

Anomaly of the Death of Polling Station Committee Members (KPPS) during 2019 Elections in Pekanbaru

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Abstract

This study discusses the death of 15 KPPS members in Riau Province in election 2019. The death of KPPS members massively raised questions for the public. This study aims to describe and analyze the cause of death of 15 KPPS officers. This study used a descriptive qualitative approach by analyzing the data ethically and emically. This study used institutional analysis with the key informant being the General Election Commission (KPU) Riau. The findings of this study are first, the recruitment process of KPPS members has been conducted under the technical guidelines for recruitment but does not have regular standards. Second, the deaths of 15 KPPS members were due to exhaustion and medical history of internal disease. Third, the victims are given compensation by the government by established regulations.

Keywords: 2019 elections; the death of KPPS members; recruitment

1. Introduction

The death of Polling Station Committee (KPPS) members in the process of holding the 2019 elections became a public question to General Election Commission (KPU). This question had a pretty solid basis because the victim reached 527 people. The victims are considered a "catastrophic" democracy in the history of elections in Indonesia.

The results of the doctor's examination in East Java provinces, West Java and Central Java, there were several causes of the death of KPPS officers. Among them, there were heart failure, stroke, hypertension, kidney disease, tuberculosis, multiorgan failure, and so on (Kompas.com. May, 16th 2019). The death toll is spread in 12 provinces namely, West Java, East Java, Central Java, West Sumatra, Bengkulu, Riau Islands, Lampung, South Sumatera, Jambi, Riau Banten, and DKI Jakarta.

In Riau province, 15 KPPS officers died. It consists of 8 (eight) districts/cities, Rokan Hulu, Rokan Hilir, Kuantan Singingi, Kampar, Siak, Bengkalis, Pekanbaru, and Indragiri Hilir.

Table 1
The Number of Death Victims in Riau Province

No	Region	Victims
1	Rokan Hulu	2 people
2	Rokan Hilir	1 people
3	Kuantan Singingi	2 people
4	Kampar	1 people
5	Siak	2 people
6	Bengkalis	3 people
7	Pekanbaru	3 people
8	Indragiri Hilir	1 people

Source: Processed Researchers Based on Riau KPU Data

Based on the data and news, the election which held on April 17th, 2019 took place caused griefs from the organizers and was not as expected, due to many KPPS officers worked beyond the physical capacity contributing to the number of deaths. Basically, for a job, there is a time limit laid down in law No.13/2003, which is 8 hours. KPPS officers, however, operate beyond the working hours stipulated by law.

According to Gorantokan (2017), KPPS working hours were not explicitly

regulated, which causes problems. Now the issue has proven that hours of unregulated work led to the death of hundreds of KPPS officers in the 2019 elections. Clear regulations on working hours of KPPS are needed. KPPS officers are not allowed to work beyond the limits of human physical skills.

In general, the death factor of KPPS officers was caused by fatigue. KPU Riau conveyed the same thing. The causes of the majority of KPPS officials who died in Riau were exhaustion and had internal medicine history.

On the basis of the above phenomenon, the researcher assumes that the recruitment process of KPPS officers does not go well so that the electoral organiser can not appropriately identify the medical history of officers. Supposedly, the mentally capacity, morally and without drug abuse is based on one of the requirements for KPPS officers (PKPU, Article 36 point G of 2018). A health certificate proves this physical ability of applicants who will become KPPS officers.

Based on the assumptions that the researchers built, the research question is how the recruitment process of KPPS officers in Riau Province is. The purpose of this study is to describe and analyze the KPPS recruitment process and identify the cause of death of KPPS officers in the 2019 elections in Riau Province.

2. Theoretical Perspectives

2.1 Research Method

This study used a qualitative method with a case study approach. The selection of informants is made by using purposive sampling technique with institutional analysis. The primary data obtained by in-depth interview techniques with the informants and the secondary data was from journal sources and mass media coverage. Data were collected at the Riau Provincial KPU by interviewing the division of public relations and human resources. Furthermore, the data is processed by

ethical and emic analysis with the stages of collection, classification, matching the patterns and results.

2.2 Literature Review

General election or abbreviated as Pemilu, which is the right of its citizens based on Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution (Hidayatulloh, 2019). The election itself has been held 12 times in 1955, 1971, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997, 1999, 2004, 2009, 2014, and 2019. General Election Commission (KPU) is an institution of national election invasion (Djuyandi, 2014).

From these institutions, it has formed others whose scope is even smaller, whose task is to conduct the election. The institution's name is KPPS or Voting Group. KPPS is a coordinating organization for the electoral process of all polling stations with a broader scope than the voting committee (PPS) (Surbakti & Nugroho, 2015). According to Article 46 of Law No. 15 of 2011, there are only seven KPPS officers from local Polling Station (TPS) who comply with the requirements under the Law.

With tight working hours and lack of rest time, the officers got ill, and some even died. Several mentioned many possibilities that occurred during the 2019 election to the death of a number of the officers of the Polling Station Committee (KPPS), there were, fatigue, not having enough rest, and the victims are having a history of previous illnesses.

The fact is the fall victims of the KPPS officers mentioned that there was a low standard of health examination during the registration process this year. The medical tests are only for administrative requirements. As we know from the interview, the obligation to become a member of the KPPS is only a certificate from the public health centre (*puskesmas*) or certificate health from a doctor (Simbolon, 2019).

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 Recruitment of KPPS Officers in Riau

General Election is the main task of the General Election Commission (KPU) as stipulated in Law number 15 of 2011 concerning the holding of elections (Sidik, 2016). The function of the KPU is to organize general sorting to select directly from the people, members of DPR, DPD, DPRD, President and Vice Presidents, as well as to elect governors, regents and mayors democratically (Sukriono, 2009).

- a. Indonesian citizens
- b. The lowest age is 17 years
- c. Faithful to Pancasila as the basis of the state, the Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia in 1945, the unitary state of Republic Indonesia, Bhineka Tunggal Ika and the ideals of the proclamation on August 17th, 1945
- d. Have integrity, strong personality, honest and fair
- e. Not being a member of a political party started by a valid statement or at least five years no longer being a member of the political party required by a report from the management of the political party concerned
- f. Domiciled in the PPK, PPS and KPPS working areas
- g. Capable of being physically, spiritually and drug-free
- h. The lowest educated senior high school equivalent
- i. Never been sentenced to prison based on a court decision that has acquired permanent legal force due to a criminal offence threatened with imprisonment of 5 years or more
- j. There was never a sanction of permanent termination by the KPU/ KIP reGENCY/city or the Election Council
- k. Has never served two times as a PPK, PPS and KPPS member
- l. Not in a representative association with fellow election administrators

The ineffective and efficient selection and recruitment process result in several problems, including in the implementation

of technical guidance (*bimtek*). The KPS is open to voting. The process carried out by the district/city up to the voting results is announced to the public through a website or news which processed by the reGENCY/city KPU. The recruitment of KPPS members conducted by the PPS is fulfilled in aspects namely the announcement of registration (the way of its report, the media used for announcing registration), administrative examination (completeness of requirements), determination of KPPS (evaluation criteria). Still qualify as a PPS member as referred to in article 36.

The public can provide input and response to the selection of PPS members since the announcement of administration results until no later than the end of the written selection announcement period further strengthened by the recruitment procedure (Results of the interview with Nugroho Noto Susanto, December 17th, 2019).

The low level of health examination to become a KPPS member is based only on a healthcare centre or doctor certificate and is in healthy condition according to the medical team that completed the administration formally. Several reGENCIES/cities must alert medical staff at the recapitulation site as a whole and then to areas in which medical officers already expect to see the health condition checked by the organizing committee. It is essential to know the exact situation. If they feel uncomfortable, just relax at home.

The health aspects selection process in the holding of the Voting (PPS) in the future needs to be more tightened. Loosening of health conditions and excessive workload in the simultaneous election this time is a trigger factor for the high death in 2019 elections (Results of the interview with Nungroho Noto Susanto, December 17th, 2019).

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3.2 The Causes of Death of KPPS Officers in Riau

The cause of death of KPPS officers in Riau was dominated by fatigue. Of the 15 fatalities, 4 were caused by fatigue, 2 accidents, 1 heart attack, 1 post-appendectomy and 7 unknown causes. For more details, see **Table 2**:

Table 2
List of Causes of Death of KPPS Officers in Riau

No	Name	Region
1	Amsar	Rokan Hulu
2	Rojimun Sinurat	Rokan Hulu
3	Ermayanti	Kuantan Singingi
4	Erlinda Oktaviani	Kuantan Singingi
5	Faisal, ST	Kampar
6	Navid	Siak
7	Lamhot Siringgo	Siak
8	Yansen	Bengkalis
9	Suratinizar	Bengkalis
10	Zainal	Bengkalis
11	Erfamizon	Pekanbaru
12	Sjachruddin	Pekanbaru
13	Hazairin	Pekanbaru
14	Umar Benu	Rokan Hilir
15	Said Zulfikar	Indragiri Hilir

Source: Processed Researchers based on Riau KPU Data

From the table above, it appears that the KPU could not identify seven people as the cause of death for KPPS officers. This shows that the KPU's seriousness is still not optimal in paying attention to official health. Although the recruitment process has been carried out following the stages and criteria mandated by the law, the health aspect is still not maximally carried out.

General Election Commission (KPU) through its Commissioner Viryan Azis said that the death of Voting Organizing Group (KPPS) officers did not occur in the 2019 elections, but it also in the previous elections. According to him, the case of KPPS officers' death this year was more in the spotlight because it was more relative and open. In addition, the election was held simultaneously, which caused KPPS members to be exhausted and even died.

After the voting is over, the General Election Commission (KPU) assesses the KPPS (Voting Organizing Group) officers who are sick and died. KPU (General Election Commission) confirmed that they also collaborated with the Ministry of Health to conduct medical assistance for officers in the field while on duty (Rita, 2016).

It does require a long process for better and more results. Still, we can design the process in advance from far ahead to get worthy results and by the expectations of the community and government. By the existing standards and more enhanced to get the maximum results from the election implementation going forward smoothly as it hopes, there is no grave sorrow disaster. So it is expected in the future, there will be improvements in terms of this election in terms of Standard Operating Procedure (SOP). The supervision will be improved, and no more votes will be held simultaneously in 5 categories (Presidential and Vice President Elections, DPR RI, DPD, DPRD Provincial, Regency/ city) (Muslimah, 2016). It directly to minimize the occurrence of casualties both from members who died, disabled,

seriously ill, and mild illness so that the creation of a safe and peaceful election.

From the health side, the medical team of KPSS officers who died had already a history of previous illnesses — and increased genetic history not reported due to very minimal health checks from the health centre and the medical staff (Results of the interview with Nugroho Noto Susanto, December 17th, 2019).

3.3 KPU Responses to the Victim

The KPU Republic of Indonesia issued instructions to provide compensation to KPSS officers who were in the accident. The guidelines are aimed directly at the provincial level in Indonesia so that they are immediately carried out according to the instructions. There are four categories of officers who are entitled to compensation:

- a. Officers who died while carrying out their duties received compensation amounting to 36 million rupiahs
- b. The officer who suffered an accident that caused a permanent record of compensation 30 million rupiahs
- c. Officers who suffered accidents with serious injuries were given compensation of 16 million rupiahs
- d. For officers with moderate or minor injuries will receive compensation of 16 million rupiahs

Table 3
Verification of Documents on the Death of KPSS Officers in Riau

No	Documents types	Available	None
1	Photocopy of Electronic KTP / Certificate of Population and Civil Registration Service (Dukcapil) belonging to ad hoc election management body members who die/are permanently disabled/injured/injured/sick /being sick.	√	
2	Photocopy of Electronic KTP / Certificate of Population and Civil Registry (Dukcapil) belonging to a member of the ad hoc of the election organizer who passed away.		√
3	Photocopy of a family card of a member of an ad hoc election organizer who dies/is permanently disabled/injured / seriously ill / mildly ill.		√
4	Photocopy of the family card belonging to the ad hoc electoral organizer of the legacy expert of the person who passed away from the ad hoc organization of the electoral organiser.		√
5	Photocopy of appointment decision as to ad hoc for election management.		√
6	A certificate from a competent doctor / medical officer from the hospital / public health centre (puskesmas) / health clinic/village midwife that he/she has an accident resulting in permanent disability/injury / severe illness /mild illness.		√
7	Certificate of Head of the Village/headman, another designation stating the heir (for the deceased)		√
8	Absolute statement of responsibility (STPTJM) by the recipient of death compensation.		√
9	Declaration of Absolute responsibility (STPTJM) by the secretary of KPU City Regency.		√
10	Photocopy of the beneficiary account number (if the employee was providing work accident through the transfer mechanism).		√

In the meantime, the officers in 4 grades above will be paid, and this compensation will be immediately enforced shortly, as this is a tragedy (Results of the interview with Nungroho Noto Susanto, 17th December 2019).

The ultimate solution from the Riau Province KPU is to avoid KPPS members from getting tired and eventually died (Interview with Nungroho Noto Susanto, 17th December 2019). The solution is as follows:

a. Horizontal solution

As electoral techniques are no longer carried out simultaneously, ballot papers are not carried out in 5 categories, for example, DPR RI, DPD, DPRD province, regency/city DPRD.

b. Orientation Solution

As almost everything is being digitalized (Yandra, 2016), the process is being initiated by KPU to make it simpler. In terms of the health checks more increased, and each TPS must have a health post and medical team.

4. Conclusion

This study concluded that the KPPS recruitment process in Riau, in general, is by the recruitment criteria and procedures. But in the context of health and illness history, KPPS officers were not able to be correctly identified. It is due to a lot of work by a short time target which results in neglect of the health factors of KPPS officers.

Furthermore, the dominant factor in the death of KPPS officers was work fatigue. No less than 18 hours KPPS officers worked since the opening of the polling station until the vote-counting process was carried out. In addition to fatigue, other factors include having a history of illness such as heart disease and in the recovery period after appendicitis.

KPU provides relief funds to victims following established criteria. KPU Riau has provided funding for all 15 victims and has been received by their heirs' family.

This step was taken as a form of respect for KPPS officers who died while do their duties.

5. Suggestion

Researchers suggest to the KPU both at the central and regional levels to pay attention to health aspects for prospective KPPS officers. Medical teams are needed at each polling station to anticipate the presence of personnel who are exhausted so that first aid can be done quickly..

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