

EVALUATION OF THE MANAGEMENT AND DISTRIBUTION OF ELECTION LOGISTICS IN THE 2020 REGIONAL HEAD ELECTIONS IN PALU CITY

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze the process of the Regional Head Election held in Palu City in 2020. The 2020 Regional Election process faced numerous issues, including delays in regulations issued by the Central Election Commission (KPU), which caused challenges for field implementers. The election logistics distributed by the Palu City Election Commission to polling stations (TPS) were not adequately allocated according to TPS needs. The lack of logistics at several TPS resulted in delayed voting, preventing the process from starting on time. This study seeks to describe field facts through existing data and information, which are then evaluated for future elections in Palu City. The research uses a descriptive approach with a qualitative method. The types of data used are primary and secondary data, collected through interviews. The study's findings reveal that during the distribution process of election logistics for the 2020 simultaneous Regional Head Elections in Palu City, several critical events occurred from preparation to implementation stages. Many regulations were unclear and impractical, making them difficult to understand and execute, particularly under pandemic conditions. While the Central Election Commission had issued a guideline titled the "2020 Election Smart Book", the management and distribution of logistics during the 2020 elections were generally well-implemented. Nevertheless, the COVID-19 pandemic created confusion and disruptions, especially in planning, procurement, maintenance, and distribution activities.

Keywords: *Distribution, Logistics, Critical Event*

INTRODUCTION

The Regional Head Election held in Palu City in 2020 left several issues, one of which was the shortage of logistics at polling stations (TPS) during the voting process. The logistics distributed by the Palu City Election Commission to all TPS in Palu City did not meet the needs of the TPS. The lack of sufficient logistics in some TPS caused voting to start later than the scheduled time.

Palu City, the capital of Central Sulawesi Province, held elections for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Palu, as well as the Governor and Deputy Governor in 2020. Specifically for the mayoral election, a budget of IDR 41,553,958,050 was allocated, as agreed upon and formalized in the Regional Grant Agreement Document (NPHD).

According to data from the planning and data division of the Palu City Election Commission, the regional election in Palu City involved 699 TPS spread across 46 sub-districts in 8 districts. The total number of registered voters (DPT) in Palu City was 250,635, consisting of 48,531 voters in Mantikulore District, 47,605 voters in South Palu District, 36,214 voters in West Palu District, 33,518 voters in Tatanga District, 31,810 voters in East Palu District, 22,031 voters in Ulujadi District, 15,707 voters in North Palu District, and 15,219 voters in Tawaeli District.

The logistics planning process for the 2020 election included procurement and distribution stages. Planning is the process of setting goals and determining ways to achieve them (Wijayanto, 2012). Every organization cannot be separated from the planning process. The logistics planning process involved several considerations, including developing logistic plans, coordinating with relevant parties, procuring and distributing logistics, training logistics officers, and addressing issues in data and information

systems. This process required careful preparation and coordination to ensure the success of the 2020 simultaneous regional elections, particularly in Palu City.

Procurement was conducted by the Election Commission to obtain the goods and services needed during the election process. According to Siahaya (2011), procurement is an effort to acquire goods and services logically and systematically, adhering to norms, ethics, and standardized procurement methods. The procurement process for the 2020 simultaneous elections was decentralized by the Central Election Commission (KPU RI) through a consolidation tender, allowing better oversight of logistics procurement and distribution. However, field conditions revealed many challenges, making the process far from efficient and effective. Some of the issues included logistics complexity related to geography, delays in delivery, difficulties managing local needs, and insufficient local involvement. These challenges introduced uncertainty and risks in the 2020 simultaneous elections.

According to Daryanto (2011), distribution is an interdependent organizational system that provides a product for use or consumption by consumers/users. Logistics distribution is one of the main factors in ensuring the success of an election, as high-quality and accurate logistics improve election implementation. One principle of election quality that must be met is the integrity of the election. Inadequate logistics distribution planning and organization can affect the effectiveness of election management and compromise election integrity. A key indicator of election integrity that is violated during logistics distribution issues is the principle of professionalism and timeliness.

The final stage after the election process is managing post-election logistics. This stage is crucial in the election cycle to ensure proper handling of logistics used during the election, which includes inventory and auditing.

Several factors contribute to the success of an election. The principles of election quality that must be met include election integrity. Specifically, managing risks is vital. According to Darmawi (2013), risk management is the effort to identify, analyze, and control risks in organizational activities to achieve greater effectiveness and efficiency. Research by Sari et al. (2018) revealed weaknesses in achieving the principle of adequate quantity in logistics packing and distribution during previous elections due to human error. This was attributed to the limited number of staff handling packing, distribution, and other simultaneous responsibilities, such as the Pagar Alam City Election, South Sumatra Province Election, and the 2019 General Election stages. Moreover, natural conditions in Pagar Alam City, characterized by mountainous terrain requiring logistics distribution through rivers and hills, necessitated special off-road vehicles like trail motorcycles.

Research by Khalyubi et al. (2020) concluded that logistics distribution techniques for the election in Depok City should consider the COVID-19 case numbers across 11 districts. The logistics distribution flow from the Depok City Election Commission to the District Election Committee (PPK) must account for these classifications. Classifying districts was a managerial strategy to prioritize logistics distribution and minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission during the election logistics distribution in Depok City. The concept proposed in this study could reduce or prevent the emergence of COVID-19 clusters related to the elections in Depok City.

Based on the explanations above, the researchers are interested in conducting a study titled: *“Evaluation of the Management and Distribution of Election Logistics in the 2020 Regional Head Elections in Palu City.”* The framework of the study is outlined as follows:

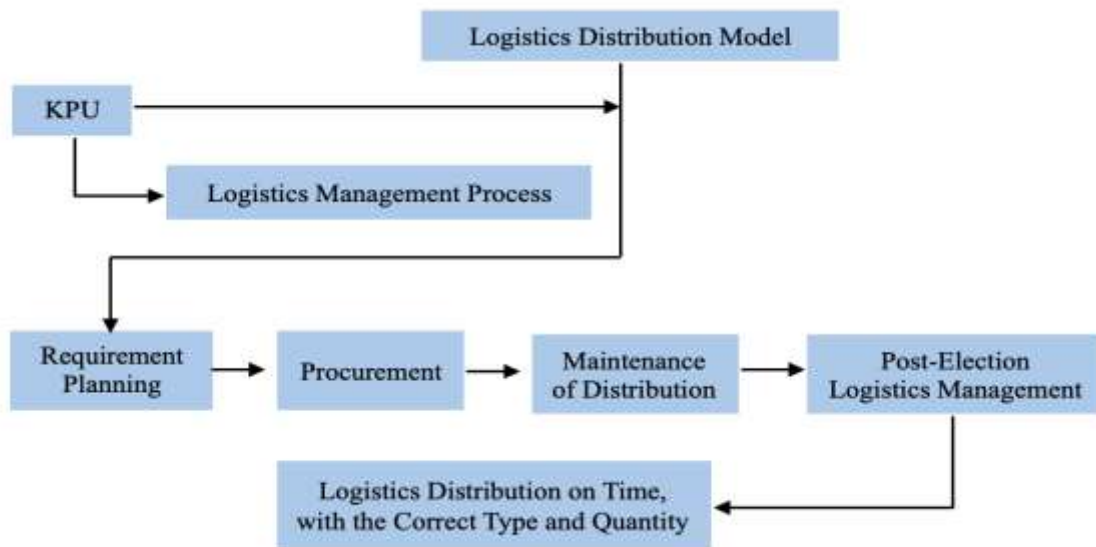


Figure. 1. Framework of Thought
 Source: Data, Processed (2024)

RESEARCH METHOD

The research method is a way used to conduct research to answer the problem formulation and achieve the research objectives. According to Sugiyono (2014), a research method is essentially a scientific way to obtain valid data with the aim of discovering, developing, and proving specific knowledge, which in turn can be used to understand, solve, and anticipate problems.

The research method used in this study is a qualitative approach. According to Sugiyono (2014), qualitative research is a method used in natural object conditions, where the researcher acts as the key instrument, data collection is conducted in a combined manner, data analysis is inductive, and the research results emphasize meaning rather than generalization. Furthermore, Creswell (2016) explains that researchers are key instruments in data collection, gathering data themselves through observation, interviews, and documentation. Meanwhile, according to Denzin & Lincoln (2009), qualitative research is conducted in a natural setting with an interpretive and naturalistic approach, aiming to interpret phenomena using various methods.

Based on these definitions, the researcher concludes that a qualitative approach is conducted comprehensively on all research subjects. The researcher attempts to describe or construct the results of interviews with research subjects. Data and information are collected from several sources, including the leadership of the Palu City Election Commission (KPU), the leadership of the Palu City Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu), and ad hoc organizing bodies. The data are then analyzed using qualitative data analysis to draw conclusions that answer the research questions.

The technique used to select informants in this study is *purposive sampling*, where the researcher chooses informants deemed knowledgeable and reliable in providing accurate data. The research subjects are individuals or groups who can provide the necessary information and data, including the technical division of the Palu City Election Commission, the supervisory division of Palu City Bawaslu, the District Election Committee (PPK), the Voting Committee (PPS), the Voting Organizing Group (KPPS), and several partners involved in logistics management. The research was conducted at the office of the Palu City Election Commission, located at Jalan Balaikota Selatan No. 6, Tanamodindi Sub-district, Mantikulore District, Palu City, Central Sulawesi Province. The study was planned to last three months, from July to September 2023.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

RESEARCH RESULTS

This study involved a total of 13 informants, selected based on their roles in the logistics process starting from the Election Commission (KPU), District Election Committee (PPK), Voting Committee

(PPS), and the Voting Organizing Group (KPPS) during the Palu City Mayoral and Deputy Mayoral Election. The results of this study were processed using Nvivo 12 Plus software.

The study uncovered numerous challenges faced by the Palu City Election Commission (KPU), which, as the organizing body, is responsible for carrying out its duties and authority in conducting the election, particularly the 2020 Pilkada (Regional Election) in Palu City. Several issues were identified during the processes of the mayoral and deputy mayoral elections, highlighting significant problems that could serve as serious concerns for future elections. These issues arose due to the unique circumstances of the 2020 election, which took place during the critical period of the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic caused numerous sudden changes, leading to confusion among KPU officials tasked with organizing the election.

RESEARCH RESULTS ON THE MANAGEMENT OF LOGISTICS DISTRIBUTION FOR THE 2020 SIMULTANEOUS REGIONAL ELECTIONS IN PALU CITY

The Palu City Election Commission (KPU) encountered significant confusion during the election process, particularly at the grassroots level. This confusion stemmed from the unclear regulations issued by the Central Election Commission (KPU Pusat) during the 2020 pandemic, which ultimately caused serious problems. Many regulations were revised as the regional election approached. The Central Election Commission introduced regulations to address logistical and procedural challenges during the pandemic, such as Regulation Number 15 of 2019, which was later amended by Regulation Number 16 of 2019 to adjust the stages, programs, and schedules of the 2020 simultaneous elections. However, these changes led to delays and shifts in election schedules, prompting the issuance of new regulations to accommodate the evolving situation.

The Central Election Commission also issued Regulation Number 6 of 2020, specifically outlining health protocols for the simultaneous elections. Despite these efforts, the government approved the continuation of the 2020 simultaneous elections amidst the challenges. The Palu City KPU, as the organizer of the regional election in Palu, had to ensure that the election was conducted in a safe and healthy manner for the public. Continuous consultation with Bawaslu, the oversight body, was necessary to ensure that existing and future regulations were appropriate and effective.

The lack of clarity in regulations regarding procurement during the 2020 elections posed a significant issue, as it directly affected the candidate selection and election process. To address this ambiguity, the KPU and related agencies failed to provide detailed and clear guidelines on procurement procedures during the 2020 elections. Detailed and clear rules are essential for identifying issues and resolving differences of opinion that might arise.

The lack of transparency in the 2020 regional elections, particularly regarding election-related information such as voter data, candidate lists, polling station locations, and election schedules, was a serious issue. These shortcomings could undermine public trust, integrity, and the overall democratic process.

The logistics procurement during the 2020 regional elections faced several issues that affected the smoothness and integrity of the election process. One common problem encountered was the delay in the delivery of election logistics, such as ballots, ballot boxes, and other election equipment. These delays disrupted the election schedule and created uncertainty. Lack of transparency in the logistics procurement process, including in the selection of suppliers and procurement decisions, also triggered speculation and doubts regarding the integrity of the election.

Poor procurement of logistics items, particularly during the procurement phase under the COVID-19 pandemic conditions, led to the online verification of suppliers by the tender committee instead of field verification. This resulted in cases where suppliers without the necessary capacity to provide the required logistics were selected, such as with thermoguns included in the procurement of personal protective equipment (PPE). Such issues could lead to complications during voting and vote counting, which could ultimately affect the integrity of the election organizers.

RESEARCH RESULTS REGARDING CRITICAL EVENTS IN THE LOGISTICS DISTRIBUTION OF THE SIMULTANEOUS REGIONAL ELECTIONS IN 2020 IN PALU CITY

The implementation of the general election requires coordination in each of its processes, as it combines various collective interests to ensure that everything runs effectively and efficiently.

Coordination is an integral part of all the functions carried out by KPU (General Election Commission) officers up to the KPPS (Polling Station Committee). From the research conducted, the researcher found that vertical coordination among the executing officers (both top-down and vice versa) did not function well. This was due to the negative sentiments among the officers, which could be seen as personal issues, and the PPS (Voting Organizing Committee) officers felt excluded from the logistics distribution process. Issues like this, though not causing significant problems, had a considerable impact on the performance of officers in each part of the process.

PPS officers felt excluded from the logistics management process, as during the pandemic, KPU decided to cut down the logistics management flow, which should have involved PPS officers, but this was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, logistics management under the KPU was carried out by PPK (Subdistrict Election Committee) and KPPS.

Local conflicts among election officers led to job-related conflicts, which eventually resulted in negative sentiments toward certain officers within the vertical hierarchy. As a result, when issues arose, PPS officers would often directly coordinate with the KPU and not involve the PPK in resolving the problems.

Similarly, PPS officers sometimes felt excluded from the distribution tasks, but there were several reasons behind this. The KPU decided that the role of PPS in overseeing logistics could be bypassed in order to ensure faster distribution and minimize direct contact between officers due to concerns about the wider spread of COVID-19 among the field officers. Procedural confusion could arise if the officers in the field namely KPPS, PPS, and PPK did not have the same understanding of the voting procedures. This could lead to confusion at the polling stations, both among the officers and the voters. One of the impacts could be poor coordination, which might cause problems in the use of voter lists, such as voter misidentification or directing voters to incorrect polling stations.

Various problems can be resolved through coordination among officers, as it integrates the various work plans previously established across different elements. This is the essence of management and is implicitly contained in the management functions, such as planning, organizing, and controlling.

RESEARCH RESULTS ON THE MODEL OF OPTIMAL LOGISTICS MANAGEMENT AND DISTRIBUTION

The management of election logistics during the regional election (Pilkada) in 2020, as outlined in the KPU's 2020 Smart Book, is a guide created and published by the General Election Commission (KPU) to provide information to the public about the requirements for eligibility as voters. This book discusses the meaning of democracy and its application in daily life, and it is expected to provide accurate knowledge about electoral processes. The book also serves as one of the ongoing voter education activities post-election.

During the pandemic, several issues were identified, including difficulties in the timely distribution of logistics. There were reports of delays in the delivery of voting materials to the polling stations (TPS). This led to delays in the voting process and disrupted the election's smooth operation. For example, the voting boxes, which contained ballots or Form C1 for vote counting, were sometimes delivered incorrectly to the wrong subdistricts, and some boxes were found to be damaged or even lost. Additionally, there were issues with the procurement and distribution of logistics, as well as incomplete Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), poor-quality goods, and non-transparent tender processes. These problems naturally contributed to slower vote counting.

Such issues could eventually create uncertainty, especially if errors were made in the storage of logistics, which could lead to damage or loss of voting materials, affecting the integrity of the election. Human error, alongside geographical challenges such as hard-to-reach remote or isolated areas, made logistics distribution even more difficult. Poor infrastructure and unfavorable weather conditions further complicated the logistics transportation, with one of the farthest polling stations being located in the Salena area. This region, situated in mountainous terrain, is extremely steep and hard to access by four-wheeled vehicles.

Regarding human resources, KPU must acknowledge the lack of knowledge and diligence among the personnel involved in logistics management. This was due to the lack of technical training for the field officers, a situation exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which made face-to-face meetings difficult. As a result, coordination was limited to phone calls, leading to inaccuracies in voter data that could ultimately affect the quality of the election results.

DISCUSSION OF RESEARCH

DISCUSSION OF RESEARCH ON THE MANAGEMENT OF LOGISTICS IN THE 2020 SIMULTANEOUS REGIONAL ELECTION (PILKADA) IN PALU CITY

Based on the research findings that have been outlined, it was found that there were numerous issues in carrying out the mandate of the law, including among them:

a. Implementing the mandate of the law amidst the Covid-19 pandemic.

In 2020, it became an exceptionally difficult year for the General Election Commission (KPU) to carry out the simultaneous regional elections (Pilkada) in Indonesia. This was due to the pandemic, where public health was at risk if the elections were held, and the democratic process was threatened with cancellation if a suitable formula could not be found to implement the mandate of the law. As a result, the KPU made several regulatory changes related to the simultaneous Pilkada in Indonesia.

These changes included adjustments to the election rules and schedule, especially in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Some of the adjustments involved postponing the Pilkada, rescheduling the campaign period, and modifying technical regulations for voting at polling stations (TPS). The simultaneous Pilkada, initially scheduled for September 23, 2020, was postponed to December 9, 2020. This delay was implemented by the KPU to allow more time for technical preparations in the regions and to carefully consider the ongoing impact of the pandemic if the election proceeded. The campaign schedule was also revised to avoid mass gatherings, including rescheduling campaign events and limiting the number of participants at each event.

Pilkada regulations were formulated to minimize the risks associated with Covid-19. If not well-regulated, the pandemic could have caused significant chaos. The changes to these rules were implemented rapidly due to the emergency situation and sudden changes caused by Covid-19, forcing the KPU at both the central and regional levels to adjust regulations swiftly. This was also influenced by the controversial public opinion about whether the 2020 Pilkada should continue amid the pandemic.

Intensive socialization of health protocols was continuously carried out for voters, citizens with voting rights, and election officials about the importance of implementing these protocols. Stringent rules were enforced to ensure that the voting process could proceed safely and orderly. This included the mandatory use of personal protective equipment (PPE) by election officials at the polling stations, such as masks, and the provision of handwashing facilities at the TPS.

These changes were made in response to the pandemic situation, creating various rules that could accommodate the specific challenges brought about by Covid-19. The primary goal of these regulations was to allow the KPU to conduct the Pilkada safely while minimizing the risk of Covid-19 transmission. These regulations were formulated not only based on the opinions of authoritative officials or a single body but also through ongoing consultation and coordination between the central government, regional governments conducting Pilkada, the General Election Commission (KPU) at both central and regional levels, the Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu), and other relevant parties.

b. The Impact of Holding Elections During the Covid-19 Pandemic

Holding the 2020 local elections amid the Covid-19 pandemic certainly had both positive and negative impacts. These impacts can vary depending on how the measures were implemented to ensure public health remained safe and the election process could run smoothly. Below are some of the potential impacts that occurred:

1. Positive Impact:

- a) **Continuity of Democracy:** Conducting the election as scheduled ensures the continuity of democracy at the local levels, allowing citizens to elect leaders they believe align with their voting rights.
- b) **Leadership Stability:** By holding the election as scheduled, the leadership stability in regions conducting the local elections is maintained, which in turn supports decision-making processes and the implementation of local government programs.
- c) **Democratic Participation:** The local elections provide a significant opportunity for citizens, especially at the regional level, to participate in the democratic process by casting their votes to determine the future of their own region.

2. Negative Impacts:

Holding local elections amid the pandemic certainly increases the risk of virus transmission to the public who exercise their right to vote, especially if health protocols are not strictly followed. This could lead to an increase in COVID-19 cases in the regions conducting the elections.

- a) **The Potential for Mass Gatherings:** Campaigns by regional head candidates and the voting process can lead to crowding at polling stations, which could potentially become a hotspot for the transmission of the COVID-19 virus.
- b) **Increased Healthcare Service Burden:** There will be a significant rise in COVID-19 cases due to the elections if regulations regarding personal protective equipment (PPE) and social distancing at polling stations are not strictly enforced. This could place a heavy strain on healthcare services in those areas.
- c) **Reduced Voter Participation:** Voters may be reluctant to come to polling stations due to concerns about the potential spread of COVID-19 in the voting booths, which could affect voter turnout in the affected areas.
- d) **inequality of Access:** Some regions may face greater challenges in conducting a safe and smooth election due to limitations in resources or inadequate facilities.
- e) **The negative impacts of the elections must be carefully considered in order to address the risks that may arise. However, by implementing strict measures in line with regulations, it is hoped that voters and election officers will be educated about the importance of health safety. The decision to proceed with the regional elections during the Covid-19 pandemic is a complex policy that requires a balance between maintaining democracy and protecting the health of the citizens casting their votes.**

THE RESEARCH DISCUSSION ON CRITICAL EVENTS IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF LOGISTICS DURING THE 2020 SIMULTANEOUS REGIONAL ELECTIONS IN PALU CITY

Ensuring the smooth conduct of the regional elections requires preparedness from the human resources, particularly the staff or organizational units under the KPU (General Election Commission) of Palu City, who are expected to carry out the tasks in accordance with the rules set by the central KPU. In this regard, the competence of the staff must be capable of executing the logistics distribution tasks correctly, with the right type, right quantity, and on time, based on Human Resources Competency Development at the KPU of Palu City. The steps that need to be taken in relation to the development needs of human resources, especially in the logistics distribution section at KPU Palu, are as follows:

- a) Technical Guidance and Socialization
- b) Supervision and Monitoring
- c) Evaluation and Reporting
- d) Supervision in the context of ensuring the availability

In the 2020 Simultaneous Regional Elections (Pilkada), during the Covid-19 pandemic, it was crucial to ensure that the human resources (HR) of the General Elections Commission (KPU) officers possessed the necessary competencies to perform their duties amid the challenges posed by the pandemic. Competency-based human resources enable KPU officers to fulfill their functions effectively in the context of the 2020 Pilkada.

Given the pandemic, the competencies of KPU officers must include a deep understanding of Covid-19, relevant health protocols, and election regulations during the pandemic. KPU officers must have crisis management skills. They need to be able to handle emergency situations and make quick, precise decisions when faced with unexpected developments during the pandemic. KPU officers must be capable of using technologies that support elections during a pandemic, such as electronic voting systems, online reporting, and virtual communication tools.

The pandemic often requires changes in plans and rapid adaptation. KPU officers must possess the ability to adapt to shifting situations and conduct elections in a safe and efficient manner. Communication skills remain vital, particularly in conveying changes to election schedules, health protocols, and guidelines to voters and other stakeholders. It is important to ensure that KPU officers maintain high ethics and integrity, especially under the pressure of a crisis.

KPU officers should also be capable of working collaboratively in teams and coordinating with government agencies, relevant stakeholders, and private entities involved in the election process. They must have an understanding of data protection and privacy concerning the election and the technologies used.

The Covid-19 pandemic presented unique challenges in organizing elections. Therefore, it is essential for KPU officers' human resources to possess the competencies needed to navigate these extraordinary circumstances. By doing so, they can ensure that the elections are conducted safely, fairly, and transparently, while adhering to the applicable health guidelines.

DISCUSSION OF THE RESEARCH ON THE MODEL FOR OPTIMAL LOGISTIC MANAGEMENT AND DISTRIBUTION

The sequence of issues that occurred with the logistics of the 2020 Pilkada cannot be separated from the series of systems outlined in the Buku Pintar, which serves as the guideline for Election/Regional Election Logistics Management by the General Elections Commission (KPU) in the regions that held Pilkada. These systems include planning, procurement, maintenance, distribution, and post-election logistics management. To address these challenges and improve future elections, several key areas of the process need to be revamped, including:

1. Planning

The planning of logistics needs, based on the various regulations established, shows that the KPU (General Elections Commission) made the best possible preparations, especially during the simultaneous regional elections (Pilkada) in 2020. In the context of the pandemic, the KPU conducted a mapping of several areas that were considered vulnerable to potential logistical problems at various stages. The 2020 Simultaneous Elections posed a significant challenge for the KPU. In addition to regulatory issues, the KPU was required to be meticulous in the procurement processes of election logistics, ensuring that at each logistical stage, the right type, right quantity, and right timing of resources were delivered.

2. Procurement

The procurement and distribution phases of election materials, referred to as the logistics of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor Election in Palu, are critical to ensuring that the process runs smoothly. During the 2020 simultaneous regional elections, the procurement process involved various parties, including the PPK (Sub-district Election Committee), UKPBJ (Regional Procurement Services Unit), and PBJ (Procurement Committee), working together to ensure the timely supply of election logistics. The logistics, once received, were stored in the KPU's warehouse and leased warehouses, in compliance with Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). It was essential that the election logistics procurement process be effective, efficient, transparent, and accountable, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. However, the procurement preparation for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor election in Palu encountered several challenges, primarily due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic led to the frequent revision of regulations by the KPU RI (General Election Commission of Indonesia), including additional requirements such as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). The procurement team had to wait for updated regulations from KPU RI regarding the specific types of logistics required, which created delays and complications in planning and procurement. This situation further highlighted the need for adaptability and careful coordination among all stakeholders involved in the logistics supply chain

3. Maintenance and Distribution

a. Maintenance

The distribution process of election logistics in Palu during the 2020 simultaneous regional elections involved several important steps to ensure that the materials were ready for use at each polling station. When logistics materials arrived in the city, prior to being packed and distributed to the district and then further to the TPS (Polling Station), the KPU ensured that the storage conditions met the required standards. If the storage facilities were not suitable or properly maintained, it could lead to the deterioration or damage of election materials. Additionally, the budget allocated for the storage of these logistics had to be adequate to ensure that they were properly safeguarded. One crucial aspect was the need to distribute the logistics in the right quantity, at the right time, and in accordance with the set regulations. A valuable lesson learned from the 2020 election in Palu was related to the distribution of ballots. The ballots were delivered by truck with appropriate security measures to ensure that they arrived in good condition. However, when unloading the ballots from the truck at the storage facility and subsequently counting them at the village-level storage site, discrepancies in the number of ballots were discovered between the amount counted at the warehouse and the amount received by the PPK

(District Election Committee). This indicated that there was a failure in the logistics management, either due to human error or negligence in the election process. The distribution of logistics was also delayed due to the tight timeline for dispatching the materials, which caused delays in their arrival at the KPPS (Polling Station Organizing Committee). Despite these challenges, it is important to appreciate that the KPU prioritized distributing logistics to remote areas that were difficult to reach, ensuring that these regions received the necessary materials first. The effectiveness of the Silog (Election Logistics Information System) was also highly commendable, as it greatly contributed to the transparency and accessibility of public information during the election process. After receiving and managing the logistics, as well as packaging them according to the specific number of TPS in each village, the KPU of Palu efficiently distributed the materials from the KPU warehouse to the district, village, and ultimately the TPS, ensuring that the election process could proceed smoothly.

b. Distribution

In the logistics management process, including sorting, folding, and packaging, these activities were not conducted simultaneously due to the fact that the logistics materials received by the KPU (General Election Commission) of Palu arrived in stages, rather than all at once. This led to repetitive tasks for the sorting and folding staff. Since the regional elections were held simultaneously, including the gubernatorial and vice gubernatorial elections as well as the mayoral and vice mayoral elections, the logistics materials were of the same type but sourced from different providers. This was explained by a member of the KPU of Palu, Division of Technical Organizers, who is the leading sector in logistics management. The research findings revealed that the logistics procurement process, conducted through direct procurement, electronic catalogs, and consolidation tenders by the KPU RI (National General Election Commission) and the provincial KPU, was carried out smoothly. However, the logistics materials distributed from the suppliers did not arrive at the KPU of Palu warehouse simultaneously, which led to the challenges in sorting and organizing the materials as they arrived in batches.

4. Post-Election Logistics Management

Post-election or post-Pilkada 2020 logistics management is a crucial step in ensuring the smooth continuation of the election process while preventing potential losses or errors in logistics handling.

CONCLUSION

In the 2020 simultaneous Regional Head Elections (Pilkada), logistics management was one of the crucial aspects that influenced the smoothness and success of the election process. Several conclusions regarding logistics management in the 2020 simultaneous Pilkada can be drawn based on the evaluation of the process.

1. The 2020 Pilkada faced a very difficult challenge in managing the distribution of logistics for the simultaneous election in Palu City. The process was crucial in determining whether the democratic event would continue despite the peak of the pandemic, or whether it would be postponed or even canceled. If left unresolved, it could risk cancellation unless the correct legal formulas and regulations were quickly formulated to carry out the mandate of the law. Failure to implement these correctly would negatively impact the stability of democracy in Indonesia.
2. In the logistics distribution process for the 2020 simultaneous Pilkada in Palu City, the critical events that occurred during the preparation and implementation stages involved many regulations that were unclear and inadequate. These regulations were difficult to understand and implement due to the pandemic situation. Similarly, the competency of the KPU officers required in-depth training on the pandemic, Covid-19 protocols, and regulations related to elections during the pandemic. If these aspects were not properly addressed, it would result in missed deadlines, damage to Pilkada operational equipment, and security risks due to disruptions from undesirable parties.
3. The management and distribution model for the logistics in the 2020 simultaneous Pilkada has been established. Although the Central KPU issued a guideline titled "Buku Pintar Pilkada 2020," which served as a reference for the logistics distribution model and process previously set by the Central KPU, it cannot be denied that Covid-19 caused confusion and disruption in the implementation of the Pilkada in Palu City. Specifically, in the activities of planning, procurement, maintenance, and distribution, the pressure increased as the election schedule had to be followed, causing the officers to struggle to continuously adapt to the changing regulations.

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