

## THE DANGERS OF POLITICAL MONEY FOR A CLEAN DEMOCRACY PROCESS UP TO ELECTIONS FOR VILLAGE HEADS, REGIONAL HEADS, LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS AND GENERAL ELECTIONS IN INDONESIA

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### ABSTRACT

Elections for Village Heads, Regional Heads, Legislative Elections and General Elections in Indonesia should be carried out without being coloured by political money fraud, because of the dangers of political money for a clean democratic process ahead of the election of village heads, regional heads, legislative elections and general elections in Indonesia 2024, to achieve that power and victory, they used all kinds of methods. And that power will later be used to recover losses due to money politics. For this reason, Money Politics is considered a serious crime in the world of politics that must be fought and eliminated together. Money politics is the biggest enemy of democracy and is a 'bogey' that is familiar with holding elections in Indonesia. In the implementation of post-reform elections, money politics is a violation that is always in the spotlight. Uniquely, both election participants and the public are both involved in money politics circles. To fight the practice of Political Money Towards the Election of Village Heads, Regional Heads, Legislative Elections and General Elections in Indonesia 2024, the role of true politicians is needed who truly understand that the meaning of politics is the art of managing the country and its goal is to create the common good solely for people's welfare. Politics requires good people in it, who have a comparative advantage in the sense of having competence, and at the same time also have a competitive advantage. This is because goodness in politics needs to be fought for until it is transformed into state political policies. The Dangers of Political Money for a Clean Democratic Process Towards the Election of Village Heads, Regional Heads, Legislative Elections and General Elections in Indonesia 2024 will have long-term impacts, which will harm everyone (society), not only harm society as a whole, it can even harm the country, the nation, with various new problems that might occur due to the practice of this money politics. the impact of money politics can also damage the democratic order in a country, so that if it continues it will create new problems in society and even the state and can damage the mentality of the next generation which will have a labour impact on the welfare of society and the progress of a nation in the future. So that the practice of money politics must be stopped immediately because money politics demeans the people; Money Politics Is a Trap for the People; Money Politics Will Lead to Corruption; Money Politics Kills Society's Transformation.

### Keywords:

*The Dangers of Money Politics, Clean Democracy, Election of Village Heads, Regional, Legislative, General Elections, Indonesia 2024.*

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## INTRODUCTION

The provisions of Article 1 paragraph (2) of the 1945 Constitution state that "Sovereignty is in the hands of the people". This shows that the people are positioned as the owner of the highest authority in Indonesia. One manifestation of the people's sovereignty is then manifested through general elections (elections for village heads, regional heads, legislative elections and general elections in Indonesia). Elections are the implementation of the mandate of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia. From a constitutional juridical perspective, elections are explicitly regulated in Article 22E of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia. Elections in Indonesia are interpreted as an effort to realize people's sovereignty which is carried out directly, publicly, freely, confidentially, honestly and fairly (Luber Jurdil) is not money politics, the implementation of which is carried out every 5 (five) years to elect members of the People's Representative Council, Regional Representative Council, President and vice president and Regional People's Representative Council. This constitutional basis provides legitimacy for holding legislative and presidential elections.

Elections are a minimum requirement that must exist for a democratic country. For this reason, Indonesia as a democratic country necessitates holding elections. Even though elections are held to elect different leaders (legislative and executive), one thing is certain the implementation must be carried out in a democratic manner and fraud and manipulation must be avoided.

The implementation of democratic elections is essential. Democratic elections from democratic countries are very important considering the objectives of the election itself are: (a) To open up opportunities for a change of government as well as a moment to test and evaluate the quality of people's support for the successes and shortcomings of the government in power; (b) as a means of absorbing the dynamics of people's aspirations to be identified, articulated, and aggregated over a certain period; and (c) The most important thing is to test the quality of the implementation of the people's sovereignty itself<sup>2</sup>.

Money politics (Money Politics) is one way that is used by a person or group of people to bring down political opponents in ways that are not correct, unethical, lie and misleading<sup>3</sup>. The regulations governing regional elections have not been able to minimize the practice of money politics in regional elections<sup>4</sup>. Apart from that, not a few of the candidate pairs campaigned by making promises to the people such as going to go on a free umrah trip, helping with grief, freeing land and building taxes, which in essence made promises to win the hearts of the people<sup>5</sup>.

The rise of money politics cannot be separated from public perceptions that are permissive or open to money politics<sup>6</sup>. In the democratic process in Indonesia, including democracy at the grassroots level (pilkades), the practice of Money Politics is increasingly widespread. It is considered a normal thing in society because it is not

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<sup>2</sup> Bisariyadi, et al, Comparison of Election Dispute Resolution Mechanisms in Several Countries Adhering to Constitutional Democracy, *Journal of the Constitution*, Vol. 9, Number 3, September 2012, p. 533.

<sup>3</sup> Kadimuddin Baehaki, Failure to Prevent Political Money in Regional Head Elections, *Journal of Filosofia Law Review*, 1 (1) pp. 40-41

<sup>4</sup> Ahmad, A., & Ngilu, N. M. (2020). The Pulse of the Fifth Amendment to the 1945 Constitution through the Involvement of the Constitutional Court as the Principle of the Guardian of the Constitution. *Journal of the Constitution*, 16(4), 785- 808.

<sup>5</sup> Fitriyah, M.A. (2012). The Phenomenon of Money Politics in Pilkada. *Politica: Journal of Political Science*, 3(1), 5-14.

<sup>6</sup> Asnawi, A. (2018). Law Enforcement of Political Crime Legislative General Election Money during the Campaign Period in Serang District. *Justitia Pulpit Law Journal*, 2(2), 765-784

sensitive to the resulting impact. They let it go because they don't feel that normatively money politics is a behaviour that should be avoided.

Why is money politics so dangerous in building a clean democratic process because its role is so damaging, because:<sup>7</sup>

1. Money Politics demeans the people. Certain candidates or parties who use money politics to determine who should be elected in elections have demeaned the dignity of the people. In his opinion, the people's voice and dignity are not comparable to what will be obtained in 5 (five) years.
2. Money Politics is a Trap for the People. Someone who uses money politics to achieve their goals is setting up a trap to trap the people. The people in this case are not invited to jointly fight for the change agenda, but are directed only to win the candidate alone, after the candidate is elected there will be nothing to fight for because the candidate will be busy for 5 years or a certain period to recover all losses.
3. Money Politics Will Lead to Corruption. The rife corruption is a form of misappropriation of the APBN/APBD/APBDs where there is a cooperation between the executive and the legislature. The presence of the legislature with a control or supervisory function does not function optimally, this point is related to the second point above, where the motivation for corruption is to restore losses that have occurred during the campaign where the candidate has committed money politics.
4. Money Politics Kills Society's Transformation. Transformation or change in a society for the better will be hampered, even die if the democratic process is dominated by money politics. The change that is dreamed of will not be achieved because the candidate when he wins, will spend all his energy to restore all the losses that have been incurred during the campaign, especially the losses that occur as a result of buying and selling votes within the framework of money politics.

### **Formulation of the problem**

Based on the background above, the problem formulation in this paper is: The Dangers of Political Money for a Clean Democratic Process Before the Election of Village Heads, Regional Heads, Legislative Elections and General Elections in Indonesia 2024?

### **Research purposes**

Departing from the formulation of the problem above, the purpose of this paper is expected to be able to examine and analyze the Dangers of Political Money for a Clean Democratic Process Ahead of the Election of Village Heads, Regional Heads, Legislative Elections and General Elections in Indonesia 2024.

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<sup>7</sup> Bantennews - Monday 7 Sep 2020 | 06:08 WIB

### **Benefits of research**

The benefits of this research consist of academic, theoretical, and practical benefits, as follows:

1. Academically, this research is useful for the dangers of political money for a clean democratic process ahead of the election of village heads, regional heads, legislative elections and general elections in Indonesia in 2024.
2. Theoretically, this research can enrich the literature in terms of studying the Dangers of Political Money for a Clean Democratic Process before the Election of Village Heads, Regional Heads, Legislative Elections and General Elections in Indonesia 2024.

### **Data collection technique**

#### **Online Data Search / Internet Searching**

Internet searching is a data collection technique through the help of books, journals, theses, dissertations, sources from experts and technology in the form of search tools/engines on the internet where all information from various eras is available in it. Internet searching is very easy to help researchers find a file/data where the speed, completeness and availability of data from various years are available. Searching for data on the internet can be done by searching, browsing, surfing or downloading related matters related to the Dangers of Political Money for a Clean Democratic Process Ahead of Elections for Village Heads, Regional Heads, Legislative Elections and General Elections in Indonesia 2024.

### **Types of Data and Data Collection Techniques**

#### **Data Type**

##### **Secondary Data**

Secondary data is data obtained from secondary sources other than field data such as literature data books, journals, theses, dissertations, sources from experts, magazines, the internet, and the results of previous research. Secondary data is used as a complement to primary data. Secondary data in this study is in the form of data that researchers find on the internet and in books related to matters related to the Dangers of Political Money for a Clean Democratic Process Ahead of Elections for Village Heads, Regional Heads, Legislative Elections and General Elections in Indonesia 2024.

### **Data collection technique**

This research was obtained from various sources, both books, journals, theses, dissertations, sources from experts, online news, media reviews, websites and other sources relevant to the dangers of political money for a democratic process. Clean Ahead of Elections for Village Heads, Regional Heads, Legislative Elections and General Elections in Indonesia 2024.

### **Discussion**

#### **Election of the village, regional, legislative and presidential leaders**

The holding of Village Head Elections/Regional Head Elections/Legislative Elections/Regional Representative Council/Presidential Elections to elect Village, Regional, Legislative and President of the Republic of Indonesia leaders should be carried out fairly is very important, because elections themselves are the main means

for democracy, and as well as the embodiment of the will of the people.

If the implementation of the General Election is coloured with fraudulent practices in it, then the real will of the people will not materialize. Then the indirect goals or objectives of the election in the form of acculturation and institutionalization of politics (including democracy) will not be achieved. (Donald, 1997) One of the most effective ways of placing democracy in a good and correct manner is by upholding a good and correct legal system. Law and democracy must go hand in hand. Democracy without being balanced with good and correct law enforcement will turn into anarchy. Apart from upholding the law, what is no less important in creating a healthy democratic climate is teaching the public about the meaning of democracy itself.<sup>8</sup>

Money politics is the biggest enemy of democracy and is a 'bogey' that is familiar with holding elections in Indonesia. In the implementation of post-reform elections, money politics is a violation that is always in the spotlight. Uniquely, both election participants and the public are both involved in money politics circles<sup>9</sup>.

Edward Aspinall and Mada Sukmajati define money politics as vote buying. According to both, vote buying is defined as the systematic distribution of cash/goods payments from candidates to voters a few days before the election accompanied by the implicit hope that recipients will repay them by voting for the giver<sup>10</sup> Finan and Schechter view vote buying as "offering goods to certain individuals before an election in exchange for their votes"<sup>11</sup>.

Meanwhile, as a young democracy, Indonesia is still vulnerable to money politics. Procedurally, Indonesia has initiated a good consolidation of democracy in line with the implementation of three consecutive post-reform legislative elections, direct presidential and vice-presidential elections and hundreds of post-conflict local elections. at the provincial and district/city levels. However, in fact, the development of democracy in Indonesia has been hampered by the rise of various forms of money politics, including at the grassroots level in the form of buying and selling votes<sup>12</sup>. support the flourishing of money politics.

The facts above confirm what Cornelis Lay said that actually, money politics is not something new in Indonesia. Culturally, money politics is a part of Indonesian politics at the grass-root level while at the top political level, it has become the standard New Order political method in building political support networks which until now has not experienced a shift or fading<sup>13</sup>.

In Law Number 7 of 2017 concerning General Elections, the prohibition regarding money politics has indeed been regulated including threats of sanctions for parties who violate these provisions, but the fact is that money politics always appears and has a strong influence in the implementation of elections. With this in

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<sup>8</sup> Donald, P. (1997). *Claiming the Election*. Jakarta: Sinar Harapan Library.

<sup>9</sup>Allan Fatchan Gani Wardhana, *Money Politics in General Elections: A Study of Democracy and Islamic Perspectives*, Journal Of Islamic And Law Studies, Faculty of Law, Indonesian Islamic University, ISSN: 2656-8683, Vol. 4, No. 2, 2020, DOI: <https://Dx.Doi.Org/10.18592/Jils.V4i2.3812> Pgs 50-54

<sup>10</sup> Edward Aspinall and Mada Sukmajati in *Money Politics in Indonesia: Patronage and Clientelism in the 2014 Election*, PolGov Publisher, Yogyakarta, 2015, p.24.

<sup>11</sup> Burhanuddin Muhtadi, *Power of Money: Money Politics in Post-New Order Elections*, KPG, Jakarta, 2020, p. 261.

<sup>12</sup> Burhanuddin Muhtadi, *Money Politics and Electoral Dynamics in Indonesia: An Initial Study of the Interaction Between Party ID and Patron Clients in the Political Research Journal*, Volume 10 Number 1 June 2013, p.46, accessed via e-journal.politik.lipi.go.id.

<sup>13</sup> Cornelis Lay, *Political Involution of Indonesian Transitional Essays*, Postgraduate Program (S2) Local Politics and Regional Autonomy, Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta, 2006, p.77.

mind, it is not impossible that election products will give birth to leaders who are not trustworthy and only oriented towards money so they have the potential to commit corruption and abuse of authority.

Sri Hastuti Puspitasari said that money politics in elections actually reflects a lack of confidence, worry, unpreparedness, and greed of candidates in political battles. What should be put forward in elections is the quality and competence of candidates, how they capture important issues in society and their concern for the interests of society which are not made instantly. Money politics as a "tribute" to prospective rulers to the people who own votes is a form of duping that will be abandoned by voters who will become more educated, intelligent and rational in the future.<sup>14</sup> The existence of the phenomenon of money politics is clearly very detrimental to the spirit of realizing democratic and accountable elections.

Based on the background above, there is only one problem formulation that is the focus of this study, taking the title *The Dangers of Political Money for a Clean Democratic Process Prior to the Election of Village Heads, Regional Heads, Legislative Elections and General Elections in Indonesia 2024*.

### **Money Politics (Money Politics)**

Money politics is an attempt to bribe voters by providing money or services so that voter preferences can be given to a bribe.<sup>15</sup>

This behaviour of money politics will produce a phenomenon of clientelism and patronage. Clientelism is a form of exchange that is personal in nature with the characteristics of obligations and power relations that occur unequally between them. In addition, it is marked by patron activities that provide access for clients in the form of certain means. Thus forming a pattern of mutual exchange relationships that are mutually beneficial.<sup>16</sup>

As for the purpose of money politics according to Aspinall (2019), patronage is profit sharing among politicians and distributing something individually to voters, workers or campaigners. The goal is to gain political support from them.

The practice of money politics in elections will create a corrupt public official. The basis for corruption in government is the general election/regional head election process which is dominated by the practice of money politics. The result is a high political cost. Therefore, the way to prevent corruption can be started by providing political education about money politics<sup>17</sup>.

### **Setting Money Politics in the General Election Law**

The provisions of Article 1 paragraph (2) of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia state that "Sovereignty is in the hands of the people". This shows that the people are positioned as the owner of the highest authority in Indonesia. One form of people's sovereignty is then manifested through general

<sup>14</sup> Sri Hastuti Puspitasari, *Oversight of Election Problems and Challenges*, DIY Province Bawaslu, Yogyakarta, 2014, p. 99-100.

<sup>15</sup>Aspinall, E., & Sukmajati, M. (2015). *Money Politics in Indonesia: Patronage and Clientelism in 2014 Legislative Elections* <https://polgov.fisipol.ugm.ac.id/buku/politik-uang-di-indonesia-patronase-dan-klietelisme-pada-pemilu-legislatif-2014>

<sup>16</sup>Aspinall, E., & Hicken, A. (2019). *Guns for Hire and Enduring Machines: Clientelism Beyond Parties in Indonesia and the Philippines*. *Journal Democratization* 27(1): 137–156.

<sup>17</sup> Political Education in Prevention of Money Politics through Village Community Movements, Moch Edward Trias Pahlevi, Azka Abdi Amrurrobbi, *Political Education in Prevention of Money Politics through Village Community Movements*, INTEGRITY: Journal of Anti-Corruption, 6 (1), 141-152 e-ISSN/p- ISSN: 2615-7977/2477-118X DOI: <https://doi.org/10.32697/integritas.v6i1.611> Yogyakarta Muhammadiyah University Gadjah Mada University Page 145.

elections. Elections are the implementation of the mandate of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia. From a constitutional juridical perspective, elections are explicitly regulated in Article 22E of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia. Elections in Indonesia are interpreted as an effort to realize people's sovereignty which is carried out directly, publicly, freely, confidentially, honestly and fairly (*Luber Jurdil*) once every five years to elect members of the People's Legislative Council, the Regional Representatives Council, the president and vice president and the Regional People's Representative Council. This constitutional basis provides legitimacy for holding legislative and presidential elections.

Elections are a minimum requirement that must exist for a democratic country. For this reason, Indonesia as a democratic country necessitates holding elections. Even though elections are held to elect different leaders (executive Election of Village Heads, Regional Heads, Legislative/legislative Elections and General Elections in Indonesia 2024), one thing is certain the implementation must be carried out in democratic ways and fraud must be avoided and manipulation.

The implementation of democratic elections is essential. Democratic elections from democratic countries are very important considering the objectives of the election itself are: (a) To open up opportunities for a change of government as well as a moment to test and evaluate the quality of people's support for the successes and shortcomings of the government in power; (b) as a means of absorbing the dynamics of people's aspirations to be identified, articulated, and aggregated over a certain period of time; and (c) The most important thing is to test the quality of the implementation of the people's sovereignty itself.<sup>18</sup>

According to Jimly Ashiddiqie, the purpose of holding elections is to allow for an orderly and peaceful transition of government leadership; to enable the replacement of officials who will represent the interests of the people in representative institutions; implement the principle of popular sovereignty and the principle of human rights of citizens.<sup>19</sup> As for guaranteeing the objectives of the election, a legal product was born in the form of an Election Law. The Election Law is used as the rules of the game in organizing and implementing elections. This rule of the game is clearly important for the creation of an election that is *Luber Jurdil*. The main basis for realizing democratic elections is implementing and enforcing these rules.

In the General Election Law (currently using Law Number 7 of 2017 concerning General Elections), there are 5 (five) articles that regulate money politics. In detail, the arrangements regarding money politics can be seen in the following table:

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<sup>18</sup> Bisariyadi, et al, Comparison of Election Dispute Resolution Mechanisms in Several Countries Adhering to Constitutional Democracy, *Journal of the Constitution*, Vol. 9, Number 3, September 2012, p. 533.

<sup>19</sup>Jimly Asshiddiqie, *Introduction to Constitutional Law*. Print 3, Rajawali Press, Jakarta, 2011, pp. 414.

No.	Article	Sound	No	Article	Sound
1	286 paragraph 1	Candidate pairs, candidates for members of the DPR, DPD, Provincial DPRD, Regency/City DPRD, campaign organizers and/or campaign teams are prohibited from promising and/or giving money or other materials to influence Election Organizers and/or Voters Note: The above violations qualify as administrative violations and does not eliminate the criminal elements as well.	4	523 Verse (2) j.o 278 paragraph (2)	Every election campaign executor, participant and/or team who intentionally promises or provides monetary or other material rewards to voters directly or indirectly as referred to in Article 278 paragraph (2) shall be subject to criminal penalties. maximum imprisonment of 4 (four) years and a maximum fine of Rp. 48,000,000.00 (forty-eight million rupiahs)
2	515	Setiap orang yang dengan sengaja Anyone who deliberately during voting promises or gives money or other materials to voters not to use their right to vote or to vote for certain election contestants or to exercise their right to vote in a certain way so that their ballot papers are invalid, shall be punished with imprisonment for a maximum of 3 (three) years and a maximum fine of Rp. 36,000,000.00 (thirty-six million rupiah).	5	523 Paragraph (3)	Any person who on voting day deliberately promises or gives money or other materials to voters not to exercise their right to vote or to vote for certain election contestants shall be subject to imprisonment for a maximum of 3 (three) years and a fine of up to Rs. 36,000,000.00 (thirty-six million rupiahs).
3	523 Verse (1) j.o 280 verse (1) letter j	Every election campaign operator, participant, and/or team who intentionally promises or gives money or other materials as compensation to election campaign participants directly or indirectly as referred to in Article 280 paragraph (1) letter j shall be subject to imprisonment for a maximum 2 (two) years and a maximum fine of Rp. 24,000,000.00			

No.	Article	Sound	No	Article	Sound
		(twenty-four million rupiahs)			

Source: Law Number 7 of 2017 concerning General Elections

### **The Dangers of Money Politics, The Mother of Corruption**

Every time an election approaches, candidates for regional heads or members of the legislature make sweet promises to the people<sup>20</sup>. Not infrequently some of them spread out envelopes filled with money or food parcels. Consciously they have committed money politics, a corrupt practice that will lead to other types of corruption<sup>21</sup>.

Money politics (money politics) is an attempt to influence the choice of voters (voters) or election organizers in return for material or otherwise. From this understanding, money politics is a form of bribery.

This practice eventually gave rise to leaders who only cared about personal and group interests, not the people who voted for them. He feels obligated to seek benefits from his position, one of which is to return the capital that has gone out in the campaign.

Finally, after taking office, he will commit various frauds, accept bribes, gratuities or other corruption in various forms. It is not surprising that money politics is referred to as the "mother of corruption".

Amir Arief, Director of the Socialization and Anti-Corruption Campaign at the KPK, said that money politics has made politics expensive. In addition to buying and selling votes (vote buying), candidates also have to pay political dowries to parties with fantastic nominal values.

Of course, it's not just his own money, but donations from various parties who expect reciprocity if he is finally elected. This behaviour is commonly called investive corruption, or investment for corruption. "From our study, success in elections or regional elections is 95.5% influenced by the power of money, most of it is also to finance political dowries. Contestants must spend Rp. 5-15 billion per person for this."

### **Dawn Attack**

<sup>20</sup>Even though the provisions of the Election Law already regulate the prohibition of money politics as mentioned above (including threats of sanctions for parties who violate these articles), the practice of money politics still exists. It takes strategic and collective steps from all stakeholders to prevent the practice of money politics. Various existing regulations must be supported by the mentality to fight against money politics.

- (1) These preventive efforts include making the public aware of the dangers of money politics in elections. In dealing with money politics, there must be open resistance from all components of society that are committed to getting quality elections. Don't tolerate the appeal of "accept the money, but don't vote for the political party". Maintaining this appeal is the same as allowing political crimes and it must be conveyed that money politics is a crime. Then the community collaborated with Bawaslu, to carry out participatory supervision of the implementation of the Election Campaign. Action must be taken immediately if money politics does occur, which incidentally constitutes an election crime.
- (2) Another effort is to maximize the role of the press in supervising the implementation of elections. Its basis is Article 6 of Law Number 40 of 1999 concerning the Press that the national press carries out its role, among others, upholding the basic values of democracy, encouraging the establishment of the rule of law and human rights, supervising, criticizing, correcting and making suggestions on matters that relating to the public interest and fighting for justice and truth. What the press can do in relation to money politics is to participate in overseeing the running of elections by covering every case that occurs. The press can be a watchdog in holding elections.

<sup>21</sup>Aksi-formasi/<https://aclc.kpk.go.id/> Be aware of the dangers of money politics, the mother of corruption, accessed on March 10 2024, at 12.07 WIB.

One of the most common types of vote buying is known as the "dawn attack". Using terms from the history of the Indonesian revolution, the dawn attack is the giving of money to voters in an area before voting is held. Dawn attacks are sometimes carried out at dawn before the election, or even a few days before.

Politics is expensive mostly to buy votes, vote buying. There is such a thing as the 'dawn attack', sometimes it is also called the 'dhuha attack'. Voters will be properly escorted so that their voices are actually used to elect someone.

In this book, even ahead of the 2024 Election, it is stated that vote buying is a practice that is carried out systematically, involves a complicated voter list, and is carried out with the aim of obtaining a large target vote. It is called systematic because there was a massive mobilization of the team to collect data and distribute thousands of cash envelopes, as well as guerrilla warfare to ensure that the recipients really voted for the envelope givers. The Fajar attack has been carried out since the New Order era and seems to be part of Indonesia's democratic process. This is evidenced by the LIPI (Indonesian Institute of Sciences) survey in 2019 which stated that the public views the democratic party as an event for "sharing fortune".

The survey found that 40% of respondents admitted to receiving money from election participants, but did not consider voting for them. While % receives money and considers choosing a giver.

Not only from the side of society but from the side of politicians, the dawn attack has built a bad democratic tradition. Politicians consider vote buying to be something commonplace, it must be done in order to beat their rivals in the election. "A prisoner's dilemma ensued between the candidates. They were worried that their competitor would carry out a dawn attack, so he did the same.

### **Money Politics Not Only Elections but also Village Head Elections**

Jakarta - President Joko Widodo (Jokowi) called money politics a disease in every election event. The Golkar Party agrees that the practice of money politics is a problem, so there needs to be a big role for election supervisors<sup>22</sup>.

Ace assesses that this practice has the potential to undermine the democratic system because people can be influenced by the amount of money bribed into making their choices. "Money politics has the potential to damage a quality democratic system. People vote not because of the quality of the legislative candidates, but how much money is given to voters. Or in terms, **of wani piro**.

Development Association Party (PPP): Money Politics is Like Farts, Smells But Its Form Is Not Recognized Therefore, Ace asked the election supervisor, namely Bawaslu, to be able to anticipate the practice of money politics. In addition, he continued, the public also needs to be educated about the dangers of this practice.

"Election organizers must be able to anticipate the potential for money politics to spread, especially the Bawaslu. Likewise, the public must be given an understanding of the dangers of money politics for the quality of our democracy. "Indeed, we must distinguish between money politics and political costs. Every political event definitely needs money. For public meetings, outreach, installation of

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<sup>22</sup> Amir Arief <https://aclc.kpk.go.id/>, Director of Socialization and Anti-Corruption Campaign for the Corruption Eradication Committee, said that money politics has caused politics to be expensive, accessed on March 10, 2024, at 12.56 WIB.

campaign attributes and others. Therefore, it is necessary to strictly monitor the practice of money politics. Including enforcing the rule of law for the perpetrators.

The Prosperous Justice Party (PKS) Agree with Jokowi on Money Politics: Why Democracy Is Expensive Furthermore, Ace confirmed that his political parties want an election process that is free from money politics. According to him, the important thing that must be put forward is the ideas and programs of each election contestant.

"The Golkar Party wants to put forward clean elections. Elections that produce quality and competent representatives of the people. We want to put forward ideas and programs in that election. So that voters make their choices based on rational preferences and put forward ideas and programs as well as offers.

President Jokowi previously discussed money politics as an election disease. Jokowi believes that this practice must exist in every general election. "Money politics has become a disease in every election, there must be<sup>23</sup> .

Jokowi's statement was made while attending the Bawaslu National Consolidation event ahead of the 2024 Election. Jokowi said that the practice of money politics was always seen based on his experience in participating in elections, starting at the regional election level to the presidential election. "If someone says, 'Nothing, sir. It's gone, sir. I'm in the field every day. I've participated in regional elections, the mayoral election twice, the governor election twice because of two rounds, and the presidential election twice. So if there are those who argue that it doesn't exist, I'll tell you what it is, there is.

### **The Dangers of Money Politics: The DPR Is Only Filled With Deep Pockets**

Jakarta - DPR Speaker Bambang Soesatyo (Bamsot) spoke about the dangers of money politics that stalk the Indonesian people in every election event. He said only those with deep pockets could occupy the soft seat of leadership<sup>24</sup> .

Initially, Bamsot explained Indonesia's condition after the 2019 election (even ahead of the 2024 election)<sup>25</sup> . "We have just completed an extraordinary national political agenda. This is the most complicated election, not only in Indonesia but in the world. Imagine, it was completed well, even though there were a few ripples but it could be completed<sup>26</sup>.

### **The Potential for Corruption in the Village: Money-Direct Politics**

Jakarta - KPK talked about the potential for corruption that occurs at the village level. KPK Director of Education and Community Services, Giri Supradiono, said that the cause of corruption at the village level is one of the irrational political costs.<sup>27</sup> . "Then does the village also become an inspiration for corruption because of

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<sup>23</sup> Firda Cynthia Anggrainy, <https://news.detik.com/pemilu/d-6469148/golkar-politik-uang-tak-only-pemilu-tapi-juga-pemiluan-head-desa>, accessed on 10 March 2024, at 12.08 WIB.

<sup>24</sup>DPR Speaker Bambang Soesatyo (Bamsot) spoke about the dangers of money politics that stalk the Indonesian nation at every election event at the Grand Cempaka Hotel, Jakarta, Saturday (24/8/2019), accessed on March 10, 2024, at 12.20 WIB

<sup>25</sup>Golkar DPP Chair Ace Hasan Syadzily, Golkar: Money Politics Not Only Elections but also Elections for Village Heads told journalists, Monday (19/12/2022), accessed on 10 March 2024, at 12.10 WIB.

<sup>26</sup>Matthew Alfons, <https://news.detik.com/berita/d-4679349/bamsot-talk-bahaya-politik-uang-dpr-only-diisi-orang-kantong-tebal>, accessed on March 10, 2024, at 12.15 WIB.

<sup>27</sup>Giri in an online discussion on the causes of corruption at the village level, one of the irrational political costs of the 'Village Cultural Congress', Wednesday, 1/7/2020Aspinall, E., & Sukmajati, M. (2015). Money Politics in Indonesia: Patronage and Clientelism in 2014 Legislative Elections

the village head's money politics? In fact, the source of the problem is irrational politics.<sup>28</sup> Irrational political costs arise because of the culture of money politics during village head elections. This is because, he said, these village head candidates usually have to pay quite a lot to get a vote.

Head of Village Dies, Treasurer Becomes Suspect of Village Fund Corruption in Pasuruan

"I used to think that corruption started in the village. When villagers elect a village head, they have to pay one vote starting at Rp. 50,000, Rp. 25,000. We can even see online the phenomenon that the price of one vote in Sumenep is at least Rp. 1 million. The Grobogan Pilkada cost Rp. 1 million. So imagine when it was only Rp. 50,000 in my time, now it is Rp. 1 million, how the village used to do money politics.

Even when they were elected, these village heads did not receive a salary. Giri said it was this factor that made the village head do anything to recover the political costs that had been incurred.

"The village head doesn't have a salary, he's only paid with Bengkok. Bengkok, which is basically for village development, is then associated as belonging to the village head himself, so the value is that if you harvest rice 3 times a year, the figure is Rp. 300 million. If he spends Rp. 1 billion, there is a profit. a little bit, that's from crooked and other sources that come from APBDs.

In addition, Giri said that opportunities for corruption could occur because there was a budget game in village funds. He said there had to be supervision so that corruption would not occur and undermine the funds that should have been earmarked for village development. "Then he thought, wow now there are quite a few village funds, now there is quite a bit of financing from the centre which is starting to think about corruption. So of course this is our homework, sir. Because like BOS, the village head's mind sometimes starts to break from teaching now he thinks of light steel for the roof of the school with all kinds of cement. This is the homework that we solve together because the challenges in the village are different from before.

Traces of fugitive corruption Rp. 1.2 billion in village funds, resigned from civil servant to become a taxi driver. Not only that, he said the lack of appreciation for political officials at the village head to RW level was also a problem. Giri then compared the salary income of the village head with that of other regional head officials.

"The regent's salary is Rp. 6.5 million, the governor is Rp. 8.5 million, the president is Rp. 69 million, the vice president is Rp. 40 million. Which is not worth comparing and the process when he was elected. This country should think about village heads at least being paid enough." we asked the City of Surabaya, the lurah's salary is Rp. 30 million there, sir. The sub-district head can get Rp. 50 million, but what about in the villages? So what happened was that the village head from the election of money politics made an effort and then undermined the behaviour of the village community itself.

Giri said that this problem is now the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK)'s homework together with the government and related agencies. Because it is

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<sup>28</sup>2 Kadimuddin Baehaki, The Failure to Prevent Political Money in Regional Head Elections, *Journal of Filosofia Law Review*, 1 (1) pp. 50-54

known, 36 per cent of corruption actors handled by the KPK are political cadres. "This is why we think that 36% of the corruptors detained by the KPK are political cadres. Regional heads are one of them. This is our joint homework. And this political figure influences our corruption perceptions index number.

### **Bad Effects of Money Politics**

If Money Politics continues to be entrenched at the time when the democratic party for Village Head Elections, Regional Heads, Legislative Elections and General Elections in Indonesia is held in 2024, then it can be predicted that the world of Indonesian politics will become increasingly damaged and will become a reality. Democracy will only be a bridge for the mediocre, namely those who do not have sufficient achievements to reach power. In fact, it is very possible that democracy will be used by those who have a strong desire to control the country's assets. Because of that, they use all kinds of ways to gain power. And that power will later be used to restore losses due to money politics. For this reason, Money Politics is considered a serious crime in the world of politics that must be fought and eliminated together. creating the common good solely for the welfare of the people. Politics requires good people in it, who have a comparative advantage in the sense of having competence, and at the same time also have a competitive advantage. This is because goodness in politics needs to be fought for until it is transformed into state political policies.

This long-term loss has not been realized by the community so far because the loss has not been felt directly, this is also due to the lack of awareness that the community has as a result of the low quality of education from the community itself, and ultimately causes the community to have less knowledge, especially political education and finally caused the community to have a pragmatic and indifferent attitude towards the government, thus ignoring the long-term impacts caused by the practice of money politics carried out in the election of village heads, regional heads, legislative/legislative elections and general elections in Indonesia 2024.

Besides that, the impact of the practice of money politics during the Election of Village Heads, Regional Heads, Legislative Elections and General Elections in Indonesia 2024 on the economic aspect, if a regional head who is elected for carrying out money politics has the potential to (a) collect money to replace the money spent during Pilkades/Pilwu, both legally and illegally, for example: (1) deducting operational costs for each Village work unit, office, and places of authority, (2) corrupting village project money, (3) and other services such as permits for celebrations, weddings, making ID Cards (KTP)/Family Cards (KK)/Birth Certificates/Business Certificates and others become expensive.

Money politics or money politics is very dangerous for democracy in Indonesia. Besides that, it will produce low-quality leaders, and money politics will also weaken politicians and democratic institutions themselves, the practice of money politics (money politics) is like a "parasite/poison" in a democracy which must be eradicated.

Following are some of the consequences of cultivating Money Politics in the democratic system in Indonesia:

a. **Money Politics Degrades People's Dignity**

Lowering the dignity of the people occurs due to the lack of respect for human rights. Legislative candidates give a sum of money hoping that the people who receive it will vote for them during elections (presidential, legislative,

governor/regent/mayor/pilkades), this is a violation of human rights. This is stated in the 1945 Constitution article 28E paragraph (2) which reads: "Every person has the right to freedom of belief, express thoughts and attitudes, according to his conscience. (The 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia)". On the basis that they have received money from the candidates, at the end they have to choose a candidate that is not in accordance with their conscience, but because it is on the basis of gratitude to the candidates for Village Heads, Regional Heads, Legislative/legislative Elections and General Elections in Indonesia 2024 who have helped them to meet their needs.

b. Money Politics is a Trap for the People

Someone who uses money politics as a way to achieve their goals is actually setting up a trap to trap the people. In this case, the people are not invited to jointly fight for the change agenda but are oriented only to win the candidate alone. After the candidate is elected, there is nothing to fight for because the candidate will be busy for 6 (six) years or a certain period collecting rupiah coffers in order to return all the losses that have been disbursed to bribe voters.

c. Money Politics Kills Political Regeneration.

Political regeneration will slowly be useless if money politics occurs in elections. The candidate will not feel burdened to the voters because he thinks that his success in winning a political seat is the result of buying and selling votes. As a consequence the candidate will be preoccupied with maintaining his power in that position and will continue to advance as a candidate in the next period rather than fighting for the interests of the people.

Political resources and funds that have been collected will be used for self-interest from period to period. This is where the erosion of the cadre function occurs because the candidate will not easily let go of the power he has won because there are no cadres he has prepared. We can find various pieces of evidence in various regions where a member of the legislature remains in that position for several periods, even dies in a position as an active member of the legislature.

d. Money Politics Will Lead to Corruption.

The corruption that is rife is a form of misappropriation of the regional budget where there is a cooperation between the executive and the legislature. The presence of the legislature which has a control or supervisory function cannot function optimally. This point is related to the second point, where the motivation for corruption is to restore losses incurred during the campaign where the candidate used money politics to buy people's votes.

e. Money Politics Kills Society's Transformation.

Transformation or change in a society for the better will be hampered if the democratic system is always dominated by money politics. The changes expected will be difficult to materialize because the candidate, when successful, will spend all his energy and mind to recover all the losses that have been incurred during the campaign, especially the losses incurred as a result of buying and selling votes within the framework of Money Politics. The candidate obviously will not feel burdened because he thinks that he has bought votes and that the poor condition of society is not his concern.

### **Reject Money Politics, Break the Shackles of Corruption**

It has been understood that various types of corruption are derivatives of money politics. Therefore, eradicating corruption in Indonesia will not be complete if money politics as the root cause of corruption cannot be overcome.

Anti-corruption education is important so that people can resist the attacks of the dawn. With this rejection, it is hoped that the chain of corruption that shackles this country can be broken. "If the KPK and other law enforcement officials can cut the chain of political corruption, then around 66-70%, corruption can be prevented or significantly reduced<sup>29</sup>.

The public must realize that they have been risking their fortunes for five years by selling their voices at a very low price. "For example, if you receive an envelope containing Rp. 500,000 to vote for someone with no integrity. It means that the people's vote for five years is only valued at Rp. 100,000 per year, or Rp. 275 silver per day." If only the people knew that their road had not been repaired, schools are not built, access to health is poor, stunting, and all their basic needs are not met by leaders who only have money,".

Based on these facts, education is an important capital in fighting corruption. That is why the KPK launched the Trisula strategy, namely education, prevention and prosecution to eradicate corruption. With good anti-corruption education, intelligent people will be able to choose leaders who are of good quality and integrity." Choose those with integrity, not the contents of the bag.

Whether money politics is recognized or not is a very frightening spectre for the democratic process in Indonesia. Politics and money are two different things but cannot be separated from one another because to do politics one needs money and with money, one can do politics. This is because politics is a very lucrative arena to carry out various kinds of transactions. Money politics is also not new to the existing democratic system in Indonesia because, since the beginning of direct elections, practices like this have been going on. So of course you have to watch out for it together.

Prevention of political money in village head elections, regional head elections, legislative member elections and the 2024 presidential election is carried out through<sup>30</sup> : preventing the practice of money politics through political education with the concept of pre-emptive efforts.

The concept is in the form of initial efforts by carrying out awareness efforts for the community through the declaration of the Anti-Money Politics Village (APU) and forming the APU Village team whose task is to carry out political literacy or provide information on political socialization related to understanding democracy in society. The APU Village Team collaborates with Bawaslu, a religious organization in the local area. They took part in socializing the dangers of money politics by taking advantage of local residents' forums. This political education aims to make people aware that money politics has a long-term negative impact on people. In addition, money politics will create political corruption in the future.

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<sup>29</sup> Wuryono Prakoso, [https://aclc.kpk.go.id/Head of the Task Force for the KPK Anti-Corruption Socialization and Campaign Directorate](https://aclc.kpk.go.id/Head%20of%20the%20Task%20Force%20for%20the%20KPK%20Anti-Corruption%20Socialization%20and%20Campaign%20Directorate), accessed on March 10, 2024, at 12.58 WIB

<sup>30</sup> Political Education in Prevention of Money Politics through Village Community Movements, Moch Edward Trias Pahlevi, Azka Abdi Amrullohi, Political Education in Prevention of Money Politics through Village Community Movements, INTEGRITY: Journal of Anti-Corruption, 6 (1), 141-152 e-ISSN/p- ISSN: 2615-7977/2477-118X DOI: <https://doi.org/10.32697/integritas.v6i1.611> Yogyakarta Muhammadiyah University Gadjah Mada University Pages 149-151

These pre-emptive and preventive efforts are considered effective by looking at the data from research conducted by the UMY Department of Government Science (2019). The data shows that 45% of voters in the APU Village community understand that money politics is part of a bribery and is prohibited from a religious perspective as well as from a moral perspective. Furthermore, 50% of voters in APU Village, Special Region of Yogyakarta, said they chose candidates based on the program. In addition, 32% chose candidates based on those who had helped in daily social life or who were known by the socially active community in their environment. So actually in tackling the practice of money politics it is necessary to have a touch of good political education in village communities so that people understand their rights and obligations as good citizens.

### **The Ideal Strategy for Oversight of Political Money Prevention in Regional Head Elections**

The Strategy for Monitoring the Prevention of Political Money that must be carried out includes:<sup>31</sup>

In the legal field, the target of enforcement and legal awareness of the prohibition of committing money politics during regional head elections focuses more on quality law enforcement. However, the achievements have not been able to improve effective efforts to prevent and eradicate the practice of Political Money. Because there are still many violations related to Political Money in regional head elections.

The strategy for preventing money politics in this study is seen from the aspects of strengthening institutions, law, and related stakeholders. The process of preventing money politics can begin before, during and after elections are held. Prevention that can be done to support the effectiveness of supervision is as follows:

1. Tighten supervision by adding members to the ward/village Election Oversight /Panwaslu

The implementation of regional head elections resulted in records that need to be paid attention to in the implementation of regional head elections in the future, including the widespread practice of money politics and the low level of public awareness of the prohibition of committing money politics, in addition to that, the supervision carried out by the village supervisory committee is still weak to prevent the occurrence of Money Politics practice. Based on this, it is undeniable that the target in carrying out Money Politic actions is the village community whose level of awareness is still low about the prohibition of carrying out Money Politic actions. Therefore what needs to be addressed is to tighten supervision at the village level. However, the problem with tightening the oversight function is that the number of Panwaslu members stationed in the village is very minimal, namely, only 1 (one) a person based on Article 92 number (4) of Law Number 7 of 2017 concerning General Elections. So it can be judged that in carrying out supervision in the village of money politics activities are not running effectively.

2. Strengthening the Rule of Law through Criminal and Administrative

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<sup>31</sup> Kadimuddin Baehaki, The Failure to Prevent Political Money in Regional Head Elections, Journal of Filosofia Law Review, 1 (1) pp. 50-54

### Sanctions

Regulations related to money politics, namely Law Number 10 of 2016, and Law Number 1 of 2015 stipulate that political parties or coalitions of political parties are prohibited from receiving compensation in any form in the nomination process for Governor, Mayor or Regent. Regulations in the Pilkada law do not only provide criminal sanctions for people who practice money politics, but also administrative ones. Violators are prohibited from nominating regional head/deputy head candidates for the next period. Another sanction is the annulment of the determination of the elected candidate, the appointed regional head.

#### 2. Increasing the Capacity and Effectiveness of Government Institutions (Infrastructure and Superstructure)

- a. The DPR must make clear related regulations regarding sanctions for violations of regional head elections, especially in the practice of money politics. Provide clear, firm and indiscriminate sanctions for perpetrators of money politics.
- b. The Judiciary Institution determines the effectiveness of law enforcement by increasing the integration of work between law enforcers, increasing the ability to work between law enforcement officials, increasing the ability to master the law, and juridical skills, increasing moral integrity, professionalism, the necessary facilities and infrastructure.
- c. Improving the effectiveness of the function of the press and increasing the role of universities in political education.
- d. Increasing the Role of Community Organizations, and Increasing the effectiveness of internal oversight institutions (inspectorate), external oversight (Bawaslu) and the Ethics Council of Election Organizers.

#### 3. Increasing public awareness of the dangers of money politics

Not everyone knows what politics is, how it is formed, and what comes out of politics, all of this can be caused by a lack of learning about politics in schools or the people themselves who are indifferent to politics in Indonesia so that when there are political parties such as post-conflict local elections and elections, the community will be indifferent to the election. Don't know the party, don't know the regional head candidate, don't matter, don't even come to the election, even though it's not a problem.

Conditions like this led to the rise of Money Politics. people who are indifferent to elections easily accept gifts from election participants and if they do not receive gifts of money or goods from prospective candidates are more likely not to participate in participation (Golput). People who are in the weak economic strata tend to also have minimal political education and this further exacerbates the meaning of democracy because they feel that everything is important to do if it produces results and vice versa if it does not produce it it is not important for them even if it is a candidate. Village Heads, Regional Heads, Legislative/legislative Elections and General Elections in Indonesia 2024, it is better for them not to participate (Golput).

### CONCLUSION

Based on the description above, it can be concluded, among others:

1. Money politics is the biggest enemy of democracy and is a "scourge" that is familiar with holding elections in Indonesia. In post-reform elections, money politics is a violation that is always in the spotlight. Uniquely, both election participants and the public are both involved in money politics circles. Meanwhile, as a young democracy, Indonesia is still vulnerable to money politics. In Law Number 7 of 2017 concerning General Elections, the prohibition regarding money politics has indeed been regulated including threats of sanctions for parties who violate these provisions, but the fact is that money politics always appears and has a strong influence in the implementation of elections.
2. The holding of the Pilkades/Wuju elections should be carried out fairly is very important, because elections themselves are the main instrument for democracy, and at the same time the embodiment of the will of the people. If the implementation of the General Election is coloured with fraudulent practices in it, then the real will of the people will not materialize. Then the indirect goals or objectives of the election in the form of acculturation and institutionalization of politics (including democracy) will not be achieved.
3. One of the most effective ways to position democracy properly and correctly is by upholding a good and correct legal system. Law and democracy must go hand in hand. Democracy without being balanced with good and correct law enforcement will turn into anarchy. Apart from upholding the law, what is equally important in creating a healthy democratic climate is teaching the public lessons about the meaning of democracy itself.
4. If money politics continues to grow, then the prediction that Indonesia's political world will become increasingly damaged will become a reality. Democracy will only be a bridge for the mediocre, namely those who do not have sufficient achievements to reach power. It is very possible that democracy will be used by those who have a strong desire to control the country's assets. Because of that, they use all kinds of ways to gain power. And that power will later be used to restore losses due to money politics.
5. Money Politics is considered a serious crime in the political world that must be fought and eliminated together. the common good solely for the welfare of the people. Politics requires good people in it, who have a comparative advantage in the sense of having competence, and at the same time also have a competitive advantage. This is because goodness in politics needs to be fought for until it is transformed into state political policies.

As for some of the consequences of cultivating Money Politics in the democratic system in Indonesia:

- a. Money Politics Degrades People's Dignity.  
Legislative candidates or certain parties who use money politics to buy people's voting rights have degraded the dignity of the people. The voice and dignity of their people are valued in money whose actual value will never be comparable to what they will get for the next 5 years. This process is a form of duping the public because the people are deceived by exploiting their right to vote only for their momentary interests.
- b. Money Politics is a Trap for the People.  
Someone who uses money politics as a way to achieve their goals is setting up a trap to trap the people. After the candidate is elected, there is nothing to fight for because the candidate will be busy for 5 years or a certain period

- collecting rupiah coffers to return all the losses that have been disbursed to bribe voters.
- c. Money Politics Kills Political Regeneration.  
Political regeneration will slowly be useless if money politics occurs in elections. The candidate will not feel burdened to the voters because he thinks that his success in winning a political seat is the result of buying and selling votes. as a consequence the candidate will be preoccupied with maintaining his power in that position and will continue to advance as a candidate in the next period rather than fighting for the interests of the people.
  - d. Money Politics Will Lead to Corruption.  
The rife corruption is a form of misappropriation of the regional budget where there is cooperation between the executive and the legislature.
  - e. Money Politics Kills Society's Transformation.  
Transformation or change in a society for the better will be hampered if the democratic system is always dominated by money politics. when the candidate is successful, he will spend all his energy and mind to recover all the losses that have been incurred during the campaign, especially the losses incurred as a result of buying and selling votes within the framework of Money Politics.

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