

Saving Democracy

by **Raden Romy Achmad Ramdhan, A.Md, S.H**

Indonesia is worshiped as the largest democracy in Southeast Asia. Pilot for other countries. Has an ideology of Pancasila which is institutionalized. Becomes the character, breath and philosophy of national life.

Enchanting plurality. Various ethnicities, ethnicities, languages, religions and beliefs. Managed and grown on the ideas of the founder of the nation's brilliant. Call Soekarno, Hatta, Yamin and Soepomo. A big figure who carries meaning in Indonesia.

Democracy hailed now threatened. A sea of rejection by students and students over the revised Bill on the KPK Law, the Criminal Code Bill and the Land Bill for example, suing our democratic way of life.

How can there be a covert process covered by people's representation, working to pass various laws which are very important in measuring public life. Public participation has a deficit. Barely bankrupt if there is no change.

Democratic Deficit

The 1998 reforms were redeemed with the blood of students. Gave birth to democratic elections in the post-new order.

Good expectations of our electoral system at the beginning of the reform, many other countries imitated. became a pilot democracy project.

It is unfortunate that the above does not last long, now after passing through several decades the implementation of democracy in Indonesia has decreased significantly in line with the emergence of various problems that plagued this country.

Starting from the seemingly endless corruption cases in which many members of the DPR and political party officials involved in bribery and corruption cases were caught red-handed by the KPK.

So that makes the public cry. Until democracy is harmed by corruption. not to mention the eviction cases still occur disturbing the instincts of Human Rights (HAM), as well as the alleged cases of forest fires whose smoke crosses into neighboring countries.

Not to mention the tensions in the legacy of the 2019 elections. The term "tadpole and shucks that should have been buried (alive if possible), apparently continues even though the signal is getting weaker. Likewise various hoaxes still work.

As a result of the rampant dynasties of the post-truth era. An era in which only truth is to be heard. Not reality is. The facts above show a dangerous democratic deficit.

First, there are symptoms of public participation lacking a free vehicle. This was confirmed by a wave of actions against the revision of the KPK Law Bill, the Criminal Code Bill and the Land Bill, for example.

Public participation seems unimportant. Because there are elections that have endowed the public vote in parliament. In fact, democracy is not the case.

Public participation cannot be cut down just because there is an election. Participation must always be in the public sphere. Both pre and post election.

Second, the law that loses its character is to create a sense of fairness. The practice of selective logging is still found. Not to mention the legal issues that were formed secretly as in the case above.

So, if the law doesn't work. The threat of anarchy is in sight. This is of course we must fix and we do not expect. All parties must rebuild the upright law optimally.

Third, political parties. Political parties do not have a long-breathing vision. Political parties are trapped in the high cost of politics. As a result, public rights transactions become like a fairness. Need to improve the party system, recruitment patterns and reduce costs in the election.

There is no denying that the election is high cost. High-cost elections because the practice of money politics is still entrenched.

Aspinall and Ward Berenchot (2019) noted that from time to time, elections in the reform era were increasingly expensive from the local to the national level with the 2019 election being the most expensive.

The high cost of this election has an impact on the rise of corrupt practices at various levels of state institutions because the elected candidates both in the legislature have an interest in returning the capital they have spent.

In fact, research by Edi Rohaedi and R. Muhammad Mihradi (the Practices of License and Politics of Local Leaders Election in Indonesia, American Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences Research, Vol.03-Issue 09, pp122-127) shows that elections are expensive, especially in regions gave birth to the practice of deviations in licensing due to cukong practices during pre and post election.

Future Agenda

Democracy must be improved. By all parties. Public space must be restored. Through public participation. Not coercion or mobilization.

Participation of the active role of the wider community in overseeing all policies made by the government must be realized immediately. Because, in a country that adopts a democratic system, power is in the hands of the people by the people and for the people.

In addition, the law must be corrected. Returned his spirit. Perpendicular to anyone. Those who break the law are indiscriminately prosecuted. Corruption is shut down to its roots.

Finally, political parties and elections must be completely reformed. The party must be kept away from money politics on the condition that the party is simple and the election is low cost. All must be encouraged by all parties. Because only that way, democracy can be saved.

Author: **Raden Romy Achmad Ramdhan, A.Md, S.H**

Former Journalist, Writer and Employee at the Law School of Pakuan University