

The Implementation of Democracy-Based Public Policies to Establish Sustainable Development in Political Parties in Nusa Tenggara Timur

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Abstract

One region in Indonesia that has a blurry portrait as an area lagging behind its development rate is East Nusa Tenggara (NTT) Province. The importance of the political party position in a democratic government system is related to sustainable development used as the basis for implementing public policies and the role of political parties needed in supporting sustainable development, especially in East Nusa Tenggara. This study aims to determine the implementation of democracy-based public policies to establish sustainable development of political parties in East Nusa Tenggara and to determine the inhibiting factors in implementing democracy-based public policies to develop sustainable development of political parties in East Nusa Tenggara. This research is considered qualitative research using a conceptual approach. The study results indicate that implementing democracy-based public policies in realizing sustainable development in East Nusa Tenggara political parties has yet to run optimally. The inhibiting factor for implementing democracy-based public policies to establish sustainable development of political parties in East Nusa Tenggara is the low quality of Human Resources (HR) as the main reason for all social problems in NTT. In addition, the obstacles faced in developing the NTT region are not more related to other more fundamental issues, such as the economic trade system, state apparatus capacity, and the socio-culture of the local community.

Keywords: Public Policy Implementation, Democracy, Sustainable Development, Political Parties.

1. Introduction

Political parties are among the most important institutions as the pillars of building a representative democratic system in addition to the general election (election), executive, legislative, judicial institutions, and a free press institution. The position of political parties is essential and strategic. There is no democracy without the presence and role of political parties in it.¹ Ideally, the strategic role of political parties is frequently described as a “bridge” that connects the government and society so that government policies can take sides with the aspirations and interests of their culture. In Indonesia, the position of political parties is

¹ Pippa Norris, “The Conceptual Framework of Political Support,” in *Handbook on Political Trust*, 2017.

excessively strategic because they are the only democratic institutions that carry out the function of political recruitment.²

As mandated by the amended 1945 Constitution, political parties are participants in legislative elections to elect members of DPR and DPRD and carry pairs of candidates in the presidential and vice presidential elections (pilpres)³. In its later development, through a law mutually agreed upon by the DPR and the President, political parties are also the bearers of candidate pairs in the Regional Head Election (Pilkada) to elect governors, regents, mayors, and their deputies. In addition, political parties through DPR are the final determinants of selecting almost all public positions, both members and leaders of state commissions.

As the central pillar of a democratic system, political parties should be managed in a transparent, democratic, and accountable manner in terms of human resource management, asset financial resource management, and party management as a modern organization.⁴. In this regard, an integrity system is needed for political parties so that a kind of guarantee for our nation that all political behaviour, actions, and choices of political parties are intended to institutionalize a consolidated democratic system and build good governance free from corruption. Without a standardized and internalized integrity system in political party politicians' thoughts, attitudes, and behaviour, political parties will become a problem instead of a solution for the nation.⁵

To build and institutionalize the integrity system of political parties, this position paper seeks to provide a complete but concise picture of what is meant by an integrity system, the scope, indicators, and instruments of an integrity system, as well as the steps and strategies needed to implement it in political parties.⁶. In this way, society will become more confident in politics to reach the state goals by creating politics with integrity.⁷

One of the national development policy directions, as stated in the National Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJM) 2005–2009, is to strengthen regional-based development to promote equity and, at the same time, increase growth. This directive departs from understanding Indonesia's reality as a large island nation with a broad geographic spectrum, diverse cultures, and heterogeneous location advantages.⁸. This condition can lead to something inevitable, such as gaps or inequalities between regions due to the advantages of specific regions and the backwardness of many other areas. Regional differentiation is a challenge in regional development because the outcomes of its development have a different impact. The fact that abundant natural resources are not evenly distributed throughout the region and the uneven

2 Robert Michels, *Political Parties: A Sociological Study of the Oligarchical Tendencies of Modern Democracy*, Political Parties: A Sociological Study of the Oligarchical Tendencies of Modern Democracy, 2017.

3 Ahmad Zaini and M Zainor Ridho, "The Constitutional Politics: The Regulatory Dynamics of Presidential Threshold After the Decision of Law No. 49/PUU-XVI/2018 by The Constitutional Courts," *PROCEEDING IAIN Batusangkar* 1, no. 2 (2020): 81–88.

4 Effendi Hasan, "INTEGRITAS PARTAI POLITIK DALAM PENCALONAN MANTAN NARAPIDANA KORUPSI PADA PEMILU TAHUN 2019 DI ACEH," *Jurnal Ilmiah Mahasiswa Fakultas Ilmu Sosial & Ilmu Politik* 6, no. 2 (2021).

5 Geoffrey Pridham, *Securing Democracy: Political Parties and Democratic Consolidation in Southern Europe*, *Securing Democracy: Political Parties and Democratic Consolidation in Southern Europe*, 2016.

6 Ismatun Nadhifah, "Politik Hukum Calon Perseorangan Dalam Pemilihan Kepala Daerah," *Universitas Islam Negeri UIN Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta*, 2016.

7 Marjorie Randon Hershey, *Party Politics in America*, *Party Politics in America*, 2021.

8 Andrew Samuels, *Politics on the Couch: Citizenship and the Internal Life*, *Politics on the Couch: Citizenship and the Internal Life*, 2018.

distribution of Indonesia's human resources have become factors that encourage development inequality in Indonesia between the Eastern Region of Indonesia (KTI) and the Western Region of Indonesia (KBI), towns and villages, towns and cities, etc.⁹

One area in Indonesia that has a blurry portrait as an area lagging behind its development rate is East Nusa Tenggara (NTT) Province. It is reasonable that the provinces in KTI are underdeveloped areas, mainly because, according to the Ministry of State for Disadvantaged Regions, 15 of the 16 districts in NTT in 2005 were in the underdeveloped category. This number increased in line with the division of regions in the province; for example, in 2007, West Sumba Regency was divided into three: Central Sumba, Southwest Sumba, and West Sumba as its parent. Meanwhile, Manggarai Regency also experienced expansion with the formation of East Manggarai Regency. The division of regencies classified as underdeveloped has formed new regencies that will also be left behind.¹⁰ Therefore, the authors are interested in studying more deeply about implementing democracy-based public policies in realizing sustainable development of political parties in East Nusa Tenggara.

1. Research Problems

Based on the description above, the author raises legal issues which are in the following:

1. How can implementing democracy-based public policies establish sustainable development of political parties in East Nusa Tenggara?
2. What are the inhibiting factors in implementing democracy-based public policies to establish sustainable development of political parties in East Nusa Tenggara?

2. Research Objectives

Based on the problems above, the objectives of this research are:

1. To know the implementation of democracy-based public policies To establish sustainable development of political parties in East Nusa Tenggara and
2. To know the inhibiting factors in implementing democracy-based public policies to establish sustainable development in political parties in East Nusa Tenggara.

2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

1. Policy Implementation Theory

Policy implementation is seen broadly as a tool for administration law in which various actors, organizations, procedures, and techniques work simultaneously to implement policies in

9 Simanjuntak, "Pengantar Ekonomi Sumber Daya Manusia," *Pemikiran Islam di Malaysia: Sejarah dan Aliran* (2016).

10 Yenny Tjoe, "Measuring the Livelihood Vulnerability Index of a Dry Region in Indonesia: A Case Study of Three Subsistence Communities in West Timor," *World Journal of Science, Technology and Sustainable Development* (2016).

achieving a desired impact or goal. On the other hand, implementation is a complex phenomenon that may be understood as a process, an output, or a result.¹¹

Meanwhile, Van Meter and Van Horn limit policy implementation as actions taken by individuals (or government or private groups) directed to achieve the goals set in previous policy decisions. These actions include efforts to turn decisions into operational actions within a certain period or in the context of continuing efforts to achieve significant and minor changes stipulated by policy decisions. Thus, the implementation phase occurs only after legislation is enacted and funds are provided to finance the policy implementation.¹²

Policy implementation is a way that a policy can achieve its goals, nothing more and nothing less. To implement public policies, two options are involved, which are direct implementation in the form of programs or through the formulation of derivative policies or derivatives of the policies. Public policies in the form of laws or regional regulations require an explanatory public policy or are often termed implementing rules. Public policies that can be directly operationalized include Presidential Decrees, Presidential Instructions, Ministerial Decrees, Regional Head Decrees, and Head of Service Decrees.¹³

Another definition explains that public policy is "a particular area or field of government actions as the subject of comparative and critical study, which includes different actions and principles and carefully analyzes possible cause and effect relationships in the context of a particular discipline of thought such as economics, science, or politics". On the other hand, formulating public policy is as "all choices or actions taken by the government".

When associated with policy, the definition of implementation above is that the policy is not only formulated and made in a positive form, such as a law then silenced and not implemented.¹⁴; however, a policy must be implemented for the desired impact or goal.

3. RESEARCH METHOD

This research is qualitative research using a conceptual approach. In this study, 3 (three) sources of data, primary, secondary, and tertiary data, are involved. Primary data is a provision related to implementing democracy-based public policies to establish sustainable development of political parties in East Nusa Tenggara. In addition, the secondary data sources are books, dictionaries, and journals, while tertiary data sources are Big Indonesian Dictionaries, encyclopedias, etc. The data collection technique uses a literature study model.¹⁵

The data analysis technique used is content analysis. Content analysis is any systematic procedure encouraged to examine the content of the information obtained. This analysis focuses

11 Helga Pölzl and Oliver Treib, "Implementing Public Policy," in *Handbook of Public Policy Analysis: Theory, Politics, and Methods*, 2017.

12 Ibnu Kanaha, Arif Darmawan, and Rachmawati Novaria, "Regional Government Public Policy Implementation in Tourism Development," *Science, Technology & Public Policy* (2020).

13 Paul Cairney, "Understanding Public Policy: Theories and Issues," *Understanding Public Policy*, 2020.

14 Yaojiang Shi and John James Kennedy, "Delayed Registration and Identifying the Missing Girls in China," *China Quarterly* (2016).

15 Julie Quick and Susan Hall, "Part Three: The Quantitative Approach," *Journal of Perioperative Practice* (2015).

on all the secondary data obtained. After receiving the necessary data, this paper analyzes the data logically, systematically, and juridically. Logical means that the data collected is interpreted by the principles of deductive logic, namely concluding a general problem to the concrete issues faced¹⁶.

4. DISCUSSION

1. Implementation of Democracy-Based Public Policy in Realizing Sustainable Development in Political Parties in East Nusa Tenggara

Sustainable development is carried out to realize national goals, which, as the constitution mandates, is to create a just and prosperous society. During the administration of President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono (SBY), Indonesia's long-term direction in 2005–2025 has been stipulated in Law Number 17 Year 2007 concerning the National Long-Term Development Plan (RPJPN), which has further elaborated its stages into four periods of the Medium-Term National Development Plan (RPJMN)¹⁷.

Amid democratic achievements that are improving in Indonesia, it turns out that these positive changes and achievements are not entirely in line with the conditions experienced by political parties today. It must be admitted that changes in political parties tend to be different and more directed towards managing political parties with no integrity. It is challenging to call for encouraging the realization of good governance because, in several cases, lousy governance practices are more prominent.¹⁸ It is shown by the failure of political parties to produce party politicians with integrity.

NTT, as one of the provinces in Indonesia, is still relatively underdeveloped compared to other regions¹⁹. The lagging development in most areas of NTT can also be seen from the physical and non-physical characteristics. This backwardness is reflected physically through the reality of the area, which is primarily dry and barren. In addition, most of these areas are not easily accessible due to the poor condition of roads, transportation, and communication networks. On the other hand, the low quality of Human Resources (HR), law enforcement and the quality of public services, regional fiscal capacity, and the carrying capacity of infrastructure and facilities are also facts of non-physical backwardness that are easy to see in NTT.²⁰

The demand for a fairer and more equitable development policy implementation, which is getting stronger nowadays, is a critical response to the development gap between KTI and KBI, particularly between NTT and other provinces in Indonesia. This is mainly because the inequality is (1) structural and tends to exist in the long term, (2) cannot be overcome only through

16 John Gerring, "Qualitative Methods," *Annual Review of Political Science*, 2017.

17 Lego Karjoko and Djoko Wahju Winarno, "Spatial Development Plan for Papua Province as Instruments on Sustainable Development," *European Journal of Molecular and Clinical Medicine* 7, no. 3 (2020): 2811–2819.

18 Anika Gauja, *Political Parties and Elections: Legislating for Representative Democracy*, Political Parties and Elections: Legislating for Representative Democracy, 2010.

19 Hengky Kurniawan, Henri LF de Groot, and Peter Mulder, "Are Poor Provinces Catching-up the Rich Provinces in Indonesia?," *Regional Science Policy and Practice* (2019).

20 Abdul Kadir Jaelani, I. Gusti Ayu Ketut Rachmi Handayani, and Lego Karjoko, "Development of Halal Tourism Destinations in the Era of Regional Autonomy in West Nusa Tenggara Province," *International Journal of Innovation, Creativity and Change* (2020).

increasing national economic growth, (3) hinders the work of the market, and therefore, having an impact on economic growth, and (4) triggers social and political vulnerabilities (disintegration)²¹.

Regional development, including in East Nusa Tenggara (NTT), requires a comprehensive and systemic economic, social, political, and economic development strategy, not an ad hoc, partial, or reactive.²² This synergistic social development strategy leads to procedures for developing adaptive social construction models by community development.²³

On the other hand, regional governments, both provincial and district/municipal in NTT as autonomous regions, have been given the authority for government affairs and at the same time, it is the obligation of the provincial and district/city governments to regulate and manage the planning, utilization, and supervision of spatial planning in the regions. The granting of authority and obligations should be seen not only as an indication of the seriousness of the government's political will to carry out good governance but also as a momentum to strengthen further performance-based regional capacity development, cooperation, and coordination in an integrated and synergistic manner for the development of the NTT region.²⁴

Viewed from a political perspective, regional development in this province has a strategic meaning, especially considering the interest in it is not only seen from the side of the local community and local government, but has also become a national interest. This means that the area's development is part of achieving justice, equality, and community welfare, which is the primary goal of national development. In addition, of course, the reality of the NTT region position, which is directly adjacent to the neighbouring countries of Timor Leste and Australia, makes the province a national strategic area.²⁵

The provincial government of NTT during the current governorship of Frans Lebu Raya, has made various efforts to catch up with the progress of its region, such as driven by development that prioritizes the development of the province in an integrated and comprehensive manner. The policy directions for this regional development are planned in the 2009–2013 NTT Provincial RPJMD and 2005–2020 NTT Provincial RTRW. The formulation of the regional development strategy is based on the understanding that regional development will only be able to run effectively and efficiently if it refers to the principles of good governance and there is adequate support for strengthening regional capacities.²⁶

2. Inhibiting Factors in the Democracy-Based Public Policy Implementation to Establish Sustainable Development in Political Parties in East Nusa Tenggara

21 Chaterina Agusta Paulus, "The Development of Sustainable Livelihoods for Peasant-Fisher in Rote Island East Nusa Tenggara," 2016.

22 MYAiub Kadir and Alexander Murray, "Resource Nationalism in the Law and Policies of Indonesia: A Contest of State, Foreign Investors, and Indigenous Peoples," *Asian Journal of International Law* (2019).

23 Thomas F. Thornton and Claudia Comberti, "Synergies and Trade-Offs between Adaptation, Mitigation and Development," *Climatic Change* (2017).

24 Budiman Widodo and Winarti Winarti, "MANAJEMEN PEMBANGUNAN DESA DAERAH PERBATASAN KOTA," *Public Administration Journal of Research* (2020).

25 Longyu Shi et al., "The Evolution of Sustainable Development Theory: Types, Goals, and Research Prospects," *Sustainability* (Switzerland) (2019).

26 Didimus Dedi Dhosa, "State-Led Forest Development and Social Protest in East Nusa Tenggara Province," *Forest and Society* (2021).

Geographically, East Nusa Tenggara (NTT), located in KTI, is one of the provinces still experiencing the impact of development inequality in the form of underdevelopment. This condition can be seen in the 20 regencies and one city in the province; 20 regencies are still underdeveloped areas. In addition, the number of poor people in the province reaches around 23% and per capita income only reaches Rp9.2 million annually. The Human Development Index (HDI), which shows the quality of life of the people in this province, is also still low, at 63,6. This figure is lower than the national HDI of 65.8, which, in turn, places NTT in the 31st rank out of 33 provinces in Indonesia. This province, with 1,192 islands, also still has various development problems, such as borders, infrastructure, security, and economic and social isolation, which causes high development costs and financial costs.²⁷

The problem of sustainable development facing the Province of NTT today is the output of all the policies taken by the past and current leadership.²⁸ For this reason, this subsection briefly describes the policies taken by the governor who has led the NTT region since 1958 until now. This description is intended to provide a perspective on the dynamics of the NTT region's development policies by each governor who has undergone eight changes, starting from Governor WJ Lalamentik to Frans Lebu Raya. The regional development policies and strategies they carry out essentially depart from the results of observing the objective conditions and development problems of NTT²⁹.

Like other regions in Indonesia, NTT also prepares a development plan intended as a direction and priority for overall development. This planning is carried out through long- and medium-term planning to create a just and prosperous society as mandated in the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia.³⁰ For this reason, like the previous Governor, Frans Lebu Raya also prepared a development plan that was used as a policy direction for the regional development of the NTT Province during his five-year leadership period. The above development policy directions are in the East Nusa Tenggara Province Medium-Term Development Plan 2009–2013, also known as the NTT Provincial RPJMD. This document further gains legal force through its stipulation in a Regional Regulation³¹.

In its preparation, this RPJMD is guided by the national development plans that have been prepared through the 2005–2025 RPJPN and 2009–2014 RPJMN, as well as the 2005–2025 NTT Province RPJP. To realize a vision that contains development goals that are full of the above meanings, the regional government of NTT Province then formulates a mission, which is a target and strategy as a concrete effort of interpretation to realize the general and abstract vision of

27 Daniel Yoo, "Development Aid, Institutional Change, and Local Democracy: Investigating the Role and Impact of Elected Councils in Rural Indonesia," 2019.

28 Hong Quan Nguyen et al., "Farmer Adoptability for Livelihood Transformations in the Mekong Delta: A Case in Ben Tre Province," *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management* (2019).

29 Gerfried Jungmeier, "The Biorefinery Fact Sheet," *The International Journal of Life Cycle Assessment* (2017).

30 FXA Aba, "ACCELERATION OF ECONOMIC POLICY AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY FOR DEVELOPMENT PLANNING IN POOR AREA," *Russian Journal of Agricultural and Socio-Economic Sciences* (2018).

31 BADAN KEAHLIAN and DEWAN PERWAKILAN RAKYAT REPUBLIK INDONESIA, "NASKAH AKADEMIK RANCANGAN UNDANG-UNDANG TENTANG PROVINSI NUSA TENGGARA BARAT" (n.d.).

development into eight medium-term development missions for 2009–2013³². The eight missions are as follows.

- a. Improving quality, relevant, efficient, and practical education that the whole community can reach;
- b. Improving the degree and quality of public health through services that the entire community can reach;
- c. Empowering the community's economy by developing economic actors who can take advantage of local potential advantages;
- d. Improving adequate infrastructure so that the community can have accessibility;
- e. Increasing the rule of law in the context of creating a clean and free government from Corruption, Collusion and Nepotism (KKN) and creating a just and law-aware society;
- f. Increasing development based on spatial and environmental planning;
- g. Increasing the access of women and children in the public sector and the protection of women and children;
- h. Declaring a particular agenda: poverty reduction, handling of border areas, development of archipelagic provinces, and handling of the disaster-prone regions.

However, in establishing sustainable development, especially in matters relating to political parties in East Nusa Tenggara, several obstacles are identified, such as the low quality of Human Resources (HR), which is often the main reason for the source of all social problems in NTT.³³ Other regions have the same obstacles as NTT, which can develop as developed regions. The experience of different countries, such as Singapore and Japan, the existence of a local culture that supports development, a high work ethic and good governance have gradually been proven to accelerate the development of the people of these countries.³⁴

5. CONCLUSION

Implementing democracy-based public policies in realizing sustainable development of political parties in East Nusa Tenggara has yet to run optimally. The demand for a fairer and more equitable development policy implementation, which is getting stronger nowadays, is a critical response to the development gap between KTI and KBI NTT and other provinces in Indonesia, mainly because inequality (1), which is structural, tends to exist in the long term, (2) cannot be overcome only through increasing national economic growth, (3) hinders the market work, therefore having an impact on economic development, and (4) triggers social and political vulnerability (disintegration).

32 Plaikol I Putra Chobasder, "Anggaran Teknokratik (Studi Tentang Politik Anggaran Teknokratik Di Kabupaten Alor Provinsi Nusa Tenggara Timur)" (STPMD" APMD", 2020).

33 Simanjuntak, "Pengantar Ekonomi Sumber Daya Manusia."

34 Adi Sutrisno et al., *Pengantar Sosial Ekonomi Dan Budaya Kawasan Perbatasan* (Intelgensia Media (Kelompok Penerbit Intrans Publishing), 2020).

The inhibiting factor for implementing democracy-based public policies to establish sustainable development of political parties in East Nusa Tenggara is the low quality of Human Resources (HR), which is often the main reason for all social problems in NTT. In addition, the obstacles faced in NTT region development are related to other more fundamental issues, such as economic trade, the capacity of state apparatus, and the socio-culture of the local community.

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