

Analysis of Candidate Factor from The Winning Independent Candidate on 2018 Local Election Leader in Sikka, East Nusa Tenggara

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Abstract. *This research aims to see how candidate or figure factors play an important role in electability, especially for independent candidates in local leader elections. The independent candidates in 2018 Sikka's local leader elections are research objects. In this local leader election, candidate Fransiskus Roberto Diogo, S.Sos, M.Si (aka Roby Idong) & Romanus Woga (the two called ROMA pairs) succeeded win as Sikka's leader in 2018. This research uses a qualitative method with in-depth interviews and secondary data collected from online media. In this research, found that the candidate factor plays an important role to independent candidate lane for going through local elections. Roby Idong, is the son of the former Sikka's leader in 1992, so he has a positive image in people's eyes. Apart from that, his mature experience as a candidate who had fought in the Sikka's local leader elections back before in 2008 and 2013. In the previous elections he coming from party's candidate. Learning from this experience, he developed a winning strategy and image of the candidate whose needed by the community through various work programs that differ from other candidates.*

Keywords: *Candidate Factor, Local Leader Election, Independent Candidate*

1. INTRODUCTION

Direct local leader election or Pilkada are one of the forms of democratization in Indonesia (Suharyanto, 2014; Hutapea, 2015; Dhesinta, 2016; Kristiyanto, 2017). Not only direct elections for regional heads in Indonesia have also been open with nominations from individual channels (Romli, 2016; Rahmanto, 2018; Sudiatmaka & Mangku, 2019; Rusnaedy, Z., & Purwaningsih, T. (2018). Local leader through individual channels are a form of political development in Indonesia (Haruni, 2012; Silaban, 2016). Starting with the passing of Law No. 32 of 2004 which regulates regional autonomy and Law No. 27 of 2007 which regulates direct regional head elections by the community has shown the development of democracy at the local level. These two laws became crucial foundations which were finally revised into Law No. 12 of 2008 concerning the election of regional heads by the Constitutional Court individually.

There are many pros and cons regarding this individual route of local leader elections, one of which is the various accusations that the government is trying to deparpolize or weaken the power of parties in political contestation (Yusyanti, 2015; Kosasih, 2018). But in reality, regional head elections through individual channels are an alternative in realizing a just democracy (Novita, 2017). Especially for candidates who cannot be accommodated by political parties. These candidates are usually candidates who do not have the political capital as strong as party cadres, or on the contrary, they actually have strong social capital because they are familiar figures or candidates in social life but are hindered because they do not share the same vision and enthusiasm with the party elite.

The first individual election for regional heads was held in 2005 (Warjiyati, 2014). The individual track pair who won the first time in regional head elections was the pair Irwandi Yusuf-Mohammad Nazzar as the Governor of Aceh Nanggore Darussalam Province. Irwandi, who is also a former GAM activist, won 39.7% of the votes which made him the elected Governor of 2007-2012 (Aceh Provincial Independent Election Commission, 2016). Furthermore, at the district level, Christian Dillak-Zacharias Manafe was elected as the Regent of Rote Ndao, East Nusa Tenggara in 2008. The regional head of this individual route has quite tough requirements. The burden of this requirement even exceeds the burden on political parties, such as obtaining at least 10% support from the total DPT for areas of 250,000 people and below according to Law No.10 of 2016.

The simultaneous regional elections in 2018, especially in the province of East Nusa Tenggara, were attended by 10 districts namely Alor, Ende, Kupang, East Manggarai, Nagekeo, Rote Ndao, Sikka, Southwest Sumba, Central Sumba and South-Central Timor districts. Of the 10 districts that conducted regional head elections, as many as 6 districts have individual candidates such as Kab. Sikka, Kab. Central Sumba, Kab. Nagekeo, Kab. East Manggarai, Kab. Ende and Kab. Kupang (Bere, 2018). However, only in Sikka district, individual candidates managed to win the seats of the Regent and Deputy Regent. Sikka Regency was led for the first time by an Individual Regent in the 2018 Pilkada. Fransiskus Roberto Diogo, S.Sos, M.Si & Romanus Woga (aka ROMA pair) officially became leaders in the Sikka district with a term of 2018 - 2023.

The electability of the ROMA candidate pair from the individual route indicates a new political phenomenon in Sikka district. We can analyze the choice of pairs of individual paths from various factors. These factors include the absence of regents and deputy regents who have succeeded in leading more than 1 period in Sikka district. The incumbent always lost in the contest, but for the first time the candidate from the individual line won this contest. One of the most striking of these candidate pairs is the candidate or figure factor. This research will look at the candidate factors, one of which is supported by a positive figure / image and a superior work program influencing the electability of Roby Idong - Romanus Woga in his election in the 2018 Sikka Regional Election.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Research related to voting behavior in Indonesia was initiated by Clifford Gertz (in Gaffar, 1992) who looked at the socio-religious orientation patterns of individuals (santri, abangan) and became an important reference in the study of flow politics. The results of research on the politics of this flow are then used in observing the voting behavior of the Javanese people. Meanwhile, research related to voting behavior in Indonesia began to evolve again after the collapse of the New Order regime. One of them was conducted by Mujani, Liddle and Ambardi (2019) showing the large influence of leadership and identification of political parties on the voting behavior of the Indonesian people in 1999 and 2004. Research on voting behavior has developed quite a bit, especially after the first direct elections in Indonesia in 2004. One one such as was done by Matrutty (2006) who examined Voting Behavior in the Election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Depok City in 2005-2010 shows that people's voting behavior. Depok city is classified as rational and predictable. Voting behavior in the city of Depok is more influenced by the consideration of the pros and cons and the party identity of the candidate. This study helps the author to see that there is a rational behavior of voters in making their choices.

Furthermore, research conducted by Apriani and Raffiudin (2018) proves that traditional social groups based on religion and kinship are factors that influence people's voting behavior in the Karangasem elections in 2015. The sociological approach shows that there is an influence between sociological values attached to individuals who influence one's behavior in politics. These sociological values can be in the form of religion, social class, ethnicity, region, family traditions and others (Rozi, 2013).

Research conducted by Haryanto (2014) uses a psychological approach in analyzing voting behavior. The results of this research in the UGM socio-political journal show that there has been an increase in party partisans in local politics in Indonesia,

particularly in the 2013 election for the governor of South Sulawesi. These party partisans arise because of a psychological bond, namely a feeling of closeness to a party or candidate. It is also strongly influenced by individual perceptions and assessments of the candidates or political issues raised.

Furthermore, there is research by Hermanto et al (2018) which discusses the factors for the emergence of individual candidates in the 2013 election for the Regent and Deputy Regent of Garut. In his research, the emergence of individual candidates was caused by weak institutionalization of political parties. Apart from the fact that the winning party in the election keeps changing every election period, political parties are also considered to be slow in regenerating their parties. So that there were many individual candidates who ran for the regent and deputy regent elections of Garut and won.

Furthermore, Lubis's (2016) research on the factors that caused OK Arya Zulkarnain's victory in the Pilkada of Batubara district. This study describes that the victory obtained by an individual candidate, OK Arya Zulkarnain, is strongly influenced by candidate or figure factors. This is because OK Arya Zulkarnain is one of the important figures in the expansion of the Batubara district from the Asahan district. Not only an important figure, OK Arya Zulkarnain is also actively involved as the chairman of the Coal Society Movement organization - the Workers Agency for the Preparation for the Establishment of Batu Bara Regency or GEMKARA - BP3KB.

Research related to regional head elections in Sikka was previously conducted by Ramdona (1996). The focus of his research was on the election process for regional heads of level II or Sikka Regency in the 1993-1998 period. In his research, he found that the list of names submitted to the Minister of Home Affairs was strongly influenced by the support factor from the DPRD level II and the factors of candidates who were considered to have good capabilities. In addition, there is the influence of support from the Church and the local Ledalero in the nomination of these names, although not significant. This research focuses on finding the novelty of the election of the head of the Sikka region during the 2018 regional elections by using updated political science such as a rational voting behavior approach and the application of rational economic choice theory.

3. RESEARCH METHODS/METHODOLOGY

This research uses qualitative social research methods. Moloeng (2007) explains that the qualitative research method is a research procedure that produces data in the form of interview manuscripts of people being observed, field notes, photos, networks, tables, pictures to obtain clarity on the meaning of each behavior pattern shown by research subjects. This study collected primary data using in-depth interviews with Fransiskus Roberto Diogo, S.Sos, M.Si (Roby Idong) as the Regent of Sikka Regency. Meanwhile, secondary data was obtained from local media such as newspapers and news articles. Data analysis techniques used data reduction, data presentation and conclusion (Cresswell, 2014) which were carried out systematically based on the stages of the research.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The election for the head of the Sikka district which was held on June 27 2018 was attended by three pairs of candidates. The three pairs of candidates consist of two pairs of incumbents who are promoted by political parties and one pair with individual channels. Where, the candidate pair for regent and vice regent candidate with serial number 1, namely, Drs. Alexander Longginus and Fransiskus Stephanus Say, SE which is often abbreviated as PAS package, are supported by the PAN, GERINDRA and PDIP parties. Then, the pair number 2, namely Fransiskus Roberto Diogo, S.Sos, M.Si and Romanus Woga or the ROMA package for short, chose to go forward using individual routes. Finally, pair number 3, namely Drs. Yoseph Ansar Rera and Rafael Raga, SP or the ARAG package for short, are advancing with support from the Golkar, Nasdem, Democrat, PKPI, PKS and PPP parties (Election Info, 2018).

The three pairs of candidates who competed can be said to have quite good political track records. Cabup candidates such as Alexander Longginus were Regent of Sikka in the period 2003 - 2008 as well as Deputy Chairman of the District Legislative Council. Sikka 2009 - 2014 period. Alex Longginus is also noted as the chairman of the DPD PDIP Kab. Sikka. Furthermore, the candidate for cabup, Yoseph Ansar Rera, served as Deputy Regent of Sikka for the 2003-2008 period and as Regent of Sikka for the 2013-2018 period. Meanwhile, the cabup candidate Fransiskus Roberto Diogo or familiarly called Roby Idong, is a former head of the Nelle sub-district for the 2014 - 2017 period.

Not only district head candidates, but Sikka cawabup candidates also have a fairly well-known political track record. The Cawabup candidate, namely Fransiskus Stephanus Say, SE, is currently serving as the chairman of the HNSI (Indonesian Fishermen's Association) and also the Deputy Chairman of the DPD Gerindra Party, Kab. Sikka. While the cawabup candidate Rafael Raga, SP is the Chairperson of the Sikka DPRD for the 2014-2019 period and also the Chairperson of the Golkar Party DPD Kab. Sikka. Meanwhile candidate Romanus Woga from the individual line is one of the well-known cooperative figures in Sikka.

Furthermore, based on interviews with Sikka KPUD staff on May 3, 2019, it was stated that these candidates had previously competed in the previous local leader election. One of them, the candidate Roby Idong who won through this individual route, has actually lost in the previous Pilkada. It is noted that Roby Idong has been running as vice leader candidate, paired with Hendrik Alex Bapa in the 2008 Sikka regional election. In the 2008 Sikka regional election, the pair Hendrik Alex Bapa - Roby Idong, sponsored by the Golkar Party has lost and coming in last position behind other 5 candidate pairs. Then in the 2013 Sikka regional election, Roby Idong once again became vice leader candidate and accompanying Alex Longginus, who was promoted by the PDI-P and the Regional Unity Party (Partai Persatuan Daerah-PRD). However, the candidate pair Alex Longginus - Roby Idong lost to Yoseph Ansar Rera and Paulus Nong Susar.

Contrary to this, candidate Roby Idong, who ran as a candidate for Sikka's local leader elections won through an individual lanes in the 2018 elections. In addition, candidate Roby Idong is the son of Alexander Idong, who served as the Regent of Sikka from 1993 - 1998. As the son of the former Regent of Sikka, Roby Idong is a figure who has received support from the community. This is because when his father took office, Sikka was just hit by the great Tsunami in 1992 and was considered successful in the recovery of Sikka and around Maumere Bay after the disaster (Ramdona, 1996).

This is in line with Ramdona's (1996) research regarding the election of the second-level regional head of Sikka district which shows that the figure of Alexander Idong has a positive image in the eyes of the community. So that his son, Roby Idong, can also be seen as a good figure in the eyes of the community when he is running for regional head nominations. In addition, it turns out that Alexander Idong's father had almost served as Regent of Sikka in the 1967 elections, but due to the bad political situation, this was nevertheless realized. Strengthened by the statement of the Regent Roby Idong in an interview on September 25, 2020,

"Yes, so if the background is actually not from my parents, but from my grandfather. So why do I want to become regent because in 1967 my grandfather was a candidate for district head of Sikka and in the election process he won. At that time he was still elected by DPRD members so he got 8 votes and the second order was 5 votes and the rest was 4 votes so it should have been my grandfather who was inaugurated but somehow he had a process in politics at that time, the one who was inaugurated was second. That's what my grandfather told me, ... and my mom insisted it wasn't fair, and my mom always prayed she said she'd pay for it all. Well, the prayer was that her husband was my father who became Regent in 1992. Then I continued to work hard again as a regent ... "

Roby Idong as a candidate from the individual line has been known to the public since his grandfather and father also faced the same political contestation. This has further strengthened the image of Roby Idong's figure / candidate in the community.

The victory of the individual track candidates for the first time is an anomaly in the local political dynamics of Sikka. The Sikka district itself is controlled by the Golkar party as the dominant party in the 2014 legislative elections. This can be seen from the Golkar party as the ruler of the most seats in the Sikka DPRD with 5 consecutive seats during the 2009-2014 and 2014-2019 periods. So, it can be said that the party machine in Sikka Regency is quite strong, but the candidates promoted by the ruling party actually lost in the electoral battle. The presence of candidates from the individual route seems to be a new alternative for society. We can observe this through the following table,

Table 1.
The Bearer Party and the 2018 Sikka's Local Leader Votes

Candidate Pair Name	The Bearers Party	Legitimate Vote Acquisition	Persentase
Yoseph Ansar Rera - Rafael Raga (Paket ARAG)	Golkar Party, Nasdem Party, Democratic Party, PKPI, PKS and PPP	44.417 vote	28.26 %
Alexander Longginus - Fransiskus Stefanus Say (Paket PAS)	PDIP, Gerindra Party and PAN	49.696 vote	31.62 %
Fransiskus Robertus Diogo - Romanus Woga	Individual Path	63.040 vote	40.11 %

Source: processed from the official website infopemilu.kpu.go.id

From table 1, it can be seen that incumbents who are supported by large and medium-sized parties actually get fewer votes. The PAS package or Alexander Longginus and Fransiskus Stefanus Say only managed to get 49.690 votes. Meanwhile, Yoseph Ansar Rera and Rafael Raga with the most coalition of political parties only received 44.417 out of 157,196 valid votes (Bawaslu RI, 2018). The election of regional heads in Sikka in 2018 is quite an interesting battle to be explored. This is because the Sikka district is the only area where the regional elections were won by individual candidates in the 2018 simultaneous regional elections. Meanwhile, if you look back, the candidates who fought were especially incumbents who had a good political track record. However, the Sikka community chose another alternative, namely a new candidate from the individual path to become their leader.

According to Regent Roby, he has learned in the previous elections in 2008 and 2013. He understands very well how the party machine works so as to prepare a new strategy in facing the Sikka elections in 2018 through individual channels. Quoted in an interview with the Regent Roby Idong on September 25 at the University of Nusa Nipa, Maumere, he said that as follows,

"I did participate in the first pilkada in 2008, indeed it was carried out by the Golkar party, then 2013 was carried out by the PDIP party together with the local PPRN party, then in 2018 our independent struggle was different through the party line, it was a committed party but the party workers were few. In fact, party machines that are relied on, their structures and functions are running well. Yes, it means hard work if the structures and functions are not working well, we will definitely not get it. "

Advancing from the individual path made Roby Idong carefully prepare his winning team. Having experienced advancing as a party candidate, he formed his own team which started 2 years before the contest, namely 2016. He has a target of winning votes in 100 villages then compiling a team that has 2 types of winning management skills. First, a hamlet-based team and the second a polling station-based team. In the same interview excerpt, Roby Idong conveyed his strategy to face political contestation on an independent basis.

Bandung, Indonesia, January 9th, 2021

"There is a difference between the independent pathways and the need for management ability to manage the winning teams. So first we have to have a target to win how many votes and that we see where the points have a high chance because of limited time energy is also limited, so be prepared to be effective in order to fight. But in the past two years before that, I have formed a team, yes, the first based work team is the hamlet base, I form the second one with polling station base, so I think the battle is at the polling station in the sub-district or district village. The polling station team is responsible for how we have to get a lot of votes and won, which is where we target it if we are there. The winning target is 100 villages and we all go out in 100 villages to the polling station base level. If that has been determined, all teams must work. Indeed, there are some areas that we think are difficult to reach. We don't spend a lot of energy there, we go after places that don't exist yet. So the core of the team is to be united, to be united indeed, taking care of the team is not easy, yes, because they are not machines but they have feelings, are sensitive to high dedication so they have to be patient but we succeeded in our two years together until now we are still in touch "

From this strategy, he won the election contestation. Directly confirmed, he also obtained various information from his team of leaders regarding the needs of the community which were finally realized through various work programs. In the early days, the winning team for Roby Idong had carried out an initial consolidation so that they received various concrete proposals for Roby Idong's work program with his deputy candidate at the time.

The Sikka people warmly welcomed the various proposed work programs offered by the ROMA or Roby Idong - Romanus Woga package. The work program of the ROMA package is said to be the people's favorite work program. This work program is said to be very different from the other two candidate pairs who use normative languages. The work programs offered are in the form of abbreviations that are easy to remember and very useful. Forms of work programs such as SSC, customary loans and education loans. The SSC or the Sikka Sehat Card is a means of substituting a certificate of inability to seek treatment for people who have not received a KIS (Healthy Indonesia Card). This is to participate in overcoming the problem that around 11,917 people have not received KIS, so a certificate of incapacity as a replacement is needed. However, in its implementation, it is very ineffective because the community has to go to the local village office before going to the hospital and it is very time-consuming if there are urgent matters.

In addition, there are two other work programs that are of interest to the public, namely a loan assistance program. First, traditional loans placed in cooperatives with the best status in Sikka. Where this customary loan can be used by the Sikka community as assistance in managing *belis*. Then, the two tuition loans for high school students and students from Sikka who cannot afford to continue to higher education at the level of S1. This loan is interest free and can be returned in installments after the completion of the education period.

The two flagship work programs offered by Roby Idong - Romanus Woga attracted the sympathy of the residents when they campaigned. Thus, the figure or candidate for Roby Idong is getting stronger in society. These two flagship programs seem to be the important slogans of the ROMA package campaign in meeting the needs of the Sikka people who were often neglected by the previous administration.

5. CONCLUSION

The direct local leader elections by the community is one of the benchmarks for democracy in Indonesia. Moreover, the process of accepting candidates through individual lanes has become a clear sign of progress in democracy at the local level. In the process, as we all know, the admission of candidates has quite heavy requirements. So it can be concluded, if there are individual candidate pairs who register themselves, then of course they have a large enough local mass base to be able to meet the requirements for collecting the identity card.

The candidate or figure factor in the nomination of individual pathways greatly influences electability. People see candidates as populist and close to society. Especially the regent candidates from this individual route have previously experienced in the same contest. Candidate for Regent Roby Idong has run through the party route in the Sikka regional elections in 2008 and 2013 but from the party line but suffered defeat. In fact, Roby Idong won the election through individual channels in 2018 without a political party machine. This shows that the candidate is quite mature in this contest, besides the kinship background possessed by the candidate where having a father who previously served as Regent in the same area further strengthens the candidate's character in the eyes of the community. In addition, Roby Idong has formed a winning team since 2016. The team is divided into hamlet-based and polling station-based teams with a target of winning votes in 100 villages spread across Sikka Regency. This clearly shows the maturity of the candidate in facing contestation. So that the candidate factor on the individual route greatly influences the electability in the elections, especially in the Pilkada in Sikka Regency, East Nusa Tenggara in 2018.

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