

PRINT AND ONLINE NEWS REVIEWS DURING 2021 THAT INFLUENCE THE INDONESIAN DEMOCRACY INDEX IN BLITAR CITY

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ABSTRACT. This study aims to analyze news content in print and online media during 2021, which affects the Indonesian Democracy Index in Blitar City. The research subjects are news from January 1 to December 31, 2021, from the print media Radar Blitar and Memorandum, as well as online media from Bhirawa.com and Mayangkanews.com. These four media have the highest number of readers in Blitar City. This study uses a qualitative method with a textual analysis approach and collects data through virtual searches, clippings, focus group discussions, and in-depth interviews. All Informants were determined based on the representation of the institutions contained in the measurement of the Indonesian Democracy Index. The results of a review of print and online news media during 2021 show that civil liberties, political rights, and democratic institutions in Blitar City show excellent performance.

Keywords: political rights; Indonesian democracy index; civil liberties; democratic institutions

ABSTRAK. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis konten berita di media cetak dan media online selama tahun 2021 yang mempengaruhi Indeks Demokrasi Indonesia di Kota Blitar. Subjek penelitian adalah berita sejak 1 Januari hingga 31 Desember 2021 dari media cetak Radar Blitar dan Memorandum, serta media online dari Bhirawa.com, dan Mayangkanews.com. Empat media tersebut memiliki jumlah pembaca terbanyak di Kota Blitar. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif dengan pendekatan analisis tekstual. Pengumpulan data melalui penelusuran virtual, kliping, diskusi kelompok terfokus, dan wawancara mendalam. Penentuan informan berdasarkan keterwakilan lembaga yang terdapat dalam pengukuran Indeks Demokrasi Indonesia. Berdasarkan hasil review berita media cetak dan online selama tahun 2021 menunjukkan bahwa kebebasan sipil, hak-hak politik, dan lembaga demokrasi yang terdapat di Kota Blitar menunjukkan kinerja yang sangat baik.

Kata kunci: hak politik; indeks demokrasi Indonesia; kebebasan sipil; lembaga demokrasi

INTRODUCTION

News reviews in print and online media about various political, legal, and security events aim to collect data and then describe it as a factual condition of democratic life in the city of Blitar. Therefore, all data from the news review results are authentic portraits that can map the conditions of democracy according to aspects, variables, and indicators according to the assessment in the Indonesian Democracy Index or IDI (Achmad, 2018; Achmad, Alamiyah, Juwito, Wahyudi, & Siswati, 2022; Achmad, Siswati, & Wahyudi, 2021).

The compilation of the Indonesian Democracy Index data in Blitar City shows the strong commitment of stakeholders to implement utilization in political development. The stakeholders in Blitar City who prepared the Indonesian Democracy Index data synergistically gave their best contribution to achieving better democratic conditions. These stakeholders include mayors and bureaucracy, regional parliaments, political parties, Election organizers, Election supervisors, police, military, courts, prosecutors, religious organizations, community organizations, youth organizations, labor

organizations, non-governmental organizations, universities, journalists and mass media, student organizations, and the public.

Stakeholders were involved in a participatory manner in the data collection process. This study requires openness, honesty, and cooperation to guarantee data accuracy. Accurate data reflects the facts so that the analysis of the democratic condition of Blitar City is getting better. Specifically, the stakeholders who are the source of data collection, namely: the Regional Development Planning Agency (Bappeda); National and Political Unity Agency (Bakesbangpol); Regional Revenue, Finance and Assets Agency (BPKAD); Regional Secretariat (Legal and Organization Section, Public Relations and Protocol Section); Secretariat of the Regional People's Representative Council; Public health Office; Education authorities; Office of Communication, Information and Statistics (Diskominfotik); and the Central Statistics Agency (BPS). Representatives of defense and security agencies are from the 0808 Kodim Blitar City and Blitar City Police. KPU and Bawaslu represent elements of independent institutions in organizing general Elections. Representatives from mass media,

both print media and independent news media were Radar Blitar, Memorandum, harian bhirawa.co.id, Surya daily, mayangkanews.com, and also from the government's official website that is Blitarkota.go.id. For the college element comprises of lecturers and students from the Islamic University of Balitar Blitar.

In the initial study stage, the researchers provided a common understanding to the parties involved in collecting data on the Indonesian Democracy Index. They especially understood the types of news and types of documents and their management. The various news and documents will be analyzed based on aspects, variables, and indicators in the measurement of the Indonesian Democracy Index. Analysis of political and legal news from print and online media is a meaningful way to capture political and legal phenomena that can affect the assessment of the Indonesian Democracy Index in Blitar City (Achmad, Siswati, Wahyudi, Alamiyah, & Juwito, 2021).

As a measuring tool for developing a typical Indonesian democracy, the design of the Indonesian Democracy Index is deliberately sensitive to the ups and downs of democratic conditions (Rauf, Mulia, Hidayat, & Gismar, 2020). One of the provinces in Indonesia that has the readiness and skills to utilize the Indonesian Democracy Index is East Java (Prambadi, 2019). Through the Indonesian Democracy Index Working Group (Pokja), East Java Province is the only working group that encourages the utilization of the Indonesian Democracy Index at the city and district levels (blitarkota.go.id, 2021).

Blitar is the only city in Indonesia that is a pioneer in utilizing the Indonesian Democracy Index for the city or district level (kemenkopolkam, 2019). Furthermore, it received support from the Coordinating Ministry for Political, Legal, and Security Affairs (Kemenko Polhukam), the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Central Indonesian Democracy Index Expert Council, and the Central BPS (Prambadi, 2019). Since 2017, the Indonesian Democracy Index has become the Main Performance Indicator (IKU) in the National Unity Agency and Blitar City Politics (Achmad, 2018).

It has been twelve years since 2009, the first time the utilization of the Indonesian Democracy Index was applied to most provincial governments in Indonesia. The utilization of the Indonesian Democracy Index can provide an accurate comparison of data on the development of democracy at the provincial level throughout Indonesia. The Indonesian Democracy Index is the only one in the world to measure the quality of democracy with quantitative parameters. This design makes it easier for the government of the Republic of Indonesia to obtain a clear picture of the level of democratic development and can compare

the development of the quality of democracy between provinces (Rauf, Hidayat, Gismar, Mulia, & Parengkuan, 2009).

The Indonesian Democracy Index provides fair benefits in various fields. The first benefit is the academic field, which considers that the Indonesian Democracy Index has clear benchmarks to provide adequacy and certainty of data to examine the comparison and development of democracy in Indonesia.

The second benefit is in the area of political development planning. The assessment is that the Indonesian Democracy Index data (consisting of aspects, variables, and indicators) can clearly describe which sides of democracy are weak or which sides are firm. This condition makes it easier for the central and provincial governments to treat or handle existing political development problems.

The third benefit is self-evaluation for the provincial government and the community. Because the Indonesian Democracy Index provides accurate data. The accuracy of the data plays a significant role in improving indicators, variables, and aspects of democracy that have poor scores (Rauf et al., 2009). For this reason, the data search through this news review is carried out carefully, looking for its relationship to all components of the Indonesian Democracy Index, consisting of aspects, variables, and indicators.

Theoretically, the concept of civil liberties is related to several freedoms, which are individual rights. These individual rights are freedom of expression, organization or movement, and freedom from the arbitrariness of the law (Bealey, 1999). Based on the agreement of academics and theorists that have become common understanding, the elements of civil liberties consist of freedom to speak or express opinions (free speech), freedom of the press or journalism (free press), freedom of assembly or association, and freedom of association. to embrace religion or worship (McClelland, 2005).

The existence of civil liberties does not mean that everyone is free to realize his personal and group desires. Two things can threaten the realization of civil liberties: the supreme coercive authority and the tyranny of the majority. The first threat, namely supreme coercive authority, is the government's ownership of the highest authority in a country that has the authority to suppress. In any system of government, the government generally does not like the implementation of civil liberties that apply freely, especially freedom of opinion and association. The implementation of civil liberties that are too free can interfere with the ownership of the government's political hegemony (Haugaard, 2010; Ikenberry & Kupchan, 1990).

The second threat to civil liberties is the tyranny of the majority that comes from civil society. This condition occurs when a country has a group whose number is the majority and is dominant in influencing political decisions and policies. Several power groups in society that exist within a country, namely ethnicity, race, class, and supporters of political parties, generally consolidate to maintain the political constellation. If the tyranny of the majority emerges, it will have the potential to ignore equality and justice (Ahmen, 2003; Burch, 2006).

As the first aspect in measuring the Indonesian Democracy Index, civil liberties have limitations as individual freedoms and group freedoms related to state power and community groups. Civil liberties consist of four variables, namely: (1) freedom of assembly and association, (2) freedom of opinion, (3) freedom of belief, and (4) freedom from non-religious discrimination (Rauf et al., 2009).

As the second aspect for obtaining data on the Indonesian Democracy Index, political rights are all public ownership rights that contain elements of participation and competition (Bollen, 1993). For the sake of compiling the Indonesian Democracy Index data, the description of aspects of political rights is divided into two variables, namely, public participation in politics and public participation in government oversight. Determination of variables as derived aspects is some indications of participation that has a political dimension, including the right to vote or to vote, the right to fight for public office, the right to compete in the race for votes, free and fair Elections, and government policy-making based on public needs (UNDP Indonesia, 2009).

The third aspect is democratic institutions, namely political institutions as the most vigorous defense against various threats to democracy. Democratic institutions are civil society institutions consisting of the legislature, judiciary, and political parties. In comparison, the executive is not a democratic institution because it has a role as the party that carries out the results of democracy (Béteille, 2011). The establishment of civil society institutions has the purpose and function of supporting the formation and operation of a democratic political system (Achmad, 2020).

The strength of democratic institutions guarantees the upholding of respect for law and a defense against the emergence of discrimination. Democratic institutions protect democracy from the dangers of anarchy and abuse of power (Beteille, 2000). Democratic institutions guarantee balance in the process of a tug-of-war for political interests, elite political competition in the legislative realm, the struggle for the political mass base (Wahyudi, 2013), and affirmation of women's quotas in parliament (Suwarko, 2014).

For the operationalization of IDI measurements, aspects of democratic institutions have four variables, namely (1) free, honest, and fair Elections as elements of the democratic process; (2) The role of the Regional People's Representative Council as a legislative element; (3) an independent judiciary as a judicial element; and (4) the role of political parties as the primary infrastructure for building democracy (Rauf et al., 2009).

In previous research on news reviews and local regulations in Blitar City for the 2020 data year (Achmad et al., 2022), it used news content analysis and regulatory analysis methods, which took longer. Meanwhile, research for the 2021 data year requires a shorter time because it does not require regulatory analysis. Based on the results of regulatory data collection, there were no problematic new regulations and no changes to the old regulatory data.

METHOD

The research method used in this study is qualitative with a textual analysis approach. The subjects of the study are (1) news texts in print media and online media that contain various political, legal, and security events in the City of Blitar, (2) library materials that contain various political events or political policy documents in 2021 that apply in the City Blitar. Textual analysis is carried out by reviewing texts containing indicators from the Indonesian Democracy Index and assessing their effect on the addition or subtraction of the Indonesian Democracy Index score (Rauf et al., 2009).

The data sources are (1) news in print and online media and (2) documents or libraries belonging to the city government. Focus Group Discussions (FGD) and in-depth interviews confirmed data acquisition from news and regulatory documents.

To review the news text, the researchers sorted out the news throughout 2021 from four selected mass media. The four media are *Radar Blitar*, *Memorandum*, *mayangkaranews.com*, and *bhirawa.com*. The basis for the selection of the mass media is the provision of the Central Indonesian Democracy Index Expert Council, that only media with the largest circulation in the research area and has credibility according to the recommendations of the media workers association (PWI and AJI), and is worthy of being a reference for obtaining data on the Indonesian Democracy Index (Achmad, 2018).

News included in the political, legal, and security news is news regarding government, legal, security, social, and religious events, which intersect with aspects of democracy. The selection of print media and online media in Blitar City is an essential factor because the media can record various regional

political events as a reflection and source of discourse on the democratic process that takes place from day to day and continuously (Achmad, 2014; Goncing & Syahrul, 2021). This study's print and online media have local pages or segments of the City of Blitar. Local media can understand local political issues with depth review (Alamiyah & Achmad, 2015).

Meanwhile, a review of the literature or literature and legal documents is a library source containing data on city government policies, including the City of Blitar book in Figures and budget documents. These library sources also apply to Regional Regulations (Perda), Mayor Regulations, Head of Service Regulations, Decrees of the Chair of the DPRD, DPRD Recommendations, APBD documents, PAPBD, KPU decisions, Bawaslu decisions, and Circulars (Mayors, Regional Secretaries, Heads of Service, Chief of Resort Police, Military District Command Commander). The review of literature and literature aims to find texts that are related to the 28 indicators of the Indonesian Democracy Index. Categorization of data is based on the results of a review that has the potential to increase or decrease the score of the Indonesian Democracy Index.

Data collection techniques in this study were carried out by (1) tracing news virtually through online media and websites (Achmad & Ida, 2018); (2) tracing news clippings in print media; (3) Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with stakeholders; and (4) in-depth interviews with informants, after the FGD. All Informants were determined based on the representation of the institutions (as stakeholders), contained in the measurement of the Indonesian Democracy Index. Stakeholders in this study include Regional Secretariat, Public Relations and Protocol Section, Bappeda, BPS, DPRD Secretariat, District Court, Resort Police, Military District Command, General Election Commission, Bawaslu, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) Sapuan, Bakesbangpol and PBD, FKUB, DPC or DPD political parties, mass organizations, OKP, trade unions, students, academics, NGOs, and journalists in Blitar City.

FGD in this study is a complementary method with the objectives of (1) confirming and clarifying data related to IDI indicators from media reviews and literature reviews; (2) exploring other information that does not appear through news reviews and literature reviews. Meanwhile, in-depth interviews are an effort to explore the perspective of informants related to issues in FGDs that require deepening (Berry, 1999; Guion, Diehl, & McDonald, 2011). However, for IDI data collection, in-depth interviews are helpful for verification and deepening information obtained from other sources, namely news media, literature or document reviews, and FGDs (Boyce & Neale, 2006).

Focus group discussion (FGD) is one of the data collection techniques in this type of qualitative research. FGD in this study is a complementary method that has the aim of (1) confirming and clarifying data related to IDI indicators from media reviews and reviews. In addition, (2) explore other information that does not appear through news and literature reviews. At the same time, in-depth interviews explore the informant's perspective related to issues in the FGD that require deepening. However, for IDI data collection, in-depth interviews are helpful for verification and deepening of information that has been obtained from other sources, namely media news, literature or document reviews, and FGDs.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Indonesian Democracy Index, as a quantitative measure of democracy, initially consisted of various qualitative definitions of democracy. The general definition of *democracy* is a system of government that comes from, is managed, and is for the people. However, this definition has only emerged in modern times (Cherif Bassiouni et al., 1998).

The practice of democracy, as contained in the previous paragraph, has never existed in the history of humankind. There has never been a populistic democracy with a government run directly by all the people, and there has never been a full-fledged government for all (Coppedge & Reinicke, 1991; Dahl, 1971). A more realistic definition of a *government system* from, by, and for the many is polyarchy (Dahl, 1971).

When referring to the concept of polyarchy, in order to run a democratic government, the people should have the freedom to (1) create and be involved in organizations, (2) have opinions and express themselves, (3) compete and contest for public positions, (4) hold Elections that are honest and fair, (5) distribute voting rights in general Elections, (6) obtain alternative information from non-government sources, and (7) limit government power by periodization (Dahl, 1971).

Another theoretical consideration in determining the parameters of the Indonesian Democracy Index is the existence of two perspectives on the democratic model: substantive democracy and procedural democracy (Case, 2002). The substantive democracy model has egalitarian characteristics because citizens have the same position in applying the law. Moreover, this model is close to the ideal democratic system because the implementation of democratic government does not differentiate ethnicity, race, gender, political affiliation, economic class, and

social identity. While the procedural democracy model refers more to the management of power. In comparison, they are encouraging the realization of civil liberties through the implementation of general Elections that are free from pressure according to the plans of the EMB (Case, 2002).

However, there is still another model of democracy called pseudo-democracy. This democratic model applies a pseudo-democratic government system. Even though these quasi-democratic countries hold regular Elections, the citizens' political participation activities are merely a formality. Rulers make Elections a means of determining the legitimacy of power even though it takes place full of fraud. The people cannot protest because the authorities have curtailed civil liberties. Parliament, because of the Election, only contains representatives of the people of the supporters of the ruling government. Members of parliament are puppets of the rulers. The people's representatives come from political parties that are part of the government's hegemony (Siswati, 2018).

Even political parties that call themselves the opposition are government formations. Political parties formed by the government are political parties that highly depend on the authorities. Since the establishment of political parties, the determination of management, cadre programs, and even all-party financing comes from the money of the authorities (Case, 2004).

The conception of polyarchy by Robert A. Dahl and the model of democracy by William Case has a meeting point with the conception of democracy from John Gastil (1993) and Kenneth Bollen (1993), namely the determination of two essential dimensions in the concept of democracy, namely Civil Liberties and Political Rights (Bollen, 1993; Gastil, 1993).

Considering the theoretical and empirical basis described previously, the critical dimensions in the conception of democracy in the Indonesian Democracy Index are Civil Liberties, Political Rights, and Democratic Institutions. Therefore, these three dimensions are the main aspects of measuring democracy in Indonesia using the Indonesian Democracy Index.

Civil liberties and political rights are first and second in terms of measurement. The basic argument is that in the implementation of a democratic system in a country, the first aspect that the government pays attention to is the guarantee of civil liberties. Hence, the embodiment of the public interest in the form of welfare and protection in implementing citizens' human rights, as stated in each state's constitution (Bollen, 1993).

Meanwhile, democratic institutions are the next concern as the third aspect. Nevertheless, the realization must be at the same time. A democratic

state requires adequate political procedures, structures, and infrastructure, called democratic institutions, to ensure the continuity of civil liberties and political rights of citizens (Rauf et al., 2009).

One of the best and most efficient ways to understand the implementation of a country's democracy is to look at the life of the press of that country (Achmad, 2014; Alamiyah & Achmad, 2015). Moreover, reporting on various political, legal, and security events in the mass media reflects a country's political conditions (Fuchs, 2018). Therefore, Shoemaker and Reese (2013) consider that analysis of mass media content as an approach in qualitative research is the best reference for understanding specific issues because mass media contains phenomena, information, reference sources, and contexts.

The media content analysis technique is to conduct a review, namely examining media texts, understanding the meaning of the text, understanding the sequence of events, understanding the background of events, and understanding the context outside the event (Macnamara & R., 2005). Media reviews for political issues are more focused on news reviews because news has a humanist approach. Mass media news as media content reflects society and culture (Achmad, 2009). With a behavioristic approach, media reviews can see the impact of reporting on the community (Wiranata, Mardiyah, & Achmad, 2016).

Mass media news (print and online) about political, legal, and security events in Blitar City throughout 2021 were further grouped based on issues and actors. The specific grouping is on the influence of news (positive or negative) on the potential for decreasing and increasing the Indonesian Democracy Index in Blitar City (table 1).

Table 1. Grouping of Printed and Online Media News during 2021 in Blitar City

No	Issue	Actor	Influence
1	Demonstration of Outsourcing Personnel from the Environmental Agency of Blitar City due to layoffs for no reason.	Blitar City DPRD, PDIP faction, KRPK, and Mayor of Blitar City	complaints did not cause riots. Positive impact on Indicator 17
2	Discriminatory policies on outsourced workers,	Commission 2 of the DPRD of Blitar City, Department of Industry and Trade	PHK policy for no apparent reason. Negative impact on indicator 8
3	Education budget allocation for Incentives for Ngaji Teachers and Sunday School Teachers	Welfare and Economic Section of the Regional Secretariat of Blitar City	education budget allocation. Positive impact on indicator 20.

No	Issue	Actor	Influence
4	Guarantees for the 2021 Eid Al-Fitr Prayers in Congregation at the Mosque	Secretary of the Blitar City Covid-19 Task Force	Guarantee the freedom to carry out religious activities. Positive impact on indicator 5.
5	Health budget to complete Teacher Vaccination	Commission I DPRD Blitar City, Health Office	Increased health budget allocation. Positive impact on the indicator 20.
6	Demonstrators of the Supriyadi Stadium Merchants at the Blitar City DPRD.	Blitar United Stadium Traders, Commission 2 DPRD City Blitar	Public complaints do not cause riots. Positive impact on Indicator 17
7	Implementing the Democracy School	KPU Blitar City	Aims to increase voter participation. Positive impact on indicator 14.
8	Hearing of North Side Templek Market Owners	Commission 2 Blitar City DPRD	Public complaints did not cause riots. Positive impact on Indicator 17
9	Coordination Meeting for Formulation of Blitar City Development Planning Policy Directions on Budget Changes in 2021.	Regional Secretary of Blitar City, Deputy Mayor of Blitar City	Regional Budget Transparency is positive support for indicators 26
10	Submission and approval of the Raperda on Amendments to the Regional Budget of Blitar City for Fiscal Year 2021	The Mayor of Blitar and Chairman of the DPRD of Blitar City	Increased allocation for education and health in APBD 2021. Positive impact on indicator 20.
11	Government National Dialogue as an Important Pillar of Tolerance	The Mayor of Blitar	Guarantee the freedom to carry out religious activities. Positive impact on indicator 5
12	Blitar City Voter List Increases Slightly in a Year	KPU Chairman	Influences on voter turnout. Positive on the indicator 14
13	Political Discussion, Realizing Democratic 2024 Election	Mayor, Blitar City Bakesbangpol	Efforts to increase the community participation rate. Positive on indicator 14
14	Blitar Students Demand Police Openly Reveal Cases of Suicide by UB Students	Indonesian National Student Movement, Nahdlatul Ulama University (UNU) Blitar	Peaceful channelling of aspirations, positive impact on indicators 17
15	Mass Action Burns Corrupt Symbols in Front of the Blitar District Attorney's Office,	People's Committee for the Eradication of Corruption (KRPK)	Demonstrations are violent, with a negative potential on indicator 16.
16	Guarantees for the 2021 Christmas Worship Celebration in Blitar City to Walk Safely	Blitar Mayor, Blitar City Police Chief	Guaranteed freedom to carry out religious activities. Positive impact on indicator 5.

Review of Civil Liberties in Blitar City

A review of print and online mass media news during 2021 regarding political, legal, and security events shows that government officials have no threat or use of violence that hinders freedom of assembly and association (indicator 1). Similarly, there are no events that affect indicator 2. The community's threat or use of violence hinders freedom of assembly and association. There is also no group of people who disband an organization or prohibit gathering activities by other community groups.

In indicator 3, namely the threat or use of violence by government officials that impede people's freedom of expression, there is no incident in Blitar City. The same thing in indicator 4, there is no incident in Blitar City regarding the threat or use of violence by a group of people that hinders the freedom of expression of other community groups.

According to a literature search and regional policies in the City of Blitar, this study did not find any written rules limiting the freedom to practice religious worship for its adherents or indicator 5. Instead, something positive happened in official statements guaranteeing freedom and security to practice religious teachings, such as Eid prayers. The congregation in the mosque and worship services for Christmas celebrations. This policy was positive support for indicator 6.

In indicator 7, regarding the threat or use of violence from one community group to another related to religious teachings, there is not a single incident in Blitar City. In addition to news reviews, from the results of searching regional policy documents, the researchers found one policy that discriminated against gender, certain ethnic groups, and other vulnerable groups (indicator 8). The City Government's policy is Termination of Employment (PHK) on outsourcing workers. The layoff policy shows the absence of an apparent reason. This case can potentially be a claim to the State Administrative Court (PTUN) and harms indicator 25.

Meanwhile, news that impacts indicator 9, namely actions or statements by discriminatory officials regarding gender, ethnicity, and other vulnerable groups, is not there. Likewise, there are no city government documents, FGD results, or media reviews regarding the community's threat or use of violence regarding gender, ethnicity, or other vulnerable groups (indicator 10).

In the aspect of civil liberties, there is only one incident that can harm indicator eight on the score of the Indonesian Democracy Index. The finding is the policy of Termination of Employment on outsourcing workers at the Environmental Service of the Blitar City Government. If the policy is met with resistance from outsourcing workers by filing a claim to the

Administrative Court, this could add to the negative impact on indicator 25. The score of the Indonesian Democracy Index in Blitar City has the potential to fall if the first decision of the Administrative Court finds guilty on the layoff policy for no apparent reason.

Review of Political Rights in Blitar City

From the results of reviews of mass media news (print and online), search of regional policy documents, and resumes of focus group discussions, there are no political, legal, and security events that affect the rise and fall of the score of the Indonesian Democracy Index in Blitar City. The data from the Blitar City General Election Commission for 2021 has not changed compared to 2020. This data condition is constant because it refers to the implementation of the General Election (Pemilu), which took place in 2019, and the Election to the Region (Pilkada) of Blitar City, which was successful—taking place in 2020.

In indicator 11, there are no political rights for the Blitar City citizens experiencing obstacles (indicator 11). As the organizer of Elections and local Elections, the Blitar City KPU has proven its performance in providing adequate facilities for city residents to exercise their voting rights (indicator 12). Likewise, in terms of maintaining the quality of the Permanent Voter List or DPT (indicator 13), the Blitar City KPU has fulfilled its obligations. All stages of the General Election and local Elections have taken place according to the schedule. In the 2019 Election, the stages have been completed on time, from determining the Provisional Voters List (DPS) to determining the Foreign Permanent Voters List (DPTLN). During the simultaneous regional Elections in 2020, the voter data updating, the preparation of voter lists, and the stage of DPT announcement have also run successfully.

The turnout in the 2019 general Election in Blitar City was 97,133 from a total of 113,544 voters on the Permanent Voters List. The KPU of Blitar City achieved a turnout of 83.7% of voters. Meanwhile, the percentage of Blitar City residents did not exercise their right to vote was only 16.3%. While the level of public participation in the 2020 simultaneous Elections in Blitar City reached 78.8%, or 90,908 people who used their vote, the Total Permanent Voter List for the 2022 simultaneous Elections was 115,365 people.

In indicator 15, which calculates the percentage of women elected to the total members of the Blitar City DPRD, this data also still refers to the 2019 Election results. The percentage of women's affirmations for parliament has not yet reached the 20% quota. Based on data from Bakesbangpol and KPU Blitar City, there are only three women

representatives in the Blitar City DPRD, or 12%. At the same time, the total number of members of the DPRD Blitar City is 25. The three women representatives are (1) Sudarwati from the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDIP), (2) Ely Idayah Vitnawati from the National Awakening Party (PKB), and (3) dr. Laily Khurniawati from the Prosperous Justice Party (PKS).

At various demonstrations in Blitar City, one incident was categorized as violent. Demonstrations by the People's Committee for the Eradication of Corruption (KRPK) by burning symbols of corruptors have caused anxiety for residents and disrupted public order. In contrast, several other demonstrations took place peacefully. In 2021, there were four peaceful rallies, namely demonstrations by outsourced personnel from the Environmental Service of the City of Blitar, demonstrations by the Supriyadi Stadium traders, demonstrations by Blitar students to investigate the suicide case of Universitas Brawijaya students, and demonstrations by Templek Market Traders through a hearing at Commission 2 Blitar City DPRD.

The researchers confirmed four peaceful demonstrations and one violent demonstration through focus group discussions. To increase data support on the number of public complaints regarding government administration (indicator 17), the researchers searched the official website of the Blitar City Government to accommodate public complaints, <https://ulpim.blitarkota.go.id/>. From the results of news reviews, letters from readers, and the website of the Public Complaints and Information Service Unit (Ulpim), there were 18 reports, 221 letters from readers, and 74 complaints at Ulpim, throughout 2021.

A review of the Aspects of Political Rights in Blitar City shows that the City Government, Blitar City KPU, and city residents have implemented political rights well. The city government has shown its commitment to guaranteeing the political rights of its citizens. Meanwhile, the townspeople showed good political maturity in conveying their demands. The following are the political rights of citizens according to the provisions of Indonesian legislation, namely (1) the right to life; (2) The right to have a family and continue the lineage; (3) The right to self-development; (4) The right to obtain justice; (5) The right to personal liberty; (6) The right to security; (7) Right to welfare; (8) The right to participate in government; (9) Women's rights; and (10) Children's rights.

Blitar City KPU has worked hard to become an accountable Election organizer to facilitate the distribution of the rights of city residents to participate in government. Political rights to participate in government, including the right to vote and be elected.

The right to vote is regulated in Article 1 paragraph (2), Article 2 paragraph (1), Article 6A (1), Article 19 paragraph (1), and Article 22C (1) of the 1945 Constitution. While the right to be elected is regulated in the 1945 Constitution in Article 27 paragraphs (1) and (2); Article 28, Article 28D paragraph (3), and Article 28E paragraph (3).

Review of Democratic Institutions in Blitar City

Based on news reviews, regional policy documents, and Focus Group Discussions, Blitar City KPU has acted neutrally in its duties and functions. There was no incident during 2021 that found that the KPU took sides (indicator 18). This condition was relatively the same as the data in 2020 when the KPU Blitar City was the organizer of the 2019 general Election and the 2020 simultaneous regional head Election. Cities In the 2019 Election, Blitar City KPU did not commit fraud in vote counting (indicator 19).

Regarding indicator 20 regarding the budget allocation for education and health in the City of Blitar, the results of the review of regional policy documents, namely Attachment 2 of the Regional Regulation of the City of Blitar No. 5 of 2021 concerning Amendments to the 2021 Regional Budget, states that the budget allocation for education affairs in the City of Blitar in 2021 is Rp. 210,730,155,817 equivalents to 20% of the Total Expenditure Budget, which amounted to Rp. 1,052,307,017,315. The percentage of 20% shows the compliance Blitar City Government to the Law regarding the obligation to allocate an education budget of 20% of the APBD. The mandate is contained in the 1945 Constitution article 31 paragraph (4) and Law no. 20 of 2003 concerning the National Education System article 49 paragraph (1).

In 2021, the allocation of the Health Affairs Budget will experience a significant increase. The reason is the need for sufficient COVID-19 vaccination for residents of the city of Blitar. Attachment 2 of the Regional Regulation of the City of Blitar No. 5 of 2021 concerning the Amendment to the 2021 APBD states that the budget for health affairs in the City of Blitar is Rp. 324,194,393,757 or 30.8% of the Total Expenditure Budget, which is Rp. 1,052,307,017,315. The percentage of 30.8% exceeds the percentage of the 2020 allocation of 22%. The figure of 30.8% exceeds the mandate of Law No. 36 of 2009 concerning Health, which, stated in Article 171 paragraph (2), requires an allocation of 10% of the APBD for the health sector.

Throughout 2021, there was no stipulation of local initiative regulations by the DPRD of Blitar City (indicator 21). However, there are four

recommendations based on the results of news reviews related to indicator 22, namely the number of recommendations from DPRD to the executive. The recommendations include (1) the Draft KUA-PPAS for 2022, (2) the budget allocation for the Blitar City Government should focus on tackling COVID-19, (3) the city government must increase budget absorption, (4) the use of excess budget calculation (SiLPA) for the prevention of COVID-19, (5) the establishment of new sports facilities for residents, and (6) the Acceleration of the distribution of social assistance.

The performance of political parties in Blitar City in 2021 shows an increase in cadre activities (indicator 23). Increasing the frequency of cadre activities for political parties depends on funding support from the Blitar City National Unity, Political and Regional Disaster Management Agency (Bakesbangpol and PBD). In 2021, according to Appendix 3 of the Regional Regulation of the City of Blitar No. 5 of 2021 concerning Amendments to the 2021 APBD, the grant budget for political parties is Rp.546.889,575. The allocation is appropriate for the implementation of political party formation activities.

The compliance of political parties in Blitar City in fulfilling the quota of 37% women as political party administrators has been going well, as required by indicator 24 in the Indonesian Democracy Index. Based on a review of documents from Bakesbangpol and KPU Blitar City, the percentage of female political party administrators in Blitar City reached 37.5% of the total number of political party administrators. The political party with the highest number of female administrators is the National Mandate Party (PAN), 46.7%. Meanwhile, the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDIP) only has 30% of women as party administrators. This number is the least compared to other political parties.

In indicator 25, which counts the number of first decisions by the State Administrative Court (PTUN) that blamed the policies of local government officials in Blitar City, there were no first decisions about Blitar City.

The Blitar city government is committed to implementing transparency in regional financial management. One of the indicators in the Indonesian Democracy Index is the effort to provide local government with APBD information (indicator 26). As Law Number 14 of 2008 mandates Openness of Public Information, the Blitar City Government has uploaded budget documents on the <http://transparansi.blitarkota.go.id/> page. The number of documents required to be uploaded according to Law Number 14 of 2008 is 16 budget documents. Before December 2021, each local government is required to upload eight budget documents, which consist of (1) Summary of Work Plan and

Budget (RKA) for 2021 Regional Apparatus Work Unit (SKPD), (2) RKA PPKD, (3) Draft Regional Regulation (Raperda) APBD 2021, (4) Raperda on Revised APBD 2021, (5) Perda on APBD 2021, (6) Perda on Revised APBD 2021, (7) List of Budget Uses (DPA) SKPD Year 2020/21, and (8) The Local Government Financial Report Has Been Audited in 2021. Therefore, the Blitar City Government has fulfilled the obligation to upload the eight mandatory budget documents.

Based on the results of news reviews and FGDs, throughout 2021, there were no controversial judges' decisions in Blitar City (indicator 27). There has also been no termination of controversial investigations by prosecutors or police in Blitar City during 2021 (indicator 28).

The democratic institutions in the City of Blitar show excellent performance. There is not a single event that harms the calculation of the Indonesian Democracy Index. Almost all democratic institutions in the City of Blitar have realized the importance of making policies, providing services, and carrying out their primary tasks under the mandate of the 1945 Constitution and laws that specifically regulate their duties and functions. There is only one democratic institution whose performance is inferior, namely the DPRD of Blitar City because it cannot perform well in carrying out its legislative function in terms of making regional initiative regulations.

CONCLUSION

Civil liberties in Blitar City show excellent conditions because no political, legal, or security events negatively impact the Blitar City Indonesian Democracy Index. This condition is due to the cooperation and collaboration between city residents and the Blitar City Government. As a result, both parties can show appreciation for exercising their political rights and obligations.

In fulfilling the political rights of city residents, the Regional General Election Commission of the City of Blitar has a vital role and works accountable. In addition to providing adequate facilities for groups with disabilities and high voter turnout rates, beginner voters are well facilitated. In the national election in 2019 and the simultaneous local elections in 2022, the Blitar City KPUD has worked hard to achieve zero fraud and zero violations in fulfilling the political rights of city residents.

The best performance of democratic institutions in Blitar City is increasing health budget allocations. The reason for this increase is to handle COVID-19 patients, prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus, and assistance for health workers and other health workers involved in handling COVID-19. The

performance of other democratic institutions has relatively been no significant change in data compared to the performance of democratic institutions in the past 2020.

Special appreciation deserves to Bakesbangpol Kota Blitar, which has succeeded in directing political parties to consistently carry out cadre activities and paying attention to the composition of the number of female political party administrators. Especially in 2021, no city government policy will get a lawsuit at the Administrative Court (PTUN). This condition was influenced by the efforts of the East Java Province Indonesian Democracy Index Working Group in providing education on the importance of local governments being more careful in making policies to avoid prosecution through PTUN.

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