

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

A. Background

According to the data from the General Election Commission (KPU) of Bantul Region, the participation of voters in the election of Regent and Vice Regent of Bantul in 2015 reached 75, 28%. This result is below the predetermined target of 77.50%.¹ The people who did not participate in the election reached 146,509 or 24.73%. One of the factors why the people did not use their right to vote due to the trust with politics in this country is because the political parties do not give a definite belief to the community and do not carry out their roles as a pillar of democracy. This fact can be proven through a survey by the Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS) which states that Indonesia's democracy index in 2016 decreased by 2.73 points to 70.09 compared to 2015's index whose result was 72.82. One of the reasons is due to the declining role of political parties.²

The problem above was related to the lack of political communication and political education for the people. It gave special attention to all elements involved in the Bantul Regional head election especially political parties. The political party as an organization in charge of activating and mobilizing the people, representing a particular interest, provide the way out for those who compete and provide legal and peaceful political leadership.³ A political party has a responsibility in determining

the democratic government and realizing the government over the sovereignty of the people in accordance with the function of political party listed in Chapter V Article 11 of Law Number 2 of 2011 on Political Party.

In this research, there are two political parties that can be the object of research, namely PDIP and Gerindra parties. As we know, PDIP and Gerindra parties are the bearers of each candidate in the election of Regent and Vice Regent in Bantul Regional head election of 2015. The election was held simultaneously in 204 regions consisting of 194 districts or cities and seven provinces.¹ The regions that participate in the regional head election are provinces and regencies or cities whose tenure shall terminate in 2015². The policy is made by the government to improve the effectiveness and efficiency in organizing the regional head election. In addition, it aims to determine the qualified regional leader, trustworthy, accountability, and put the interests of the people in the region.³

Actually, Bantul Regional head election was followed by two candidates. The first were Suharsono and Abdul Halim Muslih, promoted by The Great Indonesian Movement Party (Gerindra) and National Awakening Party (PKB). They were supported by Prosperous Justice Party (PKS) and Democrat party. Meanwhile, the competing partner was Sri Suryawidati and Misbakhul Munir, carried by the coalition of Indonesian Democratic Party-Struggle (PDIP), Democratic National Party (Nasdem) and supported by Golkar party and United Development Party (PPP).⁴

The PDIP and Gerindra parties had a role in providing solutions

related to the problems including lack of political communication and political education for the community. They also have a great influence in improving democratization in Bantul Region. Historically, since the regional head election in 2005 and 2010, PDIP became the most superior party in occupying the government in Bantul Region. Support from the community to the existence of the PDIP continues to flow until now and could not be separated from the role of the political party itself. While the existence of Gerindra party was increasingly recognized when it started in Indonesian politics, Bantul Region was one which was recognized as Gerindra party, evidenced by the winning the election in 2015. The PDIP and Gerindra parties are expected to play a role in the process of political communications and political education to the community. So, it is a good solution to resolve the problems that occurred in Bantul Region.

The PDIP and Gerindra parties as political parties in Bantul Region have a role in improving political education as regulated in Article 11 Paragraph (1a) of Law Number 2 of 2011 on Political Party stated that political party serves as an instrument for political education for members and the wider community to become citizens of Indonesia who are aware of their rights and obligations in the life of society, nation, and state.

The lack of political education in Bantul Region resulted in the community's apathy towards their rights, obligations and political responsibilities in the regional head election. So, it caused a problem of lack of community participation in using their right to vote and multiple

offenses during campaign and elections. Political help people to improve their knowledge of political issues and understand their rights and obligations as citizens. Political education is considered important for people who are reluctant to exercise their rights.

Due to its importance, political education must be owned by the public in order to increase public knowledge related to the politics, hence allowing people to be more critical and wise in facing the political situation. From the explanation above, the writer is interested in examining the role of the political party, especially PDIP and Gerindra parties in improving political education in Bantul Region.

B. Research Problem

Based on the background above, the research problem was formulated in the following questions: “What is the role of PDIP and Gerindra parties in political education improvement, particularly in the case of Bantul Regional head election of 2015?”

C. Objective of Research

There are two objectives of the research as follows:

1. To understand the problem of lack of political education in Bantul Region.
2. To analyze the role of PDIP and Gerindra parties in improving political education in Bantul Region.

D. Benefit of Research

The benefits of research, are:

1. Theoretical benefit

This research will provide the instrument for the scholars, the government for understanding the role of the political party in improving political education.

2. Practical benefit

This research gave practical benefit for the community to create public awareness about the importance of political education which should be provided by a political party to realize a democratic state.