

The Impact of Political Dynasty Practices on Indonesian Local Democracy

¹Dafrin Muksin, ²Ahmad Rizali Pawane, ³Sahraail Robo

^{1,2,3}Government Science Study Program, Yapis Wamena Scientific Charity University, Papua-Indonesia

Corresponding Author: dafrin96@gmail.com

Received 08 November 2024 □ Revised 05 December 2024 □ Accepted 18 December 2024

ABSTRACT

The negative impact of the practice of political dynasties is that power is concentrated in dynastic families where family members occupy strategic positions of power in the administration of politics and government, the strengthening of KKN practices, low levels of supervision, and closed spaces for competition in government. Gaining power in local democracy. This research will explore the impact of political dynasties on local Indonesian democracy. Qualitative methods were used as an approach in this research. This research uses secondary data in the form of documents, journals and other supporting data. After the data is collected, the data is managed using Nvivo 12 Plus. Next, a strict selection is carried out, analyzed, arranged systematically, and conclusions are drawn. This research concludes that the practice of political dynasties has impacts including corruption, Collusion, and Nepotism with a percentage of 20%, where the practice of political dynasties opens up space for KKN practices thereby hampering regional progress. The loss of supervision is 5%, namely, that government administration is running without good supervision. Maximum both from supervisory institutions and the community, competition losses amount to 45% where the practice of political dynasties closes the space for community competition in occupying strategic positions at the local level, and political domination occurs at 30%, namely that the government is run by prioritizing the element of kinship or family involvement to complete and fill strategic positions in government.

Keywords: *Political Dynasty; Local Democracy; Indonesian Democracy*

INTRODUCTION

In a democratic country, every citizen is given the freedom to get involved in politics, either to vote or be elected to obtain political office. In the sense that democracy gives people the freedom to contest to gain power. In the context of local democracy, for example, every citizen can be involved in every moment of the democratic party, be it legislative elections at the provincial or district level, or executive elections at the provincial and district/city levels. As a form of good practice, democracy can be achieved if there is the widest possible opportunity for people to compete for political positions by applicable regulations (Rizal & Zarkasi, 2023).

However, the concept of democracy is inversely proportional to the reality. Where Indonesia's local political climate is characterized by the emergence of political dynasty practices, namely power practices involving family members to occupy strategic positions of power (Nur Hidayati, 2014). This causes the closure of space for community participation which will later become political opponents of political dynasties in the contestation of power which has an impact on weakening democracy. In the context of regional elections, political parties affiliated with political dynasties tend to provide recommendations and support both institutionally and en masse to candidates who are members of elite political dynasty families (Muksin et al., 2019).

A political dynasty is defined as a political strategy to obtain and maintain power to be passed on to the family. Political dynasties can be seen from the involvement of certain groups or families in strategic positions in government (Dedi, 2022). Fitri, (2019) in Agustino Leo

(2014) revealed that political dynasty in the context of government is a system created to obtain and maintain power. Political dynasty too, in traditional politics is interpreted as the ruler's interest in giving strategic positions to family and closest people as is practiced in a kingdom.

Dynastic practices usually occur in monarchical systems, but thrive in Indonesia's democratic system. Even though conceptually political dynasties are very contrary to democracy (Fadiyah et al., 2022). Political dynasty is a form of practice in a monarchical state. Where power is only held and inherited based on lineage. Political dynasties are very contrary to the concept of a democratic state because political dynasties destroy the democratic order by limiting people's political rights. (Maidany et al., 2024). Democracy requires power that has legitimacy from the community and encourages community participation in the administration of government. The practice of political dynasties requires the inheritance of power to family and relatives as in the practice of a monarchical state system. Where the king's power will be passed on to the king's descendants. This is of course very contrary to the values of a democratic country.

Political dynasties have occurred since the New Order era until the Reformation era. Since President Soeharto's leadership, political dynasties began to emerge, namely by implementing a centralized system, so that power was controlled by providing the widest possible opportunities to his family and supporters. (Mhd & Sukri, 2020). The end of the old order regime then shifted to a period of reform with decentralization of power through regional autonomy encouraging the practice of political dynasties in the regions (Muksin et al., 2019). Where political dynasties or the involvement of relatives in occupying strategic positions in the regions is increasing. For example, the Banten political dynasty with the main elite Ratu Atut Chosiyah, the South Sulawesi political dynasty with the main elite Muhammad Yasin Limpo, and the North Maluku political dynasty namely the Kasuba and Mus families.

Thus, the practice of political dynasties occurs in almost all regions of Indonesia. This illustrates that political dynasties are deeply rooted and have even become political in the implementation of local democracy. Political dynasties are needed to perpetuate power, spread power to close relatives, and expand family business or business interests (Rahma A.A et al, 2022). Not only in the political sector but political dynasties have also penetrated sectors such as business, social culture, education and civil society (Sutisna, 2017). The cause of political dynasties is supported by a very strong network of power spread across the provincial, district and city levels. This is what makes it possible to empower certain local elite families with power. Ultimately, political candidates involved in the contestation of power in the local realm are part of the power holders (Heriyanto, 2022). Post-New Order democracy through decentralization on the one hand provides political rights to be elected, but on the other hand political rights to be elected are limited and confiscated by political dynasties (Prianto, 2016).

The practice of political dynasties undermines the democratic order and hinders a healthy democratic process (Heriyanto, 2022). Political dynasties are a challenge in building a democratic country. Because, the implementation of democracy through elections and regional elections should be a way for society to realize its hopes, namely that there will be qualified leadership candidates who have capacity, capability and integrity. Apart from that, every individual also has equal and fair opportunities to become a leader. Not the other way around, giving birth to absolute power managed by a certain family or political dynasty (Dedi, 2022).

Regarding political dynasties, a lot of research has been carried out by researchers. Which more specifically discusses the emergence, formation and practice of political dynasties by certain families in various regions. Through this research, we will attempt to explore the impact

of political dynasty practices on democracy at the local level. On the other hand, this research contributes to completing the study of existing political dynasties. It is hoped that the results of this research can become a reference in implementing better and better quality local democracy.

METHOD

This research will examine the influence of political dynasties on local democracy. The research uses a qualitative method approach. According to Jhon W. Creswell, (2013:267-270) that data collection in qualitative research can be done by means of observation, interviews, documents, and audio and visual material. Therefore, this research collects data by studying documents in the form of journals, news in reputable online media, and other supporting data that is relevant to the object of study. After the data is collected, it is carefully selected, analyzed, arranged systematically, and conclusions are drawn.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Local Political Dynasty Practices

Political dynasties in the regions began to develop when the New Order began to end and direct regional head elections were implemented. Regional autonomy opens up access to political dynasties in various regions. Neopatrimonialism, predatory politics, and clan politics are forms of political dynasty practices. The practice of politics in the regions is due to the weak party cadre formation of candidates who have good qualities and the tendency to maintain power in certain circles of society (Winda Roselina Effendi, 2018). The granting of power rights to regional areas gave rise to new political elites which became the forerunners to the birth of political dynasties in the regions. With the existence of a strong family network in government, making it easier for relatives to enter government or get involved in political contestations, this will be engineered to win these contestations. Political dynasty can occur by suddenly nominating a relative to replace the previous leader to win a political contest with the aim of maintaining power (Gunanto, 2020).

In the 2020 regional elections which were held in 32 provinces, there were 29 provinces with indications of political dynasties. Of the total 808 candidate pairs involved in the regional head elections, 135 candidate pairs with a percentage of 16.8% are political dynasties. From the results of the regional elections, there were 58 dynastic political candidate pairs with an elected percentage of 42.96% and 77 candidate pairs were not elected. Thus, the 2020 Pilkada was won by those with ties to political dynasties (Khairi, 2022). The strategy used by political dynasties in regional election contestation is through populism movements and family political networks that occupy strategic positions in the executive and legislative institutions. The causes of the practice of political dynasties include weak regulations, weak functions for forming political party cadres, as well as a lack of public education and understanding of politics. In the end, political dynasties continue to increase at every regional election moment (Riyanto et al., 2024)

The formation of local political dynasties is supported by a very strong and extensive network of power in an area. This allows the birth of absolute power, so that the power obtained will be stronger and cover a wider spatial scope. This family political approach with strong political networks closes political space for the community (Susanti, 2017). The sustainability of a political dynasty is largely determined by the political strategy of the previous political dynasty. The persistence of political dynasties is also due to the low level of public participation in monitoring every stage of the post-conflict regional elections. (Mhd & Sukri,

2020). The political practice of dividing resources from incumbents is used to increase the electability of prospective members of a political dynasty so that they can win and obtain political office (Aida Fitris Ahmalia, 2020). Political dynasties are carried out by design from the start and some also happen by chance. Where designed dynastic practices have been going on for a long time which contributes to a very strong family network. Meanwhile, by chance, political dynasties occur by suddenly replacing the previous power to maintain and maintain power (Sari et al., 2022).



Figure 1. Nvivo 12 Plus Word Cloud Analysis of Political Dynasty Practices

To maintain the power of a political dynasty, this is done by passing on resources or modalities as political power owned by the predecessor of the dynasty to the successors of the political family. Previous political dynasties inherited mass bases, bureaucratic networks, and policies that were considered successful as evidence of success in gaining public sympathy. (Zaldy Rusnaedy & Titin Purwaningsih, 2015). Apart from that, political dynasties take advantage of economic limitations and traditional societal conditions by offering political money to gain support to maintain power (Muhammad & Anggara, 2021). Namely the weak recruitment function of political parties and the desire to maintain power in the region. The powerful regional head recruits his family and those closest to him to inherit power. The existence of political dynasties also hinders democracy because of the stagnation of leadership in one particular group. The regional elections failed to produce regional leaders who had integrity and legitimacy from the community (Dona, 2022).

The practice of political dynasties, namely involving family members to serve as members of parliament, is a phenomenon that often occurs. Candidates involved in political dynasties have great potential in winning political positions of power. This is due to the political behavior of society and the lack of charismatic and popular candidates who can compete with political dynasty candidates in electoral politics at the local level.(Fitri, 2019). Political parties' recruitment of regional head candidates takes into account aspects of a person's economic ability, electability and popularity. Candidates who are members of a dynasty have a big chance of winning the regional election contest. They are popular because of the prominence of surnames, which influence monitoring results regarding election probability and tend to have higher voter turnout. In addition, candidates with dynastic backgrounds control all the resources that can be inherited from the incumbent. These results confirm the existence of problems in the political candidate party recruitment system in the post-conflict regional elections (Fitriyah, 2020). Political parties do not conduct candidates well because they only consider aspects of the candidate's wealth and popularity. This causes the competition to be

closed for people who have the ability and integrity to run for office and compete for power.(Dedi, 2022).

Impact of Political Dynasties

Political dynasties have a negative impact on the democratic process and reduce the quality of government administration. As a consequence, there will be corrupt practices and abuse of power. For this reason, the regional election system has been reorganized to prevent the practice of political dynasties (Azzahra et al., 2022). Through the practice of political dynasties, small kings are created in the regions and this is the cause of the poor performance of the government bureaucracy. Where decision-making policies prioritize the profits and interests of the dynasty rather than the interests of the community (Wimmy Haliim, 2020). Political dynasties cause weak control functions to maintain balance in the implementation of government, thus opening up space for political oligarchy (Nika, 2021).

The widespread practice of political dynasties at the regional level has a negative impact on local democracy, namely the occurrence of bad governance practices in the form of corruption, collusion and nepotism; loss of community oversight; loss of competition; and political domination. The impact of democracy can be seen in the following image:

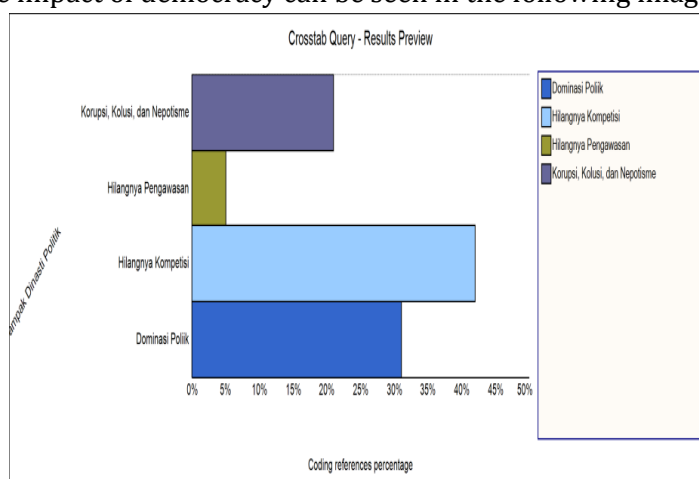


Figure 2. Nvivo 12 Plus Crosstab Query Analysis of the Impact of Political Dynasty Practices

Based on the results of the Nvivo 12 Plus analysis as in the picture above, it shows that the practice of political dynasties has the following impact: Leading to Corruption, Collusion and Nepotism with a percentage of 20%, where the practice of political dynasties opens up space for KKN practice, thus hindering regional progress. The loss of supervision is 5%, namely that government administration is running without maximum supervision from both supervisory institutions and the public. The loss of competition was as much as 45%, where the practice of political dynasties closed the space for communities to compete for strategic positions at the local level. And there is political dominance of 30%, namely that the government is run by prioritizing elements of kinship or family involvement to complete and fill strategic positions in government.

The practice of this political dynasty has had a major influence on democracy in our country, Indonesia. Because of the family's interest in gaining power, corruption, collusion and nepotism are very easy to carry out and difficult to eradicate. In addition, government regeneration only revolves around one or a few families and can disrupt party functioning due to the neglect of competent people (Fitri, 2019). Political dynasties have a negative impact on the sustainability of regional democracy. The implementation of political dynasties is an early

form of oppression of power, corruption, collusion, and has an impact on people's freedom to compete for strategic positions in the regions. (Darmansyah et al., 2020). Democratic practices in decentralization develop like a double-edged sword, giving political rights to individuals and groups on the one hand, and depriving other individuals and groups of their political rights on the other hand. (Prianto, 2016).

A number of studies show that dynastic politics weakens political competition in elections (Mendoza et al., 2016; Mietzner, 2012; Querubin, 2013). Likewise, almost all studies on dynastic politics find negative aspects, but only a few studies find positive aspects of dynastic politics. The negative impacts of dynastic politics include: (1) Inequality in candidacy by prioritizing candidates with dynastic backgrounds. (2) Candidates who come from dynasties have a higher chance of success so that elite circulation goes beyond the family, thus hindering political change. (4) Political dynasties are controlled by families, thus hampering the functioning of monitoring mechanisms between political institutions. (5) Dynasty politics is also clearly proven by the practice of KKN (predatory behavior) in the regions (Fitriyah, 2020). To prevent the practice of political dynasties, it is necessary to build a more inclusive and sustainable political system. Creating fair political and governmental governance, implementing transparency, and improving participatory government management (Panggabean & Harahap, 2024)

CONCLUSION

The widespread practice of political dynasties at the local level has a negative impact on local democracy. Political dynasties open up space for KKN practice, thereby hampering regional progress; Loss of Supervision, namely the administration of government without maximum supervision from both supervisory institutions and the public; The loss of competition where the practice of political dynasties closes the space for communities to compete for strategic positions at the local level, and political domination occurs, namely government that is run by prioritizing elements of kinship or family involvement.

REFERENCE

- Aida Fitris Ahmalia. (2020). *Modal Sosial Dalam Kepemimpinan Walikota Surakarta Gibran Rakabuming Raka: Studi Politik Dinasti*.
Alvina Alya Rahma, Afifah Amaliah Oktaviani, Azmi Hofifah, Tsaqila Ziyah Ahda, R. G. N. (2022). Pengaruh Dinasti Politik Terhadap Perkembangan Demokrasi Pancasila Di Indonesia. 6(1), 2260-2269.
Azzahra, F., Sukri, I. F., Hukum, A., Perencanaan, K., & Nasional, P. (2022). *Politik Dinasti Dalam Pemilihan Kepala Daerah: Persimpangan Antara Hak Asasi Dan Demokrasi*.
Darmansyah, R., Syahrani, S. D., & Ms, Z. H. (2020). *Potret Dinasti Politik Dalam Pengisian Jabatan Administratif*. 2, 34-46.
Dedi, A. (2022). *Politik Dinasti Dalam Perspektif Demokrasi*. 8(February), 92-101.
Dona, F. (2022). *Dinasti Politik Di Era Otonomi Daerah Dalam Perspektif Demokrasi*. 7(23).
Fadiyah, D., Dewi, R. K., & Karyana, A. (2022). *Kekuatan Dinasti Politik Aang Hamid Suganda Di Kabupaten Kuningan*. 4, 19-28.
Fitri, A. (2019). *Dinasti Politik Pada Pemerintahan Di Tingkat Lokal*. 04(01), 91-111.
Fitriyah. (2020). *Partai Politik, Rekrutmen Politik Dan Pembentukan Dinasti Politik Pada Pemilihan Kepala Daerah (Pilkada)*. 11(1), 1-17.
<https://doi.org/10.14710/Politika.11.1.2020.1-17>
Gunanto, D. (2020). *Tinjauan Kritis Politik Dinasti Di Indonesia*. 8, 177-191.

- Heriyanto. (2022). *Dinasti Politik Pada Pilkada Di Indonesia Dalam Perspektif Demokrasi*. 4.
- Jhon W. Creswell. (2013). *Researc Design: Pendekatan Kualitatif, Kuantitatif, Dan Mixed (Ketiga (Ed.))*. Pustaka Pelajar.
- Khairi, H. (2022). Menakar Pengaruh Politik Dinasti Dalam Pemilihan Kepala Daerah Di Indonesia. 7(1), 35–45. <https://doi.org/10.24198/jwp.v7i1.37770>
- Maidany, R., Husna, M. F., Winarti, S. L., & Harahap, N. (2024). Politik Dinasti Di Negara Demokrasi. 5(3), 3–8.
- Mhd, & Sukri, F. (2020). *Dinasti Politik Di Banten : Familisme , Strategi Politik Dan Rendahnya Partisipasi Politik Masyarakat*.
- Muhammad, H. A., & Anggara, D. (2021). Fenomena Konstruksi Politik Dinasti Pada Pilkada Serentak Tahun 2020 Di Kabupaten Batang Hari Pendahuluan Pasca Berakhirnya Pemerintahan Soeharto Pada 1998 , Sistem Politik Indonesia Bertransformasi Dari Rezim Sentralistik Otoriter Menjadi Pemerintahan Ya. 8090(90), 161–175. <https://doi.org/10.22219/sospol.v7i2.15160>
- Muhsin, D., Purwaningsih², T., & Nurmandi, A. (2019). Praktik Dinasti Politik Di Aras Lokal Pasca Reformasi : Studi Kasus Abdul Gani Kasuba Dan Ahmad Hidayat Mus Pada Pilkada Provinsi Maluku Utara. *Jurnal Wacana Politik - Issn 2502 - 9185 : E-Issn: 2549-2969*, 4(2), 133–144.
- Nika, I. (2021). Mencegah Terbentuknya Dinasti Politik Melalui Pola Rekrutmen Partai Politik (Studi Kasus Pencalonan Kepala Daerah Di Solo 2020). 6(3), 562–577.
- Nur Hidayati. (2014). *Dinasti Politik Dan Demokrasi Indonesia*. 10(1), 18–21.
- Panggabean, I. B., & Harahap, A. M. (2024). Perspektif Islam Tentang Dinasti Politik (Studi Kasus Isu Dinasti Politik Tahun 2023-2024). 7, 1–15.
- Prianto, B. (2016). Partai Politik, Fenomena Dinasti Politik Dalam Pemilihan Kepala Daerah, Dan Desentralisasi. 1(Oktober), 105–117.
- Riyanto, A., Fridiyanti, Y. N., & Prihatmoko, J. J. (2024). Praktek Dinasti Politik Pada Pilkada Serentak Jawa Tengah Tahun 2020. 10(February), 35–46.
- Rizal, D., & Zarkasi, A. (2023). Analisis Kegagalan Dinasti Politik Di Kota Sungai Penuh Tahun 2020. *Jurnal Ilmiah Universitas Batanghari Jamb*, 22(3), 2019–2023. <https://doi.org/10.33087/jiubj.v22i3.2893>
- Sari, F. K., Angelina, M., Mutiara, N., Hanani, R., Hukum, F., & Diponegoro, U. (2022). Fenomena Dinasti Politik Dalam Perspektif Hukum Tata Negara. 3(May), 18–27.
- Susanti, M. H. (2017). *Dinasti Politik Dalam Pilkada Di Indonesia*. 1(2), 111–119.
- Sutisna, A. (2017). Gejala Proliferasi Dinasti Politik Di Banten Era Kepemimpinan Gubernur Ratu Atut Chosiyah. 2(33), 100–120.
- Wimmy Haliim, A. I. H. (2020). *Dinasti Politik : Basis Politik Dan Kepuasan Publik*. 8.
- Winda Roselina Effendi. (2018). *Dinasti Politik Dalam Pemerintahan Lokal Studi Kasus Dinasti Kota Banten*. 2(2), 98–113.
- Zaldy Rusnaedy & Titin Purwaningsih. (2015). *Keluarga Politik Yasin Limpo Pada Pemilihan Kepala Daerah Di Kabupaten Gowa Tahun 2015*.