

The Strategy of Nasdem Party to Increase Women's Political Participation in North Central Timor Regency

(A Study on the Implementation of Law No. 10/2008 concerning General Elections for Members of the People's Representative Council, Regional Representative Council, and Regional People's Representative Council)

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ABSTRACT

Women's political participation is protected by the applicable laws and regulations in Indonesia. Indonesia's Law No. 10/2008 concerning the General Elections for Members of the People's Representative Council, Regional Representative Council, and Regional People's Representative Council requires political parties to fulfill 30% of the total quota for women's representation in party management and legislative candidates in parliament. The purpose of this study was to find out the strategy taken by the Regional Leadership Council of the NasDem Party in North Central Timor in increasing political participation and its obstacles. In this study, the researchers applied the descriptive qualitative method. Results showed that women's political participation in North Central Timor is still not fully realized. Participation that has been seen so far can be considered as "pseudo" participation because it is only to fulfill the demands of statutory regulations. This occurs because of being influenced by several factors, including a patriarchal culture that is still firmly embedded in the mindset of the people of North Central Timor, people's mindsets that have not supported the implementation of affirmative action regulation & women's involvement in politics, low motivation, financial factors, and lack of female figures who are interested in joining and being actively involved. For this reason, the strategy implemented by the NasDem Party identified in this study consists of 2 stages, namely planning and implementation of the strategy. Therefore, it can be concluded that women's political participation in North Central Timor is still not fully realized and the participation that has been seen so far can be considered as "pseudo" participation because it is only to fulfill the demands of statutory regulations.

Keywords: Women's Political Participation, North Central Timor, NasDem Party, Political Strategy.

INTRODUCTION

This study focuses on the strategy implemented by the National Democratic Party (Indonesian: Partai Nasional Demokrat (NasDem) henceforth referred to as NasDem Party) because this party is one of the major parties in Indonesia nowadays. In the 2019 Legislative Election, this party was the winning party in North Central Timor Regency (Indonesian: Kabupaten Timor Tengah Utara (TTU) by successfully promoting eight of its cadres as members of the Regional People's Representative Council (Indonesian: Dewan Pimpinan Perwakilan Daerah (DPRD)) of North Central Timor. Unfortunately, from those 8 cadres who become members of the council, none of them is a woman.

Participation is involvement in the processes of decision-making, determining needs, setting goals, and specifying priorities in exploiting development resources (Djohani, 2008). Participation can be seen in 2 forms: qualitative participation and quantitative participation. Qualitative participation is a person's involvement in decision-making in various existing social institutions (assessment in terms of quality), while quantitative participation is participation calculated from the number of attendance (physical participation assessment). The principles that must be considered in participation are scope, equal partnership, transparency, sharing power, sharing responsibility, empowerment, and cooperation. This statement reinforces what was stated by Samuel P. Huntington & Joan M. Nelson (1976) in the book "No Easy Choice: Political Participation in Developing Countries" that political participation is an act of citizens aimed at influencing governmental decision-making.

The purpose of this study is to analyze in depth what exactly the strategy taken by political parties to increase women's political participation is. This can be observed in the party cadre recruitment process, party board election, and selection of legislative candidates. By observing those processes, we can see how women participate not only to fulfill the requirements of the law. Based on the topic of this study, in an effort to achieve answers to the questions or problems aforementioned, the researchers apply a descriptive qualitative method. In this study, the researchers collect the data by themselves to maintain the quality of the data collection process.

METHOD

a) Type of Research

The research method is basically a scientific way to obtain data with certain purposes and uses (Sugiyono, 2012:1). In general, the obtained data can be used to understand, solve, and anticipate problems. Based on the research topic, in an effort to achieve answers to the questions or problems aforementioned, the type of this study was descriptive qualitative research. In this study, the researchers collected the data by themselves to maintain the quality of the data collection process.

b) Characteristics of Respondents

In an effort to obtain valid and quality information, the researchers determined the informants according to the need for knowledge sources or using purposive random sampling techniques. Those informants were the leader of the Regional Leadership Council of the NasDem Party in North Central Timor and female cadres of the NasDem Party in North Central Timor. Data were collected through interviews. When reaching the saturation of information, data collection was considered sufficient.

c) Techniques of Data Collection

In this study, data collection was carried out in 3 ways, namely as follows.

1) Observation on Participation

Observations were carried out by observing the forms of efforts and strategies taken by the Regional Leadership Council of the NasDem Party in North Central Timor to increase women's political participation.

2) In-depth Interviews

Interviews were conducted using written interview guidelines based on several strategic management attributes as indicators.

3) Document Review

The documents referred to in this study were (1) Annual Report Book, (2) The Work Plan of the Regional Leadership Council of the NasDem Party in North Central Timor, (3) Registration Forms, and (4) Cadreization Procedure Documents.

d) Techniques of Data Analysis

Nasution (1998) (in Sugiyono, 2012) stated that the analysis has started since formulating and explaining the problem, before going into the field, and continues until writing the research results. This study was carried out with the following stages.

- 1) Preparation stage before going to the field: carrying out an analysis on the data from the preliminary study or secondary data and preparing the theoretical basis used to determine the focus of the research.
- 2) The implementation stage: collecting data and information through in-depth interviews, documentation, and observation to obtain information in the scope of the topic and focus of the research.
- 3) The data analysis stage in the field.

According to Miles and Huberman (1984) (in Sugiyono, 2012), qualitative data analysis activities are carried out interactively and continuously until they are completed. Activities in data analysis are data reduction (summarizing and choosing the main things from the data and information collected), data presentation (presenting data in the form of brief descriptions, charts, or graphs), and conclusion drawings/verification (concluding the results of the studies, that revealed findings in the field, made in the form of a written report).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

A. Profile of NasDem Party for North Central Timor

NasDem Party is one of the political parties in Indonesia that was established on 26 July 2011. This party started as a community organization called National Democracy (Indonesian: *Nasional Demokrasi*) which was formed by Surya Paloh who is still the General Chairman of this party. In its journey, this party first participated in the 2014 General Election as the only new party that passed the verification from the General Elections Commission (Indonesian: *Komisi Pemilihan Umum* (KPU)).

In terms of the vision of the party, the birth of the NasDem Party is not merely present in the arena of power and conflicting interests. NasDem Party enters the political arena for a noble cause. NasDem Party entered the political arena to achieve big goals, namely strengthening the existence of the State, strengthening national unity, improving the welfare of Indonesian people, encouraging high economic growth, and promoting justice for all Indonesian people.

Meanwhile, in terms of the mission of the party, NasDem Party is a movement for change based on the fact that life, as envisioned by the 1945 Proclamation, has not been realized to date. NasDem Party aims to raise public awareness and strength to carry out the movement for change for the restoration of Indonesia. Here, the Restoration of Indonesia is a movement to return Indonesia to the goals and ideals of the 1945 Proclamation, namely Indonesia that is politically sovereign, is economically independent, and has a cultural personality. The slogan of this party is "Change Movement, Indonesian Restoration".

Nationally, NasDem party has several wing organizations, such as the NasDem Legal Advocacy Agency (Indonesian: *Badan Advokasi Hukum* (BAHU) NasDem), NasDem Youth

Front (Indonesian: *Garda Pemuda*NasDem), Women's Front (Indonesian: *Garda Wanita* (GARNITA)), NasDem Student League (Indonesian: *Liga Mahasiswa*NasDem), NasDem Farmers (Indonesian: *Petani*NasDem), and NasDem Labor Movement (Indonesian: *Gerakan Massa Buruh* (GEMURUH) NasDem).

Structurally, the management of the NasDem Party is tiered from the national to the regional and even village levels, namely the Central Leadership Council (Indonesian: *Dewan Pimpinan Pusat* (DPP)), Provincial Leadership Council (Indonesian: *Dewan Pimpinan Wilayah* (DPW)), Regional Leadership Council (Indonesian: *Dewan Pimpinan Daerah* (DPD)) (working in city or regency level), Branch Leadership Council (Indonesian: *Dewan Pimpinan Cabang* (DPC)) (working in the district level), and Twig Leadership Council (Indonesian: *Dewan Pimpinan Ranting* (DPRt)) (working in the village level).

The Regional Leadership Council of the NasDem Party in North Central Timor is one of the NasDem Party bases at the regional level which oversees several Branch Leadership Councils and Twig Leadership Councils. Currently, the Regional Leadership Council of the NasDem Party in North Central Timor is led by Tasi Josef, S.Sos. assisted by several deputies in their respective fields. The organizational structure of this Regional Leadership Council is as follows:

1. Chief
2. Deputy of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises
3. Deputy of Religion and Indigenous Peoples
4. Deputy of Health
5. Deputy of Women and Children Affairs
6. Deputy of Tourism and Creative Industries
7. Deputy of Agriculture, Livestock, and Village Self-Reliance
8. Deputy of Youth and Sports Affairs
9. Deputy of Forestry, Agrarian, and Spatial Planning Affairs
10. Secretary
11. Treasurer

In the 2019 Legislative Election, the NasDem Party in North Central Timor was one of the winning parties by successfully promoting eight of its cadres as members of the Regional People's Representative Council of North Central Timor. Unfortunately, from those 8 cadres who become members of the council, none of them is a woman.

B. Overview of Women's Political Participation in North Central Timor

Various regulations have been made in Indonesia so far aimed at increasing women's participation in various fields of life. One of them is in the political field. Policies to increase women's political participation (affirmative action) began with the issuance of Indonesia's Law No. 12/2003 concerning the General Elections for Members of the People's Representative Council, Regional Representative Council, and Regional People's Representative Council, as stipulated in Article 65 Paragraph 1, namely, political parties are required to pay attention to the representation of women at least 30% in nominating candidates for members of the People's Representative Council, Regional Representative Council, and Regional People's Representative Council. From time to time, affirmative action against women in politics is increasingly being refined through the release of Indonesia's Law No. 22/2007 concerning the Management of General Election, Indonesia's Law No. 2/2008 concerning Political Parties, and Indonesia's Law No. 10/2008 which was revised through Indonesia's Law No. 8/2012 concerning the General

Election for Members of the People's Representative Council, Regional Representative Council, and Regional People's Representative Council.

In each of the laws aforementioned, it is clearly stated about affirmative action (30% of women's representation) at various levels of political events, such as the party management structure which must reflect women's representation and the determination of the zipper system in the mechanism for nominating candidates for legislative members by political parties. This shows that the Indonesian people have paid great attention to women's political participation. However, because of facing various obstacles in its implementation, the quota specified in this affirmative action has not been achieved properly.

The results of interviews with informants indicate that women's political participation in North Central Timor to date is still very low and far from what is expected. The involvement of women in the political process is still seen as merely fulfilling the regulatory provisions stipulated by laws. This is caused by several factors, among others, as shown in the following table.

Table 1. Recapitulation of the Results of Interview on 22 – 23 July 2021

No.	Topics	Responses
1	Obstacles to women's political participation in North Central Timor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. It is because of the patriarchal culture that is still firmly embedded in the mindset of the people of North Central Timor, creating a stigma and a perspective that the world of politics is the world of men. This causes women's political participation in the field of politics to be unimportant and women are considered not able to carry out political tasks. b. It is because of the mindset of the people who have not supported the implementation of regulations concerning affirmative action and the involvement of women in politics. c. It is because of low motivation to get involved in politics which is seen only to fulfill the temporary interests when occupying political positions. Therefore, when these interests are not achieved, female cadres tend to resign or change parties to fulfill their interests. d. It is because of the financial factor. Involving in the political process requires a large amount of political cost so that many party cadres, including women, resign as party cadres. e. It is because of the lack of female figures willing to join and be actively involved in political activities in North Central Timor.

Source: Processed by Researchers (2021)

From the points aforementioned, it can be concluded that efforts to increase women's political participation in North Central Timor to date still have to go through a fairly steep path to reach the ideal level. Therefore, the Regional Leadership Council of the NasDem Party in North Central Timor needs an effective strategy to be able to realize good women's political participation in line with the mandate of Indonesia's Laws.

C. The Strategy of NasDem Party in North Central Timor to increase Women's Political Participation

The results of an interview with the Chairman of the Regional Leadership Council of the NasDem Party in North Central Timor regarding the strategy taken by the NasDem Party to increase women's political participation reveal some information, as presented in the following table.

Table 2. Recapitulation of the Results of Interview on 22 July 2021

No.	Topics	Responses
1	Planning the Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. NasDem Party of North Central Timor attempts to increase the number of cadres from time to time, both in terms of quantity and quality. b. NasDem Party of North Central Timor conducts recruitment and education of cadres on an ongoing basis. c. This is carried out in the form of work programs in each department. Specifically for affairs related to political participation, it is entrusted to the department of political education and cadreization.
2	Implementing the Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. To date, it can be considered that there has been no specific action taken by the Regional Leadership Council of the NasDem Party in North Central Timor to increase women's political participation. b. Cadre education is still carried out centrally through the National Defense Academy (Indonesian: <i>Akademi Bela Negara</i> (ABN)). In this case, the Regional Leadership Council of the NasDem Party in North Central Timor sends their cadres (approximately 9 people) to get political & ideological education and various things that are in line with the vision and mission of the NasDem Party. c. The planned work program in relation to political education and cadreization has not yet been carried out optimally.

Source: Processed by Researchers (2021)

CONCLUSION

Based on the results and discussion, it can be concluded as follows.

1. Women's political participation in North Central Timor is still not fully realized.
2. Participation that has been seen so far can be considered "pseudo" participation because it is only to fulfill the demands of statutory regulations.
3. The Regional Leadership Council of the NasDem Party in North Central Timor needs a more intensive and real work program to increase women's political participation.

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