

Strengthening Democracy and Law Post The 2024 Elections in Indonesia

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Article Info

Article history:

Received July, 2024

Revised July, 2024

Accepted July, 2024

Keywords:

Democracy

Political Parties

Polarization

The 2024 elections

ABSTRACT

A strong democracy will create broader public participation in the development process through transparent and accountable democratic mechanisms. Thus, democracy is a political system that ensures inclusive and sustainable economic growth and creates solid social stability. As individuals and communities, we are responsible for strengthening democracy to realize equitable and sustainable national development through active involvement in democratization and support for policies that favor social justice and shared prosperity. After the 2024 elections, polarization in society due to the power struggle is still felt, so the role of political parties and the government is crucial in maintaining political stability and the country's future development. This research will analyze the factors that can be used to strengthen democracy. The results show that the rule of law determines the process of strengthening democracy, the role of political parties, community involvement, and the professionalism of election organizers to achieve common goals and national progress.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The 2024 General Elections in Indonesia will be held simultaneously on Wednesday, February 14, 2024. This election is conducted to elect public officials who will fill positions in the government, including the President and Vice President of the Republic of Indonesia, as well as members of the House of Representatives (DPR), Regional Representatives Council (DPD), and Regional Representatives Council (DPRD Provinsi and

DPRD Kabupaten/Kota). This election takes place simultaneously in all regions of Indonesia and is organized by the General Elections Commission (KPU) based on Law Number 7 of 2017 concerning General Elections (KPU, 2024).

The 2024 elections provide an excellent opportunity for Indonesia to solidify its democracy. One aspect is increased voter participation and engagement during this electoral process. By actively participating in elections, citizens demonstrate their commitment to shaping the country's future

and holding their leaders accountable. High voter turnout rates signal a strong commitment to democracy among Indonesians, indicating a deepening sense of civic responsibility and political awareness [1].

The 2024 elections mark a significant turning point in the nation's democracy, with far-reaching impacts on the political landscape and the nation-building process. One crucial aspect to consider is an analysis of the election results and their implications for democracy. The election results showed a shift in political dynamics, with new parties emerging and traditional power structures challenged [2]. This reflects a maturing democracy where diverse voices are increasingly heard [3].

The 2024 election saw the participation of 18 national parties and six local Aceh political parties. The following is a list of these parties: 1. Partai Kebangkitan Bangsa (PKB). 2. Partai Gerakan Indonesia Raya (Gerindra). 3. Partai Demokrasi Indonesia Perjuangan (PDIP). 4. Partai Golongan Karya (Golkar). 5. Partai Nasional Demokrat (Nasdem). 6. Partai Buruh. 7. Partai Gelombang Rakyat Indonesia. 8. Partai Keadilan Sejahtera (PKS). 9. Partai Kebangkitan Nusantara (PKN). 10. Partai Hati Nurani Rakyat. 11. Partai Garda Perubahan Indonesia. 12. Partai Amanat Nasional (PAN). 13. Partai Bulan Bintang. 14. Partai Demokrat. 15. Partai Solidaritas Indonesia. 16. Partai Persatuan Indonesia. 17. Partai Persatuan Pembangunan. 18. Partai Ummat. The Aceh Local Political Parties are; 1. Partai Aceh. 2. Partai Adil Sejahtera Aceh. 3. Partai Generasi Atjeh Beusaboh Tha'at Dan Taqwa. 4. Partai Darul Aceh. 5. Partai Nanggroe Aceh. 6. Partai Soliditas Independent Rakyat Aceh (KPU, 2024).

The KPU determines the election results based on Law Number 7 of 2017 concerning Elections, the parliamentary threshold stipulated in Article 414 paragraph 1, which explains that Political Parties participating in the Election must meet the threshold of obtaining at least 4% of the total valid votes nationally to be included in the determination of the acquisition of seats for members of the DPR RI. The number of valid national votes in the 2024 elections reached 151,796,630, and 8 (eight) political parties

qualified for the DPR RI based on the votes obtained in 38 provinces and 128 overseas territories.

KPU recapitulation results: PDIP received the most votes in the 2024 elections, with 25,387,279 votes out of 151,796,630 or 16.72 percent. In second place, Golkar received 23,208,654 votes or 15.28 percent. Gerindra Party occupied the third position with 20,071,708 or 13.22 percent. PKB followed them with 16,115,655 or 10.62 percent. In fifth place, NasDem had 14,660,516 votes or 9.66 percent. PKS obtained sixth place with 12,781,353 votes and 8.42 percent. Furthermore, the Democratic Party obtained 11,283,160 votes at 7.43 percent, and finally, the eighth party, PAN, with 10,984,003 votes at 7.24 percent. Apart from that, ten parties participating in the 2024 elections did not qualify for the Senayan because they needed to meet the 4% threshold stipulated in the election law (KPU, 2024).

The 2024 Presidential and vice-presidential elections in Indonesia are a democratic process conducted to elect public officials who will fill the positions of President and Vice President of the Republic of Indonesia for the 2024-2029 service period. This election involves three pairs of presidential and vice-presidential candidates determined by the General Election Commission (KPU): Candidate Pair Number 1. Anies Baswedan and Muhaimin Iskandar, number 2. Prabowo Subianto and Gibran Rakabuming, number 3. Ganjar Pranowo and Mahfud MD.

In the 2024 presidential election, the General Elections Commission (KPU) officially declared Candidate Number 02 Prabowo Subianto and Gibran Rakabuming as the elected President and Vice President candidates for the 2024-2029 period in the 2024 general election with 96,214,691 votes or 58.59% and fulfilled at least 20% of the votes in each province spread across 38 provinces in Indonesia, at an open plenary meeting on Wednesday, April 24, 2024. Prabowo-Gibran defeated the Anies-Muhaimin, who received 40,971,906 votes, and the Ganjar-Mahfud, who received 27,040,878 votes (KPU, 2024).

The announcement of the Prabowo-Gibran pair as the president-elect in the 2024 presidential election has undoubtedly become

a significant highlight on the political news in the country. Prabowo has gained considerable support from various circles in terms of popularity and the visions and missions they promoted during the election campaign. With this victory, the Prabowo-Gibran pair is expected to carry out the people's mandate well and lead this nation in a better direction. On the other hand, the defeat of the Anies-Muhaimin and the Ganjar-Mahfud is also a lesson in politics and democracy, and the spirit to continue contributing to the country's development should not fade. Political maturity in accepting the results of a democratic contest is essential to maintain stability and peace in the nation.

The determination of the 2024 presidential election winner must be respected and accepted by all parties and society. It must be reunited for the common interest and to make this nation more advanced and prosperous. Political maturity and mutual respect among political leaders and supporters are needed to create a conducive and harmonious atmosphere in the community. Although the 2024 elections have ended, one of the potential impacts of elections on the nation is the political polarization that can occur in society [4]. In elections, there are often divisions between supporters of different political parties, leading to social conflict and political tension. This can undermine national cohesion and unity and trigger conflicts that destabilize the country.

In addition, elections also impact the quality of a country's democracy. If elections are not conducted transparently, honestly, and somewhat, there will be doubts about the legitimacy of the elected government. This can undermine public trust in democratic institutions and reduce public political participation in the democratic process. The potential impact of elections on democracy can also be seen from the practice of money politics and identity politics that often appear in the electoral process [5]. Money politics can lead to corruption and abuse of power, which ultimately harms society and undermines the integrity of democracy. One of the indicators of the decline of the democratic process in Indonesia after the 2024 elections is the increase

in disputes over election results, which shows that the trust of election participants in the KPU as the election organizer is low, as recorded in the 2024 Presidential Election event, 2 participants sued the presidential election results, while in the implementation of the legislative elections, as many as 297 legislative candidates sued the Constitutional Court. In addition to the lawsuit over the election results to the Constitutional Court, the KPU also received a lot of criticism from the public because it was considered less professional; if the integrity and public trust in the KPU were high, there would be no election result lawsuit to the Constitutional Court, and it showed a good democratic process.

Thus, strengthening democracy after the 2024 elections is essential for Indonesia in the long term. Strengthening institutions, such as the KPU, Bawaslu, and the electoral dispute justice system, will contribute to a more robust democratic framework [6]. As these institutions develop and become more effective, they will help guarantee free and fair elections, ultimately increasing the legitimacy of the democratic process. In addition, research by Peter Corning suggests that elections are likely to stimulate the evolution of political discourse and increase accountability among political actors, thus promoting a more transparent and responsive system of government [7]. Therefore, the KPU, Bawaslu, government, and political parties must ensure that elections are conducted fairly and transparently and provide strict sanctions for violations.

2. RESEARCH METHODS

This research uses a qualitative method, allowing researchers to understand the phenomenon in democracy. It is essential to collect data from credible sources in qualitative research. Credible data sources can be found in national and international scientific journals, KPU official websites, and news media.

Scientific journals are places where researchers can find research results that have gone through a peer-review process and have high-quality standards. Meanwhile, data from the KPU and Bawaslu can provide accurate information related to statistical data and

policies related to general elections. Qualitative research can become more valid and reliable by taking data from credible sources.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

3.1 *The Future of Indonesian Democracy*

In this era of globalization, democracy is essential in strengthening the country's sustainability. Democracy allows people to participate in decision-making that will affect their lives. However, in the context of Indonesia, there are still many challenges that must be faced to advance democracy in the future.

One idea to advance Indonesia's democracy in the future is to increase public participation in the political process. Public participation is essential in maintaining the sustainability of democracy. People must be actively involved in the political process, from elections to the legislative process. With high involvement, people can become agents of change that positively impact the country. In addition, improving the quality of election organizers is also very important in advancing Indonesian democracy. One of the essential aspects of democracy is that through elections, people can determine who will represent and lead them. Therefore, organizing clean, fair, and transparent elections is necessary to ensure that the people's will is reflected in the electoral process [8].

To advance Indonesian democracy in the future, synergy between the government, political parties, KPU, the community, and related institutions is needed. The government must provide support and facilities for the community to engage in the political process. The public must also actively demand transparency and accountability from the election organizers. Meanwhile, election management institutions must maintain independence and professionalism [9]. Indonesian democracy has excellent potential, but the challenges faced are also not small. By increasing public participation, improving the quality of election organizers, and maintaining the rule of law, Indonesia can advance democracy to a better stage. Thus, the country

can become more assertive and develop with its people.

The democratic process in Indonesia is regulated by law to create justice and prosperity for all Indonesian people. However, it cannot be denied that the democratic process in Indonesia was considered tarnished due to violations in the general election process, especially the election of the president and vice president. The 2024 general election is one of the crucial moments in the democratic process in Indonesia, where people have the right to vote to elect their representatives at the legislative and executive levels. However, in some cases, various kinds of violations disrupt the integrity and public trust in the democratic process itself [10]. Examples of violations often occur in general elections in Indonesia, from money and identity politics to manipulation of voter data. The election of the president and vice president is the most anticipated moment by all Indonesians. Unfortunately, the election process is also often characterized by various violations, such as the president's interference, the authorities' impartiality, and the intimidation of voters [11]. This, of course, makes the validity of the democratic process in Indonesia questionable. Therefore, in looking at the future of democracy in Indonesia, all related elements need to uphold the values of democracy.

3.2 *Safeguarding the Rule of Law*

Maintaining the rule of law is the main principle in a state of law that holds justice and legal certainty for all its citizens. The rule of law emphasizes that the law must be above everything, including the interests of individuals and the government. In the Indonesian context, the rule of law is regulated in the 1945 Constitution, which serves as the foundation for the state's administration and the nation's life.

The importance of maintaining the rule of law cannot be ignored, as it is directly related to the sustainability of democracy and the protection of human rights. With the rule of law, it will be easier for people to obtain fair and equitable legal protection. In addition, the rule of law guarantees that government power will not be abused and that everyone is subject to the same laws. One way to maintain the rule

of law is to ensure everyone is considered equal before the law [12]. There should be no discrimination or unfair treatment based on factors such as ethnicity, religion, race, or gender. In addition, the legal process must be transparent and accountable so that the public can monitor and assess whether the legal decisions follow the principles of justice.

In addition, strengthening law enforcement agencies is also an essential step in maintaining the rule of law. Police, prosecutors, and judicial institutions must work independently and professionally without any interference from parties with specific interests. This will ensure that legal decisions are based on solid evidence and are not influenced by external factors [13].

Rulers or political elites are responsible for maintaining justice and the continuity of law in a country. However, there is often an abuse of power where they use the law for personal or group interests. Abuse of power in the legal realm can undermine the principles of justice and harm the wider community [14]. This can create distrust of legal institutions and damage the democratic system that should work well. Rulers or political elites must prioritize justice, transparency, and accountability in their duties. They must act following the law and not ride on it for personal or group interests.

As a society, we also have an essential role in monitoring the actions of the authorities or political elites. We must actively monitor the policies taken and give warnings if there is an abuse of power. By maintaining the independence and integrity of the law, we can prevent abuse of power by rulers or political elites. All parties must work together to ensure that the law is indeed a tool for justice and the welfare of society, not for personal interests or specific groups.

Thus, a strong rule of law will create a healthy democracy. Everyone, including the government, is subject to the same laws in a country that upholds the rule of law. This creates fairness, transparency, and accountability in the legal system. With a strong rule of law, human rights will be protected, corruption can be suppressed, and freedom of speech and religion can be

maintained [15]. The rule of law will encourage sustainable economic growth, as investors and communities feel safe and protected by the law. Thus, a strong rule of law will positively impact society, government, and the country.

3.3 Strengthening Democratic Institutions

Improving the Accountability of the General Election Commission (KPU) as an organizer of democracy is very important in maintaining the integrity and public trust in the electoral process in Indonesia. The KPU, as an institution responsible for organizing elections, has a vital role in ensuring that the democratic process is transparent, fair, and accountable.

One of the steps that can be taken to improve the accountability of KPU is to strengthen the internal and external monitoring mechanisms. Internal supervision ensures that every decision and action taken by KPU is based on clear and transparent procedures. In addition, KPU also needs to increase cooperation with external supervisory institutions such as the Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu) and the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) to ensure that any potential violations or fraud can be immediately identified and followed up. KPU also needs to increase transparency in every stage of the general election. This can be done by ensuring that the public can easily access any information related to the electoral process, from the candidate registration stage to the announcement of the final results [16] and community involvement in the election monitoring process. The KPU provides space for the community to submit input and complaints related to the electoral process so that potential violations or fraud can be immediately identified and followed up. Transparency in organizing elections covers various aspects, from selecting candidates, counting votes, and reporting the final results [17].

In addition, the KPU must improve integrity, which is very important in organizing elections. Election organizers must enhance integrity by not engaging in corrupt practices or manipulating election results. The KPU and Bawaslu must act fairly and honestly, not favor one candidate or political party. The integrity of election organizers also includes honesty in

carrying out their duties and not engaging in money or identity politics [17]. Thus, concrete steps are needed to maintain the transparency and integrity of election organizers. First, election organizers must have clear rules and regulations related to the electoral process. This includes procedures for selecting candidates, counting votes, and reporting final results. Clear rules will help reduce the potential for confusion or manipulation in the electoral process.

To ensure that the electoral process runs smoothly and transparently, the KPU must be supported by laws related to election techniques, such as the campaign process, political money, etc. With a law that thoroughly regulates the procedures for implementing elections, the KPU can work more efficiently and avoid lawsuits that may arise from actions taken during the election process [18]. Laws governing the electoral process can also provide legal certainty for all parties involved in the election, thereby reducing the potential for conflict and community dissatisfaction. With solid and firm laws, it is hoped that the electoral process in Indonesia can run better and produce legally and democratically elected leaders.

Second, with the increase in accountability of the KPU as the organizer of democracy, the electoral process in Indonesia must be well-run, transparent, fair, and accountable. This will help ensure that public trust in the democratic process is maintained and that the results of elections can reflect the valid will of the people [16]. Therefore, the role of the KPU as a general election organizing agency needs to be continuously improved so that the democratic process in Indonesia can run well and follow the principles of healthy democracy.

One of the steps that can be taken to improve the accountability of state institutions is to apply the principles of good governance. Good governance is a concept that emphasizes the importance of transparency, participation, and accountability in every government decision and action [19]. By applying the principles of good governance, state institutions will be more open to input and

criticism from the public and more easily monitored by interested parties [20].

In addition, it is also essential to strengthen the supervision and control mechanism of the KPU. Adequate supervision will prevent abuse of power and corruption in the democratic process. A good monitoring mechanism will also guarantee that every decision taken by the KPU has gone through a transparent and accountable process [21]. By implementing the steps above, the KPU can become an accountable enforcer of democracy. Thus, public trust in the democratic process will strengthen, and the country can develop sustainably towards a better direction.

3.4 Strengthening the Role of Political Parties

Strengthening the role of political parties is one of the most essential things in a country's democratic system. Political parties have a very vital role in fighting for the interests of the community, overseeing the government, and becoming a forum for community political participation. However, in recent years, the role of political parties in Indonesia has weakened. Therefore, efforts are needed to strengthen the role of political parties so that they can function optimally in carrying out their duties.

Based on the analysis by Ralph Gilbert Ross, 1954, states that strengthening the role of political parties can be done in various ways, one of which is by improving the internal quality of the political parties themselves. This can be done by making internal improvements, such as improving the quality of party cadres, increasing transparency and accountability in party financial management, and improving communication between party leaders and party members [22]. By making internal improvements, political parties can become more efficient in carrying out their duties.

Strengthening the role of political parties can also be done by increasing community political participation. Community political participation is significant in strengthening the role of political parties because political parties should represent the wishes and aspirations of the community [23]. Therefore, political parties must find various ways to increase community political participation, such as involving the community

in the decision-making process, holding dialogues with the community, and mobilizing community support for party activities. In addition, strengthening the role of political parties can also be done by increasing cooperation between political parties. Cooperation between political parties is essential in creating political stability and realizing common interests [24]. Political parties must be able to work together to deal with various existing political problems and prioritize the interests of the nation and state.

By making various efforts to strengthen the role of political parties, it is hoped that political parties can again play an optimal role in Indonesia's democratic system. Political parties must become a forum for people's aspirations, an influential government watchdog, and a driving force for state development [25]. We can only create a healthy and sustainable political system by strengthening the role of good political parties. Political parties are significant in shaping public policy and the national political agenda. Political parties are platforms for leaders and members of society to participate in the decision-making process that will affect the lives of society [25]. Political parties can develop and propose policies that benefit society through discussions and meetings.

As a representation of the various interests and political views that exist in society, political parties have the responsibility to fight for the interests of the community and produce policies that will improve the welfare of the people. With the existence of political parties, people can articulate their aspirations and needs and participate in the policy-making process that will affect their lives.

Through internal discussions and meetings, political parties can develop their vision and mission and formulate policies to become their political platform. These discussions and meetings are also a forum for building consensus among party members about the direction of the policies. With this process, political parties can produce more robust and measurable policies and gain strong support from party members [26]. In addition, political parties also have a role in shaping the national political agenda. By proposing policies

that they believe will benefit society, political parties can influence the political agenda that the government will carry out. Through their role as opposition or as part of the government coalition, political parties can fight for policies that are considered essential and urgent to implement.

However, it should be remembered that the success of political parties in developing and proposing policies depends on the quality of the leadership and organizational structure of the party itself. Political parties with solid leadership and suitable organizational structures can produce quality policies that positively impact society [27]. In the context of democracy, political parties are one of the main pillars in maintaining the balance of power and representing the interests of society. Therefore, the role of political parties in developing and proposing policies that benefit the community is significant and must be addressed. Political parties can be agents of positive change in society and help shape the national political agenda in accordance with the interests of the people.

3.5 Regional Elections 2024 and Polarization

Political parties have a significant role in a country's democratic process. One of the main tasks of political parties is to nominate candidates to compete in general elections, including Regional Head Elections (Pilkada). In the upcoming 2024 elections, political parties in Indonesia will again provide clear and organized choices for voters.

When political parties nominate candidates for public office in the 2024 elections (pilkada), it helps to highlight the differences between the various political visions and missions each candidate offers. With political parties nominating candidates, voters can choose between the options presented according to their political values and interests [28]. Political parties also play a role in providing the structure and organization needed to support candidate campaigns. With the support of political parties, candidates have access to resources and networks that can help them achieve their political vision and mission. Political parties also assist in coordinating campaign efforts, expanding the reach of

political messages, and mobilizing voters to support candidates [16].

In addition, political parties also play a role in ensuring that the electoral process runs well and follows applicable rules. Political parties are responsible for ensuring that candidates are qualified and have the integrity necessary to serve in public office [2]. As such, political parties help to ensure that voters are given qualified choices and follow the interests of society. In the 2024 regional head election context, political parties are expected to work together synergistically to present competent and skilled candidates. Political parties are also expected to maintain ethics and integrity in the candidate nomination process and prioritize the community's interests in every step taken [16]. Thus, political parties can play an influential role in ensuring that voters are given a choice of prospective leaders with integrity in the 2024 regional head election. Therefore, political parties must fulfill their roles responsibly and adequately to benefit democracy and society.

Polarization in society is one of the main challenges political parties faces in the upcoming 2024 regional elections. Differences in ideas, values, and interests among various social groups often result in deep divisions [29]. This can make it difficult for political parties to reach a consensus in making decisions and formulating policies that are acceptable to all parties. These divisions can also trigger internal conflicts within political parties, weakening their political power. Social polarization is also a severe challenge to political parties in the modern era. Increasing political polarity has split society into two conflicting camps [30]. This can lead to social conflict, political tension, and instability in a country's political system. As leaders in society, political parties are expected to mediate between different groups of people with different views, but high polarization can make this more challenging [31].

To overcome the challenges of polarization in society, political parties need to take strategic steps. First, political parties must be able to build effective dialog and communication with various community groups. They need to listen to the aspirations

and needs of the community as a whole and try to find common ground between the existing differences. Second, political parties must be able to build trust and solidarity among their members and supporters. This can be done by strengthening the party's organizational structure, improving the quality of leadership, and strengthening the values of solidarity and unity.

Third, political parties must also increase transparency and accountability in their duties and responsibilities. Political parties can strengthen legitimacy and public trust by providing more comprehensive access to information to the public. Fourth, political parties must be able to prioritize common interests over the interests of specific individuals or groups. By prioritizing common interests, political parties can build unity and solidarity among the community [32].

Against the challenges of societal polarization, political parties must become agents of change that can unite the community, defuse conflicts, and build the political stability of a country. By taking the proper strategic steps, political parties can positively overcome these challenges and bring society in a better direction.

3.6 Strengthening the Tolerance and National Unity

All of us need to promote tolerance and unity in our society. Tolerance is the key to creating a peaceful and harmonious environment where everyone is valued and respected. On the other hand, unity allows us to unite as one nation despite our differences in ethnicity, religion, culture, and different backgrounds.

One way to strengthen tolerance and unity is through education. Education that is inclusive and oriented towards tolerance values will help create a generation that is more open and accepting of differences [33]. Teachers and educators have an essential role in teaching tolerance values to students and helping them understand the importance of respecting differences. In addition, the media also has a significant role in promoting tolerance and unity. The media can be a powerful platform to spread positive messages about tolerance and unity [34]. By presenting

inspiring stories about inter-group cooperation, the media can help change people's perceptions about differences and strengthen the sense of unity among us.

The governments also have a significant role in promoting tolerance and unity. Inclusive policies that support diversity will help create a welcoming environment for all individuals, regardless of their differences [35]. The government can also support organizations and initiatives that strengthen societal tolerance and unity. By implementing these various measures, we can collectively promote tolerance and unity. By building a solid foundation of the values of tolerance and harmony, we can create a more peaceful, harmonious, and inclusive society for all individuals. Let us commit to working together to create a better world for future generations.

3.7 Fighting Disinformation and Hate Speech in Society

In the era of growing digital information, the problem of disinformation and hate speech in society has become increasingly troubling. This is due to the easy dissemination of unverified information through social media and other digital platforms. Disinformation and hate speech can trigger social conflicts, worsen the political atmosphere, and damage social order.

According to research by Monash University and the Alliance of Independent Journalists (AJI) Indonesia, during the 2024 election campaign, 182,118 posts on social media contained hate speech. The most hate speeches occurred two days after the January 7, 2024, presidential candidate debate themed Defense, Security, International Relations, and Geopolitics. Monash University and AJI Indonesia conducted social media monitoring during the period September 1, 2023, to January 31, 2024, using 67 keywords to monitor conversations related to the election and minority groups, namely Christians, Catholics, Chinese, Shia, Ahmadiyya, LGBTQ, Persons with Disabilities, Jews, and Rohingya. As a result, the most hate speech was found on X/Twitter, with 120,381 tweets. Then, on Facebook, there were 56,780 posts, and on Instagram, there were 4,472 similar posts. The most hate speech was directed at Jewish groups

(90,911 texts), followed by disability groups (46,278 texts), Chinese (9,563 texts), LGBTQ (7,262 texts), Christians and Catholics (4,755 texts), Shia (1,214 texts), and Ahmadiyya (55 texts). The most common type of hate speech was attacks on identity (123,968 texts), followed by insults (104,664 texts), profanity (42,267 texts), threats/incitement (39,153 texts), and sexual/vulgar (3,528 texts), (Katadata.co.id, 2024).

Hate speech is a problem that often occurs in society, especially in the digital era [36]. It can damage a person's honor, dignity, and integrity and divide the unity and harmony of the nation. For this reason, the entire community must play an active role in fighting hate speech to maintain unity and harmony. Everyone has a moral responsibility not to spread hate speech online and in the real world [37]. Condemning hate speech and refusing to spread information that can trigger conflict and hostility is the first step that every individual can take [38]. In addition, it is also important to maintain mutual respect between individuals despite having different opinions or beliefs. Educational institutions are also significant in teaching the values of tolerance and harmony and educating about the importance of respecting differences. With education based on the values of diversity, it is hoped that the younger generation can avoid intolerant attitudes and become agents of change in society.

Fighting disinformation and hate speech requires cooperation from various parties, including the government, non-governmental organizations, the media, and society [38]. The government is essential in providing strict regulations on harmful and misleading content. In addition, the government also needs to improve people's digital literacy to distinguish between true and false information.

The mass media also has an essential role in countering disinformation and hate speech. As information providers trusted by the public, mass media are responsible for presenting accurate and verified information. They also need to fact-check the information they receive before broadcasting it to the public. The community also has a role that

cannot be ignored in fighting disinformation and hate speech. People must improve their digital literacy to distinguish between true and false information [38]. In addition, people also need to be more critical in receiving information and not easily provoked by provocative details.

In fighting the challenge of hate speech, cooperation and synergy between the government, the community, educational institutions, mass media, and all parties who care about maintaining the unity and harmony of fellow children of the nation are needed. By uniting and supporting each other, we can all fight hate speech and create a more harmonious and peaceful society.

3.8 Safeguarding Press Freedom

Press freedom is one of the main foundations of a democratic society. Press freedom allows the media to provide objective, independent, and critical information to the public without pressure or intervention from certain parties. With press freedom, people can obtain accurate and diverse information to make informed and rational decisions in their daily lives [39]. Maintaining press freedom is a challenging task. Political, economic, and social pressures often threaten press freedom in many countries. The government or certain groups often try to limit press freedom in various ways, ranging from censorship and intimidation to physical violence against journalists and the media [40].

For this reason, it is essential for the community and the government to jointly safeguard press freedom. The public needs to continue supporting independent and critical media and reject any pressure or intervention on press freedom. The government also needs to ensure that press freedom is guaranteed and protected in law and provide protection and support to journalists who work for the benefit of the community [41]. The role of the media in maintaining press freedom is also very important. The media must always carry out their duties with professionalism and integrity and not be influenced by specific political or economic interests. The press must also continue conducting in-depth research and

investigations to reveal truth and justice and provide balanced and accurate information to the public [42].

By maintaining press freedom, society will benefit greatly. People will find it easier to access the information they need and criticize and monitor the performance of the government and other institutions [42]. Press freedom will also encourage the creation of a more transparent, accountable, and democratic society. Therefore, maintaining press freedom must be a shared responsibility for all elements of society.

4. CONCLUSION

Strengthening democracy is crucial to creating a sovereign and just country. This is determined by several critical factors, one of which is the rule of law. The rule of law is vital in maintaining the balance of power between the government and citizens. With the rule of law, everyone is guaranteed their rights, and no one is excluded from the law, including government officials.

Political parties also have an essential role in strengthening a country's democracy. Political parties become a forum for people to voice their aspirations and political interests. Political parties also play a role in creating a healthy political discourse that positively impacts the nation's progress. Community involvement is also an essential factor in strengthening democracy. People with high political awareness will be able to choose qualified leaders committed to advancing the nation.

Finally, the professionalism of election organizers is also crucial in strengthening a country's democracy. Professional election organizers will be able to maintain integrity and objectivity in carrying out their duties. The KPU, Bawaslu, and the Election Results Dispute Court must maintain neutrality and transparency in the election process so that all parties can accept the results without any doubt about the validity of the process.

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