

**MANIFEST CONFLICT BETWEEN ORGANIZERS AND PARTICIPANTS IN THE  
2015-2016 REGIONAL HEAD ELECTION OF PEMATANGSIANTAR CITY**

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**ABSTRACT**

*The regional election directly has been done since June 2005. In addition, for the first time also in the election disputes nomination a prolonged and lead to delay election highest, namely to 11 months in Pematangsiantar. Political conflicts the regional election describes two different purposes both in the Committee and attendees. The political conflicts in the regional election that is characterized by the presence of partiality the head elections the area of a city Pematangsiantar to one of the pairs of candidates Mayor and Deputy Mayor Pematangsiantar 2015. Many the negative effects of political conflict occurred in the town of Pematangsiantar during the election process the head of the region especially in 2015 to 2016. This research uses the qualitative methodology to analyze the political conflict in Pematang Siantar City. This methodology aims to portray the real situation and find out the pattern of the conflict between the election committees and the candidates since the election had been delayed for two times. This research concern of the pattern of the conflict of the mayoral election in Pematang Siantar City from 2015 to 2016. The result finds out that the conflict was classified as the manifest and latent conflicts.*

**Keywords:** Political conflict, Election in Pematang Siantar City, Election process.

**ABSTRACT**

*Pilkada secara langsung telah dilakukan sejak bulan Juni 2005. Selain itu, untuk pertama kalinya juga terjadi perselisihan pencalonan dalam pemilu yang berkepanjangan dan mengakibatkan penundaan pemilu yang paling tinggi, yaitu menjadi 11 bulan di Pematangsiantar. Konflik politik pilkada menggambarkan dua tujuan yang berbeda baik di pihak Panitia maupun peserta. Konflik politik dalam pemilihan kepala daerah yang ditandai dengan adanya keberpihakan kepala daerah pemilihan kepala daerah suatu kota Pematangsiantar terhadap salah satu dari pasangan calon Walikota dan Wakil Walikota Pematangsiantar 2015. Banyak dampak negatif konflik politik yang terjadi di kota Pematangsiantar pada masa proses pemilihan kepala daerah khususnya pada tahun 2015 hingga 2016. Penelitian ini menggunakan metodologi kualitatif untuk menganalisis konflik politik di Kota Pematang Siantar. Metodologi ini bertujuan untuk menggambarkan keadaan sebenarnya dan mengetahui pola konflik antara panitia pemilu dan kandidat sejak pemilu sempat tertunda sebanyak dua kali. Penelitian ini membahas tentang pola konflik pemilihan Walikota di Kota Pematang Siantar pada tahun 2015 hingga tahun 2016. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa konflik tersebut tergolong konflik manifes dan konflik laten.*

**Kata kunci:** Konflik politik, Pemilu di Kota Pematang Siantar, Proses Pemilu.

**INTRODUCTION**

Afifi (2005: 11) The emergence of Law number 32 of 2004 as a replacement for Law number 22 of 1999 concerning regional government which also marks the birth of direct post-conflict local elections in various regions of Indonesia is expected to be able to bring change to Indonesia in planning a more democratic reform agenda. The presence of this law is an opportunity to realize regional aspirations, namely wanting a local leader who has been agreed upon by the people through direct regional elections. Direct Regional Election based on PP no. 6 of 2004 concerning the Election, Validation, Appointment and Dismissal of Regional Heads and

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Deputy Regional Heads, in article 1 paragraph (1) it is formulated that Pilkada is a means of implementing people's sovereignty in provincial and/or district/city areas based on Pancasila and the State Constitution Republic of Indonesia in 1945 to elect Regional Heads and Deputy Regional Heads. The implementation of direct regional elections received quite diverse responses in society. The presence of a government elected and determined by the region is at least a signal for improving the public service system for the people in the region.

Disputes or conflicts are phenomena that commonly occur in political life, because political disputes or conflicts are an inseparable part of political dynamics. In political life, political disputes or conflicts can be used as a process of political maturation, because in political disputes or conflicts there is a communication process to resolve political conflicts or disputes. According to the Ministry of Home Affairs' Kesbangpol records, of the 486 regional elections held in 2005-2008, almost half had problems. In 2010, there were 224 regions that held regional elections. As many as 73% of them were affected by the lawsuit process. The potential for regional elections to become a conflict will at least end in the Constitutional Court because each party since the beginning of the regional election stages has accused each other of fraud and violations. Starting from administrative matters, allegations of money politics, the organizers' partiality towards one of the candidate pairs, to vote counting.

Like the incident in Sarolangun Regency, five simultaneous regional election organizers in that area were fired because they were proven not to be neutral. Sarolangun KPU Commissioner, Asriadi, said that the five regional election organizers who were fired served as the Voting Committee (PPS) and the Voting Organizing Group (KPPS). "They have proven to be not neutral, there are indications of supporting one of the candidate pairs," said Asriadi in Sarolangun, Sarolangun Regency, Friday 11 February 2017.

The simultaneous regional elections ended on December 9 2015. There are no less than 264 regions, consisting of 9 provinces, 34 cities and 224 districts, but there are several that are experiencing delays, such as Central Kalimantan province, Fakfak Regency, Pematangsiantar City, Simalungun Regency and Manado City. The Pematangsiantar regional election is the only regional election in Indonesia that has been delayed for the longest time, which was supposed to be held on December 9 2015. Simalungun, which is a district of the city of Pematangsiantar, is one of those that has been postponed but has held voting on February 10 2016.

The Pematang Siantar General Election Commission has decided on the election time twice, but the post-conflict regional election cannot take place. Incidents like this create a situation that is contrary to what was expected by the central government and the election organizers themselves. The Pematangsiantar KPU has verified the candidates for mayor and deputy mayor for the first time in 2015. The following are 5 pairs of candidates for mayor and deputy mayor of Pematangsiantar in the 2015 regional elections. Competition between candidates from political parties and individuals is considered quite tight. Each candidate pair has supporters from various levels.

The tensions above give rise to political conflict which is a translation of the tension between political procedures and political substance. Opposing public issues that concern many people and do not include individual conflicts, because those involved are the organizers and participants in the post-conflict regional elections. If the conflict in the post-conflict regional elections cannot be reduced, the level of voter participation could decrease.

As is known, Pematangsiantar City is one of 5 regions in Indonesia where the voting was postponed on December 9 2015. It was postponed twice. Like the conflict between Candidate Pair Number 5, Surfenov Sirait-Parlindungan Sinaga and Pematangsiantar KPUD. Based on Minutes Number: 1845/BA/KPU-Kota-002.656024/XI/2015, this candidate pair was approved as a candidate pair with the signature of all Pematangsiantar KPUD Commissioners and then was canceled as a candidate for Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Pematangsiantar in the 2015 Simultaneous Regional Elections. Reasons for KPUD Pematangsiantar did this, as reported by Lintaspublik.com, the cancellation of the Surfenov-Parlindungan candidate pair was the result of a correction from the North Sumatra Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu Sumut) Number 002/2340/Bawaslu-SU/XI/2015 dated November 23 2015. Violation This administration was discovered by North Sumatra Bawaslu with Finding Number: 01/TM/PILKADA/BWS-SU/XI/2015.

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The candidate pair Surfenov-Parlin considers that the Pematangsiantar City KPUD is legally flawed and violates the law and has entered into an act of Abuse of Power, or an act of exceeding authority. Surfenov filed a lawsuit regarding the deletion with the Medan PTUN. On December 8 2015, Surfenov-Parlin received an Interim Decision from the Medan PTUN that his exclusion by the KPUD had to be revoked, the legal consequence was that Surfenov-Parlin had to be included as a participant in the Pilkada but the KPUD had already distributed ballot papers and logistics to each TPS and only had four participants without the candidate pair Surfenov – Parlin. Because of this, the Pematangsiantar City Election which was supposed to be held on December 9 2015 had to be postponed, due to the legal process at the Medan PTUN, namely the lawsuit by candidate pair Surfenov – Parlin. After undergoing a lengthy trial, on February 25 2016 the Medan PTUN won Surfenov's lawsuit and decided that Surfenov's removal be cancelled, and that Surfenov – Parlin be reinstated as participants in the Siantar Regional Election. Then the Pematangsiantar KPUD filed an appeal as a result, the regional elections were no longer held. Meanwhile, the candidate pair Surfenov – Parlin met the requirements but was rejected by the KPUD. This resulted in the dismissal of three members of the Election Supervisory Committee (Panwaslu) of Pematangsiantar City, North Sumatra, by the Honorary Council for Election Organizers (DKPP) of the Republic of Indonesia. The three of them were determined to have violated the election organizers' code of ethics when deciding on the lawsuit against the Surfenov Sirait-Parlindungan Sinaga couple. The conflict between the organizers and one of the regional election participants ended with the Surfenov-Parlin candidate pair not being included in the November 23 2016 regional elections.

## METHOD

The method used in this qualitative research is a case study. Case studies focus on case specifications in an incident whether it includes individuals, groups, or a portrait of life. Over three decades, case studies have been defined by more than 25 experts. Creswell (2010:20) says that a case study is a research strategy in which the researcher carefully investigates a program, event, activity, process, or group of individuals. Yin (2011:1) says a case study is an empirical investigation that investigates contemporary phenomena in real life contexts, especially when the boundaries between phenomenon and context are not very clear. The selection of case studies is used to study, explain, interpret the holding of regional head elections in Pematangsiantar, especially in 2015, in a natural context without any engineering or intervention. Case studies were chosen because their use is not influenced by the researchers' perceptions or thoughts. In the context of selecting a case study, it will be able to help researchers understand in depth the phenomena that actually occur, the regularity, specificity and uniqueness of the cases in this research, where the final results are expected to be able to show and provide explanations related to the historical background, physical setting (location geographical, demographic, facilities, infrastructure and infrastructure. The case study was chosen because it can also be used to prove the relevance of using the theory of forms of political conflict and problems in the post-conflict local elections in the city of Pematangsiantar through drawing conclusions or generalizing the phenomena of this research.

## DISCUSSION

### Regional Election in Pematangsiantar

The Pematangsiantar Regional Election which was held on July 27 2005 was attended by five pairs of candidates for mayor and deputy mayor. RE Siahaan and Imal Raya Harahap were promoted by the Democratic Party which won 5 seats in the DPRD here. The Democratic Party is already representative in nominating the Mayor and Deputy Mayor without having to form a coalition with other parties to fulfill the requirements written in Law No. 32 of 2003, namely getting 15 votes. % in the DPRD, this is also the case with the Lingga Napitupulu/Fatimah Siregar pair supported by PDIP where PDIP was the winning party in the 2004 Legislative Election in Pematangsiantar Municipality by occupying 6 seats. Risnawati Dartatik/Anggiat Pakpahan are the pair of mayoral candidates nominated by PAN who won 3 seats in the DPRD and PPP who won 2 seats in the DPRD, then the pair Kurnia Rajasyah Saragih/Mangatas Silalahi were nominated by Golkar who occupied 2 seats in the

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DPRD, the Social Democratic Labor Party (PBSD) won 1 seat and the Pioneer Party (PP) also occupied 1 seat in the DPRD so they had to form a coalition with other political parties because they were not representative in nominating candidates for Mayor and Deputy Mayor because they did not get 15% of the vote during the 2004 legislative elections. then implemented, Kusuma Erizal Ginting/Paul Parulian Purba were a pair of candidates supported by a coalition of 9 political parties, namely the Pelopor party, PKS which won 2 seats, PKB, PPK, PNBK, PPNUI, PNI Marhaenis, PKPB, PPB. By looking at the comparison of seats, the nine parties The party formed a coalition in nominating candidates for Mayor and Deputy Mayor. According to KPU voter data, the number of voters in Pematangsiantar Municipality reached 153,588 people spread across 6 sub-districts. Of that number, 85,588 people exercised their right to vote in 2005.

The dynamic stages of political conflict can be seen from pre-conflict, confrontation, crisis and post-conflict (Susan: 2010, 102). This is the same as the stages of political conflict that occurred in the Pematangsiantar City Regional Head Election between participants and organizers, especially in 2015-2016.

- a. Pre-conflict is a period when there is a mismatch of goals between two or more parties, resulting in conflict. Conflict is hidden from public view, even though one or more parties may be aware of the process of confrontation. There may be relationship tensions between some parties and/or a desire to avoid contact with each other at this stage.
- b. Confrontation shows a stage when the conflict begins to open. If only one party feels there is a problem, perhaps its supporters will start holding demonstrations or other confrontational behavior.
- c. Crisis is the peak of conflict. The stage when conflict breaks out into intense and mass violent actions. Large-scale conflict, this is a period of war, when people from both sides are killed. Consequence refers to the situation caused by the outbreak of conflict at the crisis stage. It could be that one party wins the war, or loses and even both experience defeat together. This situation really depends on the conflict handling process. If both parties are able to negotiate and use problem-solving strategies, it is possible that the resulting situation will be quite positive and reduce the amount of mutual losses. In the case of a competing strategy that results in the implementation of losing results, it causes large losses. At this stage, the level of violence decreases, accompanied by a decrease in various forms of confrontation between conflicting parties, the withdrawal of armed forces, and the emergence of conflict resolution initiatives.
- d. Post-conflict, the situation is resolved by ending various violent confrontations, tensions are reduced and relations move towards more normality between the two parties.

## Forms of Political Conflict in the 2015-2016 Pematangsiantar City Regional Head Election

In this discussion, we will explain in focus the forms of political conflict that occurred in the regional head election process for the city of Pematangsiantar. From the political conflict that occurred in Pematangsiantar in 2015-2016, it cannot be separated from the stages of the conflict. Apart from knowing the stages of conflict, the form of political conflict that occurred in the regional head election for the city of Pematangsiantar in 2015-2016 needs to be researched to see which form of conflict from 4 aspects is the most influential or walk. The discussion includes the background to the occurrence of political conflict and also the forms of political conflict. The following explanation was obtained from the field after the author conducted interviews with various parties who had been determined previously. The relationship between conflict and integration cannot be separated, this relationship can be compared to two sides of the same coin.

The democratic government system is developing rapidly and is being practiced by many countries in the world, including Indonesia. One manifestation of the use of a democratic system in Indonesia is the direct regional head election (Pilkada). In this regard, many groups are concerned that direct regional elections by the people have a positive correlation with increasing conflict intensity. A case of regional election conflict that can be used as an example is the regional head election for the city of Pematangsiantar in 2015 and 2016. The conflict that occurred between the organizers and participants was a reflection of two parties who had different interests. The position of regional head

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still has great appeal. Like a magnet that can absorb the metal around it. The position of regional head which is contested through the post-conflict regional elections does open up great opportunities for "capital owners" (social capital, political capital, economic capital) to fight. The struggle between actors in an open political arena is very likely to trigger conflict (Ministry of Home Affairs, 2010).

In following up on political conflicts carried out in the Pematangsiantar city regional elections, namely outside of court based on facts and using a map method which was resolved by deliberation to reach consensus. Because this is quite effective in resolving disputes and by summoning all parties for clarification or questioning. For Panwaslu study materials, the Panwaslu Plenary, and then forwarded/delegated to related institutions such as the KPU for administrative violations, the Police for criminal violations and Bawaslu for violations of the code of ethics.

The obstacles that occur in following up the political conflict in the Pematangsiantar City Election are internal and external factors. The internal factor is human resources, which still needs to be improved in terms of performance. The external obstacle is that if parties are not present for questioning, violation reports are incomplete, such as the absence of photocopies of ID cards, evidence, and witnesses and political parties have not carried out their duties to disseminate political education to the public. This makes the level of public awareness in politics less, thus triggering conflict

## CONCLUSION

The research results show that this conflict includes manifest conflict and latent conflict. The political dynamics of the interests of the political elite in Pematangsiantar merge their influence on every segmentation of elements of society, political parties and individuals in state institutions. The impact that arises from this situation is the emergence of political sentiment when political activities with different agendas occur in the future. Individuals in the superstructure and political infrastructure elements in the city of Pematangsiantar often collaborate at some times and split at other times. This is based on their respective goals and interests.

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