



# CIREBON INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EDUCATION AND ECONOMICS (CICEE)

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## GENERAL ELECTION FOR WELFARE

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### **Abstract**

General elections or Pemilu are a form of legitimate means of transitioning a regime or power. The meaning of an election is so important, because of several things that underlie it. Among them are elections which are carried out directly, publicly, freely, secretly, honestly and fairly by the community directly, which is also a form of implementing democracy. Elections as an exercise of democracy. Elections also serve as a means of realizing democracy. Leadership elections occur at the central level, where state leaders are elected, as well as at the regional level, where governors are chosen and deputy governor, as well as at the district level electing the regent and deputy regent or mayor and deputy mayor. These prospective leaders will bring a vision and mission in their election which will later become a central or regional medium-term development program outlined in the form of a medium-term development plan document or text, which will be implemented over a five-year period during the period of exercising the powers of the elected leaders. This medium-term development plan must align with central and regional government programs to support community welfare development, reflecting the essence of a welfare state. Achieving a welfare state is one of the objectives of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia. This paper uses a qualitative method that processes secondary data into descriptive analysis. This normative juridical research does not process a formula of numbers or statistics.

**Keywords:** elections, democracy, development.

### **INTRODUCTION**

General elections or what we usually call elections are a process of changing the reins of leadership from time to time periodically and according to the rules. Where through elections it is hoped that leaders will be born who are expected by the community, who can protect and even improve the welfare of the people who have chosen them.

According to Kholis (2016), for the Indonesian people, elections are a hope of entering the door to prosperity. At the beginning of each reform era, the people showed their enthusiasm in participating in the general legislative, state leaders and regional leaders. Even in a bad economic situation. This is a signal that the people always have hope in the election, namely the hope that there will be wisdom in improving people's welfare through the performance of the leaders resulting from the election.

Further emphasized that one of the characteristics of democracy is the existence of free, honest and fair general elections to determine (choose) the leaders of the state and government as well as House of Representatives. Elections are one form of realizing democracy.election.

In Robert Dahl, as quoted by Ferry Kurnia Rizkiansyah, Democracy is an important condition for the most perfect political order (Rizkiansyah, 2007). Democracy is the best system because democracy has advantages that other political systems do not have. Some of the advantages of democracy are (1) Democracy increases freedom to determine one's own destiny, both in individual and group contexts; (2) Democracy increases human development in terms of having moral autonomy and responsibility for the choices made; and (3) Democracy is the surest way that humans use to protect and promote the interests and goodness that they share with other people.

In interpreting democracy, all countries want to interpret their constitution in a democratic way or in a sovereign way by the people. It is the people who are the parameters of democracy, one of which is the prosperity they obtain through free, honest and fair elections. This refers to the ideal of a welfare state or *welvaartstaat*.

Democratic politics may not eliminate the need for leaders, but it certainly places strong limits on the field of leadership, especially by making leaders accountable to the public and by establishing an institutional mechanism through which they can be called to account and removed (Said, 2022).

Democratic elections to elect the head of government can give rise to the oldest policy in a national development planning system which produces long-term, medium-term and annual development plans implemented by elements of state and community administrators at the central and regional levels. The importance of general elections for the creation of a welfare state is so great, the author will review the process or mechanism of general elections for welfare.

## **METHODS**

This research uses a doctrinal approach as stated in Suteki & Taufani (2020), is through primary legal material in the form of the law concerning the National Development Planning System, as positive legal material. The secondary legal materials used are the opinions of legal experts contained in books. The data obtained was processed qualitatively, namely presenting the data in an analytical descriptive manner.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

In democratic countries, elections are a symbol and benchmark for the implementation of democracy. Likewise in Indonesia, elections act as a tool or means to realize democracy. In this regard, Ramlan Surbakti categorized elections as one of the 11 pillars of a democratic political system. Thus, elections are the main indicator that shows that a democratic system is used in a country because in general elections every citizen has the right to make their choice. With the participation and involvement of the community in elections, it becomes a mechanism for resolving and delegating people's representatives or delegating political party representatives that can be trusted (Isra & Fahmi, 2021).

Through an election, the role of the community is really needed in selecting leaders who will return. The community also needs it in one of the processes for carrying out policies towards development for the welfare of the community. In countries that implement a

democratic system, general elections are considered the main benchmark for implementing democracy. This means that the implementation of the election, from preparation, implementation to the results of the election, is a reflection of an open atmosphere or nothing is hidden in the series of election implementation so that the basic values of democracy are visible. Apart from that, freedom of opinion or assembly is a reflection of a democracy. The reason is that the election is considered to give birth to a representative of the people's aspirations, which of course is closely related to the legitimacy of the government. Through elections, democracy as a system that guarantees the freedom of citizens is realized through the absorption of votes as a form of broad public participation. In other words, elections are a symbol of people's sovereignty (Tutik, 2010)

With democratic elections, it is necessary to create an increase in the development of society towards the ownership of moral autonomy and accountability, of course many people hope that elections will be born that can truly be felt to bring prosperity as the hope of society.

Furthermore, R. William Liddle, as quoted by Titik Truwukan Tutik, said that a democratic, effective and stable government system contains four characteristics:

1. Political parties, (1) through elections elect officials who are formally and informally responsible for state policy; (2) is free from intervention from other parties; (3) has broad support from the community; and (4) rely on leadership that is trusted by its members and is capable of leading the country;
2. General agreement (consensus) regarding; (1) the rules of the political game, both formal and informal, concerning the decision-making process; (2) consensus regarding the economic, social and cultural values that society wants to achieve/maintain;
3. The executive institution determines (domain) the government decision-making process;
4. State bureaucracy that is able to implement government policies (Isra & Fahmi, 2021)

It cannot be denied that welfare will be influenced by the politics of leaders produced through general elections which are of course carried out properly and correctly. Which also prioritizes the one person, one vote, one value system. (one person, one voice, one value) which will determine the direction of development prosperity.

Democracy as a constitutional concept in its use as a state ideology has many meanings and names, this is due to the large number of implementations of democratic values which seem to be the obsession of people in the world. By implementing democratic values and systems in the country, stability in various fields can be achieved. The lives of citizens are also more secure and prosperous (Manurung, Christopher Ezra Zee et al., 2022)

Matters regarding democracy and prosperity are indeed things that will never end to be discussed and reviewed. Because prosperity can actually be achieved from democracy through general elections.

It cannot be denied that the implementation of democracy will affect the level of social welfare. There have been various discussions regarding whether the democratic system implemented in a country really answers the concept of a better state and is able to bring prosperity to society. With the people's democratic party implemented in the elections, the people should be able to channel their aspirations. Expectations from the community, by choosing leaders based on conscience and the programs or vision and mission of the leaders chosen by the community are able to improve the welfare of the community. A leader who can realize the great hopes of the Indonesian people is by realizing prosperity from the ongoing democratization process (Abbas & Dompok, 2020)

These prospective leaders will bring a vision and mission in their election which will later become a central or regional medium-term development program outlined in the form of a document or text of a medium-term development plan, which will be implemented over a five-year period over the period of exercising the powers of the elected leaders.

This medium-term development plan must be in line with central and regional government programs in supporting community welfare development or in suitable with the essence of the welfare or prosperous country. This prosperous country is one of the purpose of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia.

Planning is also defined as a process of making decisions based on facts regarding the activities that must be which is done sequentially to achieve the expected or desired goals. In accordance with Law Number 25 of 2004 concerning the National Development Planning System, the National Development Planning System includes five approaches, namely: (1) Politics; (2) Technocratic; (3) Participative; (4) Top-down; and (5) Bottom-up (Hadiwijoyo & Anisa, 2020)

The four stages of development planning as stated in the Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 25 of 2004 concerning the National Development Planning System article 8 are:

1. Preparation of the Plan, carried out in 4 steps, namely: (1) Preparation of a development plan that is technocratic, comprehensive and measurable; (2) Each government agency prepares a draft work plan that is guided by the development plan that has been prepared; (3) involving the community (stakeholders) and harmonization through musrembang at each level; (4) Preparation of the final draft development plan.
2. Determination of the Plan, which becomes a legal product of the Long-Term, Medium or Annual Development Plan;
3. Controlling the implementation of the plan, namely to ensure the achievement of the development goals and objectives stated in the plan through correction activities and analyzing the results of monitoring the implementation of the development plan by the head of the institution or ministry;
4. Evaluation of plan implementation, namely systematic activities to collect and analyze data and information to assess development achievements, targets, objectives and performance. which is based on indicators and targets that include input, output, results, benefits and impacts of development planning by the head of an institution or ministry.

## CONCLUSION

General elections hold an important meaning in people's sovereignty, especially in terms of democracy. Because in the general election it is hoped that national leaders will be created who will take an interest in development for the welfare of society. Every election participant's vision and mission should prioritize creating development for the welfare of society.

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