people will support the candidate. Weakening supervision in elections occurs when nominations of party candidates take place. Because the party's internal nomination process is outside the supervision of Panwaslu, political dowry could occur at that stage and it is not within Banwaslu's authority to continue the legal process. When the names of prospective candidates are submitted and registered with the KPU, then supervision occurs. Weakening supervision in elections occurs when nominations of party candidates take place. Because the party's internal nomination process is outside the supervision of Panwaslu, political dowry could occur at that stage and it is not within Banwaslu's authority to continue the legal process. When the names of prospective candidates are submitted and registered with the KPU, then supervision occurs (Ekasari et al., 2024).

The cause of the low quality of education possessed by the community. Of course, this cannot be separated from the low economic factors which mean that people do not have the opportunity to get better education, so this affects their way

of thinking and behavior when they do something. This low quality of education ultimately causes people to have low knowledge of politics and violations that occur in elections. This ignorance of the public influences their behavior in responding to the practice of money politics that occurs, this can be seen from the ease with which the public accepts the rewards given, then they are very easily influenced by certain parties to choose political candidates or contestants, to the existence of a pragmatic attitude within the community. makes them increasingly indifferent to the violations that occur, and ultimately has an impact on low political awareness so that political participation is still very low(Fitriani et al., 2019).

The cause of money politics cannot be separated from economic limitations which to this day always give rise to new problems, including opening up opportunities for money politics to occur in society. This means that poverty has made people think rationally about getting a number of benefits, including when receiving rewards given by political candidates or contestants in elections. The practice of money politics is very difficult to prevent or stop if economic limitations and poverty still plague society(Fitriani et al., 2019).

The impact of money politics practices

Election management is carried out by the KPU. The stages in holding elections are supervised by the election supervisory committee for Regency/City areas, then for sub-district areas the stages of holding elections are supervised by the District Panwaslu, and finally for supervision of field elections it is supervised by field election supervisors at the village/sub-district level. The stages of holding elections from the campaign period until the day the elections are held have a body that supervises them. Even though there is a supervisory body, campaign organizers still commit violations, starting from campaign advertisements in the media, rejection and disruption of campaigns, use of state facilities, involvement of minors. And the worst thing that happened was that the violations were not only carried out by campaign implementers. It often happens that on the day of a general election, the election organizing committee also plays a role in getting voters' votes by giving money to voters before the election is held to encourage voters to give their vote to a particular candidate. From cases of campaign violations in elections, it can be seen that these violations did not occur by chance, but were organized and systematic violations(Subrata, 2022).

Money politics and fraud in elections are serious problems that can threaten the integrity and fairness of elections. Money political practices, such as bribery, vote buying, and misuse of campaign funds, can damage the democratic process and eliminate people's freedom and voice. In addition, election fraud, such as forgery of ballot papers, intimidation of voters, and manipulation of election results, can also damage public confidence in the election system and threaten political stability. Money politics is carried out in two forms, namely, in the form of campaigns and dawn attacks. A campaign is a process that is consciously planned, gradual and sustainable which is carried out over a certain period of time with the aim of influencing a predetermined community. In the campaign, the team successfully provided money and goods in the form of basic necessities and other goods to get the attention of the public to vote for the candidate pair. Second, the dawn attack, is

a method used by the success team ahead of the voting by visiting people's homes to vote for certain candidates in the village head election (Amatahir, 2023).

The impact of money politics will also give birth to leaders who are not qualified because they are produced through an unfair and uncivilized process. As a result, people suffer losses and it becomes increasingly difficult for us to realize a prosperous Indonesian society. And of course the leader's duty is to participate by providing ideas, thoughts and concepts for the country, and providing understanding to the public so that they participate in supporting the creation of healthy and civilized politics in the life of the nation, by choosing leaders who fear God and have a nationalist spirit, obey to Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution. And the public should participate by continuing to prioritize honesty and sincerity in voting, and also pray for the election to be free from fraud (Arifianto, 2023).

Conclusion

Money politics is a deep and damaging problem in the context of democracy in Ponorogo Regency. The practice of money politics not only tarnishes the political process and general elections, but also threatens the essential principles of democracy. Negative impacts include unequal access to political participation, damage to the integrity of elections, and a decline in public trust in political institutions. This phenomenon highlights the need for strong preventive measures and firm law enforcement to eradicate money politics and ensure the continuation of healthy democracy in Ponorogo and throughout Indonesia. To overcome this challenge, collaborative efforts need to be made between the government, election monitoring institutions, political parties, civil society and all elements of society. Concrete steps such as increasing public awareness about the dangers of money politics, strengthening election monitoring mechanisms, fair and firm law enforcement against violators, and promoting healthy democratic values need to be implemented consistently. Only with comprehensive and sustained joint efforts can the people of Ponorogo and Indonesia as a whole protect their democracy from the threat of money politics and ensure that the political process runs in accordance with the principles of true democracy.

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