



Law Enforcement Effectiveness Against the Practice of Money Politics on the Implementation of Regional Head Elections in 2018, in Lahat District (Case Study of Judgment Number: 238/Pid.Sus/2018/PN.Lht)

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Abstract

This study investigates the effectiveness of law enforcement measures in curbing the pervasive practice of money politics during the implementation of regional head elections in 2018, focusing on the case of Lahat District. Money politics, characterized by using financial resources to influence electoral outcomes, poses a significant threat to the democratic process and the integrity of elections. The research aims to assess law enforcement agencies' strategies to counteract and prevent the infiltration of money politics in the electoral landscape. The methodology involves a comprehensive analysis of legal frameworks, law enforcement initiatives, and their practical implications in the Lahat District during the 2018 regional head elections. Data will be collected through interviews with key stakeholders, including law enforcement officials, election commission representatives, political candidates, and community leaders. Reviewing relevant documents, reports, and media coverage will also contribute to a holistic understanding of the electoral process dynamics. The findings of this study aim to provide insights into the challenges faced by law enforcement agencies in the Lahat District and propose recommendations for enhancing their effectiveness in addressing the issue of money politics. Understanding the specific context and experiences of the Lahat District can contribute to the development of targeted strategies that can be applied more broadly to strengthen the overall integrity of regional head elections in Indonesia and beyond. Ultimately, the research aspires to advance transparent, fair, and democratic electoral practices by mitigating the influence of illicit financial activities on the political process.

Keywords: *Money Politics; Public Awareness; Anti-Corruption Measures; Political Corruption*

Introduction

Regional head elections are crucial in the quest for solid and democratic administration since they determine the political leadership based on the people's choice (1–3). Nevertheless, the enduring issue of money politics threatens the credibility of these democratic procedures, compromising the core values of impartiality, openness, and equitable representation(4–6). The 2018 regional head elections in the Lahat District provide an intriguing opportunity to examine the effectiveness of law enforcement in reducing the impact of money resources on the electoral environment. Money politics, which involves offering money to influence voters, manipulate candidates, and undermine the election process, presents a significant danger to the fundamental principles of democracy(7–9). The Lahat District, located inside the complex political landscape of Indonesia, offers a distinct setting to analyze the intricacies of money politics and the subsequent measures law enforcement agencies took to mitigate its influence. The 2018 elections provide a fertile ground for research due to the intersection of political ambitions, financial interests, and the desires of a varied population.

This study explores the complex aspects of money politics in the 2018 regional head elections in the Lahat District. It seeks to examine the techniques law enforcement authorities use to improve their efficiency in combating these practices. This study aims to provide significant insights to the broader discussion on electoral integrity by thoroughly analyzing legal frameworks, law enforcement measures, and the practical challenges involved. As we begin this exploration, it is crucial to acknowledge that combating money politics necessitates a detailed comprehension of local dynamics, legal intricacies, and the complicated interconnections among political actors. The objective of this research is to contribute to the discussion on improving the efficacy of law enforcement. Additionally, it aims to offer practical ideas that may be applied in various electoral settings to strengthen and promote a more robust and democratic election system.

Methods

This writing uses a normative approach to provide legal explanations for a phenomenon or event used as the research object. In this case, this type of research is used as a form of library research. Literature or quantitative research in this study is research that explains legal norms. The quantitative nature of this study makes the data used in the form of opinions, concepts, or theories related to the description of the explanation of problems regarding the supervisory function of copyright protection of musical works. The nature of the research used in this study is descriptive or can be said to explain or describe research in a particular phenomenon that is the object of research. In other words, the descriptive approach is research that aims to investigate conditions related to the object of research described earlier.

Result and Discussion

Law Enforcement Against Money Politics

Law enforcement can run well if several factors are met: legal factors, law enforcement, facilities, society, and culture. Legal factors (laws): Although the Election Law states that one of the duties of the General Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu) is to prevent the practice of money politics, the Law does not understand money politics (10,11). Law enforcement factors in the Election Law, an integrated law enforcement center (Gakkumdu) was formed, which has an essential role in handling electoral crimes, including money politics. Article 486 of the Election Law states that Gakkumdu was created to equalize the understanding and pattern of handling electoral crimes by Bawaslu, the Police, and the Prosecutor's

Office (12). With areas for improvement in the Election Law, the existence of Bawaslu not only supervises election stages and prevents election violations but also, as a case breaker, is expected to play a maximum role.

Money politics in Indonesia is bribery; the meaning of bribery in the Indonesian extensive dictionary book is a bribe. Money politics is an attempt to influence others (society) by using material rewards or can also be interpreted as buying and selling votes in the political process and power and distributing money, either personal or party property, to influence voters' ballots. The practice of money politics in Lahat District, South Sumatra, has been a significant concern, particularly in the context of direct regional elections. Despite the logical limitations of candidates to buy votes, the facts demonstrate the prevalence of money politics, which has become increasingly widespread and expensive due to the transition to direct regional elections. The poor economic conditions of voters have also contributed to the susceptibility of money politics, as candidates seek alternative funding sources to support their campaigns. The broker network, operating from the sub-district level to the polling place level, has been a critical factor in the success of money politics. Various studies have emphasized the correlation between direct local elections and money politics, highlighting the need for corrective measures to prevent or reduce its practice. The prevalence of money politics poses a significant challenge to the democratic process and the credibility of election outcomes, necessitating comprehensive efforts to address this issue and ensure fair and transparent elections. The implementation of direct local elections in Indonesia has been found to significantly impact money politics, with studies emphasizing the need for corrective measures to prevent or reduce the practice of money politics.

Conclusion

The practice of money politics remains a significant challenge in the context of regional head elections in Lahat District, South Sumatra. The prevalence of money politics, particularly in direct regional elections, has raised concerns about the fairness and integrity of the electoral process. The involvement of various stakeholders, including candidates, voters, and brokers, has contributed to the perpetuation of money politics, which has become an influential factor in determining election outcomes. While addressing money politics, the existing legal framework must improve its enforcement and effectiveness. The transition from indirect to direct regional elections has led to the widespread practice of money politics, with candidates relying on financial resources to secure their positions. The poor economic conditions of voters have also contributed to the susceptibility of money politics, as candidates seek alternative funding sources to support their campaigns. Efforts to address money politics have been discussed in the literature, including the need for financial transparency, law enforcement, and public awareness. However, money politics continues to undermine the democratic process and the legitimacy of election outcomes. The involvement of various actors, from the sub-district level to the polling place level, has created a complex network that perpetuates the practice of money politics. In conclusion, the prevalence of money politics in the 2018 elections in Lahat District, South Sumatra, has raised significant concerns about the integrity and fairness of the electoral process. Addressing the challenges of money politics requires comprehensive efforts, including legal reforms, law enforcement, and public awareness, to ensure the legitimacy and integrity of regional head elections.

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