

The Challenge of Returning Political Parties to Its Function: As a Means of Political Education for the People

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Abstract: The paper entitled "The Challenge of Returning Political Parties to Its Function: As a Means of Political Education for the People" aims to find out what challenges are faced when it will make political parties a means of political education for the community. In Article 11 paragraph 1 of the Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 2 of 2008 stated that one of the functions of political parties is to carry out political education for members and the wider community to become Indonesian citizens who are aware of their rights and obligations in the life of society, nation, and patriotic. This is different from the reality in Indonesia today because of frequent internal and external party conflicts and narrow loyalties to the party rather than national interests so that the function to educate the public in political life is minimal. For this reason, participation is needed, not only from the management, members, and sympathizers of political parties but from all levels of Indonesian society so that the existing political parties can carry out their functions properly so that Indonesia can mature in politics.

1 INTRODUCTION

Political parties become one of the important elements in a democratic country because without a political party, a country cannot be called a democratic country. Political parties in Indonesia had existed since the Dutch East Indies but at that time, political parties established by the natives could not enter and get seats in government. After Indonesia proclaimed its independence, the General Election (ELECTION) held in 1955 became the first competition for political parties in Indonesia to get a chance to enter the government. 172 political parties and individuals took part in the General Elections held in Indonesia for the first time and competed for 260 seats in parliament.

Political parties in Indonesia experienced a setback when they were under the leadership of the New Order, during which the government fused or merged political parties. In Article 1 Paragraph 1 of Law Number 3 of 1975 concerning Political Parties and Work Groups it is stated that to simplify political life in Indonesia there are two political parties recognized by the government and one Work Group. With the application of the Act, political

parties are only a complement to the democratic system implemented by the government at that time.

Prasetya (2011) states that Under the New Order political parties were only used as legitimacy by the authorities at that time to show the international world that Indonesia was obedient in carrying out the principle of democracy, where political parties were one of the pillars or markers that democracy existed in the country. The party is powerless when dealing with the authorities, political parties cannot play their role as a means of control for the authorities, political parties cannot be an alternative for people who want change. Some even said that the party at that time (non-Golkar), like PPP, was interpreted as a development complementary party, while the PDI was said to be a peaceful party. This view is very reasonable when the party did not have any power to influence the policies of the ruling power at that time. How not, the authorities are able to control these parties by influencing the party's elite who are accommodating to the government to become the party's general chairman.

Since the fall of the New Order government in 1998, political parties in Indonesia seemed to have the opportunity to compete fairly in fighting for parliamentary seats. Even in Article 2 Chapter II of Law No. 2 of 1999 states that the requirements for

the establishment of political parties are established by:

1. At least 50 (fifty) citizens of the Republic of Indonesia who are 21 (twenty-one) years old can form a political party.
2. Political parties formed as referred to in paragraph (1) must meet the following requirements:
 - a. include Pancasila as the state foundation of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia in the party's articles of association;
 - b. the principles or characteristics, aspirations and programs of political parties do not conflict with Pancasila;
 - c. political party membership is open to every citizen of the Republic of Indonesia who has the right to vote;
 - d. political parties may not use the same name or symbol as the symbol of a foreign country, the flag of the Unitary Republic of Indonesia Sang Merah Putih, the national flag of a foreign country, individual images and names and symbols of other existing parties.

The reforms that took place in Indonesia in 1998 certainly caused a separate euphoria for the people in politics considering that in the elections held one year after the reforms, 48 political parties competed. This is certainly good for the development of democracy in Indonesia, which has long been trapped in a pseudo-democratic system.

Labolo and Ilham (2015) stated that although in this Reformation era, Indonesia repeated the history of the implementation of multiparty party systems such as those that were once practiced during the Liberal and Guided Democracy. As for therapy, there is a fundamental difference between the two periods. When during the Liberal or Guided Democracy parties had a clear ideology and were carried out in a consistent manner, but in the Reformation era the party's ideology was less influential and contained only as a display on the party's constitution.

2 POLITICAL PARTY

Surbakti in Prasetya (2011) states that there are 7 (seven) functions of political parties, namely:

1. Political Socialization,
Political socialization is the process of forming the political attitudes and orientation of members of society, through this process of political socialization the community knows the importance of politics and its instruments.

Political socialization can certainly shape the political character and the political character possessed by the community will make it easier to resolve existing conflicts.

2. Political Recruitment,
Political recruitment is the selection and selection or appointment and appointment of a person or group of people to carry out a number of roles in the political system in general and the government in particular. The system of recruiting a person to become a member, administrator, and even a candidate for legislative members of a party should apply a standard and be carried out strictly so that the selected cadres are truly the best so they can set an example to the public in politics.
3. Political Participation,
Political parties with their political communication and socialization functions will lead to rational enlightenment to the public for political activities. The level of political participation of the community in participating in general elections is influenced by the level of activeness of political parties in conducting socialization of programs and also by the level of awareness and maturity of the community in politics. Society is said to be an adult if the level of awareness in politics is high and this is evidenced by high political participation in determining choices in elections.
4. Interest Guide,
The activities of accommodating, analyzing and integrating different and even conflicting interests into various public policy alternatives are then fought for in the process of making and implementing political decisions. That is what is meant by the function of guiding interests
5. Political Communication,
Political communication is the process of delivering information about politics from government to the community and from the community to the government. Information is very important when we talk about modern organizations because the organization (Government) will be able to retain power when it understands what is the needs of its people.
6. Conflict Control,
Political parties as a democratic institution function to control conflict through dialogue with parties to the conflict, accommodate and integrate the various aspirations and interests of the parties to the conflict and bring problems into the deliberations of the people's representative

bodies to get a solution in the form of political decisions.

7. Political Control.

Political control is an activity to show mistakes, weaknesses, and deviations in the contents of a policy or in the implementation of policies made and implemented by the government

Thomas Meyer (2012) also states that political parties play a decisive role in a modern democratic system and are the main pillars in the political system institutions. Political parties translate the values and interests of a society in a bottom-up process so that the values and interests of that community become a draft national law, binding regulations, and a program for the people.

In line with the development of democracy in Indonesia, that the function of political parties has shifted a lot to become a means for confrontation with the government. Political parties become a tool used to oppose policies that are not in accordance with party objectives. The shift caused the function of political parties as a means to educate the public in politics to be lost.

The public must be given an explanation of the functions and objectives of the establishment of political parties. Political learning to the community is very important in order to create synergy between the community, political parties, and the government. In developed countries such as the United States, Britain, Germany, France, and Russia, political parties have been integrated and are able to carry out their functions properly so that the problems between political parties and the government are relatively few.

Today's political parties actually become its own problem considering the statement of the Chairperson of the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK), Agus Raharjo, who stated that the perpetrators of corruption from the most public officials were DPR and DPRD members who were members of political parties, namely in 255 cases. Then the regional head numbered 110 cases.

In the Corruption Enforcement Trends Report in 2018 issued by Indonesian Corruption Watch stated that there were 454 corruption cases with 1,087 suspects in which the Chair / Members of the House of Representatives were in the top 3 with 127 suspects. Surely this is not an encouraging number considering the chairman/member of the House of Representatives comes from political parties that should be tasked with providing political education to the public.

Table 1: Position/Professional perpetrators of corruption.

No.	Profession	Suspects	%
1	State Civil Apparatus (ASN)	375	34.5
2	Private	235	21.6
3	Chairman/Members of the House of Representatives	127	11.7
4	Village Head	102	9.4
5	Regional Head	28	2.6
6	BUMN Directors/ Employees	28	2.6
7	Other	192	17.6

3 POLITICAL EDUCATION

Political parties must be restored to their functions as stated in Article 11 paragraph 1 of Law No. 2 of 2008 which states that the functions of political parties are political education for members and the wider community to become Indonesian citizens who are aware of their rights and obligations in social life, nation, and state. Through this function, it is hoped that political parties will be able to provide political learning and provide positive examples to the public regarding ethics in politics.

Soeharto (2011) states that political education has three objectives, namely forming political personality, political awareness, and political participation. The formation of political personality is done through indirect methods, namely training and outreach, and direct methods in the form of political teaching and the like. To grow political awareness two methods can be adopted, namely dialogue and instructive teaching. As for political participation, it is manifested by the voluntary participation of individuals in the political life of their communities.

Political awareness that grows with dialogue means that communication between political parties and the public is needed regarding matters relating to politics and government. In this case, the dialogue is not only when the General Election will take place, but also a continuous dialogue, both formal and informal so that people understand and increase political awareness. Formal dialogue, for example, is conducting formal meetings between political parties and the community to discuss issues related to nationality or other matters that are deemed necessary to find a solution together. Whereas informal dialogue is carried out dialogue wherever and whenever without an official event. Dialogue

like this can occur in public places, in private agencies, or in transportation.

Soekarno (2011) explained that by getting political education, the masses of the people were expected to be creative, critical, independent, and participatory if they were given the opportunity to behave democratically. It can foster political skepticism and the wisdom of political insight about political phenomena with all their networks. That way people are able to carry out the functions of political control, verification (proof) of the ongoing political reality.

People who have received political education will be able to carry out political control functions against the government. Control over the government here does not mean criticizing every policy issued by the government but it can provide input on the policies issued or the government's attitude that is not in accordance with the laws and applicable laws and regulations so that checks and balances occur in the running of the government.

In addition, people who have received political education are also expected to be able to verify and be able to choose news about the ongoing political reality. The public will also be able to distinguish between news that is considered a hoax and actual news. Political cleverness does not mean that the public has excessive fanaticism towards one party or group but can be smart to determine their attitude and trust the news or reality.

Political education is supposed to be carried out by political parties as mandated by Law No. 2 of 2008 concerning Political Parties. This political education can be done in various ways, for example by giving examples to the public how to politely express opinions in public. This is the simplest thing a political party can do so that the public will see what the political party has done.

Soeharto (2011) states that political education is an activity that aims to form and grow political orientations on individuals. It includes conceptual beliefs that have political content, including also political loyalties and feelings, as well as political knowledge and insights that cause a person to have an awareness of political issues and political attitudes. In addition, he aims to enable every individual to provide active political participation in his community. Political education is an activity that continues throughout human life and it is not possible to be fully realized except in a free society.

Regarding political education, in Article 31 paragraph 1 of Law No. 2 of 2008 concerning Political Parties, it is stated that political parties conduct political education for the community in

accordance with the scope of their responsibilities by paying attention to justice and gender equality with the objectives of:

- a. Increasing awareness of the rights and obligations of the community in the life of society, nation, and state
- b. Increasing political participation and community initiatives in community, nation and state life, and
- c. Increasing independence, maturity, and building the nation's character in order to maintain the unity and integrity of the nation.

If you look at what is stated in Law No. 2 of 2008 concerning Political Parties, it can be seen that the level of success of political parties in providing political education can be seen from three aspects, namely; (1) When people already have an awareness of their rights in politics, such as expressing opinions in public and playing an active role in the country's development, (2) When the community already has awareness in actively participating in the General Election, both as a Candidate for Legislative Members and coming to the Polling Station (TPS) as a voter, (3) When the community has independence and is no longer dependent on the government in daily life.

To achieve this goal is indeed not easy, it takes the participation of political parties, the community, and even the government as representatives of the elected political party cadres. The challenges that must be faced together and no longer occur mutual blame between the community, political parties, and the government. If a synergy has been created between the three elements, then political parties are not only a tool for the public to confront the government, but as a tool to realize the ideals of the Indonesian people as written in the opening of the Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, namely protecting the whole of the Indonesian people and all of Indonesia's bloodshed, promoting public welfare, educating the nation's life, and participating in carrying out world order based on independence, eternal peace and social justice.

4 CONCLUSION

The function of political parties to provide education to the public about political life in Indonesia at this time cannot yet be fully carried out because there are still many challenges that must be faced. The hardest challenge for the political parties is how to change the image of the political party itself which is already bad due to the actions of unscrupulous

political party members. This must be done first because all parties in the parliament now have party members who have been involved in the problem of corruption.

Political parties should implement strict recruitment of candidates for their party members and provide basic training not only on the party's vision and mission but also on how to achieve the vision and mission by prioritizing the national goals of the Indonesian nation and by instilling anti-corruption values in every activity done. In this way, it is hoped that the party cadres who become members of parliament are truly the best party cadres who indeed work for the interests of the people so that they become an example and learning for the public in politics.

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