

THE ROLE OF THE REGIONAL ELECTION COMMISSION (KPUD) IN INCREASING VOTER PARTICIPATION (STUDY IN TIMOR TENGAH SELATAN DISTRICT, NTT PROVINCE)

Volume: 2
Number: 3
Page: 160 - 174

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Article History:
Received: 2022-12-14
Revised: 2022-12-14
Accepted: 2022-12-16

Abstract:
One indicator of the success of holding elections is increasing voter participation, so the Regional General Election Commission (KPUD) of TTS Regency, as the election management body, must strive to increase voter participation to exercise their right to vote. This research uses qualitative methods and a case study approach and is located in TTS District. Primary data in this study were taken through direct interviews with KPUD members and the community involved and not involved in the 2019 TTS Regency Election with a total of 38 informants, while the secondary data in this study were taken from library data, journals and election documents for 2019 then the collected data were analyzed using data analysis techniques from Yin (2008: 34) which were predominantly carried out in case study research. The results of the study found that the role of the TTS Regency KPUD in increasing community participation was through; (1) Electoral education, namely using; (a) conducting outreach, (b) forming democracy volunteers and (c) establishing election smart houses but the turnout rate of voters in TTS Regency is still low due to factors of no KTP, distance to the residence, wandering, not having a mobile phone, apathy and resignation, being late find out information and the lack of signal coverage in TTS District in several locations.

Keywords: Role, Participation, Election, KPUD.
Cite this as: DAENG, E., FALLO, A.R., RIHI, D.W., PENI, A. (2022). "The Influence of Tax Understanding, Tax Socialization, and Financial Conditions on MSME Taxpayer Compliance in Manado City." *Journal of Tourism, Economics and Policy*, 2 (3), 160 - 174.



INTRODUCTION

Indonesia has the potential to become an example of a Democratic Country in the Asian Region because Indonesia has created political stability and high economic growth. In addition, Indonesia has also succeeded in becoming a democratic country because it has carried out complex elections. Democracy, according to Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865), can be understood as the people's government, by the people, for the people. Democracy is a government of the people, by the people and for the people. It means the people have the right to form a government for their interests. In addition, democracy also requires that the government be service-oriented and meet the wider community's needs. However, democracy can also bring chaotic situations and divisions. For example, during the 4 presidential shifts during the 1998-2002 period, Indonesia overcame them (Zulfa & Ananda, 2019).

One of the manifestations of democracy in Indonesia is holding general elections. Surbakti (1992: p. 181) states that elections are a mechanism for selecting, delegating, or transferring sovereignty to people or parties they trust. Democracy always goes hand in hand with elections. Initially, there was only one election category, namely elections to elect members of the DPR and DPRD. Then in 2004, following the amendments to the constitution, elections were held to elect

members of the DPR, Provincial DPRD, Regency/City DPRD, and DPD members, and elections to elect the President and Vice President. In addition to these elections, there are still elections that elect Governors, Regents, and Mayors commonly referred to as regional head elections or Pilkada.

In Article (1) point (1) of Law Number 8 of 2012 concerning the General Election of Members of the People's Representative Council, Regional Representative Council, and Regional People's Representative Council, it is stated that general elections, after this referred to as elections, are a means of implementing people's sovereignty which is carried out directly, publicly, freely, confidentially, honestly and fairly in the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia (NKRI) based on Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia. Therefore, from the above understanding, elections are a means of realizing people's sovereignty to produce people representatives who have quality and be able to be responsible for carrying out tasks following Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia.

Elections are held regularly and carried out carefully. Large amounts of funding are allocated to mobilize voters and conduct polls (Taylor, 1996, p. 4). In the past, the experience of implementing elections or representation systems has been implemented since the colonial era, and elections in regions (elections) such as Yogyakarta and Minahasa (South Sulawesi) (Feith, Herbert, 1999:1-8). Therefore we need an institution that can support the implementation of competent Regional Head Elections. This institution is the General Elections Commission (KPU) which they are tasked with preparing whatever is necessary to conduct general elections.

Based on Law Number 7 of 2017 concerning Elections, Article 1 paragraph (8) stipulates that the General Elections Commission (KPU) is a national, permanent and independent election management body whose job is to carry out elections. The KPU institution has a working area covering the entire territory of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia (NKRI). The KPU institution is independent as stipulated in article 7 paragraph (3) of Law Number 7 of 2017, which states that in holding elections, the KPU is free from the influence of any party according to their responsibilities and authorities. In order to help the KPU carry out its duties and authorities smoothly, a General Secretariat was formed, led by a General Secretariat, a government agency. It is based on Law Number 15 of 2011 concerning the Organization of General Elections, which states that "to improve the quality of holding elections which can guarantee the implementation of people's political rights, professional election organizers are needed, and have integrity, capability, and accountability through the General Election Commission (KPU). KPU).

The KPU also has the responsibility to direct the public to participate in the implementation of regional head elections so that the implementation of a regional head election can run correctly and with the principles of democracy because the level of success in holding general elections and regional head elections can be seen based on the political participation of the people.

Prerequisites for voters to take part in elections are regulated in Law Number 7 of 2017, article 198 paragraphs (1 and 2) which explain that: "Voters who have the right to vote are Indonesian citizens who have been registered by the election organizers in the voter list and on the voting day has reached the age of 17 (seventeen) years or more, is married or has been married before. Voter participation in elections significantly influences determining leaders or public officials. In such a political system, general elections cannot be separated from the state institution that forms the basis for holding elections, known as the General Elections Commission (KPU), both at the provincial and regional levels.

The last general election that was successfully held by the General Election Commission (KPU) was simultaneous, namely the election of the President and Vice President, the People's Representative Council (DPR), the Regional Representatives Council (DPD), the Provincial and

Regency Regional People's Representative Councils (DPRD) on 17 April. As a result, the voter turnout in the 2020 regional elections was 77.5%. If you look at the holding of general elections in the last five years, only the 2019 Presidential Election has exceeded this figure, which is 82%.

It is known that the 2019 election was the most complicated in the history of Indonesian democracy. However, even though it was complicated, the election at that time could be carried out successfully, one of which was in the TTS Regency, NTT Province.

TTS Regency is one of the regencies in NTT Province with the largest population; according to data from tts.go.id (2021), in 2018, this district had a population of 469,588 people, with a density of 119 people/km². It becomes interesting when this large population does not go hand in hand with the level of participation in the 2019 election event, where the TTS Regency is the Regency with the lowest voter turnout rate in the Province of NTT. Political participation in the 2019 District/City Regional Head Elections in East Nusa Tenggara Province can be seen in the following table:

Table 1. List of Permanent Voters and Community Political Participation in the Election of Regency/City Regional Heads in East Nusa Tenggara Province in 2019

| No. | Regency/City | Number of Voting Places | Fixed Number of Voters | Community Political Participation | % |
|-----|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. | Alor Regency | 500 | 132.660 | 101.868 | 76.78 |
| 2. | Ende Regency | 675 | 161.604 | 125.243 | 77,50 |
| 3. | Kupang City | 581 | 205.107 | 168.638 | 82.22 |
| 4. | Manggarai Timur Regency | 510 | 185.511 | 143.325 | 77,26 |
| 5. | Nagekeo Regency | 270 | 92.670 | 76.916 | 83.00 |
| 6. | Rote Ndao Regency | 260 | 85.227 | 64.483 | 75.66 |
| 7. | Sikka Regency | 555 | 187.672 | 146.778 | 78.21 |
| 8. | Barat Daya Regency | 561 | 213.725 | 173.801 | 81.32 |
| 9. | Sumba Tengah Regency | 200 | 47.310 | 37.961 | 80.24 |
| 10. | TTS Regency | 921 | 274.267 | 206.169 | 73,50 |
| | Total | 5033 | 1.585.753 | 1.245.182 | 78.52 |

Source: KPU Propinsi NTT, 2021

The table above shows that the permanent voter lists from 10 Regencies/Cities in Nusa Tenggara Timor Province in 2018 totaled 1,585,753 voters, then the number of people's political participation reached 1,245,182 voters or 78.52%. From these data, it can also be seen that the districts/cities in East Nusa Tenggara Province have the lowest political participation rate, namely TTS Regency, at 73.50% of voters. On the other hand, the highest political participation rate for the people is Nagekeo Regency, at 83.00%.

The data shows that there are people who are not followed by the community's political participation at 26.41%. Community participation should have been maximized because the budget for the 2018 simultaneous regional head elections for TTS Regency was supported by the second largest budget in East Nusa Tenggara Province after the province.

The findings regarding the level of voter turnout in the NTT Province are supported by data from the KPU for the Province of NTT and the KPUD for the TTS Regency in 2021 concerning the level of impressive voter turnout in the TTS Regency, which has not yet reached 80% and is described in table 1.2 below:

Table 2. Level of Community Participation in Elections in TTS District in 2019

| No. | Election Type | Fixed Voters List (DPT) | Suffrage Users | Percentage | Target |
|-----|---------------|-------------------------|----------------|------------|--------|
|-----|---------------|-------------------------|----------------|------------|--------|

| | | | | | |
|----|-----------------------------|---------|---------|--------|-------|
| 1. | 2019 Simultaneous Elections | 299.838 | 230.740 | 76,96% | 77,5% |
| 2. | DPRD Election 2019 | 299.838 | 230.453 | 76,86% | 77,5% |
| 3. | DPRD Election 2014 | 290.903 | 210.469 | 72,35% | 75% |

Sources: KPU Propinsi NTT dan KPUD Kabupaten TTS, 2021

Based on data from the General Election Commission (KPU) above, the voter participation rate in the 2019 simultaneous general elections for the TTS electoral district was recorded as many as 299,838 people who were registered as permanent voters. However, the users of voting rights at the time of the election were 230,740 votes. Meanwhile, after the calculation, only 223,153 votes were considered valid, and 69,403 people's votes were considered invalid, even non-voters (white groups) (KPUD Kabupaten TTS, 2021).

For example, the level of participation in the election for DPRD members for East Nusa Tenggara Province in the 2014 election for the TTS electoral district was recorded at 290,903 in the DPT. However, 210,469 exercised their right to vote, or 72.35% of the national participation target of 75%. The number of voters above consisted of 100,990 male voters (71.43%) while 109,659 female voters or 73.22% (NTT Provincial KPU, 2021) while the votes for political parties DPRD Province NTT in the 2019 election at the TTS Regency level were recorded as 299,838 people on the Permanent Voter List (DPT) consisting of 146,235 male voters and 153,603 female voters, but only 223,554 people were considered valid votes after the election. It means that the votes of 76,284 people were considered invalid (NTT Provincial KPU, 2021).

The level of public participation in elections which tends to fluctuate in TTS Regency, is generally influenced by several things, namely the lack of political awareness of voters, for example, for reasons of kinship/brotherhood, educational reasons, reasons for money politics, reasons for certain religions/races, ideological reasons for political parties, or rational reasons based on the vision and mission of the candidate and his track record so far, personal characteristics, social characteristics, political circumstances (Sa'ban, Sadat, & Nastia, 2019), the public recognizes that he chooses driven by transaction factors and elements of emotional closeness. Although candidate vision and mission are not a measure in choosing (Liando, 2016), aspects of proximity/similarity in ethnicity, religion, and place of residence are a reference for people in the electoral area of South Central Timor Regency to elect legislative candidates for the East Nusa Tenggara Provincial DPRD in 2014 (Kaesmetan, 2018).

David Moon in Saleh (2017: 102) says there are two main theoretical approaches in explaining voting behavior, namely: first, emphasizing the social and psychological characteristics of voters and the institutional characteristics of the electoral system, and second, emphasizing voters' expectations about the advantages and disadvantages of their decision to attend or not attend to vote, while Surbakti (2007:56) has three models of explanation regarding voter behavior, including; First, the sociological approach. In this approach, demographic and socioeconomic-socioeconomic backgrounds, such as gender, place of residence, occupation, education, class, income, and religion, affect determining one's political choices in general elections. Second, the psychological approach model. This approach is used to see the relationship between voters and political parties, namely how voters perceive existing political parties or how voters' emotional relationships with certain political parties. Third, a rational approach. This approach helps answer why many people use their right to vote in elections based on conscious considerations and choices related to the goals of action, oriented to the values prevailing in society.

It is where the importance of the TTS Regency KPUD is in carrying out its role under its duties, namely; (a) assisting the preparation of the election program and budget; (b) Providing administrative and technical support; (c) Assisting the implementation of the duties of

Regency/Municipal KPU in organizing elections; (d) Assisting in the distribution of equipment for the election of the members of the DPR, DPRD and DPRD, presidential and vice-presidential election, as well as regional head and deputy provincial head elections; (e) Assist in the formulation and drafting of Regency/Municipal KPU decisions; (f) Facilitating the resolution of problems and disputes over the Election of Regional Heads and Deputy District/City Regional Heads; (g) Assist in the preparation of reports on the implementation of activities and accountability of Regency/Municipal KPU; and (h) Assisting in the implementation of other tasks by laws and regulations,

While the functions of the TTS Regency KPUD are; (a) Assist in the preparation of the Election program and budget in the Regency/City; (b) Providing technical services for the implementation of elections in districts/cities; (c) Providing administrative services which include administration, staffing, budget, and election equipment in the Regency/City; (d) Assist in the formulation and drafting of Regency/Municipal KPU decisions; (e) Assisting in the formulation, preparation and provision of legal assistance as well as facilitating the resolution of election disputes in the Regency/City; (f) Helping the provision of election information services, participation and public relations in the implementation of elections in districts/cities; (g) Assisting in the management of election data and information in Regencies/Cities; (h) Assisting in logistics management and distribution of goods/services needed for Elections in Regencies/Cities; (i) Assist in the preparation of inter-agency cooperation in the Regency/City; and (j) Assist in the preparation of reports on the election administration and accountability of Regency/Municipal KPU.

She was referring to General Election Commission Regulation (PKPU) Number 10 of 2018 article 17, paragraph (1), which states that the duties and functions of Provincial KPU/KIP and Regency/Municipal KPU/KIP in increasing public participation in elections can be achieved through; voter education, providing information to all and providing equal opportunity to everyone/party to participate in elections.

Related to that, one of the indicators of success in organizing elections is the reduction of election fraud, as well as the minimum occurrence of election disputes and increasing voter participation in the implementation of elections so that the Regional General Election Commission of TTS Regency as the election management body must strive to increase voter participation so that right to vote in the next election. Therefore, seeing the importance of the responsibilities and functions of the South Central Timor Regency KPU in increasing public participation in elections, the authors are interested in conducting a research entitled “The Role of the Regional General Election Commission (KPUD) for Increasing Voter Participation in South Central Timor District, NTT Province.”

METHODS

This research uses a qualitative method and a case study approach located in TTS Regency in 2022. The primary data in this study was taken through the results of direct interviews with KPUD members and the community involved and not involved in the 2019 TTS Regency Election with a total of There were 38 informants, while the secondary data in this study were taken from library data, journals and election documents for 2019. The collected data was then analyzed using data analysis techniques from Yin (2008: p. 34), which was dominantly carried out in case study research.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Role of the Regional General Election Commission (KPUD) in Increasing Voter Participation in South Central Timor District, NTT Province In the 2019 elections, the KPU has a

target for national participation of 77.5%. However, each district/city has its target. To achieve this target, KPU has a strategy to increase public participation. Before implementing the strategy, the KPU first determines the roles of each at the KPU level. The RI and Provincial KPUs play a role in implementing the strategy by holding activities that relate to the outer skin only. At the same time, the Regency/Municipal KPU is more in-depth and massive. The strategy is to maximize socialization through social and virtual media by holding webinars. However, other activities that are held face-to-face are still carried out with specific terms and conditions, for example, reducing the number of activities and participants and still paying attention to health protocols (Fadhila & Erowati, 2021). Socialization is also carried out through socialization props and the dissemination of socialization materials in technical guidance. Socialization in the form of counseling. The KPU prioritizes socialization in areas with low voter turnout (Putra, 2019), conducts Goes to Campus to explain procedures for giving voting rights, ballot papers for the Legislative Elections and Presidential Elections, and how to check names on the Final Voter List (DPT).

Other efforts are made through the Public Relations Coordinating Agency (Bakohumas). So, this Bakohumas is internal for coordination between us, the RI KPU and the provincial KPU, and the regency/city KPU, externally the KPU coordinates synergies with related parties to provide information about applicable provisions, programs, and policies taken by the KPU. Some of the roles of Bakohumas include disseminating information, building public awareness of the importance of participation in elections, creating a conducive situation so that elections can run peacefully, encouraging people to use their rights to vote rationally, increasing public trust in election organizers, administration and results, as a public servant. The spokesperson/provider of information related to electoral leadership, building cooperation between government agencies/institutions for electoral information (kpud-malangkab.go.id, 2021).

Obstacles in implementing strategies to increase community participation include the need for more community response to activities carried out online. It triggers a decrease in the quality of elections, especially public participation, which can decrease amid a pandemic (Fadhila & Erowati, 2021). In contrast, according to (Noviyati & Yasin, 2021), the efforts of the election commission to increase voter participation are hampered by internal factors, including human resources and infrastructure. At the same time, the external factor is still low public knowledge of politics, especially about the election.

Another finding by Beliu (2017) is that the level of public participation in elections is influenced by various things such as not being registered as a voter, lack of identity cards, distrust of political parties, not having a choice of available candidates, and not believing that the regional elections will provide change or improvement. In addition, the community feels that the presence of politicians is not to fight for people's aspirations but to be closer to the higher-ups and power holders. Therefore, the community needs continuous enlightenment so that regional elections can significantly change regional progress.

Few feel dissatisfied with the KPU's performance (Andriana, 2016). Even though both from the community and eligible participants. The community demands various problems, including involving the community in compiling the voter list and the lack of space for community participation at each stage (Riskiyono, 2019). The legitimacy of the election results is even less satisfactory. The demands of the people dissatisfied with the election process and results are sometimes taken by force through the court process (Dirlanudin, 2008). One of the reasons for this community dissatisfaction is the lack of community involvement. Ideally, the community is not only needed when channeling their voices but also must be involved in every stage. So that there is transparency and the people are satisfied with the results of the elections that have been held.

The KPU needs to prepare several things as part of the stages that must be consolidated, namely, data collection and matching of voter lists, implementation of technical guidance as internal institutional strengthening, and outreach to all levels of society (Pulungan, Rahmatunnisa & Herdiansah, 2020). All of this was done by the KPU with the intention that all the people well received this celebration of democracy through participation.

Voter participation in elections significantly influences leaders or public officials, especially in TTS Regency, one of the districts in NTT Province with the largest population. According to data from tts.go.id (2021), in 2018, this district had a population of 469,588 people, with a population of 119 people/km². It becomes interesting when this large population does not go hand in hand with the level of participation in the 2019 election event, where the TTS Regency is the Regency with the lowest voter turnout rate in the Province of NTT. Based on this explanation, in this study, the role of KUPD in TTS Regency in increasing voter participation in elections is:

Socializing. Socialization is how introducing a system to someone and how that person determines his responses and reactions. Socialization is determined by the social, economic, and cultural environment in which the individual is located, but it is also determined by the interaction of his experiences and personality (Sutaryo, 2004, p. 320). Surbakti (2007:117) states that what is meant by political socialization is the process of forming attitudes and political orientations in community members. Through this process of political socialization, community members acquire an attitude and orientation toward political life in their environment. Another understanding, according to Efriza (2012: 17), explains that political socialization is part of a social process. Socialization is a teaching and educational activity carried out by an individual or a group to another individual or group that takes place naturally. Teaching and education intersect with the political values inherent in each individual, and they will be different. The socialization in this study is the action of the TTS Regency KPUD in providing information and understanding about the election process and stages and inviting the public to participate in the 2019 Election.

Based on the results of interviews and observations conducted by the author, it is known that socialization activities carried out by the KPUD of TTS Regency have been carried out using social media via Facebook, WhatsApp groups and Instagram, as well as coming directly to the community such as in schools and village offices and also utilizing the media radio as another way of socializing. Most of them have touched the grassroots voters, as described in the table below:

Table 3. List of Socialization Implementation by KPU of South-Central Timor Regency

| Time | Places | Target | Number Of Participants | Method | Executor | Description |
|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|------------------------|---|---|---|
| Tuesday, 19/02/2019 | SMA Efata SoE | Novice Selector | 81 Students | Face-to-face socialization and discussion | Julius E. Litelnoni, Ori T.H. Kaesmetan Oktovianus T.W. Priangu | Socialization about election education to novice voters in 2019 and DPK |
| Tuesday, 19/02/2019 | SMA Negeri 1 Benlutu | Novice Selector | 79 Students | Face-to-face socialization and discussion | Julius E. Litelnoni, Yerlingsur Nenonliu | Socialization about election education to novice voters in 2019 and DPK |
| Tuesday, 19/02/2019 | SMK Negeri Batu Putih | Novice Selector | 49 Students | Face-to-face socialization, discussion | Ayub V. Kollo, S.Sos | Socialization about election education to |

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|---|--------------|---|---|---|
| | | | | and simulation | Maria P. Maukari, S.Tr., Sos Vembel J. Ully | novice voters in 2019 and DPK |
| Tuesday 19/02/2019 | SMK Negeri 2 SoE | Novice Selector | 102 Students | Face-to-face socialization, discussion and simulation | Matheus A. Krivo, Sulastri Papi J. Dima | Socialization about election education to novice voters in 2019 and DPK |
| Tuesday 19/02/2019 | SMK Kristen SoE | Novice Selector | 62 Students | Face-to-face socialization, discussion and simulation | Nikson R. Balla, SH, Damiana M. .F. Taosu | Socialization about election education to novice voters in 2019 and DPK |
| Monday, 25/02/2019 | Ruang Mutis Kantor Bupati Timor Tengah Selatan | Aparatur Sipil Negara Lingkup Sekda Timor Tengah Selatan | 300 people | Visualization of Coblos Ordinances | Matheus A. Krivo, Nixon R. Balla, Maria P. Maukari, S.Tr., Sos | Socialization of the 2019 Elections and Valid Coblos Procedures |
| Monday, 05/03/2019 | SMK Negeri Kualin | Novice Selector | 778 Students | Face-to-face socialization and discussion | Ayub V. Kollo, S.Sos Katrin Mengeanak, Vembel J. Ully | Socialization about election education to novice voters in 2019 and DPK |
| Wednesday, 06/03/2019 | SMK Negeri Kuanfatu | Novice Selector | 260 Students | Face-to-face socialization and discussion | Paulus B.A. Aoetpah, S.Kom Fredrik Taneo | Socialization about election education to novice voters in 2019 and DPK |
| Wednesday, 06/03/2019 | SMK Negeri Kelautan Kolbano | Novice Selector | 60 Students | Face-to-face socialization and discussion | Ayub V. Kollo, S.Sos Katrin Mengeanak, Vembel J. Ully | Socialization about election education to novice voters in 2019 and DPK |
| Tuesday, 19/03/2019 | Kantor Polres TTS | Election Participants | 30 people | Face-to-face socialization and discussion | Matheus A. Krivo, Maria P. Maukari, S.Tr., Sos | Socialization about election education to novice voters in 2019 and DPK |
| Friday, 22/03/2019 | Ruang Mutis Kantor Bupati Timor Tengah Selatan | Sub-districts and Village Heads of All Districts of South-Central Timor | 100 people | Visualization of Coblos Ordinances | Matheus A. Krivo, Nixon R. Balla, Marsel D.I. Taneo, Maria P. Maukari, S.Tr., Sos | Socialization of the 2019 Elections and Valid Coblos Procedures |
| Friday, 06/04/2019 | Lapangan Tenis Pemda TTS | Election Participants | 1000 people | Visual Socialization about Elections | LEKO Event Organizer dan KPU TTS | Socialization on voting procedures interspersed with Stand UP Comedy competitions and Election Jingle |

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|--|--------------------------|-------------|---|--|---|
| Saturday, 07/04/2019 | Jl.W.Ch. Oematan, Jl. Gajah Mada, Jl. Basuki Rahmat dan Lapangan T tenis Pemda TTS | Election Participants | 1000 people | Visual Socialization about Elections | LEKO Event Organizer dan KPU TTS | Dance Competitions Socialization on voting procedures interspersed with Casual Walks, Zumba Gymnastics, Music Concerts, and the announcement of the winners of the Stand UP Comedy competition and the Election Jingle Dance Competition |
|-------------------------|--|--------------------------|-------------|---|--|---|

Source: KPUD TTS Regency, 2022

However, the problem with the low level of community participation in the 2019 elections is the absence of KTPs, distance to a residence, wandering, not having a cell phone, apathy and resignation, being late for information, and the lack of signal coverage in TTS District in several locations and the findings of this study are in line with the findings Noviyati & Yasin (2021) so that it can be stated that the role of the TTS Regency KPUD in conducting socialization to increase voter participation in the 2019 election has been carried out by playing its function as an election organizer (Djamarah, 1997, p. 31). However, this role is constrained by external factors such as the findings author above.

Even though political socialization has been carried out, the people of TTS Regency still need to be made aware that their participation in elections can affect their lives. It is because participating in the political process through elections is driven by the belief that their interests will be channeled or at least noticed through joint activities. In other words, they believe that their activities have an effect, and this effect is called political efficacy (Yalvema, 2012, p. 20).

In the terminology of political sociology, it is considered that more people participate in politics, indicating that people's political education has been successful. Therefore, the more public participation, the better the implementation of democracy. Furthermore, the high level of community participation is indicated by the many people following and understanding political issues and participating in or wanting to be involved in various political activities.

Forming Democracy Volunteer. The Democracy Volunteer in this study is a social movement that is intended to help the TTS Regency KPUD increase the participation and quality of voters in exercising their right to vote. In contrast, according to Asna'ul (2018), the volunteer democracy social movement helps increase the participation and quality of voters in exercising their right to vote. Volunteer Democracy is a form of social movement that aims to increase the participation and quality of voters in exercising their right to vote (Hariyanto & Rafni, 2019). The formation of the Democracy Volunteer itself is to act as a means and strength in increasing voter participation, providing education and conducting socialization regarding the existing Election (Kusumaputra, Retnowati, & Winarno, 2020).

In the results of the author's research, it is known that the Democracy Volunteers for the 2019 Election are designated as 55 members of the community and are further divided into several bases

Source: KPUD Kabupaten TTS, 2022

The authors also found that the democracy volunteer program was motivated by voter turnout, which tended to decline. The last four national elections and the implementation of post-conflict local elections in various regions show that indication. In national elections, for example, namely the 1999 election (92%), 2004 election (84%), 2009 election (71%), and 2014 election (73%) became one of the challenges faced in efforts to realize the success of the 2019 election as well. Political participation in the 2019 District/City Regional Head Elections in East Nusa Tenggara Province can be seen in the following table:

Table 5. List of Permanent Voters and Community Political Participation in the Election of Regency/City Regional Heads in East Nusa Tenggara Province in 2018.

| No. | Regency/Cities | Number of TPS | Number of Permanent Voters | Community Political Participation | % |
|-----|--------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. | Alor County | 500 | 132.660 | 101.868 | 76.78 |
| 2. | Ende Regency | 675 | 161.604 | 125.243 | 77,50 |
| 3. | Kupang City | 581 | 205.107 | 168.638 | 82.22 |
| 4. | Manggarai Timur Regency | 510 | 185.511 | 143.325 | 77,26 |
| 5. | Nagekeo Regency | 270 | 92.670 | 76.916 | 83.00 |
| 6. | Rote Ndao Regency | 260 | 85.227 | 64.483 | 75.66 |
| 7. | Sikka Regency | 555 | 187.672 | 146.778 | 78.21 |
| 8. | Sumba Barat Daya Regency | 561 | 213.725 | 173.801 | 81.32 |
| 9. | Sumba Tengah Regency | 200 | 47.310 | 37.961 | 80.24 |
| 10. | TTS Regency | 921 | 274.267 | 206.169 | 73,50 |
| | Total | 5033 | 1.585.753 | 1.245.182 | 78.52 |

Source: NTT Provincial KPU, 2022

The table above shows that the permanent voter lists from 10 Regencies/Cities in East Nusa Tenggara Province in 2018 totaled 1,585,753 voters, then the number of people's political participation reached 1,245,182 voters or 78.52%. From these data it can also be seen that the districts/cities in East Nusa Tenggara Province have the lowest political participation rate, namely TTS Regency, at 73.50% of voters. On the other hand, the highest political participation rate for the people is Nagekeo Regency at 83.00%.

The data shows that there are people who are not followed by the community's political participation at 26.41%. Community participation should have been maximized because the budget for the 2018 simultaneous regional head elections for TTS Regency was supported by the second largest budget in East Nusa Tenggara Province after the province.

The findings regarding the level of voter turnout in the NTT Province are supported by data from the KPU for the Province of NTT and the KPUD for the TTS Regency in 2021 concerning the level of impressive voter turnout in the TTS Regency, which has not yet reached 80% and is described in table 1.2 below:

Table 6. Community Participation Rate in Elections in TTS District in 2019

| No. | Types of Elections | Permanent Voter List (DPT) | Suffrage User | Percentage | Goal |
|-----|-----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|------------|-------|
| 1. | 2019 Simultaneous Elections | 299.838 | 230.740 | 76,96% | 77,5% |
| 2. | 2019 DPRD elections | 299.838 | 230.453 | 76,86% | 77,5% |
| 3. | 2014 DPRD elections | 290.903 | 210.469 | 72,35% | 75% |

Source: KPU NTT Province and KPUD TTS Regency, 2022

education guidelines, there are several programs and strategies developed by the KPU in political education, such as the use of information technology, the use of mass media, the use of social and cultural activities of the Election Smart House (RPP), democracy volunteers and others.

The RPP is a national priority program formed by the KPU RI in 2015. It is important because it answers the needs of voters and the general public in order to carry out education on democracy materials and specifically about elections. The formation of the RPP launched by the KPU RI reflects the low level of voter participation, both in quality and quantity, in the entire process of organizing the election and the unorganized information related to elections in one forum (Nora, 2019). For this reason, elections are used to elevate the people's existence as the country's holders of the highest sovereignty (Labolo & Ilham, 2017, p. 45).

The existence of the RPP is essential to answer the needs of voters and the general public to conduct education on democratic and electoral values. The purpose of establishing the RPP and voter education activities is to increase voter participation, both in quality and quantity, in the entire election process. In addition, the RPP is also expected to become an information center for elections, educate the public about elections and democracy, introduce the fundamental values of elections and democracy, and increase understanding of the importance of voter participation in democracy.

The political participation of the people of TTS Regency in the 2019 Election can be categorized based on the number of actors, namely individually and collectively. Individual, namely someone who writes a letter containing demands or complaints to the government. Meanwhile, what is meant by collective participation in the activities of citizens simultaneously to influence the authorities, such as activities in the general election process (Olsen in A. Rahman H.I, 2007: 289)?

Based on the results of research conducted by the authors, it is known that the role of the TTS Regency KPUD in increasing community participation is through election education using; (1) conducting outreach, (2) forming democracy volunteers and (3) election bright house but even though this role has been tried to be effective, the level of voter participation in TTS Regency is still low due to the absence of KTP, distance to the residence, wandering, not having cellphones, apathy and resignation, being late for information and the lack of signal coverage in TTS District in several locations.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of research conducted by the author, the role of the Regional General Election Commission (KPUD) in increasing voter participation in South Central Timor District, NTT Province, is through; (1) conduct outreach, (2) form democratic volunteers and (3) election bright house but even though this role has been tried to be effective, the level of voter participation in TTS Regency is still low due to the absence of KTP, distance to a residence, wandering, not having cellphones, apathy and resignation, being late for information and the lack of signal coverage in TTS District in several locations.

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