
The Existence and Role of the General Election Supervisory Committee (Panwaslu) of Cigemblong District as the Organizer of the 2024 Simultaneous General Election

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ARTICLE INFORMATION	ABSTRACT
<p>Article History: Received August 01, 2024 Revised August 28, 2024 Accepted September 20, 2024 Published October 31, 2024</p> <p>Keywords: Existence, Role, Election Supervisory Committee, General Election, Electoral Oversight</p> <p>*Corresponding Author: sitihumaeroh@unmabanten.ac.id</p> <p>DOI: https://doi.org/10.60036/1wz4d736</p>	<p>This study aims to analyze the existence and role of the Election Supervisory Committee (Panwaslu) of Cigemblong District in the implementation of the 2024 Simultaneous General Election. A descriptive qualitative method with a field research approach was employed. Data were collected through observation, interviews, and documentation involving nine informants, including election organizers, supporters, and community members. Purposive sampling was used to select knowledgeable respondents, while data analysis involved reduction, presentation, and conclusion drawing. The results show that Panwaslu of Cigemblong District holds a significant existence within the sub-district election administration structure. Its presence is recognized by the community due to its active role in supervising each election stage, responding to reported violations, and maintaining communication with local stakeholders. Nevertheless, Panwaslu still faces challenges related to limited human resources and logistical support, affecting the effectiveness of supervision. The study highlights the importance of strengthening institutional capacity and professional competence to enhance the integrity and accountability of election oversight in future elections.</p>

INTRODUCTION

General elections (elections) are one of the main pillars in the modern democratic system, because they are the main means for the people to channel their sovereignty in determining the direction of government. Although democracy is not synonymous with elections, elections are the most tangible manifestation of the principle of democracy, namely government from, by, and for the people. In the Indonesian context, elections are a constitutional mechanism that guarantees a peaceful, fair, and periodic change of power, as stipulated in Law Number 7 of 2017 concerning General Elections.

The law affirms that elections are held directly, publicly, freely, secretly, honestly, and fairly based on Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia. Elections are not only a means of implementing people's sovereignty, but also serve as an instrument of political legitimacy, the formation of people's representatives, elite circulation, and political education for citizens. Thus, the quality of the implementation of elections is a benchmark for the maturity of a nation's democracy.

In practice, the implementation of elections in Indonesia still faces various challenges, especially related to potential fraud and violations that can threaten the integrity of election results. Various forms of violations such as money politics, vote inflating, and abuse of authority by election organizers are still often found. Therefore, the existence of election supervision institutions has a very important role to ensure that the implementation of elections runs according to democratic principles.

The Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu) is an institution that has a constitutional mandate to supervise all stages of the implementation of elections. At the sub-district level, this function is carried out by the Election Supervisory Committee (Panwaslu) which is ad hoc. Although it is temporary, Panwaslu has a strategic responsibility in ensuring that every stage of elections at the local level runs honestly, fairly, and free from violations. The biggest challenge for Panwaslu is limited resources and time, while supervisory responsibilities include extensive and complex activities.

Cigemblong District in Lebak Regency is one of the areas that became the locus of this research. The region has nine villages with 68 polling stations (TPS) and a total of 16,050 permanent voters. The existence of the Cigemblong District Panwaslu is very vital in maintaining the integrity of the election process at the local level. The Panwaslu is tasked with supervising the campaign stages, the voting process and vote counting, as well as ensuring the neutrality of all election technical organizers, including the District Election Committee (PPK), the Voting Committee (PPS), and the Voting Organizing Group (KPPS).

Through its supervisory function, Panwaslu is expected to prevent violations, follow up on public reports, and provide recommendations on violations findings to ensure that elections run in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations. However, in reality, the effectiveness of Panwaslu is often questioned, especially because violations are still found in various regions, including at the sub-district level.

Based on these conditions, this research focuses on the existence and role of the Cigemblong District Panwaslu in the implementation of the 2024 Simultaneous General Election. In particular, this study aims to find out the extent to which the Panwaslu carries out its function as an election supervisory institution, as well as assess the effectiveness of its role in realizing democratic and integrity elections. This research is expected to make a theoretical contribution to the development of studies on election supervision as well as provide practical benefits for improving the performance of supervisory institutions at the local level.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The Concept of Existence

Existence comes from the Latin word *existere*, which means "to appear" or "to exist." In the Great Dictionary of the Indonesian Language (KBBI), existence is defined as the existence or real state of something that is alive, functional, and recognized. Abidin Zaenal (2007) refers to existence as a dynamic process, namely the state of "becoming" and continuing to develop according to its potential. Hasan (2008) emphasized that existence is a form of activeness or the existence of something that is recognized in the social context.

Philosophically, existence is not static but continues to move following the interaction of individuals or institutions with their environment. In the context of public institutions such as Panwaslu, existence means the extent to which the institution is recognized, functions effectively, and is relied upon by the community in carrying out its duties. Strong existence is shown through public recognition, clarity of function, and real contribution to the implementation of democracy with integrity.

Role Concept

Role in KBBI is defined as the part or function played by a person or institution in a social system. According to Miftah Thoha (2010), role is a set of societal expectations of individuals or institutions according to their position. Levinson (in Soekanto, 2009) stated that roles include three aspects: social norms attached to a person's position, expected behavior in the organization, and the individual's contribution to the social structure.

Roles can be formal or informal. Formal roles are responsibilities that are explicitly defined by regulations, while informal roles are more implicit such as the formation of social relationships and

public trust. In election supervisory institutions, roles include the functions of supervision, violation prevention, voter education, and enforcement of election ethics. The effectiveness of this role is the main indicator of the success of Panwaslu in maintaining the integrity of democracy at the local level.

Sub-district General Election Supervisory Committee (Panwaslu)

The District General Election Supervisory Committee (Panwaslu) is an ad hoc institution formed by the Regency/City Bawaslu to carry out supervision of the election stages in the sub-district area (Law No. 7 of 2017). The Panwaslu consists of three members, consisting of a chairman and two other members, who work under the coordination of the Regency/City Bawaslu.

The main tasks of the District Panwaslu include the prevention and enforcement of violations, supervision of the implementation of the election stages, and ensuring the neutrality of all parties involved in the election process. Panwaslu is also authorized to receive and follow up on reports of violations, conduct initial investigations, and provide recommendations to the Regency/City Bawaslu regarding findings in the field.

In addition, Panwaslu is obliged to be fair, transparent, and professional in carrying out its functions. Supervision is carried out starting from the process of updating voter data, campaigns, logistics, voting and vote counting, to recapitulation of election results. Even though it is temporary, Panwaslu has a vital role in ensuring that the election stages run in accordance with laws and regulations as well as the principles of justice and democratic integrity.

Simultaneous Elections

Simultaneous elections are a general election system in which the elections of presidents, vice presidents, members of the House of Representatives, DPD, and DPRD are held at the same time. According to Law Number 7 of 2017, this simultaneous election model aims to create a stable and efficient government through the alignment of national and regional political agendas.

Hasyim Asy'ari, Chairman of the Indonesian Election Commission, explained that simultaneous elections are expected to be able to strengthen political legitimacy, budget efficiency, and democratic consolidation. The simultaneous elections were first held in 2019 and will be held again in 2024 with the participation of voters at various levels of government. However, the implementation of simultaneous elections also brings new challenges, such as increased logistical complexity and potential violations on the ground.

Conceptual Linkages

The relationship between the existence, role, and Panwaslu of Cigemblong District can be explained through the integration of institutional functions and public legitimacy. The existence of the Panwaslu is determined by the extent to which the community recognizes and trusts its performance, while the role of the Panwaslu is reflected in the implementation of the supervisory and rule-enforcement functions in simultaneous elections. These two concepts reinforce each other: an effectively executed role enhances institutional existence, and a strong presence encourages more optimal role execution.

In the context of the 2024 simultaneous elections in Cigemblong District, the integration between the existence and role of Panwaslu is an important factor in creating a transparent, participatory, and integrity election process. Panwaslu is not only tasked with supervising, but also functioning as a guardian of the morals and ethics of democracy at the grassroots level.

Previous Research

Research by Farid Muhajir (2015) shows that the existence of Panwaslu plays a significant role in resolving disputes over the election of regional heads in Depok City. Meanwhile, Rizal Nor Muttaqien's (2011) research on the Yogyakarta City Panwaslu found that effective supervision was

able to reduce election violations. Baito Nusantoro (2012) also emphasized the role of the Cilacap Regency Panwaslu in cracking down on violations of the regional head election as an effort to maintain electoral justice.

The three studies strengthen the argument that the role of the Panwaslu is very important in ensuring the integrity of elections. This research seeks to expand the understanding of the existence and role of Panwaslu at the sub-district level, especially in Cigemblong District, as a micro-study that reflects the implementation of democracy at the local level.

RESEARCH METHODS

Approaches and Types of Research

This research uses a qualitative approach with a descriptive method, aiming to deeply understand the phenomenon related to the existence and role of the General Election Supervisory Committee (Panwaslu) of Cigemblong District in the implementation of the 2024 Simultaneous Elections. The qualitative approach was chosen because it allows researchers to explore the meanings, perceptions, and experiences of the actors who are directly involved in the natural social context.

Lexy J. Moleong (2006) explained that qualitative research aims to understand the phenomena experienced by research subjects through comprehensive descriptions in the form of words and language, not numbers. This approach is considered the most appropriate because the problems studied are social in nature and require an in-depth interpretation of the behavior and interaction between actors in the election supervision system.

Descriptive research is used to describe empirical reality systematically and factually, without intervening in the object being studied. With this method, researchers not only collect data, but also analyze, interpret, and present the results in the form of an in-depth and meaningful scientific narrative.

Location and Research Subject

The research was conducted in Cigemblong District, Lebak Regency, Banten Province, which consists of nine villages with a total of 68 Polling Stations (TPS). This location was chosen because it has heterogeneous social characteristics and is a representation of the region with complex election supervision dynamics at the sub-district level.

The subjects of the study are parties who have direct involvement in the election supervision process, including members of the District Panwaslu, the District Election Committee (PPK), the Voting Committee (PPS), the political party success team, and the community. The main informants consist of nine people who were selectively selected because they are considered to have in-depth knowledge of the process of organizing and supervising the 2024 Simultaneous Elections in Cigemblong.

Informant Selection Techniques

The determination of informants uses *the purposive sampling* technique, which is a sampling technique based on certain considerations. Informants are chosen because they are considered to have a deep understanding of research problems and can provide relevant information. According to Husaini Usman and Purnomo Setiadi, purposive sampling is used to dig up data from sources that know the problem best and can provide a critical view of the phenomenon being studied.

In this study, the main informants included the Chairman of the District Panwaslu, two members of the Panwaslu, the Chairman of the PPK, members of the PPS, two political party success teams, and two community members. The composition allows researchers to obtain a comprehensive perspective from the elements of organizers, participants, and the community as participatory supervisors.

Data Collection Techniques

The data collection technique is carried out in three main ways:

1. In-depth *interviews* — conducted in a hands-on and structured manner with open-ended questions. Interviews allow researchers to explore the perceptions, experiences, and views of informants about the role of Panwaslu.
2. Field observation — conducted both openly and indiscriminately to understand the activities and dynamics of supervision in the field, including interaction between actors in the election stage.
3. Documentation — includes the collection of secondary data such as regulations, monitoring reports, photos of activities, Panwaslu archives, and other official documents relevant to the research.

The combination of these three techniques provides rich and valid data on the phenomenon being studied.

Research Instruments

In qualitative research, the researcher himself is the main instrument (Nasution, 1988). Researchers play the role of data collectors, observers, as well as analysts who are directly involved in the field. To maintain objectivity, the researcher used interview guidelines and observation notes as tools in organizing data. The researcher's experience and understanding of the local social context is an added value in interpreting the research results accurately and reflectively.

Data Analysis Techniques

Data analysis was carried out interactively following the model of Miles and Huberman (2008), which included three main stages:

1. Data Reduction — the process of filtering and selecting important data, grouping information according to the research theme.
2. Data Display — organizes information in the form of narratives, tables, or charts to make it easier to understand the relationships between categories.
3. Conclusion Drawing (*Verification*) — interpreting the meaning of data to obtain valid and accountable findings.

Data Validity Test

The validity of the data was tested using four criteria from Lincoln and Guba, namely:

1. Credibility (internal validity): carried out by triangulating sources and methods, as well as re-checking the results of interviews with informants (*member check*).
2. Transferability (external validity): research reports are structured in detail so that they can be used in similar contexts.
3. Dependability: conducted through an audit of the entire research process by a supervisor or independent party.
4. Confirmability: ensuring that research results are sourced from the data obtained, not the subjective interpretation of the researcher.

Research Limitations

The researcher is aware of limitations such as limited time and resources, as well as a lack of references to previous research that discusses Panwaslu at the sub-district level. However, efforts are made to maintain validity with a triangulation approach and direct involvement in the field.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Overview of Research Locations

This research was carried out in Cigemlong District, Lebak Regency, Banten Province, which consists of nine villages with a total area of 13,945 hectares and a permanent voter population of 16,050 people. This region has diverse geographical and social characteristics, including coastal areas, agriculture, and forest areas. The Cigemlong District Panwaslu has an office in Cibungur Village, serving as a coordination center for the supervision of all stages of the 2024 Simultaneous Elections at the sub-district level.

Cigemlong District has an election organizer structure consisting of the District Election Committee (PPK), the Voting Committee (PPS) at the village level, and the Voting Organizing Group (KPPS) at each Polling Station (TPS). In the context of supervision, the District Panwaslu is assisted by the Kelurahan/Village Panwaslu (PKD) which consists of nine people, each serving in one village. This collaboration is an important foundation in maintaining the integrity of the implementation of elections in a geographically quite large and challenging area.

The Existence of the Cigemlong District Panwaslu

The existence of Panwaslu is reflected in the extent to which this institution is known, recognized, and felt by the public and election technical organizers. Based on the results of the interview, the Cigemlong Panwaslu has shown its existence through socialization activities, political education, and direct supervision of each stage of the election. The Chairman of the Panwaslu said that the existence of his institution was built through an approach to the community, especially novice voters, with socialization activities in schools and social media. This effort is carried out to introduce the functions and authority of the Panwaslu and increase voter awareness of the dangers of money politics and the importance of active participation in elections.

In addition, Panwaslu also carries out the function of supervising the process of updating voter data, matching and research (coklit), and logistics distribution. Supervision is carried out directly to field officers (pantarliah) so that the voter data verification process runs according to procedures. This activity shows that the existence of the Panwaslu is not just a formality, but an important element in ensuring the validity of voter data which has implications for the legitimacy of election results.

In terms of public perception, the Cigemlong Panwaslu is recognized by the public and election participants. The successful teams of candidates and community leaders stated that Panwaslu acted as a "referee" who maintained the fairness of political competitions at the local level. The existence of the Panwaslu is considered important to mediate potential conflicts between election participants and supervise the implementation of campaigns to remain in accordance with laws and regulations.

The Role and Performance of Panwaslu in the Implementation of Elections

The role of the Cigemlong Panwaslu in the 2024 Simultaneous Elections is realized through the implementation of the functions of supervision, prevention, handling violations, and voter education. Based on the results of the interviews, Panwaslu actively supervised directly in the field during the campaign stage, voting, and vote counting. In some cases of violations, such as the installation of campaign props (APK) in prohibited places, Panwaslu collaborates with sub-district officials to bring order to these violations.

In addition, Panwaslu also conducted socialization to state civil servants (ASN) regarding political neutrality, in accordance with the provisions of Law Number 7 of 2017. This socialization is a preventive step in preventing the involvement of ASN in practical political activities. In terms of handling violations, Panwaslu showed a quick response to community reports. One example is the case of alleged money politics which was followed up with a formal and material review process, even though the report was ultimately declared ineligible. This process shows the professionalism of Panwaslu in carrying out legal and administrative mechanisms according to Bawaslu rules.

From the results of observations and interviews, it is known that Panwaslu also plays an important role in ensuring the implementation of the principles of transparency and public participation. Through social media, the Cigemblong Panwaslu routinely publishes information on election stages, supervisory activities, and supervisory reports openly. This not only increases institutional accountability, but also strengthens public trust in the integrity of election organizers.

Analysis and Implications

Theoretically, the results of this study show that the existence of the Cigemblong Panwaslu is in accordance with the concept of existence according to Abidin Zaenal (2007), namely a dynamic existence and continues to develop through role actualization. Panwaslu does not only exist structurally, but also functions substantively in maintaining democratic values.

Meanwhile, the role of Panwaslu is in line with Levinson's theory (Soekanto, 2009) which emphasizes that social roles include norms, responsibilities, and behaviors that society expects towards individuals or institutions. The Cigemblong Panwaslu has fulfilled these three aspects through the implementation of supervision functions and professional dispute resolution.

The findings of this study also strengthen the results of previous research by Rizal Nor Muttaqien (2011) and Farid Muhajir (2015) which emphasized the importance of supervisory institutions in suppressing violations and maintaining election integrity. In the local context, the Cigemblong Panwaslu has succeeded in actualizing its role as an independent supervisor who not only carries out administrative functions, but also educational and preventive.

Thus, it can be concluded that the existence and role of the Cigemblong District Panwaslu in the 2024 Simultaneous Elections has been recognized by the public and has made a real contribution to the implementation of honest, fair, and democratic elections. However, it is still necessary to increase the capacity of human resources, supporting facilities, and strengthen institutions so that the performance of supervision in the future is more optimal.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Conclusion

Based on the results of the research on "The Existence and Role of the General Election Supervisory Committee (Panwaslu) of Cigemblong District as the Organizer of the 2024 Simultaneous Elections," it can be concluded that the Cigemblong District Panwaslu has an existence and strategic role in maintaining the integrity of the implementation of elections at the local level.

First, in terms of existence, the Cigemblong Panwaslu shows its existence as a supervisory institution recognized by the public and the technical organizer of elections. This existence is built through socialization activities, public communication, and active involvement in every stage of the election. The community began to understand the function of Panwaslu as an institution that oversees the implementation of democracy at the sub-district level.

Second, in terms of role, Panwaslu has carried out its supervisory function in accordance with the provisions of Law Number 7 of 2017. This role can be seen in supervising the process of updating voter data, campaigns, voting, and handling of alleged violations. Panwaslu also acts as a liaison between the community and other election organizers, ensuring that any reports of violations are followed up according to procedures.

Third, Panwaslu shows a real contribution through direct socialization activities to the community. This effort not only increases citizens' knowledge about the stages of the election, but also strengthens public participation in supervising the implementation of the election. Through cooperation between Panwaslu, election participants, and the community, the implementation of elections in Cigemblong District can run conductively, transparently, and in accordance with democratic principles.

Thus, the existence and role of the Cigemblong District Panwaslu has had a positive impact on improving the quality of election supervision, although there are still obstacles related to human resources and limited facilities that need to be fixed in the future.

Suggestions

Based on the results of the above research, several suggestions can be proposed:

1. Increasing the professionalism and responsiveness of Panwaslu. The Cigemblong District Panwaslu is expected to continue to improve capacity and professionalism in handling reports of violations quickly, accurately, and in accordance with procedures so that public trust increases.
2. Optimization of supervision of updating voter data. Supervision must be carried out comprehensively, not only through the sampling method, to ensure that all eligible citizens obtain their voting rights.
3. Expansion of voter socialization and education activities. Panwaslu needs to expand the goal of socialization to all levels of society, not only in the educational environment. This is important because most citizens still have a limited understanding of election violations and the role of supervisory agencies.

Through these steps, the Cigemblong District Panwaslu is expected to further strengthen its existence and effectiveness in overseeing the implementation of elections with integrity, honesty, and fairness.

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