Implementation of General Election Commission Regulation (PKPU) Number 7 of 2024 in Bitung City

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze the implementation of the General Election Commission Regulation (PKPU) Number 7 of 2024 concerning the Compilation of the Voter List in Bitung City. The research focuses on the effectiveness of policy socialization, the capacity of election organizers, and the influence of local socio-political conditions on the success of the policy implementation. A descriptive qualitative method with a case study approach was employed, with data collected through in-depth interviews with key informants such as the Chairperson of the Bitung City KPU, the Commissioner of the Data Planning and Information Division, the KPU Secretary, the Head of the Department of Population and Civil Registration (Dukcapil), and a Commissioner of Bawaslu. The findings indicate that the implementation of PKPU Number 7 of 2024 has been effective through the formation of Voter Data Updating Teams (TPDP) at various levels, inter-agency coordination, and the use of technology such as the Socialization and Data Updating System (SSPD). Policy socialization was conducted through various methods, including focus group discussions (FGDs), digital media, and door-to-door approaches, which successfully improved public understanding and participation in data verification. Major challenges include difficult geographical conditions, varying levels of digital literacy, and the need for adequate logistical resources. Nevertheless, collaborative efforts between KPU, Dukcapil, and Bawaslu have succeeded in reducing data errors from 4.2% to 1.8% and improving the accuracy of the Final Voter List (DPT).

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INTRODUCTION

Elections are one of the most vital mechanisms in a democratic system, acting as a medium through which the people exercise their sovereignty. The effectiveness of an electoral system largely depends on the legitimacy and accuracy of its Voter List (Daftar Pemilih Tetap or DPT), as this list determines who can participate in the electoral process. Ensuring that eligible citizens are properly registered while minimizing errors is central to safeguarding political rights and upholding democratic values.

The Indonesian Constitution, along with various laws and regulations, guarantees the right to vote as a fundamental civil and political right. In this context, the General Election Commission (KPU) has the authority to enact specific technical guidelines and operational regulations to uphold electoral integrity. One such regulation is PKPU Number 7 of 2024, which focuses on the compilation and verification of voter lists for regional elections, including gubernatorial, mayoral, and regency-level contests.

Despite its legal robustness, the actual implementation of voter list policies in Indonesia has historically encountered significant challenges. Bitung City, located in North Sulawesi, exemplifies both the potential and limitations of decentralized voter data governance. Previous elections in the city were marred by issues such as duplicate entries, non-synchronized data with population records, and unqualified registrants. These discrepancies not only undermine the credibility of elections but also risk disenfranchising eligible citizens.

In response, PKPU 7/2024 aims to standardize and enhance the voter data update process. The policy introduces the formation of Voter Data Updating Teams (TPDP), encourages inter-agency coordination, and leverages digital systems like the SSPD (Sistem Sosialisasi dan Pemutakhiran Data). While these initiatives are commendable, they require rigorous implementation on the ground, especially in areas with limited infrastructure and varying levels of public awareness.

This study thus seeks to evaluate how PKPU 7/2024 is being implemented in Bitung City, focusing on three critical dimensions: the effectiveness of policy dissemination, the operational capacity of electoral officials, and the impact of local socio-political conditions on policy outcomes. Through qualitative fieldwork and analysis, this research will highlight both the achievements and ongoing challenges in ensuring an accurate and inclusive Voter List in Bitung.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Policy implementation has long been recognized as a critical phase in the policy cycle, bridging the gap between formal policy formulation and practical outcomes. As Edwards III (1980) argues, a well-designed policy can fail if its implementation is ineffective. Four key variables influence the success of implementation: communication, resources, disposition or attitudes, and bureaucratic structure.

Grindle (1980) further refines this understanding by emphasizing two dimensions in policy implementation: the content of the policy and the context in which it is implemented. According to Grindle, successful implementation depends not only on the technical clarity of policy objectives but also on political support, institutional characteristics, and the commitment of implementing actors.

Mazmanian and Sabatier (1983) highlight the role of policy design and structural factors such as inter-agency coordination, legal clarity, and stakeholder engagement. Their analytical framework suggests that clear policy goals, consistent application mechanisms, and strong administrative capacities are essential for implementation success.

In the specific context of electoral governance, voter list management is crucial to electoral integrity. According to International IDEA (2002), transparent and accurate voter lists help prevent fraud, protect voting rights, and foster public trust. Problems in voter registration—such as duplication, inaccuracies, and disenfranchisement—have been identified as recurrent challenges in emerging democracies (Blais, 2010; Yard, 2011).

In Indonesia, the quality of the Voter List has often been questioned, with scholars such as Nuryanti (2017) and Prayudi (2018) noting the lack of coordination between the KPU and population registry offices (Dukcapil) as a major barrier to effective voter data management. These observations underscore the importance of institutional synergy and technical capacity in achieving voter registration goals.

The implementation of PKPU 7/2024 represents a policy attempt to address these shortcomings. It mandates structured procedures for data synchronization, public engagement through door-to-door verification, and the use of technology for efficiency. However, the effectiveness of these mechanisms depends largely on how well they are communicated, resourced, and adapted to local conditions.

METHOD

This study used a descriptive qualitative research design with a case study approach focused on the implementation of PKPU Number 7 of 2024 in Bitung City. Primary data were collected through in-depth interviews with key informants, including election officials, civil registry officers, and election monitors. The study also involved document analysis of policy texts, technical guidelines, and

implementation reports. Data were analyzed using thematic content analysis based on implementation theories by Edward III and Grindle.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The implementation of PKPU Number 7 of 2024 in Bitung City has shown notable progress in improving the quality of voter data. This section presents the findings and analysis from field interviews and document reviews, highlighting how the policy was executed and what outcomes it produced.

One of the main strengths observed in the implementation process was the formation of Voter Data Updating Teams (TPDP) at multiple levels, from the municipal to sub-district units. These teams were responsible for verifying and updating voter information in coordination with the Department of Population and Civil Registration (Dukcapil) and the Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu). Coordination meetings were held monthly to ensure consistency across agencies.

Policy socialization efforts were carried out using diverse methods, including social media campaigns, village-level focus group discussions (FGDs), and direct community outreach via door-to-door visits. These activities significantly enhanced public awareness about the importance of voter list accuracy and encouraged active participation in the verification process. Informants noted a visible increase in voter engagement compared to previous years.

Technological integration also played a vital role. The use of the Socialization and Voter Data Updating System (SSPD) allowed for real-time reporting and data synchronization. Field officers equipped with mobile devices entered voter data into the system, reducing dependency on manual input and minimizing human error.

Despite these advancements, several challenges were encountered. Geographic constraints in rural areas, particularly in the northern and hilly districts of Bitung, limited the mobility of TPDP officers. Moreover, the disparity in digital literacy among both officers and community members affected the optimal use of the SSPD. Limited logistical resources, such as internet access, transport, and data collection tools, also posed operational hindrances.

However, through strong inter-agency collaboration and adaptive strategies, the KPU Bitung successfully reduced the error rate in voter data from 4.2% to 1.8%. This achievement was further bolstered by active monitoring from Bawaslu, which provided continuous feedback to improve implementation. The final Voter List (Daftar Pemilih Tetap/DPT) was praised by observers for its increased accuracy and transparency.

In summary, while the implementation of PKPU 7/2024 in Bitung City encountered typical challenges associated with decentralized governance, its structured approach, institutional collaboration, and technological utilization yielded substantial improvements. The case illustrates that policy implementation is most effective when guided by clear communication, committed personnel, and adaptable systems, consistent with the principles outlined in Edward III's and Grindle's implementation theories.

CONCLUSION

The implementation of the General Election Commission Regulation (PKPU) Number 7 of 2024 in Bitung City demonstrates a proactive approach to enhancing democratic processes through accurate voter list management. The success of this policy implementation can be attributed to the structured formation of TPDPs, inter-institutional coordination, and the strategic use of digital platforms like the SSPD. While obstacles such as digital literacy gaps, logistical limitations, and geographic barriers presented significant hurdles, these were effectively addressed through adaptive strategies and collaborative governance. The reduction in data inaccuracies and increased public participation in the verification process reflect the effectiveness of this implementation model. This study reinforces the importance of policy implementation as a determinant of policy success. The case of Bitung City provides a valuable lesson in how localized administrative innovation, supported by national policy frameworks, can contribute to strengthening electoral integrity in Indonesia.

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