



MEASURING THE EXISTENCE OF ACEH'S LOCAL PARTIES IN ACEH LEGISLATIVE ELECTION 2009-2019

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Abstract

This study aims to determine the existence of local political parties in Aceh in the 2009-2019 legislative elections. The presence of local political parties in Aceh is a the result of the peace conflict between the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) and the Government Republic of Indonesia. The birth of a local political party in Aceh brought considerable influence large in the control of seats in the parliament in Aceh in its first participation in the 2009 legislative elections. However, his presence continues to experience According to him, the decline was in line with the number of votes in the next legislative election. This study aims to measure the existence of local political parties in Aceh in terms of 2009-2019 legislative elections. The research method uses the method qualitative descriptive with research focus on legislative elections at the provincial level Aceh in 2009-2019. The data collection techniques used are: interviews and documentation studies. The results showed that the existence of the party Aceh's local politics continues to decline as the number of votes and local political party seats in the 2014 and 2019 legislative elections when compared to the 2009 legislative elections. The decline in the existence of parties local politics in Aceh is measured from the concept of systemic degree, value identity, degree of autonomy and public knowledge

Keywords: *Existence, Local Political Party, Legislative Election*

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INTRODUCTION

Political consensus in Aceh after the peace of the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) with the Government of the Republic of Indonesia (RI) developed very dynamically, as evidenced by the birth of Law No. 11 of 2006 on the Government of Aceh, as part of a political compromise between the Government of the Republic of Indonesia (RI) and the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) which resulted in peace in the province with the agreement of both parties to abandon violent means in achieving their goals. The umbrella of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia. The success of reaching such a compromise step should be appreciated given the suffering of the people of Aceh due to armed violence that occurred for decades. Therefore compromise measures that maintain the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia and maintain the good name of Indonesia can be considered a success in resolving the conflict in Aceh.

The political compromise agreed through the Helsinki Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on August 15, 2005, has opened opportunities for the channel of political aspirations of the Acehnese people through local political parties that were previously only national-based political parties. Local political parties will be able to absorb the aspirations of the people in the region more precisely given the diverse interests owned by the Indonesian people. A local political party (state party, regional party or local political party) is a party whose network is limited to a region (province or state) or several regions, but does not include all provinces (national). Undang-Undang No. 11 of 2006 on the Government of Aceh that is meant by local political parties is "a political organization formed by a group of Indonesian citizens domiciled in Aceh voluntarily on the basis of equal will and ideals that fight for the interests of members, communities, nations, and the State through the election of DPRA/DPRK, Governors/Deputy Governors, Regents/Vice Regents, and mayor/deputy mayor."

Jafar AW (2014) in his research "Principles of Democracy and Local Political Parties in Aceh" stated that the existence of local political parties in Indonesia, in fact nothing new. In the course of

the history of the party system in Indonesia, the party local politics also participated in the 1955 general election. Furthermore (Adnan, 2005: 78) states that there are several political parties that are regional in nature, ethnicity and religion at that time such as the Indonesian Islamic Party, the People's Party Indonesia, Grinda in Yogyakarta, Masyumi, Indonesian Islamic Union Party, Peasant Party Indonesia, Youth Organizations such as Jong Java, Jong Sumatra, Labor Party, Party Indonesian Chinese Democrats, Sundanese Chosen Movement and others.

The birth of local political parties in Aceh is the embodiment of development democracy in Indonesia. The emergence of local political parties in Aceh is the result of peace agreement which is a series of conflict resolution in Aceh through a *Memorandum of Understanding* (MoU) between the Government of Indonesia with the Gerakan Aceh Merdeka (GAM) on 15 August 2005 in Helsinki Finland. This peace deal is the beginning of a new hope for the whole community Aceh will live a better, safer and more peaceful life. After the peace is given authority to be able to live independently, both in the economic and political fields and law. Implementation of the *Helsinki Memorandum of Understanding* (MoU) provide a new way for the opening of the gates of political democratization in Aceh by the enactment of Undang-undang Number 11 of 2006 concerning the Government of Aceh and Government Regulation No. 20 of 2007 concerning Local Political Parties that become legal basis for the birth of local political parties in Aceh.

Local political parties in Aceh have participated in the Aceh legislative elections inaugural year 2009. The existence of local parties in the legislative elections at that time puts significant pressure on the existence of national parties in Aceh Government Parliament. A total of 69 seats in the Aceh DPR, 34 seats are controlled by parties local politics (KIP Aceh, 2009). This step of success is not only in the legislative realm but also followed by the Executive such as the Governor and several Regents/Mayors from the party local politics succeeded in winning the General Election in Aceh.

The 2014 legislative election is a legislative election that second for local Aceh political parties. In this election the threat of being relegated to the party Aceh's local politics in gaining votes began to surface. According to Saputra (2020) in their research "Affiliation of the Aceh Party to the National Party" stated that: degradation of local political parties in Aceh due to the good achievements of local Aceh party cadres So far, the executive and the legislature have not met the expectations of society. That matter as evidenced by the decline in the number of votes and seats for local Aceh parties in the general election 2014 and 2019 legislatures.

The acquisition of seats for local political parties in Aceh continues to decline in terms of Aceh legislative elections. In the 2009 legislature, local Aceh political parties occupied 34 seats out of a total of 69 or 49.27% of the total seats in the Aceh DPR and parties nationally 35 seats or about 50.73% of the total legislative seats. On election legislative in 2014 Aceh political parties experienced a decrease in the number of legislative seats namely as many as 33 seats out of a total of 81 seats or around 40.74% while political parties nationally obtained 48 seats or about 59.26% percent of the total number of seats legislature. In the 2019 legislative elections, local Aceh political parties continue to experienced a decrease in legislative seats in the Aceh DPR. Aceh local political parties only able to obtain 28 seats out of a total of 81 seats or about 34.56% percent of seats legislature in the Aceh DPR. Meanwhile, the national party was able to increase significantly by obtained 53 legislative seats out of a total of 81 seats or about 65.44% percent of seats legislature.

The decrease in the number of seats of aceh local political parties is also caused by the cadres of local Aceh political parties who have been arrogant to what they have achieved today so as to reduce public sympathy. Another cause of internal conflicts in the body of local Aceh political parties with the emergence of groups in aceh local parties that are different from important points that must be addressed by the ranks of local Aceh political parties. This is

coupled with the emergence of the views of some people who consider that the local Aceh party is a group party that only fights for the interests of the group, not the interests of the community.

Departing from these various phenomena, this research aims to knowing and measuring the existence of local political parties in Aceh in the general election legislative 2009-2019 with studies that are limited to legislative elections at the Aceh provincial level.

METHODOLOGY

Metroedologically, the study uses a descriptive type of research with a qualitative approach. Descriptive research is research that seeks to explain the solution of problems that occur now based on data in which there is an effort to describe, record, analyze and interpret the conditions that now occur in other words descriptive research aims to obtain information about the current situation, Sugiyono (2014: 209). Qualitative research is as a study that produces descriptive data on oral and written words and observable behavior from the people studied, qualitative research focuses on social phenomena and voting on the feelings and perceptions of participants under the study with the technique of taking informants using purposive sampling methods, namely the technique of determining informants intentionally with certain considerations and snowball sampling methods. It determines the research in the field in accordance with the purpose of the research.

Primary data is a data source that directly provides data to data collectors (Sugiyono, 2014). The primary data is also called original data or new data that in order to obtain primary data, researchers must collect it directly. Techniques that researchers can use to collect primary data include observations, interviews, focused discussions(focus group discussioan). In other words, in collecting primary data researchers need informants to get primary data directly. In this study who will become an Informant is an informant who willingly provides information about the studies needed by researchers. These informants are obtained by several people who

can be trusted and know the object to be researched. While secondary data is obtained from archives or documents contained in the Aceh Independent Election Commission (KIP) and the Aceh Local Political Party as well as various literature such as journals, government websites and institutions that are considered related to research.

The data credibility test in this study used data triangulation techniques and observational extension. Tests on the credibility of data or data confidence qualitative research results, among others, are carried out with the extension of observations, increased persistence in research, triangulation, discussions with colleagues, negative case analysis and membercheck (Sugiyono, 2014). The triangulation used in this study is the triangulation of data sources, where the triangulation of data sources is data checked credibility from various different data sources and with the same technique. In this study checked the credibility of the data by comparing information obtained from the public, the Local Political Party Cadre, and the Aceh Independent Election Commission (KIP).

DISCUSSION

Local Existence in Aceh continues to decline. It looks clear from a decrease in the number of votes for local political parties from each general election which he participated in, both the 2009-2014 legislative general election and the 2009 general election legislative 2019. This is in line with what Surbakti (2010) stated that the existence or existence of political parties in a political system is determined by the number of votes obtained in the election, so as to measure an existence party is by looking at the efforts of political parties in obtaining votes in the general election.

The decline in the existence of local political parties is reflected in the existence indicators political parties. More specifically, Vicky Randall and Lars Svasand (2002) propose that: four criteria to measure the existence of political parties:

Systematic Degrees

The existence of local Aceh political parties plays an important role in the political system because of his position and status. Public knowledge of the party Aceh's local politics is the first benchmark for gaining recognition community for the existence of local Aceh political parties. Because in a democratic system society gives trust to a party to fight for aspirations through the elected representatives of the people in the general election, (Kansil, 2010: 264).

Local political parties exist only in Aceh and has been following the general election its first legislature in 2009. In the period 2006 until now political parties Aceh Local is always an issue and the topic of conversation in the community, given embodiment of implementation of the Helsinki MoU in 2005, which is a series of conflict resolutions in Aceh between the Government of Indonesia and Gerakan Aceh Merdeka (GAM). The existence of local political parties in Aceh has a long history long and does not appear out of nowhere. The early history of the birth of local political parties in Aceh is part of a political compromise between the Government of the Republic of Indonesia with the Gerakan Aceh Merdeka (GAM) through a conflict agreement through signing of the *Memerendum of Understanding* (MoU) on August 15th, 2005 in Helsinki, Finland. In 2006 the Government of Indonesia together with the DPR RI issued Undang-undang Number 11 Year 2006 on Governing Aceh as mandated by the 2005 Helsinki MoU. The enactment of the law is a proof of acknowledgment by the Government of Indonesia that Aceh has the right to run its own government known as the Aceh Government and has the right to have a political party on a local scale known as a political party local Aceh. Aceh's local political parties are mostly composed of former Gerakan Aceh Merdeka (GAM) to fight for the ideals of the struggle, namely the full right to Aceh privileges.

After getting recognition from the central government about the possibility of establishing a party, local politics of Aceh through the signing of

the peace agreement through the Helsinki MoU 2005 and the enactment of Undang-undang Number 11 of 2006 concerning the Government of Aceh does not solely the formation of local Aceh political parties went smoothly, but full of dynamics. Whereas in the Helsinki MoU peace agreement Points 1. 2. 3 political parties Acehnese locals were allowed to participate in the 2006 regional elections. Meanwhile, Aceh's local political parties were only formed in 2007 based on the Government Regulation No. 20 of 2007 concerning Local Political Parties in Aceh which ratified by the President of the Republic of Indonesia on March 16th, 2007.

Aceh's local political party which was first formed in 2007 is Partai Aceh with the name GAM Party which later changed its name to Partai Aceh. Then followed by other local political parties such as the Partai Aceh Aman Sejahtera (PAAS), Partai Suara Independent Rakyat Aceh (SIRA), Partai Damai Aceh (PDA) and Partai Rakyat Aceh (PRA). The formation of local political parties in Aceh is full of dynamics, almost all local political parties in Aceh is loaded by the former Gerakan Aceh Merdeka (GAM) combatants.

The formation of local Aceh political parties is *top-down*, namely the formation of starting from the top who were formerly the leaders and ministers of Gerakan Aceh Merdeka which is then welcomed below are the soldiers or former combatants GAM. The establishment of local Aceh political parties aims to accommodate all Acehnese people's aspirations, which so far have not been fully fought for by people's representatives from national political parties. In addition, opening an opportunity for former GAM fighters to serve the community by sitting in government by using local Aceh political parties as tools to achieve this power.

In running the wheels of political party organization, local Aceh political parties has its own mechanism which is regulated in the AD/ART of local political parties. AD/ART party is the starting point of every implementation of activities and policies adopted by political parties. This is in accordance with what Jaya (2011) stated about the degree of political

party privileges that the degree of political party privilege is the process of implementing the functions of political parties established based on AD / ART. However, in practice, local political parties Aceh where all party policies and directions are determined by respected leaders or the central figure of the local political party. This is because of the background Aceh's local political parties, which consist of almost all GAM combatants and leaders The party also comes from the leadership of GAM combatants. So that local Aceh political parties in running the party's wheels, both in decision-making and policies follow one line or command. As was the case when GAM earlier. Where the leader or central actor is highly respected and very influential in policy and decision making.

A respected central actor or leader is very important in a political party local Aceh, because the central actors of political parties are very important for voters to determine his choice over other reasons such as ideological and ethnic. This matter This is because the charisma and popularity of the image of the figures is the referent power for political parties to gain loyal sympathizers and members.

But what is unfortunate by the people in aceh's local political parties is the attitude of local Aceh political parties that do not maintain good relations with supporters and sympathizers after the local Aceh political party sits in the government. Aceh's local political parties only use sympathizers as a door to power only. Only sympathizers who have great influence and services are noticed by the government of aceh's local political parties, which eventually causes jealousy among sympathizers in the community. So that sympathizers of local political parties in the period continue to experience a reduction along with the decline in the vote of aceh local political parties in legislative elections in 2014 and 2019. Whereas sympathizers are indicators of the victory of local Aceh political parties that also affect the votes of local Aceh parties. This is in accordance with the statement of Anwar and Saviana (2006) about the loyalty of the supporter masses, where in theory he said that the loyalty of

the supporters or party sympathizers will affect the political party's vote in elections.

Sympathizers and members are very important for a party politics, including local Aceh political parties. For this reason, political parties should continue to maintain good relations with members and their respective sympathizers. However there has been no strong effort from local political parties in maintaining good relations with investigators and members, investigators and members are only limited as a tool to win the general election. Only sympathizers who are considered meritorious for winning local political parties in Aceh who received political offers and get government projects. This is what causes jealousy in the community, especially fellow sympathizers of the local political party. This is not good for local Aceh political parties because it causes sympathizers to switch support other political parties. Though sympathizers and members are indicators victory for local Aceh political parties, because of the loyalty of party supporters sympathizers will affect the vote acquisition of a political party in the Election. While the vote will affect the existence of local political parties Aceh.

Value Identity

The identity of Aceh's local political parties is reflected in the party's ideology and platform Acehness local politics. With this value identity, Acehness local political parties have loyal followers and mass base in general elections, especially groups public. According to Jaya (2011: 20-27) that the mass base of political parties is very depends on the identity of the value of the party, and with the identity of the value of the political party have a loyal mass base. Loyal support for local Aceh political parties continues decreased in line with the reduced harmonization of local Aceh political parties with society. Thus causing a decrease in the votes of Aceh's local political parties in the 2014 and 2019 legislative elections. On the other hand, it is also inseparable from performance cadres who sit in government are considered unsatisfactory and not in accordance with community aspirations.

The decline in the existence of local Aceh political parties is also inseparable from the implementation of party ideology by local Aceh political party cadres so that political parties its mass base continues to decrease because according to Anwar and Salviana (2006) about the mass base of political parties that the indicator of existence is the mass base. This is considered reasonable because the community is a pillar of political party victory in elections where the public has the ability to determine its representatives to sit in government and it is in accordance with what Kansil (2008) expressed about the concept of democracy that people choose their representatives to fight for the will and will of the people.

The declining existence of aceh's local political parties is also inseparable from the implementation of party ideology by a cadre of aceh local political parties. Party ideology has not been actually implemented by a cadre of local Acehness political parties and only impressed as a symbol that should not be applied in every direction of political party policy, both by cadres who sit in government and who participate in the community. Whereas party ideology is a symbol of values that are able to attract the attention of the masses or the public to local Acehness political parties and is actually a demand for the morning local Aceh political party in implementing it to achieve the objectives organizationally of the political party. The ideology of aceh's local political parties in Aceh province seems sidelined by party cadres when it intersects with personal and group interests. So that the local aceh political party gets negative value from the community both the activities and actions taken by the party are considered as a way to achieve its interests. While the campaign promises and goals of local Aceh political parties have not been achieved. Whereas local Aceh political parties have participated in legislative elections in several elections in the Aceh Legislature.

Degrees of Autonomy

The existence of local Aceh political parties is the existence of local political parties Aceh in

society, recognized by the system, authority and status it has able to take action independently (Surbakti, 2000: 151). Party independence Aceh local politics in independent decision making is something carried out, so that every party action is in accordance with the ideology and objectives of the political party local Aceh. Based on data collected in the field, Aceh's local political parties still unable to take party policies and actions independently, which This is due to the large number of interest groups within the party that participate in dictating Acehnese local political parties. Interest groups in local Aceh political parties are groups that support local Aceh political parties in elections in other words, groups that have contributed to local Aceh political parties. The presence of this interest group in Aceh's local political parties made the parties Aceh's local politics must take everything into account when making decisions decision.

Considerations in making policies within Aceh's local political parties are not regardless of the politics of remuneration and pressures that make party decisions Aceh's local politics can be dictated by parties outside the party. This proves that the party Aceh's local politics has not yet been fully recognized, even though local political parties Aceh occupied the seat of government. Dictation of local Aceh political parties by groups interests are also inseparable from the problem of funding Aceh's local political parties in running the party wheel. Aceh's local political parties are not yet independent in terms of The economy has caused local Aceh political parties to be unable to fund party activities. So that local Aceh political parties seek support through volunteers or NGOs capable of funding party activities, both in general elections and in run the party wheel in daily life.

The inability of local Aceh political parties to make decisions or policies and the economy make these political parties regulated by outsiders who have help the party in terms of the economy and the party's victory in the general election. Thus, political parties are considered non-existent by the community to take action party even though local Aceh political parties control the seats of government and legislature.

The inability of political parties to make decisions is unfortunate because with outside parties influenced by political parties is difficult to carry out party activities according to the party's ideology and goals. This is in accordance with Jaya's opinion (2011: 20-27) that political parties are capable of making decisions autonomously is a political party that is capable of funding.

Public Knowledge

The difference between aceh's local political parties is known by all levels of society in Aceh province. Local political parties in Aceh have contested elections, including regional head elections in 2012 and legislative elections in 2009, 2014 and 2019. Public knowledge of aceh's local political parties can not be separated from the reality, where the local political party of Aceh is controlling the government both at the district / city level and at the provincial level today. The existence of local political parties in Aceh is the result of the peace of the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) with the Government of Indonesia which gave birth to an agreement that Aceh has the right to establish a local political party. The agreement was agreed through the signing of the Helsinki MoU on August 15, 2005.

The existence of local Aceh political parties in the political system has been recognized by Undang-undang Number 11 of 2006 concerning Aceh Governance and Regulations Government Number 20 of 2007 concerning Local Political Parties in Aceh. In addition to state recognition, public knowledge is very important for aceh's local political parties as a first step to victory in the general election. In Surbakti (2000) that to measure the existence of the party by looking at the efforts of political parties in gaining votes. Efforts are made one of them to pay local Aceh political parties to the community so that the public gets knowledge about aceh local political parties. Knowledge society towards local political parties has been well embedded in the memory public. Aceh's local political parties have become a crucial issue in society. In addition, the presence of local Aceh political parties in society is part of the implementation of the specialization of Aceh as a special region.

The work of Aceh's local political parties in controlling the Legislature in the first period of 2009-2014, describing its existence has been a serious concern, which is able to place its cadres in provincial and district parliamentary seats almost controlling 50 percent of seats, and able to place its cadres in provincial and district executive seats in the 2012 elections. However Aceh's local political parties have experienced a decline due to poor public image bad for the failure of local political party cadres in incompetent government meet the expectations and interests of society. The failure of political parties in elections due to weak public knowledge or public image of political parties. Failure This can also be seen from the non-fulfillment of campaign promises or programs political parties. The same thing was conveyed by Sitepu (2012: 188) that political parties gain political power through its programs. When the program is not implemented by itself the political party is abandoned by the community.

The decrease in the number of votes of Aceh's local political parties in legislative elections in 2014 and 2019 was also due to party programs that were considered not pro to the community. Among them are about the elimination of death and childbirth funds. So the public began to doubt the government which resulted in the withdrawal of support in legislative elections in 2014 and 2019. The decrease in the number of local Aceh party votes in the legislative elections of Aceh Province shows that the existence of the party is decreasing. This is in line with surbakti (2000), that the existence of political parties can be seen from the number of votes obtained and the number of cadres who can be placed in government seats, because the existence or existence of political parties in the political system is determined by the number of votes obtained in elections, so to see the existence of the party must be seen from the results of the election.

On the other hand, Aceh's local political parties have not carried out this function properly. It can be seen that local political parties

are unable to control conflicts internally which are narrower in scope than conflicts that occur in the community. The inability of local political parties in conflict control is very clear from the injection of conflicts that occur within the party both because of interests and structurally. The conflict is inseparable from the fragrant position and power as the cause in the internal political parties of Aceh, in accordance with the stated by Arifin (2002) that every political system is very possible for conflict and differences of interest. It is also in line with the opinion of Bartens and Nugroho (1985) that conflict is a dispute over values or demands, status, power and wealth.

CONCLUSION

The existence of local Aceh political parties in the 2009-2019 legislative elections continues decrease. The decline of existence can be seen from the decline in the number of Aceh local political parties' votes in the 2014 and 2019 legislative elections. Apart from votes In the legislative elections, the decline in the existence of local Aceh political parties is seen from the concept: *Degree of Systematic* ; where local Aceh political parties are present on the basis of peace conflict between GAM and Republic of Indonesia as a place for people's aspirations Aceh. But his presence had ups and downs along with his lack of good party relations with sympathizers and the community. *Value Identity* ; reflected in party ideology and platform. On the way, local political party cadres tend to ignore party ideology when it comes to personal interests. even though party ideology attracts people's attention and support. *Degree of Autonomy* ; party Aceh's local politics are not yet economically independent and decision-making because there are still many interest groups within the party body. *Public Knowledge*; public knowledge of local parties is well known because political parties local politics that dominate the government. However, the work of local political parties continues decreased due to party cadres sitting in government not in accordance with the aspirations and expectations of society.

Looking at the results in this study, the author provides several recommendations to

local Aceh political parties in order to maintain their existence as a following;

- a. For local Aceh political party cadres to be able to maintain good relations with community and sympathizers, because the community and sympathizers are the holders of vote in elections.
- b. Local Aceh political party cadres who currently sit in government, both executives as well as the legislature to be able to improve their performance in accordance with the aspirations community and carry out the promises made during the campaign to be realized, and can take action independently without influenced by any party. So that people develop a sense of confidence in local Aceh political parties. Thus, political parties local Acehnese gain support in general elections to maintain existence.

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