

THE EFFORTS OF BANYUMAS' GENERAL ELECTION SUPERVISORY AGENCY IN COMBATING MONEY POLITICS: INDONESIA'S 2024 ELECTION

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Abstract

This research focuses on the strategies used by the General Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu) of Banyumas Regency to address the persistent issue of money politics, examines the implementation of regulations aimed at increasing public participation in election supervision, as well as identifying the obstacles in the process. Through a descriptive-analytic approach, this research portrays the efforts of Bawaslu Banyumas to fulfill its legal obligations and encourage participation in elections, using theories of state governance and social sciences for analysis. The result shows that both formal and cultural approaches were employed through various means such as coordination forums and by using both social media and mass media in order to enhance public participation in election oversight. Their initiative prioritizes specific villages and involves community leaders, ensuring elections are conducted with integrity and transparency. Collaborative effort with the Banyumas Election Commission (KPU).

Keywords: *Money Politics, Indonesian Election, Banyumas, Bawaslu.*

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Background

One of the serious issues discussed in relation to general elections (Pemilihan Umum, Pemilu) in post-New Order Indonesia is the proliferation of money politics. The use of financial power by contestants to influence the votes of prospective voters is an ongoing phenomenon observed in every democratic event. In the 2019 legislative elections alone, over one-third of voters were exposed to money politics practices, a fact that positioned Indonesia among the top three countries globally engaging in extensive money politics.¹ Although the high cost of elections also caused legislative candidates to seek funding outside of their respective parties, one of them being through funders, the nature of this conduct is nevertheless a symbiotic mutualism.²

¹ Burhanuddin Muhtadi, 'Politik Uang Dan New Normal Dalam Pemilu Paska-Orde Baru,' *Jurnal Antikorupsi INTEGRITAS* 5, no. 1 (2020): 55. <https://doi.org/10.32697/integritas.v5i1.413>.

² Meri Carolina Siregar and Tabah Maryanah, 'FENOMENA MONEY POLITICS DAN PEMBUKTIAN TERSTRUKTUR SISTEMATIS MASIF (TSM) PADA PEMILIHAN WALIKOTA



Candidates secure funding from the funders and funders will gain access to projects or favorable policies from the candidates once they are elected. This leads to an understanding that organizing interests are necessary for clientelistic competition to guarantee the delivery of votes.³

The impact of money politics on the quality of democracy should not be underestimated. If its practice continues to heavily impact elections, it will undermine democracy. At the regional level, the prevalence of money politics transforms elections into economic contestation among candidates for regional leadership positions in the realm of Regional Head Election (Pemilihan Kepala Daerah, Pilkada).⁴ The idea that Indonesia is currently experiencing democratic decline is surging and becoming more widely accepted.⁵ Money politics is one of the factors contributing to political corruption which leads to the declining of democratic values. Furthermore, corruption persists because those who attain public office through money politics are likely to employ their acquired power to recoup the political expenses they incurred. Even if these expenses come from outside sources, the policies carried out during their time in office can be corrupted. As stated in the above, the officials in question may attempt to repay their political debt to those who funded their political campaign by implementing various corrupt policies.

Legal measures to establish an election with integrity and free from money politics has actually been accommodated in Law Number 7 of 2017 on Elections. Article 93 letter e of the Law authorizes the General Election Supervisory Agency (Badan Pengawas Pemilu, Bawaslu) to prevent money politics. This authority is highly strategic as this body holds responsibilities, authority, and obligations related to the supervision, prevention, and even enforcement of measures against money politics. Regarding its responsibilities, Bawaslu is tasked with supervising each stage of the election and preventing and addressing money politics. In terms of authority, Article 95 Letter c of Bawaslu of the Law grants the authority to receive reports and conduct investigations into alleged instances of money politics. As for its obligations, Bawaslu is obliged to enhance public participation in election oversight. Moreover, Article 286 (1), 278 (2), 280 (1) letter j, and 523 (1), (2), and (3) of the Law stipulates that those who provide money may be subject to penal sanctions.

The existence of the Bawaslu as an election supervisory body is not only established at the central level but also at the regional levels of provinces, regencies and cities. The regulations regarding regional Bawaslu are outlined in Law Number 10 of 2016 on Regional Head Elections. Regional/City-level Bawaslu has a crucial role in overseeing and preventing money politics at regional level, bearing in mind that Regional/City-level Bawaslu is the institution closest to the voters.

DAN WAKIL WALIKOTA BANDAR LAMPUNG 2020,' *Jurnal Ilmu Pemerintahan Widya Praja* 48 (2022): 141.

³ Isabel Kusche, 'Political Clientelism and Democracy: Clientelistic Power and the Internal Differentiation of the Political System,' *Acta Sociologica* 57, no. 2 (2014): 207.

⁴ Kenlies Era Rosalina Marsudi and Sunarso Sunarso, 'Revitalisasi Pendidikan Politik Melalui Pembentukan Kampung Anti Money Politic,' *JPPUMA Jurnal Ilmu Pemerintahan dan Sosial Politik Universitas Medan Area* 7 (2019): 111.

⁵ Eve Warburton and Edward Aspinall, 'Explaining Indonesia's Democratic Regression: Structure, Agency and Popular Opinion,' *Contemporary Southeast Asia* 41, no. 2 (2019): 255.

It is therefore interesting to see how Bawaslu strives to fulfill its obligations, particularly in enhancing public participation in monitoring the concurrent elections to be held in 2024. This research aims to explore the efforts carried out by Bawaslu Banyumas Regency in preventing the practice of money politics. This research is projected to provide in-depth insights on the implementation of authority and duties of the Bawaslu, specifically in preventing the practice of money politics.

This research focuses on the efforts of the Banyumas Regency-level General Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu Banyumas) during the 2019-2023 term to fulfill its obligation of enhancing public participation in election oversight. Banyumas was chosen due to its ranking as a region with the highest prevalence of money politics. [6] This research aims to investigate the various measures undertaken by Bawaslu Banyumas to fulfill its responsibilities as outlined by the relevant legislation. Secondly, this research also seeks to identify the obstacles and challenges encountered by Bawaslu Banyumas in carrying out these obligations. Thirdly, this research will find out how Bawaslu Banyumas cope with those obstacles and challenges. This section provides the context, the emerging and urgent issues behind the argument brought by the authors. It should include but not limited to: theoretical perspective, literature study, or concept that considered relevant to this study.

B. Research Question

This research focuses on the efforts of the Banyumas Regency-level General Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu Banyumas) during the 2019-2023 term to fulfill its obligation of enhancing public participation in election oversight. Banyumas was chosen due to its ranking as a region with the highest prevalence of money politics. This research aims to investigate the various measures undertaken by Bawaslu Banyumas to fulfill its responsibilities as outlined by the relevant legislation. Secondly, this research also seeks to identify the obstacles and challenges encountered by Bawaslu Banyumas in carrying out these obligations. Thirdly, this research will find out how Bawaslu Banyumas cope with those obstacles and challenges.

C. Research Method⁶

Implementing socio-legal research, this study aims to investigate the implementation of regulations on the obligations of Bawaslu Banyumas in enhancing public participation in election oversight within Banyumas Regency. As non-doctrinal research, this paper does not intend to provide normative prescriptions for the subject of inquiry. Instead, this research is descriptive-analytical which seeks to describe the actions taken by Bawaslu Banyumas to fulfill its legal obligations, specifically focusing on the enhancement of the quality of elections by preventing it from money politics.

Primary data for this research were collected through interviews and observations. In-depth interviews were carried out by questioning the commissioners of Bawaslu Banyumas, namely Miftakhudin (Chair of Bawaslu Banyumas), Yon

⁶ Ipleaders, 'All about doctrinal and non-doctrinal research,' *Ipleaders*, last modified November 17, 2023, <https://blog.ipleaders.in/all-about-doctrinal-and-non-doctrinal-research/>.

Daryono and Saleh Darmawan (both Commissioners of Bawaslu Banyumas). The interviews aimed to uncover the activities undertaken by the commissioners to avoid money politics. Participatory observations were carried out by directly observing the activities of Bawaslu Banyumas in carrying out their task. Secondary data were obtained from various scholarly publications related to elections and election supervision. Tertiary data were collected from various periodicals such as magazines and mass media, as well as the official website of Bawaslu Banyumas. Authors may use any methods that considered relevant.

II. DISCUSSION

A. Research Result

Interviews were conducted with Bawaslu Banyumas' commissioners in stages from December 2021 to March 2022. The interviews were aimed at addressing research questions regarding Bawaslu Banyumas' efforts to enhance community participation in election oversight and prevent money politics. Insights derived from these interviews and observations can be summarized as follows.

1. Enhancing Community Participation through Coordination Meetings

Coordination meetings are one of Bawaslu Banyumas' initiatives to engage in election oversight and promote community involvement in election monitoring. These coordination meetings involve informative sessions aimed at community leaders in various villages within the Banyumas Regency. While not all villages in Banyumas participate, a selection process is employed based on specific considerations. These considerations are not solely based on the number of electoral violations, but also take into account factors such as the population of differently-abled individuals, remote villages, and villages with high poverty rates.

The choice of villages for these coordination meetings aligns with Bawaslu's policy direction to create an inclusive election process. Villages with a significant number of individuals with disability, for instance, are given priority due to their limited ability to exercise their voting rights as citizens. Despite these limitations, individuals with disability are prone to be targeted by election fraud perpetrators.

From a technical standpoint, the informative sessions within the coordination meetings provide knowledge and insights related to election oversight, followed by a question-and-answer session. Discussed during these meetings are Bawaslu Banyumas' responsibilities, authorities, and obligations as stipulated by the law, as well as the legal framework and the importance of community participation in achieving an integrity-driven election. Community leaders, including neighbourhood chiefs, women's empowerment activists, and youth figures, are invited to these coordination meetings. The aim is for these participants to later disseminate the information gained from the coordination meetings within their immediate communities. Representatives from the military and police forces at the regency level are also invited and present at these meetings. Bawaslu also extends invitations to experts from local universities, such

as the Faculty of Law at Universitas Jenderal Soedirman and the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences at Universitas Wijayakusuma.

2. Enhancing Community Participation through Village Oversight Declaration

Villages that have received election oversight awareness and education from Bawaslu Banyumas are recognized as "Monitoring Villages" (Desa Pengawasan). In this context, the Chairman of Bawaslu Banyumas reads out the Declaration of Oversight, which is followed by all community leaders present at the Coordination Meeting. Subsequently, the Chairman of Bawaslu and attending commissioners, along with community participants, signed the Monitoring Village Declaration. This declaration is then displayed in the Village Hall as a reminder to both village officials and the community of their commitment to achieving an integrity-driven election.

The content of the Monitoring Village and Anti-Money Politics Village Declaration consists of three key promises. Firstly, a pledge to uphold Pancasila, the 1945 Constitution, and the principle of unity in diversity (Bhinneka Tunggal Ika), while safeguarding the integrity of the Republic of Indonesia. Secondly, a commitment to create an Anti-Money Politics Village. Thirdly, a promise not to engage in vote-buying, spread slander, false news, or exploit issues related to ethnicity, religion, race, and inter-group relations (Suku, Agama, Ras, Antargolongan, SARA). Fourthly, an agreement to abide by the law and prevailing regulations.

Being recognized as a Monitoring Village is not the only recognition bestowed upon villages by Bawaslu Banyumas during these activities. Bawaslu Banyumas also bestows the title of "Anti-Corruption Village" (Desa Anti Korupsi) to specific villages, such as Wlahar Village in the Wangon Subdistrict. For instance, during the Coordination Meeting held on Thursday, March 24, 2022, Wlahar Village was named both a Monitoring Village and an Anti-Money Politics Village. Following the signing of the Declaration, Bawaslu Banyumas commissioners and the Village Head, in the presence of the meeting participants, inaugurated a monument for the Monitoring Village and Anti-Money Politics Village situated next to the Wlahar Village Hall. Commissioner Saleh Darmawan explained that the cost of erecting these monuments was fully covered by Wlahar Village itself.

3. Enhancing Community Participation through Cultural Approaches

In addition to awareness campaigns and declarations, efforts to enhance community participation in election oversight also involve a cultural approach. This cultural approach, as explained by Commissioner Yon Daryono, involves organizing artistic activities that resonate with the community's interests. For instance, in Cilongok Village, such efforts are conducted through wayang kulit (shadow puppetry) performances. "Before the wayang performance begins, we convey important messages about the significance of election oversight to the community. We also embed messages promoting clean elections to the puppeteer

(dalang) regarding election oversight," stated Bawaslu Commissioner Yon Daryono. He further elaborated that the cultural approach extends to events like the Ebeg or Kuda Lumping performances in Sumpiuh Village. In this context, community awareness is fostered by displaying various decorative banners related to oversight and anti-money politics.

The cultural approach serves as an innovative means to engage the community and disseminate crucial messages about election oversight. By leveraging traditional art forms and festivities that resonate with the local population, Bawaslu aims to create a deeper understanding of the importance of clean and transparent elections. Through these cultural activities, Bawaslu seeks to encourage active participation and promote a sense of collective responsibility in upholding the integrity of the electoral process.

4. Enhancing Community Participation through Social Media

Recognizing the importance and strategic role of social media as a mass communication tool, Bawaslu Banyumas has embraced this notion by producing a series of podcasts centered around the theme of election oversight. Bawaslu Banyumas has generated various podcast episodes, which can be accessed on the Bawaslu Banyumas YouTube channel. As of March 28, 2022, numerous podcast episodes have been created, featuring question-and-answer sessions and discussions with Bawaslu Banyumas Commissioners as guest speakers.

Beyond podcasts, an array of short films has been crafted with the aim of raising public awareness through social media. These short films revolve around election oversight and anti-money politics themes. Bawaslu Banyumas has taken the initiative to produce several films, with scenarios devised by Bawaslu and enacted by both Commissioners and staff members of Bawaslu of Banyumas

5. Combating Money Politics: Some Obstacles

Commissioner Yon Daryono stated that the efforts aimed at enhancing community participation in election oversight have generally encountered minimal hindrances or significant challenges. Administrative obstacles have been relatively rare, as the notifications from Bawaslu to village authorities, Babinsa (military personnel assigned to villages), and Bhabinkamtibmas (community police officers) have proceeded smoothly and received substantial support. In terms of community participation, those invited to the activities have shown consistent attendance and willingness to temporarily set aside their daily routines, whether in fields, farms, or other endeavors.

Commissioner Saleh Darmawan added that Bawaslu Banyumas possesses a budget to fulfill its obligations as mandated by the law in carrying out these activities. This financial aspect is crucial, as each event requires a considerable amount of funding. For instance, hosting a wayang kulit performance may incur costs of approximately 60 million Indonesian rupiahs.

However, Bawaslu acknowledges that apart from administrative aspects, certain obstacles persist. For instance, the level of awareness regarding the

dangers of money politics in the regions where the socialization takes place is limited to a select group of individuals who are invited to the activities. This limitation is connected to the constrained budget available to Bawaslu for gathering a larger number of participants. Furthermore, budgetary constraints also pose a challenge when Bawaslu intends to invite external experts or academics who have expertise in election matters. To address this, Bawaslu leverages the personal connections of its leadership with experts or academics

One noteworthy challenge is that the responsibility for enhancing community participation in this manner should also fall under the purview of the Banyumas Regency General Election Commission (Komisi Pemilihan Umum Daerah Banyumas, KPUD Banyumas). Through a collaborative effort involving the division of tasks for raising public awareness, it is assumed that community awareness about the importance of clean elections and citizen participation in oversight would be higher. However, as mentioned by Yon, the KPUD Banyumas lacks sufficient funding for this purpose. "To our knowledge, the allocated budget for this is only one million rupiahs, which means that we cannot expect optimal results similar to what we are achieving," stated Saleh Darmawan and Yon Daryono. Analysis and exploration from the first problem

B. Literature Review

1. Money Politics: Some Definitions

Money politics is often referred to as "money politics." This phrase consists of two components: "money," which refers to currency or wealth, and "politics," which pertains to political activities. The concept denotes the use of monetary resources to achieve specific political objectives. In the context of politics, the meaning narrows down to using money as a means to influence voters in making their choices during general elections.⁷ Money politics itself, as Burhanuddin Muhtadi put it, refers to electoral mobilization through the provision of money, gifts, or items to voters with the intention of influencing their casting of votes during elections. According to Muhtadi, money politics has evolved into a new normalcy, rather than being perceived as a taboo. This phenomenon inherently contradicts the spirit of Reform, which aimed to establish a clean and free government, devoid of Corruption, Collusion, and Nepotism (Korupsi, Kolusi, Nepotisme, KKN).⁸

The definition of money politics in the existing regulations in Indonesia was only recently found in the explanatory section of Article 25 (2) of Government Regulation No. 151 of 2000 on Procedures for the Election, Ratification, and Dismissal of Regional Heads and Deputy Regional Heads. This provision defines money politics as the provision of money or other forms, conducted by a candidate for Regional Head or Deputy Regional Head, or related to a candidate

⁷ Edward Aspinall and Wawan Mas'Udi, 'The 2017 Pilkada (Local Elections) in Indonesia: Clientelism, Programmatic Politics and Social Networks,' *Contemporary Southeast Asia* 39, no. 3 (2017): 417.

⁸ Muhtadi, 'Politik Uang Dan New Normal,' 55.

pair, to members of the Regional People's Representative Council (Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat Daerah, DPRD) with the explicit or covert intention to obtain support in order to win the Regional Head election, categorized as a criminal act of bribery as stipulated in Law No. 11 of 1980 on Bribery.

2. Classification of Money Politics

Five classifications of money politics can be mentioned: vote buying, individual gifts, services and activities, club goods, and pork barrel projects.⁹

The most familiar mechanisms come from the first and second type. As a matter of law, money politics is often affiliated with bribery. In the context of vote buying, the paradigm of bribery is narrowed down into a systematic distribution of money or goods before the voting takes place.¹⁰ Individual gifts has quite similar to vote buying but can still be differentiated: vote buying is often defined by candidates as a structured effort involving a list of voters with the aim of winning a larger share of votes meanwhile Individual gifts, from the candidates' perspective, involve personally giving items, and although these items display the candidate's party identity, this practice is not considered a form of money politics.¹¹ Services and activities involve campaigning by participating in certain community celebration events.¹² For example, candidates become providers/donors in sports events, other examples involving candidates which fund various public services for the community. Club goods share a paradigm with individual gifts in terms of the subjectivity of the actor (candidate), as they are considered not part of money politics because they only provide what the community needs.¹³ Furthermore, club goods target specific social groups rather than individuals, and these social groups are categorized into community associations and communities residing in urban, rural, or other environments.¹⁴ Lastly, pork barrel projects use a quite manipulative mechanism. This practice is aimed at the public, characterized by government projects carried out in selected geographical areas, funded with public funds, with the hope that the public will support the related candidate.¹⁵ This mechanism usually relies on small-scale impactful programs and correlates with the candidate's track record and desired achievements.¹⁶

3. Patronage, Clientelism, Patron-Client and Its Connection Within Money Politics

⁹ Edward Aspinall, Mada Sukmajati, and Research Centre for Politics and Government, Universitas Gadjah Mada, *Politik Uang Di Indonesia: Patronase Dan Klientelisme Pada Pemilu Legislatif 2014* (Yogyakarta: Center for Political and Government Studies, 2015), 11.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, 12.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, 13.

¹² *Ibid.*, 14.

¹³ *Ibid.*, 15.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, 16.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, 17.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, 18.

When discussing money politics, it is inevitably intertwined with the concepts of patronage and clientelism. As Aspinall and Sukmajati put it, patronage entails the provision of gifts such as money, goods, services, or other economic benefits by politicians to individuals.¹⁷ The funding sources for supplying these goods can be categorized into two, namely from third-party donors and personal assets.¹⁸ Subsequently, clientelism refers to the transaction between material benefits and political support, as well as the network that candidates utilize to mobilize votes.¹⁹ On the other hand, Lawson and Greene put a similar perspective: the concept of exchanging selective material benefits for political support commonly known as clientelism, where the subordinacy follows: supporter/indulged voters are referred to as clients, candidates are patrons, and the go-betweens are brokers. Contrary to the transactional relationship, relational clientelism is long-term and has an affective side. Collective clientelism can be understood as the development of relational clientelism.²⁰ It can be concluded therefore, that patronage involves the provision of gifts by politicians to individuals, while clientelism refers to the transactions that occur during the patronage process. The outcome of research conducted by Aspinall and As'ad resulted in finding that both patronage and clientelism frequently occur in Indonesia, even at the lowest levels namely, the village level.²¹

The phenomenon of money politics can be understood from the perspective that both parties, candidates and the public, mutually rely on each other. As long as there is no element of coercion, intimidation, or political violence, this type of money politics practice is generally challenging to be penalized, unless caught red-handed.²²

Money politics, patronage, and clientelism are closely related as they share a commonality among themselves. They all describe the transactional relationship between politicians and voters, wherein politicians provide something that is later exchanged for voter support. These three elements also share the common feature of a patron-client relationship. The patron-client relationship involves an exchange where an individual of higher socio-economic status (patron) utilizes influence and resources to provide protection and benefits to an individual of

¹⁷ Ibid., 19.

¹⁸ Firdarani Kirana Rivanisa, 'POLA HUBUNGAN PATRON-KLIEN DAN PERANNYA DALAM PEMBENTUKAN KAPITAL SOSIAL DAN KAPITAL DIGITAL PETANI,' *Jurnal Ilmiah Sosiologi* 9, no. 1 (2022): 20.

¹⁹ Aspinall and Mas'udi, 'The 2017 Pilkada,' 419.

²⁰ Henk Schulte Nordholt, 'From Contest State to Patronage Democracy: The Longue Durée of Clientelism in Indonesia,' in *Environment, Trade and Society in Southeast Asia*, ed. Han-Peter Fuhs (Leiden: BRILL, 2015), 231

²¹ Edward Aspinall and Muhammad Uhaib As'Ad, 'The Patronage Patchwork: Village Brokerage Networks and the Power of the State in an Indonesian Election,' *Bijdragen tot de Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde* 171, no. 2-3 (2015): 165.

²² Hariyanto, 'Politik Hukum Pencegahan Dan Penanganan Politik Uang Dalam Pemilu,' *Humani (Hukum dan Masyarakat Madani)* 11, no. 2 (2021): 360.

assumed lower status (client).²³ In the context of money politics, the candidate serves as the patron, while the prospective voters act as the clients. This patron-client relationship contributes to the flourishing of the existence of money politics.²⁴

4. Changes in Election System: Its Influence on Money Politics

In the post-Reform era which allowed for the establishment of political parties, the number of political parties increased significantly compared to elections during the New Order. There were 48 and 14 political parties competing in the 1999 and 2019 elections respectively.²⁵ In 2024 elections, the number of verified political parties engaging is also relatively high totaling 18 political parties.²⁶ The comparison between these party numbers is highly significant when contrasted with the total number of participating political parties in the New Order election, which is only three. Indeed, the enthusiasm of political parties in the electoral contest is a phenomenon that should be celebrated, as it reflects the increase of public participation in the election. However, this high number may intensify the competition for legislative seats which in turn lead candidates to money politics. In addition, the implementation of an open proportional system since 2004 election according to Law Number 12 of 2003. Open proportional system also contributes to the prevalence of money politics, as it compels fellow legislative candidates to chase personal votes.²⁷

5. Factors that Sustain Money Politics

The perspectives and attitudes of the voters towards money politics contribute to the sustaining practices of this prohibited conduct. As Anshori put it, people tend to see money politics as normal and even an integral part of the political process involving the exchange of money or goods for support.²⁸ Furthermore, they may see the gift as a moral economy, or understand it as a gesture of generosity or the suitability of a candidate for a particular official.²⁹ In fact, the voters have come to expect the "envelopes" from legislative candidates. This creates a symbiotic

²³ Burhanuddin Muhtadi, 'POLITIK UANG DAN DINAMIKA ELEKTORAL DI INDONESIA: SEBUAH KAJIAN AWAL INTERAKSI ANTARA "PARTY-ID" DAN PATRON-KLIEN,' *Jurnal Sosiologi* 10, no. 1 (2016): 35.

²⁴ Siregar and Maryanah, 'FENOMENA MONEY POLITICS,' 141.

²⁵ M. Prakoso Aji and Jerry Indriawan, 'Hambatan Dan Tantangan Partai Politik: Persiapan Menuju Pemilihan Umum 2024,' *El-Wasathiya: Jurnal Studi Agama* 8, no. 2 (2020): 214.

²⁶ Mustafa Mustafa and Reizki Maharani, 'Evaluasi Pendaftaran, Verifikasi, Dan Penetapan Partai Politik Peserta Pemilihan Umum 2024,' *Resolusi: Jurnal Sosial Politik* 6, no. 1 (2023): 39.

²⁷ Lati Praja Delmana, Aidinil Zetra, and Hendri Koeswara, 'PROBLEMATIKA DAN STRATEGI PENANGANAN POLITIK UANG PEMILU SERENTAK 2019 DI INDONESIA,' *Electoral Governance: Jurnal Tata Kelola Pemilu Indonesia* 1, no. 1 (2020): 10.

²⁸ Akhyar Anshori et al., 'Politik Uang Dan Korupsi Dalam Pemilihan Kepala Daerah: Tinjauan Sosiologi Politik,' in *ISU-ISU GLOBAL & KONTEMPORER: Analisis dan Fakta Lapangan*, vol. 1, ed. Winarti and Nadra Amalia (Medan: UMSU PRESS, 2021), 120.

²⁹ Edward Aspinall et al., 'Vote Buying in Indonesia: Candidate Strategies, Market Logic and Effectiveness,' *Journal of East Asian Studies* 17, no. 1 (2017): 1.

mutualism, an implication which perpetuates money politics since people become reluctant to report such practices to Bawaslu.³⁰

The survey conducted by the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (Lembaga Ilmu Pengetahuan Indonesia, LIPI) on the 2019 Elections and Democracy in Indonesia found that nearly half of the respondents, (47.4%) acknowledged the existence of money politics in the 2019 Simultaneous Elections while 46.7% of the them believed money politics as a practice that can be justified.³¹

Voters' acceptance of money politics as described above can serve as an explanation that when there is an omission of such wrongful conduct, then a new paradigm that is far from the achievement of a clean election will develop. Should this be the case, the efforts to restore social norms will be much more difficult, especially because this wrongful practice has been increasingly considered as normal by society.

Nevertheless, efforts to combat money politics as mandated by the Election Law should always be carried out so that a clean election to create a clean government can be realized. It should be kept in mind, however, that actors engaged in money politics are not limited to political elites (candidates or individuals responsible) of specific political parties.³² There are also vulnerable parts of society, especially those from the lower and middle classes who play a role as recipients of various forms of money politics, who are willing to bargain their vote with certain candidates.³³ Strategies and or efforts of the Bawaslu to combat money politics should therefore be proportionally directed also at those two parties.

6. Mitigation on Money Politics: Some Approaches

Considering the prevalent issue of money politics in Indonesia, it is imperative to implement both preventive and remedial measures to address this phenomenon. First, law enforcement agencies should have integrity, credibility, and be strongly committed to fulfilling their duties and responsibilities.³⁴ Second, the effectiveness of internal control institutions (inspectorate), external oversight (Bawaslu) and the Election Organizer Ethics Council (Dewan Kehormatan Penyelenggara Pemilu, DKKP) should be increased. These three different

³⁰ Muhtadi, 'POLITIK UANG DAN DINAMIKA ELEKTORAL,' 35.

³¹ Deti Mega Purnamasari, 'Survei LIPI: Masyarakat Memandang Politik Uang Bagian Dari Pemilu, Tidak Dilarang,' *Kompas.com*, August 29, 2019.

³² M. Faishal Aminuddin and Natasha Hassan Attamimi, 'From Retail to Grocery: Money Politics in 2014 Indonesian Legislative Election,' *Politik Indonesia: Indonesian Political Science Review* 4, no. 2 (2019): 99.

³³ Muhtadi, 'POLITIK UANG DAN DINAMIKA ELEKTORAL,' 36.

³⁴ Hariman Satria, 'Politik Hukum Tindak Pidana Politik Uang Dalam Pemilihan Umum Di Indonesia,' *Jurnal Antikorupsi INTEGRITAS* 5, no. 1 (2020): 1. <https://doi.org/10.32697/integritas.v5i1.342>.

authorities with their respective vital role in every stage of the election processes should comply with the applicable legal regulations.³⁵

In addition to the institutional approaches as mentioned above, the efforts to raise public awareness on the importance of a clean election should always be done. Voters should have adequate knowledge on the dangers of vote buying, the escalation of election campaign costs, and the perils of corruption.³⁶ Only if the awareness of clean elections and the impact of money politics has been realized by the voters then elections that are free from money politics to create a clean government can reasonably be expected.

7. The Importance of Bawaslu

Bawaslu as an independent institution which has responsibility in supervising the conduct of elections is a crucial element in the achievement of a just election.³⁷ The achievement of such election requires timely execution and adherence to the principles of direct, general, free, confidential (Langsung, Umum, Bebas, Rahasia, LUBER), honest, and fair (Jujur, dan Adil, JURDIL) elections, as stipulated in Article 2 of Law Number 7 of 2017 on Elections.

Bawaslu is not a subordinate of the Election Commission (Komisi Pemilihan Umum, KPU). Together with Election Organizers Ethic Council (Dewan Kehormatan Penyelenggara Pemilu, DKPP), both Bawaslu and KPU are independent and have equal positions in their respective role as election organizers.³⁸ The obligations of Bawaslu include acting non-discriminatively, guiding and supervising election observers, receiving and following up on reports of election violations, collecting data on monitoring results and fulfilling other obligations as per prevailing regulations.³⁹

Bawaslu has pivotal functions, all of which have been prescribed in Article 95 letter b of the Election Law. In this context, Bawaslu has the authority to suggest penalties to KPU as well as receiving and responding to reports related to possible violations of election laws. This includes scrutinizing, evaluating, and adjudicating matters related to administrative violations, as well as examining, evaluating, and rendering judgments on instances involving money politics violations.⁴⁰ It is the aforementioned authorities that makes Bawaslu important

³⁵ Delmana, Zetra, and Koeswara, 'PROBLEMATIKA DAN STRATEGI PENANGANAN POLITIK UANG,' 10.

³⁶ Hariyanto, 'Politik Hukum Pencegahan,' 360.

³⁷ Tatang Sudrajat and Sri Lestari, 'Organizational Dimensions of Bawaslu and Policy for Improving Election Implementation Supervision,' *International Journal of Social Science Research and Review* 5, no. 12 (2022): 10.

³⁸ *Ibid.*, 11.

³⁹ Halilul Khairi, 'Local Elections (Pilkada): Money Politics and Cukong Democracy,' *Jurnal Bina Praja* 12, no. 2 (2020): 249.

⁴⁰ Dedi Ramdani, 'Analisis Peranan BAWASLU Dalam Penegakan Hukum Pemilu Serentak 2024,' *Jurnal Ilmiah Ekonomi dan Sosial* 3, no. 1 (2023): 15.

with its role to scrutinize all stages and series of elections both at the national and the regional level.⁴¹

As an institution which conducts checks and balances, Bawaslu has the responsibility of scrutinizing the KPU's execution of each facet of the general election proceedings, thereby upholding the integrity of the electoral framework.⁴² In the realm of elections, this aligns with the extended developmental trajectory outlined in the 2005-2025 Long-Term Development Plan, as stipulated by Law Number 17 of 2007. This plan emphasizes the pursuit of a law-based democratic Indonesia, including enhancing the efficacy of state administrative bodies in executing constitutionally granted powers and mandates, it additionally to foster enhanced democratic institutionalization to boost the ongoing and enduring consolidation of democracy.⁴³

III. CONCLUSION

Bawaslu Banyumas fulfills its obligation to enhance community participation in election oversight as mandated by the law through a series of approaches. These include formal methods such as coordinating meetings and cultural approaches, leveraging social media and mass media. Various approaches are employed to foster clean and integrity-driven elections, involving community leaders. Additionally, these efforts target specific villages that Bawaslu Banyumas deems worthy of prioritization based on its considerations.

Generally, Bawaslu Banyumas encounter no significant obstacles in fulfilling its legal responsibilities. However, it is assumed that the endeavor to increase community participation would be more effective through the involvement of other entities, specifically KPUD Banyumas.

This research was conducted prior to the simultaneous 2024 Elections. Therefore, the question of whether the efforts made by Bawaslu Banyumas to enhance community participation in election oversight were successful or not requires further research. This research should ideally be conducted after the simultaneous Elections have taken place, in order to assess the extent of the effectiveness of Bawaslu Banyumas' initiatives in increasing community participation in oversight and prevention of money politics practices

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⁴¹ Ibid., 16.

⁴² Aspinall and As'Ad. 'The Patronage Patchwork,' 165.

⁴³ Sudrajat and Lestari, 'Organizational Dimensions,' 10.

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