

The Phenomenon of Kinship Politics in the 2024 Election on Bangka Island

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Abstract

The practice of kinship politics leads to the regeneration of power for the benefit of certain groups, namely children, husbands, wives, younger siblings with the aim of gaining or maintaining power. Many family members of political officials on Bangka Island will run in the 2024 election. The results showed that there was kinship politics in the 2024 election on Bangka Island in the families of H. Sukirman, Riza Herdavid, and Maulana Aklil. This form of kinship politics includes direct support from the family and the influence of kinship that rules the region. The development of kinship politics in Bangka Island is due to factors of political elites who want to maintain or perpetuate power, party attitudes that are still pragmatic, weak regeneration, political opportunities for kinship politics, people who vote are still pragmatic, and an election system that provides space for the practice of kinship politics.

Keywords: Kinship Politics; Power; Election Contestation

1. Introduction

The dynamics of elections on Bangka Island presents a political phenomenon that deserves attention. One of them is the phenomenon of kinship politics which shows that many family members of political officials will fight for seats in the 2024 Legislative Election. Family or close relatives are the right tools in forming a strong power. This political power is not just a political phenomenon, but has become a political culture that is increasingly mushrooming in various regions on Bangka Island.

Kinship politics is a kinship relationship between one political official and another political official or candidate (Purwaningsih, 2015). Kinship politics leads to a process that leads to the regeneration of power for the benefit of certain groups, namely children, husbands, wives, younger siblings with the aim of gaining or maintaining power. Kinship politics can also be interpreted as a political strategy that has the aim of gaining power, where power is maintained through the hands of relays from the family environment.

Elections can be interpreted as a

mechanism for converting citizens' votes into state institutions, both legislative and executive. Elections are also considered a symbol as well as a benchmark of democracy (Usman et al., 2023). In addition, elections are also a manifestation of people's sovereignty which is considered a tangible manifestation of democracy as well as the most concrete form of community participation in terms of participating in state administration (Hidayat et al., 2020). In a series of elections, it is hoped that each stage can be carried out optimally, this aims to achieve elections in the sense of deepening and strengthening the democratic process at the local level and bringing leaders closer to the people in the next government period (Yandra, 2017).

Basically, elections are held as an effort for the best people carried by political parties and by individual channels in the hope of producing leaders with integrity, morality, and care for the interests of society. Ideally, elections should also avoid the practice of kinship politics that prioritizes kinship and kinship which will close the space for political party cadres to be able to compete in political

contestation. The strengthening of kinship politics is considered an indication of the deterioration of party institutionalization and the weakening of recruitment ability of political party cadres (Harjanto, 2011).

This picture of kinship politics is always seen as having negative connotations in the administration of a government order. This is because kinship politics will damage the legitimacy and quality of democratization at the local level (Kenawas, 2017). Kinship politics is also considered an unavoidable phenomenon and often becomes a public debate in the midst of society. This seems to severely limit a person's political right to make choices that are in accordance with his conscience. It is also possible that it will make people apathetic and tend to be sensitive to determine political attitudes in choosing credible leaders who have important and strategic positions in the government.

The emergence of kinship politics in its natural dimension seeks to encourage elite families to continue to hold power in government. In the constitution, it has also been affirmed that every citizen has an equal position in the eyes of the law, including in running for Regional Head, be it as President/Regent/Mayor. However, the existence of kinship politics is increasingly troubling and can hurt democracy. In addition, kinship politics gives birth to premature leaders. This is because they were born from established families as political families, not born of political struggle and education. In fact, a leader should be born from people who have good abilities and track records in the community, who can provide strong political education to the next generation (Rahmi, M., Yandra, 2020).

Kinship politics on Bangka Island leads to political practices carried out by a family in terms of gaining power. The phenomenon of kinship politics on Bangka Island is influenced by several factors. One of them is the political pedigree of public officials who

are in power or have served as Regents, Mayors, and Governors (Ranto, 2023). In addition, there are several things that have resulted in the emergence of kinship politics on Bangka Island. First, there is a desire within oneself or family to gain power. Second, there is a division of duties between political power and capital power, so this can result in corruption. Third, there is a group organized by mutual agreement in the group that can form group rulers and group followers.

In addition, it is influenced by efforts in building personal and family benefits characterized through strategies that benefit family members through their strategic positions. Therefore, personal and family benefits are automatically realized according to his own expectations. There are efforts to close the opportunities of other parties in occupying office. This is characterized by systematic attempts to create political conspiracies with the aim of closing the opportunities for others who are outside kinship to enter the circle of political power.

On Bangka Island, there are many family members of political officials on Bangka Island who will run in the 2024 election, both being members of the Regional People's Representative Council to fighting for seats in the People's Representative Council of the Republic of Indonesia and the Regional Representative Council of the Republic of Indonesia.

Power derived from family relationships is considered incapable in terms of providing maximum contribution related to improving community welfare and regional development. This ruling family eventually evolved into kinship politics in the area that was hard to defeat. Thus, the power they already possess will become eternal. The results of elections with kinship descent also result in a decline in leadership qualities. The reason is because it relies on the vote base of its predecessor, resulting in the lack of effort

and performance of candidates.

Researchers are of the view that with the rise of kinship politics that is thick with kinship elements, it has implications for political dynamics on Bangka Island. Political parties are also only used as political machines that can reduce the ideal function of the party, so that there is no other target but power. Then, political parties themselves are increasingly centralized in the decision-making process, where they trust the successful team more than the party machine itself and emphasize kinship politics rather than ideological strength and the party's vision and mission (Ibrahim, Haryadi, & Hidayat, 2024).

In addition, in this position party recruitment is based more on the popularity and wealth that legislative candidates have to achieve victory. This leads to the closure of political recruitment for people outside the kinship, thus threatening the phase of democratic transition to the process of democratic consolidation.

2. Theoretical Perspective

In analyzing the complexity of the problems in the study, researchers used Scheneider's kinship theory to see the kinship relationship of candidates in the 2024 election. Kinship theory is a theory or kinship system based on family relationships, blood relations, and lineage (Schneider, 1968). For Scheneider the kinship system based on blood relations, lineage, and family relationships was an ethnocentric illusion built by Europeans and North Americans culturally. This is a projection of their cultural obsession. In this case, kinship politics is synonymous with the concentration of power in a particular family or political relative.

Schneider's kinship theory is not only focused on his studies or ideas on genealogical lines or blood relationship lines such as the concept of father, mother, and child families because of the transmitted incestuous

relationship. However, the reality according to David Schneider is not like that, but there is a meaning and role whose emphasis does not have to be seen genealogically or incestuous ties (Schneider, 1968).

The theory of kinship proposed by Schneider has significant relevance in understanding family structure and kinship relationships in the object to be studied. In addition, kinship theory emphasizes that kinship systems are part of social constructs that vary between cultures and can also differ in significant ways from the common view of family relationships.

The concept of kinship politics is intended to focus more on political activities by recruiting family members in political office. Kinship politics is also said to be a political recruitment that produces family members who occupy political positions that are not based on their abilities. However, this is more based on the consideration of kinship, both marital and hereditary ties. It can also be known that the context in kinship politics refers to the context of democracy produced through the election process (Purwaningsih, 2015).

This system of kinship theory is a very important part of the social structure. Kinship is social units consisting of several families who are related by blood or marital relations. Members of this kinship consist of father, mother, son, sister, brother, uncle, and so on. The existence of this kinship system not only includes marital ties or because of family relationships, but blood relations (Manan, 2015).

This kinship theory approach allows researchers to be able to see how political families build kinship relationships in winning the 2024 election contestation. Thus, Schneider's kinship theory makes a valuable contribution in understanding family dynamics and kinship relationships in this study. This is what makes David Schneider use the concept of kinship to be used as a

deconstructive view, especially related to theories that explain the kinship system.

Kinship theory is getting stronger and cannot be separated from the poor political recruitment process carried out by political parties in elections (Harjanto, 2011). This kinship theory is considered an effective weapon in winning democratic contestations. This is because there are related figures who have a considerable influence in moving their voices to choose related partners. This is in line with the concept of voter behavior, where factors that can influence voting behavior one of them is loyalty to certain figures (Mujani, Liddle, & Ambardi, 2012).

3. Method

The method used in this study is a descriptive research method by grouping qualitative data. This qualitative research method is a method used to examine the natural condition of objects. Researchers as key instruments in data collection techniques carried out by data analysis are inductive or qualitative and the results of this qualitative research emphasize meaning. In this study, it is not only collected data directly or once. However, it is managed step by step and then the findings are concluded during the research process from beginning to end. In other words, this qualitative research method aims to examine and analyze the condition of objects based on facts and explain the data obtained for later analysis in accordance with existing theories.

According to Moleong (2016), qualitative research is research with the aim of understanding a phenomenon regarding what the research subject experienced thoroughly by means of description in the form of words and language, in the specific context experienced and by utilizing various scientific methods. The subjects to be studied are Sukirman, Riza Herdavid, and Maulana Aklil. Researchers can understand a phenomenon of kinship politics in both objects by prioritizing

the process of in-depth interaction between researchers and objects to be studied in the field. Therefore, this is an important part to be analyzed and observed more deeply in research.

4. Result and Discussion

The Form of Kinship Politics in the 2024 Election on Bangka Island

The form of kinship politics is a first step for clans/patrons to maintain or perpetuate power. This form of kinship politics in the 2024 election could include political support based on ruling family relationships. Of course, the form or pattern of kinship politics varies greatly. Starting from the tendency of elite political officials in the government to use this situation as their moment of power, even for the common interests of family members or kinship networks that can influence their political decisions.

The phenomenon of kinship politics on Bangka Island forms a certain pattern that is consistent with being in the same party and across parties. Here are the political families that will fight in the 2024 elections, namely:

Table 1. List of Political Family of Bangka Belitung

No.	Political Family	Name
1	Erzaldi Rosman Djohan	Melati
		Erlansyah Rokar Aprinata
		Erlina
		Herry Erfian
2	Rustam Effendi	Taufik Rizani
		Asmadi
		Ratna Leli Pancawati
3	Alm. Eko Maulana Ali	Noorhari Astuti
		Hari Eko Indrianto
		Afrilia Kartika Janna
		Heri
4	Alm. Hudarni Rani	Rina Firtiandini
		Muhammad Yudha Primadirani
5	Mulkan	Huzarni Rani
		Yusmiati
6	Maulana Aklil	Suhandi
		Monica Haprinda
7	Riza Herdavid	Elizia

8	Debby VitaDewi	Jumro H Jalil
9	Sukirman	Bobby Prima Sandy Muslim
		Maryono
10	Zuhri M Syazali	Robbi Rodliyah
11	Markus	Maria
		AlexanderFransiskus
12	Justiar Noer	Adytia RizkiPradana
13	Yusril IhzaMahendra	Yuri KemalFadlulah
		Yuslin Ihza Mahendra
14	Bahar Buhasan	Bryan Buhasan
15	Mehoa	Christian Walvin

Source: Tempo.co, 20

Referring to the table data, researchers will focus on discussing 3 political families in the study, namely the Sukirman family, Riza Herdavid's family, and Maulana Aklil's family. Bobby Prima Sandy Muslim will run as a candidate for the People's Representative Council of Bangka Belitung Regional West Bangka Regency Electoral Area from the NasDem Party. Elizia will run as a candidate for the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia Bangka Belitung Provincial Electoral Area from PDPI from Riza Herdavid's family. Monica Haprinda will run as a candidate for the People's Representative Council of Bangka Belitung Region of Pangkalpinang City Electoral Area from PDIP from Maulana Aklil's family.

This is closely referred to as kinship politics, considering that family members of the three candidates who are currently serving as Regent of West Bangka, Regent of South Bangka, and former Mayor of Pangkal Pinang have a great influence in the election of Bobby Prima Sandy Muslim as a Candidate for the People's Representative Council of Bangka Belitung Regional Electoral Area of West Bangka Regency. Elizia as a Candidate for the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia Bangka Belitung Province, and Monica Haprinda as a Candidate for the People's Representative Council of Bangka Belitung Region Pangkalpinang City Electoral Area. The three candidates are also working

in terms of supporting the party and gaining seats in the upcoming 2024 democratic party.

In addition, there is a pattern of family support, where candidates get direct support from family members who have strong connections to certain political families. The influence of kinship in the region is also a big influence, because some of the candidates have family members who are serving as rulers, be it husbands, children, sisters, brothers, and wives.

In political theory, power is gained through three stages. The first talks about popularity, the second about acceptability, and the third about electability. Those who engage in kinship politics certainly benefit from popularity. They are more popular because they talk about kinship politics, their relationship to legislative power is many. They are more famous than other figures. For example, she is the son of the Regent, the wife of the Mayor, and the wife of the former Governor. So this kinship politics has added value compared to other figures who do not come from political families. Then in terms of acceptability or acceptance rate, they are more accepted because they have a source of power. For example, when his wife is running for office and her husband is serving as a Regent, he may use bureaucratic infrastructure to support his wife's candidacy.

This kinship politics does not stand alone, it cannot stand alone because there is a mother attached behind it. There are children who cling to their fathers and there are wives who cling to husbands who in fact have power. This is in the sense that power plays because power is a tool of coercion. People who have power certainly have coercive tools. This means that if they are a Regent or Mayor, they have a means of coercion to their ranks.

Kinship politics or family politics is considered to be getting stronger. This is inseparable from the poor political recruitment process carried out by political

parties in general elections. To win political offices, in addition to relying on famous figures or people who have big money for their image, political parties are also increasingly led to support candidates proposed by defense parties who still have political resources and formal authority that are no longer possible to run in competition due to term limitation rules.

The practice of kinship politics that is currently taking place on Bangka Island has a negative effect, especially disrupting opportunities for others outside the political family to contest. Many instant candidates have emerged from political families who did not go through the regeneration process. In addition, when candidates who come from kinship politics are candidates who are original and have no competence, then have no ability in quotation marks are forced to enter kinship circles to perpetuate power. This would close the nomination or recruitment process for others outside the political family. They do this in order to make a fortune so that the circle of power remains in the vortex of their family and cannot be taken over or continued by others outside their relatives. The political forms in the 2024 election at the time of nomination in the families of H. Sukirman, Riza Herdavid, and Maulana Aklil are as follows:

1) H. Sukirman Family

H. Sukirman, who currently serves as Regent of West Bangka Regency, has a son who is contesting the 2024 election. Bobby Prima Sandy Muslim, son of H. Sukirman ran as a candidate for the Regional People's Representative Council of Bangka Belitung Province in the West Bangka Regency Electoral Area from the Nasdem Party faction. This is Bobby's first experience in practical politics. The following is the scheme of kinship politics in the H. Sukirman family, namely:

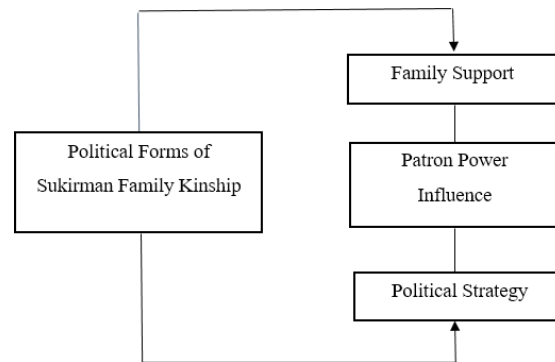


Figure 1. Scheme of Kinship Political Forms in H. Sukirman's Family

Based on the scheme above, Bobby's candidacy as a candidate on personal and family will only supports Bobby in order to compete for a seat in the 2024 election. The role of Bobby's political capital is also very comprehensive, where there is the involvement of big names of parents and supported by economic capital which is a political force for Bobby to take advantage of the introduction of his activities to the community. More interestingly, Bobby carried out a political strategy which he divided into three segments, namely fathers, mothers, and young people.

- Riza Herdavid Family

Riza Herdavid, who currently serves as Regent of South Bangka Regency for the 2021-2024 period, began his political career in 2016 as Vice Regent of South Bangka for the 2016-2021 period. In the 2024 election contestation, Elizia, who is the wife of Riza Herdavid, is running to participate in the general election agenda. Elizia as a Candidate for the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia Bangka Belitung Electoral Area from the PDIP faction. This was Elizia's first experience in politics. The

scheme of kinship politics in Riza Herdavid's family is as follows:

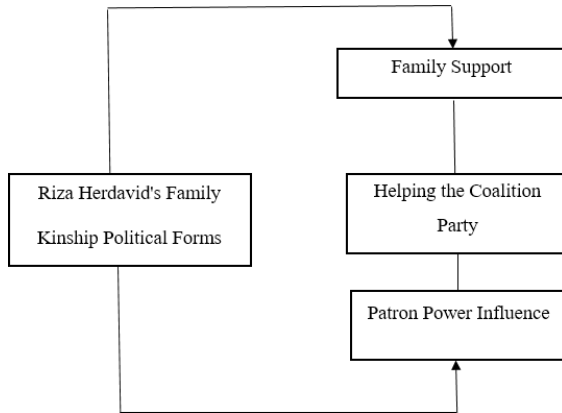


Figure 2. Kinship Political Form Scheme in Riza Family

Based on the scheme above, Elizia's candidacy was because she wanted to help political parties in the representation offemale candidates from South BangkaRegency and of course there was direct support from her family. This is because Riza has a goal to prosper the people of SouthBangka through Elizia's candidacy. Inaddition, the influence of patron power onElizia's nomination of the big name Riza Herdavid as Regent of South Bangka can be seen from her performance.

- Maulana Aklil Family

Maulana Aklil or often called Molen is a politician from Pangkalpinang who started his political career as the Person in Charge of the Regent of Ogan Komering Ulu Regency in 2015. Molen's wife, Monica Haprinda, participated in the 2024 election which took place on February 14, 2024. Monica ran as a candidate for the Regional People's Representative Council of Bangka Belitung Province in the Pangkalpinang City Electoral Area from the PDIP faction. The following is a picture of the form of kinship politics in Maulana Aklil's family, namely:

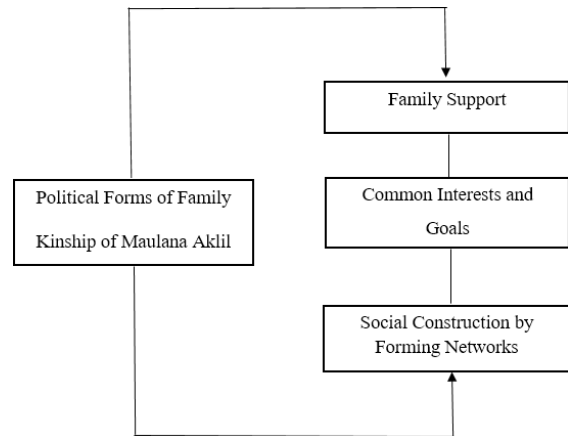


Figure 3. Scheme of Kinship Political Forms in Maulana Aklil's Family

Based on the scheme above, the form of kinship politics in Maulana Aklil's family is direct support from the family in Monica's candidacy. Then, there are common interests and goals, one of which is to help Maulana Aklil build Pangkalpinang City. Monica's candidacy is also inseparable from the social construction carried out to the community and the existence of structures that form a successful network or team. Through the network they formed, Monica managed to get the most votes for Pangkalpinang City.

Factors Causing the Development of Kinship Politics in Bangka Island

The development of kinship politics on Bangka Island is one of the factors of political elites who seek power. Humanly speaking, people want to be all powerful, so they want to maintain and keep power from passing to others. There are other factors that cause this kinship politics to develop on Bangka Island, namely:

- Motivation to Perpetuate or Maintain Power

Perpetuating or maintaining power is the main factor in people doing kinship politics in Bangka. This is because they are willing to maintain power for personal interests or groups. Extending power to these kinship

political actors is important. For example, in West Bangka, Sukirman passed power to his son Bobby, in Pangkalpinang there was Maulana Aklil who passed power to his wife Monica. Then when the term of office of a public official ends and when he runs again, it will not necessarily be reelected. Therefore, he became a kinship political actor who did not want to lose access to power in that retirement pause.

People who are in the circle of power are addicted in the sense that they do not get power like there is something lacking. Therefore, they expanded that power by installing a child, his wife.

- Political Party Pragmatism/Party Dysfunction

Almost all parties in Indonesia are exacerbated by the implementation of pragmatic party management, one of which is in terms of party member recruitment, where no political party really holds the principles of their party because what is important to them is the interests of the group. Political parties are currently trapped in a system that requires them to find large sources of funds in the costly electoral process. So it is no wonder that in every election, political parties recruit people who have popularity and come from political families. This is because those who have popularity certainly have capital, a qualified mass base, and the candidates carried are very influential on the party's electability.

The political elites will do everything they can in the political fight, even if there are things that are violated such as *cawe-cawe* and then also coalition with something that should not be allowed. It is undeniable that this must happen in the field with all the potential resources that a ruler has to be able to intervene in others in various ways to be able to win the relatives they carry.

- Political Opportunities

Candidates who come from political families have a great chance of winning. This is because they have popularity, are acceptable, have access to resources, and they use usable infrastructure. This factor can give them a great chance to win compared to relying on candidates who are competent and have professionalism.

In addition, candidates who come from political families have a great opportunity to run even though they do not have the ability and experience in politics. This is because there is a parent who supports him from behind with all the power he has, so that candidates who come from kinship politics win in election contestation and it becomes difficult for others to compete against kinship politics from a ruler.

- Weak Regeneration

The weak regeneration of political parties is also a factor in the development of kinship politics on Bangka Island. The existence of kinship politics can disrupt institutions in organizations and can damage regeneration patterns. This is because children, wives, younger siblings of public officials have special access to enter political parties without going through the regeneration process. Unlike a person who joins a political party who starts his career from scratch will be cornered because he does not have any power to fight against the children, wives, and younger siblings of public officials. Of course, this will harm the recruitment process internally in political party institutions.

- The People are Still Pragmatic

People or society today are very pragmatic in looking at politics, where who owns the money and resources that today is put in or becomes a choice. This is a mushroom for the development of kinship politics in Bangka, because it can be said that the top brass or

political elites have finances, resources, links, networks, and so on.

- The Electoral System Makes Room

The development of kinship politics on Bangka Island is due to the existence of an election system that accommodates practices and gives space to kinship politics. The open proportional system makes this practice of kinship politics flourish. Unlike if the system is proportionally closed, it will close the space for kinship politics. This is because in a closed proportional system political parties are elected, not politicians. Therefore, victory is not measured by the popularity of the candidate but rather measured by the candidate's individual ability.

In addition, an open proportional election system is considered to facilitate kinship politics. This is because in an open proportional system, voters choose direct candidates, where candidates who are related to public officials can use their big names and popularity to attract more votes. Family popularity can be a powerful political capital in campaigns, thus strengthening the position of candidates who come from kinship politics. Then, in an open proportional system the access that kinship politics has can provide a significant competitive advantage because more effective campaigning can increase the chances of being elected. The system can also reinforce the practice of collusion and nepotism, especially if members of the ruling family use power in securing positions for other family members. This can certainly have a negative impact on the quality of democracy.

5. Conclusions

Some of the findings obtained, namely the form of kinship politics in the Sukirman family, family support, the influence of big names in the ruling family in the region and supported by political strategies in nominating candidates through the West

Bangka youth community, fathers, and mothers.

In addition, the form of kinship politics in Riza Herdavid's family has a pattern of mutual interests of family members, where Riza has a goal to prosper the people of South Bangka through the nomination of Elizia as a Candidate for the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia Dapil Bangka Belitung. Riza felt it would be easier to take central funds to come to South Bangka if his wife won in a political contest. The influence of Riza Herdavid's big name in Elizia's candidacy also became a form of kinship politics.

In Maulana Aklil or Molen's family, the form of kinship politics when Monica's candidacy is for the mutual benefit of family members, where Molen and Monica have a vision and mission in building Pangkalpinang City. Furthermore, there is a pattern by forming a strong network in the process of nominating Molen's wife.

The development of kinship politics phenomenon in the 2024 election on Bangka Island is caused by various factors. First, there is an element to maintain or perpetuate power so that power remains in their family circle. Second, political party pragmatism, where the process of management and recruitment of candidates is unclear so that political parties do not hold the principles of their party because what is important to them is the interests of the group. Third, there are political opportunities for people who come from kinship politics. This is because they have popularity, resources, and are supported by a network of rulers. Fourth, the weak cadres factor of political parties which makes kinship politics have special access to enter political parties without going through the regeneration process. Fifth, the people are still pragmatic in choosing candidates who give them money rather than looking at the abilities and professionalism of candidates. Sixth, there

is an electoral system that provides space for kinship political practice.

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