

## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of Research

Indonesia is a unitary state in the form of republic, while sovereignty is in the hands of the people and implemented according to the 1945 Constitution, and Indonesia is a state based on the rule of law (article 1 of the 1945 Constitution). In carrying out their sovereignty, the people have the protection of their rights as regulated in Article 28 of the 1945 Constitution which states that “Freedom of association and assembly, issue of thought with oral and written and so on is stipulated by law.” This freedom of association becomes the basis of the birth of a political party that always grow from time to time because the political party as a democratic milestone that can determine the leader of the Republic of Indonesia.<sup>1</sup>

As the pillar of democracy, political party's role in political system is a place for leadership selection of national and regional level. The experience in the implementation series of leadership selection of national and regional level through general elections directly proves the success of political parties as a pillar of democracy. The Republic of Indonesia government held the first election in 1955 which was followed by over 36 political parties and more than a hundred lists of candidates and

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<sup>1</sup> Kuswanto, “Penyederhanaan Partai Politik Dalam Sistem Pemerintahan Presidensiil Yang Multi Partai”, *Yuridika*, Vol. 28 No. 2 (May, 2013).

individuals. Continued in the next election in 1971 followed by 10 political parties and 1977 elections followed by 3 political parties, 1982 elections followed by 3 political parties, 1987 elections followed by 3 political parties, 1992 elections followed by 3 political parties, and in 1997 elections followed by 3 political parties.<sup>2</sup>

12 May 1998 was a milestone in the birth of reform with the withdrawal of President Soeharto, marked by elections that elected the legislature and the President (executive) with direct elections. The election that was held on 7 June 1999 was followed by 48 Political Parties, and since then Indonesia as a country that embraced presidential government system entered the multiparty era. In the 2004 election there were 24 political parties participating in the election. The election in 2009 was followed 32 political parties.<sup>3</sup>

In addition to Article 28 of the 1945 Constitution as the legal basis for the formation of political parties, there is also democratic consolidation as the basis of it. In other words, according to Scarrow, the emergence of political party is directly proportional to the growth of the democratization process, especially with regard to equality of the rights among citizens. As underlined by Evereth Call Ladd, Jr, political party is ‘children of egalitarianism’. Therefore, political parties are pillar of democracy that must exist in a modern state.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>*Ibid*

<sup>3</sup>*Ibid*

<sup>4</sup> Kacung Marijan, 2010, *Sistem Politik Indonesia Konsolidasi Demokrasi Pasca-Orde Baru*, Jakarta, Kencana p. 59.

With the existence of political party as one of the pillars of democracy, Indonesian citizen who have political capacity formed a political party with each ideology and their vision and mission. The more their ideology or vision and mission are different, the more they form political parties. Because of this the political parties are formed and more and more. Moreover, Indonesia embraces the multiparty system. Speaking of political parties, it would be better if we know the party system used by Indonesia, namely multiparty. Multiparty system is a system which is a state has a dominant party more than two parties. Multiparty system was chosen in view of the diversity of political culture of a state. These differences encourage the existing groups in society to form new political parties so the aspirations of representing their classes can be voiced by their representatives in parliament.<sup>5</sup>

Multiparty system has several weaknesses; they are, first, weak role of executive body. This is because there is no single party which is strong enough to form self-government, thus forced to form a coalition with other parties. One of the weaknesses of the coalition is the ineffectiveness of the government because the coalition parties must hold deliberations and compromises with their partners and if there is a mismatch then the coalition is threatened to disband.<sup>6</sup>

The second weakness, this system does not have a clear opposition party role that caused in less implementation of checks and balances mechanism in

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<sup>5</sup> Muhadam Labolo and Teguh Ilham, 2015, *Partai Politik dan Sistem Pemilihan Umum di Indonesia*, Jakarta, RajaGrafindo Persada, p. 35.

<sup>6</sup>*Ibid*

government.<sup>7</sup> Third, multiparty also has a negative impact on Indonesian people. Various parties caused the candidates less professional if measured from the standard of the competence required by the experts, personal, professional and social competence. They succeed in sitting in the legislature only because of luck and are known by society not because of their juridical or legal or political education.

Of the problems and weaknesses of the multiparty system already mentioned, the author has an idea that simplification of the number of political party in Indonesia is possible, added with the existence of countries that use party system besides multiparty but still succeeded, such as England and America. As we know, the two countries are successful and advanced States, and they use two-party system. Two-party is a system where there are only two main parties that competing in the general election. The dominant party in England is the Labor Party and the Conservative Party, while the United States is the Republican Party and the Democratic Party.<sup>8</sup> From the above explanation, the author initiated the "Simplification of the Number of Political Party towards Democratic Consolidation in Indonesia" for a better and stronger government, without reducing the consolidation of democracy in Indonesia.

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<sup>7</sup>*Ibid* p. 36.

<sup>8</sup> Luky Sandra Amalia, 2017, *Partai dan Sistem Kepartaian Era Reformasi*, Yogyakarta, Pustaka Pelajar, p. 16.

## **B. Research Problem**

1. What is the position and role of political party in Indonesia?
2. How is the influence of numbers of political party towards democratic consolidation in Indonesia?
3. How to simplify the numbers of political party towards democratic consolidation?

## **C. Objective of Research**

This research aims to understand further the role of political party in a democratic state, and to understand the influence of the number of political party towards democratic consolidation in Indonesia. It also evaluates influence the simplification of the number of political party towards democratic consolidation. This research will also recommend some suggestion to a better consolidation of democracy in Indonesia.

## **D. Benefits of Research**

These are some benefits of research, namely:

1. Theoretical Aspect

This research gives benefits to know genuinely about the influence of the number of political party towards democratic consolidation in Indonesia.

2. Practical Aspect

This research is expected to be used as input for the government in formulating and preparing norms about simplification of political parties. This research is also expected to provide objective and clear information to the peoples about political

parties, helping to increase their understanding, awareness and active participation so as to create democratic government.