

Neutrality of Public Officials in Elections based on The Perspective of General Principles of Good Governance

Sulistiyowati¹⁾, Mas Subagyo Eko Prasetyo²⁾, Gusti Bintang Maharaja³⁾ & Andi Andika⁴⁾

¹⁾ Faculty of Law, Universitas Nasional, E-mail: sulistiyowati.advokat@gmail.com

²⁾ Faculty of Law, Universitas Nasional, E-mail: maseko@civitas.unas.ac

³⁾ Faculty of Law, Universitas Pembangunan Nasional "Veteran" Jakarta, E-mail: gustibintangmaharaja@gmail.com

⁴⁾ Faculty of Law, Universitas Nasional, E-mail: Andiandika0602@gmail.com

Abstract. *A clean and competent government applies the general principles of good government. Neutrality is one of the general principles of good government that every state official must uphold. Neutrality of public officials means not taking sides or engaging in practical political interests, especially in elections. This study aims to analyze the problems related to public officials' neutrality in Indonesia and provide solutions to ensure that neutrality. This study uses qualitative methods with a normative approach. The data used are secondary in the form of legislation, official documents, literature, and relevant previous research results. The results showed that the main problems related to public officials' neutrality in Indonesia are public officials' low awareness and understanding about the importance of neutrality, weak supervision, sanctions against neutrality violations, and the pressure and intervention of certain interested parties. Solutions that can be provided to ensure the neutrality of public officials in Indonesia are to increase socialization and education about neutrality, strengthen monitoring and enforcement mechanisms against neutrality violations, and build a culture of integrity and professionalism among public officials. Vigorous law enforcement is the solution.*

Keywords: *Elections; Governance; Neutrality; Public.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is a country that recognizes the principle of a state of law and implements a legal system. The legal system applied in Indonesia is civil law. Legal practitioners who operate within the framework of civil law have certain views regarding the regulations in force at that time. This includes the coding or legal basis that can be applied in dealing with problems that arise, as stated in

the law.¹ Being a country of law, of course, everything must be regulated, including the general principles of good governance. The neutrality of public officials is one of the basic principles in the implementation of good governance. Good governance has the supremacy of law in principle as the basis for limiting the power of state entities. To control and limit state power, the legal principle of protecting citizens has developed, and various approaches are applied in the concept of human rights, administrative justice, and so on. Along with that, the basic idea of constitutionalism involves an understanding or school of thought that emphasizes the need to limit state or government power so that it is not absolute.² Referring to the Indonesian government, there is something called a Public Official. Public officials including state civil servants (ASN) are individuals appointed by the government to manage public affairs, formulate policies, and provide optimal services to the public in general.³ In terms of politics, ASN must be neutral, especially in the context of practical politics. For neutrality⁴ comes from the word neutral which means not taking sides (not helping one party, free). The neutrality of public officials aims to maintain independence, justice, and professionalism in carrying out public service duties and functions, as well as to prevent abuse of power and state resources for certain political interests. Because in essence the essential principle in carrying out public service duties, government duties, and development duties is neutrality.⁵

However, in reality, the neutrality of public officials is often neglected and violated. Many public officials are involved in practical political activities, both openly and covertly, such as campaigning, providing support, or channeling assistance to certain candidates or political parties. This occurs even though there are various rules and sanctions that regulate the neutrality of public officials such as Law No. 5 of 2014 concerning ASN, Law No. 7 of 2017 concerning

¹Sulistiyowati, Disfungsional Proses Dismissal Pada Peradilan Tata Usaha Negara: Studi Kasus Putusan Nomor 41/G/LH/2018/PTUN.PBR, *Jurnal APHTN-HAN*, Vol.1, No.1 (2022), <https://japhtnhan.id/index.php/japhtnhan/article/view/12> (accessed on 23 February 2024).

²Aji Sudarmaji, Masrur Ridwan, and Aryani Witasari. "The Legal Power of Public Officers Decisions Successful in Public Courts", *Jurnal Daulat Hukum*, Vol.5, No.1 (2022), <https://jurnal.unissula.ac.id/index.php/RH/article/download/20477/6866> (accessed 24 February 2024).

³Dwiyanto Indiahono. "Dynamics of Bureaucratic Neutrality Policy in Indonesia". *Jurnal Borneo Administrator*, Vol.18, No.3 (2022), <https://samarinda.lan.go.id/jba/index.php/jba/article/view/1104/377> (accessed on 24 February 2024)

⁴Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia. "Arti Netralitas". <https://kbbi.web.id/netralitas> (accessed on 23 February 2024)

⁵Fitrah, F. A., Takariawan, A., & Muttaqin, Z. "The Position of Civil Servant Investigator of Directorate General of Tax (DGT) in the Frame of Taxation Criminal Law Enforcement in Indonesia", *SIGN Jurnal Hukum*, Vol.3, No.1, (2021), <https://jurnal.penerbitsign.com/index.php/sjh/article/view/v3n1-1-25> (accessed on 24 February 2024)

General Elections, and Government Regulation Number 53 of 2010 concerning ASN Discipline.

One of the factors that influences the low neutrality of public officials is the permissive attitude of their superiors or leaders.⁶ Many superiors or leaders of public officials do not give warnings, sanctions, or firm action against their subordinates or members who violate neutrality. In fact, there are also superiors or leaders of public officials who actually order, utilize, or influence their subordinates or members to side with or favor certain candidates or political parties. This shows the existence of conflicts of interest, political ambition, and political intervention in government bureaucracy.⁷

Violation of the neutrality of public officials, or literacy that mentions political elites⁸ especially in the context of general elections, has a very negative impact on the democratic process and public welfare. Violations of the neutrality of public officials can damage the foundations of democracy, such as human rights, people's sovereignty, equal rights and opportunities, and political participation. Violations of the neutrality of public officials can also reduce the credibility, legitimacy, and accountability of general elections, as well as create potential for conflict, violence, and public service performance, as well as hinder national development and progress.

One example of a violation of the neutrality of public officials that attracted public attention was President Joko Widodo's statement saying "cawe-cawe" at the handover of fighter jets to the TNI in January 2024. This statement was considered a form of support and covert campaign for presidential candidate Prabowo Subianto, who was the Minister of Defense at that time. Not to mention, from the news that circulated, former Indonesian President Soesilo Bambang Yudhoyono also commented on the red book distributed to Democratic Party cadres.⁹ This statement is also considered as a misuse of state facilities and working time of state officials for practical political interests. This statement has drawn criticism and protests from various parties, including the General Election Commission (KPU), the General Election Supervisory Body

⁶Ferdinand Sirait, "Netralitas ASN: Problematika dan Studi Kontemporer", Sekretariat Jendral Badan Pengawas Pemilihan Umum, <https://si-asn.bawaslu.go.id/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/DRAFT-Netralitas-ASN-Problematika-dan-Studi-Kontemporer.pdf> (accessed on 24 February 2023)

⁷Ibid, p. 3-5

⁸Maysarah Harahap, dkk, "Elit Politik di Indonesia: Akar dan Dampak Penyalahgunaan Hak Berdemokrasi", *Jurnal Comserva*, Vol.3, No.6, (2023), <https://comserva.publikasiindonesia.id/index.php/comserva/article/view/1023> (accessed on 23 February 2024)

⁹Susilo B. Yudhoyono, *Pilpres 2024 dan Cawe-cawe Presiden Jokowi: The President Can Do No Wrong* (Mimbar Demokrat: Jakarta Pusat, 2023).

(Bawaslu), political parties, community leaders, and academics. This statement is considered as an act of state officials who are not neutral and can affect the course of democracy.

Based on the description above, the author is interested in further studying the neutrality of public officials in general elections, with a focus on factors that influence the neutrality of public officials, the impacts of violations of the neutrality of public officials, and efforts to improve the neutrality of public officials. The author hopes that this article can contribute and benefit the development of science, especially government science, as well as the implementation of good and democratic governance in Indonesia.

2. RESEARCH METHODS

This study adopts a qualitative method with a legal approach in the realm of normative law. In the context of this study, the use of secondary data is the main focus without the need to form a provisional theoretical framework. However, the preparation of a conceptual framework remains essential. In this case, the formulation of a conceptual framework needs to refer to the provisions contained in the laws and regulations.¹⁰The analysis used is qualitative data analysis. To get answers to legal problems related to the neutrality of state officials and public officials.

3. RESULTS & DISCUSSION

The 2024 Indonesian presidential and vice presidential election is a political contestation event full of dynamics and polemics. One of the issues that emerged was the involvement of President Joko Widodo or Jokowi in supporting the candidate pair Prabowo Subianto - Gibran Rakabuming Raka, his eldest son who is also the Mayor of Solo. Jokowi's decision sparked reactions from various levels of society, including the movement of professors and community leaders who considered Jokowi to have harmed democracy and built dynastic politics. Moral appeals were submitted by many well-known campuses including the University of Indonesia, Gajah Mada University, Islamic University of Indonesia, Pajajaran University and so on.¹¹

Before the general election took place, there were several lawsuits filed with the Constitutional Court (MK) regarding the age limit for presidential and vice

¹⁰Soerjono Soekanto, *Pengantar Penelitian Hukum* (Depok : Penerbit Universitas Indonesia-UI Press, 1984), p. 54.

¹¹Tim detikcom - detikEdu. "Suara dari Kampus Kritik Jokowi, Ini Isi Tuntutan dari UI, UGM, Unpad & UII", detik.com, <https://www.detik.com/edu/perguruan-tinggi/d-7175173/suara-dari-kampus-kritik-jokowi-ini-isi-tuntutan-dari-ui-ugm-unpad-iii/amp> (accessed on 24 February 2024)

presidential candidates. The issue of the age limit for vice presidential candidates stated in the general election law became a polemic when it was finally lowered to below 40 years old, considered to adjust Gibran's age so that he could compete. The public and many groups considered this due to the intervention of Anwar Usman, the Chief Justice of the Constitutional Court who is also his uncle. Anwar Usman was tried by the Constitutional Court Honorary Council (MKMK) and was found guilty and dismissed from his position as Chief Justice of the Constitutional Court.¹² However, Anwar Usman did not accept this and filed a lawsuit at the State Administrative Court (PTUN), and it is still in process.

The situation became more complex when Jokowi stated that the president has the right to campaign. When Jokowi stated that campaigning is permitted, he referred to Law No. 7 of 2017 concerning General Elections, especially Article 281 paragraph 1, which grants permission to the president, vice president, ministers, governors, vice governors, regents, vice regents, mayors, and vice mayors to participate in campaign activities, provided that they do not use state facilities obtained because of their positions. Controversy arose again. Bivitri Susanti, a constitutional law expert, responded to Jokowi's statement that the president and ministers can campaign and support candidates in the election. According to Bivitri, the statement violates legal and ethical rules, and is a misinterpretation of the Election Law. Bivitri explained that Jokowi may have referred to Article 299 of the Election Law which grants the president and vice president the right to campaign, but in fact the article is intended for presidents and vice presidents who are running for re-election, not to provide support to other candidates. In addition, there are other provisions that limit the involvement of the president and state officials, such as Articles 280, 304, 305, and 307. Bivitri also highlighted that a president cannot be separated from the state facilities attached to him, such as secretaries, aides, drivers, and cars. Therefore, according to him, the president cannot campaign without using state facilities, which is considered a violation of the law.¹³

What Jokowi did for some people is indeed the cause of the destruction of democracy, especially in the 2024 general election. It was spread in the community that there was a deployment of officers from the village to the ministers. Many even said that the TNI and Polri were suspected of being involved in Prabowo Gibran's victory. Even Megawati, the former President of the Republic of Indonesia, accused the 2 (two) institutions of not being neutral.¹⁴

¹²Decision of the MKMK Number 02/MKMK/L/11/2023

¹³Yussa Ariska, "Pakar Sebut Jokowi Misleading soal Pernyataan Presiden Boleh Kampanye", detik.com. <https://20.detik.com/detikupdate/20240201-240201073/pakar-sebut-jokowi-misleading-soal-pernyataan-presiden-boleh-kampanye> (accessed on 24 February 2024)

¹⁴Ridwan, Muhammad, "Megawati Tuding TNI-POLRI Tak Netral, Eks KSAD Dudung: Harusnya Bilang BIN juga", Jawapos, <https://www.jawapos.com/nasional/amp/014086856/megawati->

The moral movement carried out by professors and academics is an action that shows concern for the condition of democracy and law in Indonesia ahead of the 2024 elections. This movement was triggered by several things, such as the Constitutional Court's decision which allowed presidential candidate pair Prabowo Subianto and Gibran Rakabuming Raka, President Joko Widodo's statement claiming he had the right to campaign in his spare time, and allegations of nepotism in the government..

This moral movement is manifested in the form of a national declaration, a moral appeal, and a statement of position delivered by professors and academics from various universities in Indonesia. They demand that the government maintain the integrity, credibility, and independence of state institutions, and respect the principles of democracy, constitutionalism, and the supremacy of law.

The response of the election supervisory body or Bawaslu to this matter is that Bawaslu will supervise and follow up on any administrative or criminal election violations committed by state officials who are campaigning, in accordance with its authority. Bawaslu also appealed to state officials who campaign to respect the political rights of the people and not to abuse their authority..

The response of the general election commission or KPU to this matter is that the KPU does not question the political rights of state officials to campaign, as long as they follow the applicable rules..

According to several parties, the actions taken by President Jokowi are believed to have motivated his subordinates, including public officials, to be active in supporting Prabowo Gibran's victory. In accordance with the provisions contained in Law No. 5 of 2014 concerning the State Civil Apparatus, in Article 1 paragraph 10, public officials refer to ASN officials who occupy structural positions of echelon I and II. This position is considered the peak of leadership in the hierarchy of the bureaucratic organizational structure, where these officials have roles with significant impacts and responsibilities. In Article 94, there is a provision that prohibits Public Officials from engaging in activities that can be interpreted as support for one of the presidential and vice presidential candidate pairs, candidates for members of the DPR, DPD, DPRD, and regional head and deputy regional head candidates. This prohibition is a strong barrier, aimed at maintaining the neutrality of the State Civil Apparatus (ASN) and preventing abuse of authority for political interests. The regulation stipulates strict restrictions on providing support, either directly or indirectly, to one of the candidate pairs. This principle is likened to a dividing line that separates ASN from practical involvement in the world of politics and prevents the use of state

[tuding-tni-polri-tak-netral-eks-ksad-dudung-harusnya-bilang-bin-juga](#) (accessed on 24 February 2024)

facilities for campaign purposes. However, the reality shows that a number of regional heads do not maintain neutrality, and instead support certain candidate pairs. The National Human Rights Commission (Komnas HAM) noted that there were 59 regional head officials who received negative assessments in the indicator of maintaining neutrality in 2024. This finding includes 12 village heads in Buduran District, Sidoarjo Regency, East Java Province, who openly stated their support for one of the election participants.¹⁵

State facilities are like a mandate that must be used for the public interest, not for personal or political interests and abusing their authority and position for personal, family, group, or class interests. ASN must uphold professionalism and devote themselves to the interests of the people.¹⁶

Sanctions for such violations have been officially regulated, including moderate disciplinary sanctions such as verbal warnings, written warnings, and written statements of dissatisfaction. In addition, severe disciplinary sanctions are also imposed, such as demotion to a lower level for a period of 12 (twelve) months, dismissal from office, and dishonorable dismissal as a Civil Servant (PNS).¹⁷ So, do ASN not have the right to be involved in politics? There are exceptions regulated in Article 96 Public officials who want to be involved in politics can apply for leave outside of state responsibility. In addition to the definition of public officials in the ASN Law, there is also the definition of state officials. Prof. Dr. Jimly Asshiddiqie (Constitutional Law Expert) is a state official whose work environment is where the institution is a state apparatus and its derivatives.¹⁸

In the Perspective of Administrative Science, Prof. Dr. Sondang PS, an expert in Public Administration, is of the opinion that public officials are people who are given public duties and authority in accordance with laws and regulations, for and on behalf of the state or public institutions, in order to achieve the objectives of governance and public services. Meanwhile, Prof. Dr. Ryaas Rasyid, an expert in Public Administration, is of the opinion that public officials are individuals who are given a formal mandate by the state to exercise public power and/or use public resources to achieve public goals. This means that the moral

¹⁵DJ. Kliwanto, "Komnas HAM ungkap temuan kepala daerah tidak netral selama Pemilu 2024", Antara : kantor berita Indonesia, <https://www.antaraneews.com/berita/3976095/komnas-ham-ungkap-temuan-kepala-daerah-tidak-netral-selama-pemilu-2024>, (accessed on 24 February 2024)

¹⁶Ardenolis, dkk, "Larangan Penggunaan Fasilitas Negara Dalam Pemilihan Kepala Daerah Berdasarkan Peraturan Perundang-Undangan". *Jurnal Qistie : Jurnal Ilmu Hukum*, Vol.13 No.2 (2020), <https://publikasiilmiah.unwahas.ac.id/index.php/QISTIE/article/view/3908> (accessed on 23 February 2024)

¹⁷Article 95 of Law No. 5 of 2014 concerning State Civil Apparatus (ASN Law)

¹⁸Novianto M. Hantoro, "Klasifikasi Jabatan dalam Kelembagaan Negara: Permasalahan Kategori Pejabat Negara", *Jurnal Pusat Penelitian Badan Keahlian DPR RI*, Vol. 7, No. 2 (2016), <https://jurnal.dpr.go.id/index.php/hukum/article/view/929> (accessed on 23 February 2024)

guidelines are realized and implemented by public officials.¹⁹In addition, public officials must also be able to improve their ability to understand regulations related to alignment between related institutions, which is very important in efforts to strengthen neutrality. In this context, this understanding can reduce the potential for involvement in the election process so that it is in line with bureaucratic reform efforts to achieve sustainable development. In addition, this can also provide support to public officials in upholding the principles of professionalism and neutrality.²⁰

State officials and public officials should follow the General Principles of Good Government (AUPB). The principles of good governance consist of eight principles,²¹namely first, the principle of legal certainty is a principle that emphasizes the foundation of provisions in laws and regulations, propriety, consistency, and justice in every government policy. Second, the principle of public interest is a principle that prioritizes the interests of society as a whole and does not favor the interests of individuals or certain groups in every government policy. Third, the principle of openness is a principle that emphasizes transparency and the availability of public information in every government policy, with the exception of information that is excluded in accordance with laws and regulations. Fourth, the principle of benefit is a principle that emphasizes the benefits and positive impacts for society in every government policy. Fifth, the principle of impartiality or non-discrimination is a principle that prioritizes equal and fair treatment for all citizens regardless of ethnicity, religion, race, inter-group, gender, or social status in every government policy. Sixth, the principle of accuracy is a principle that emphasizes accuracy, caution, and the truth of data and facts in every government policy. Seventh, the principle of not abusing authority is a principle that emphasizes the use of authority in accordance with the limitations and objectives set out in laws and regulations, and is not used for other interests that are contrary to law and morals in every government policy. Finally, the principle of good service is a principle that emphasizes fast, easy, affordable, orderly, accurate, friendly, and polite service in every government policy. There are quite a lot of rules prohibiting public officials from "interfering" especially supporting one of the presidential and vice presidential candidate pairs, including: Law No. 7 of 2017

¹⁹Marratu Fahri,dkk "Potret Reformasi Birokrasi Pemerintahan dalam Pelayanan Publik", *Jurnal Dinamika*, (2021), <https://journal.unbara.ac.id/index.php/dinamika/article/download/767/567> (accessed on 23 February 2024)

²⁰Jacobus Ronald Mawuntu, Jemmy Sondakh, Patria Caraka Regar, "The Neutrality of the State Civil Apparatus in General Elections: A Study of Law Enforcement", *Jurnal Universitas Sam Ratulangi Manado*, Vol. 26, No. 1 (2023), <https://jurnal.fh.umi.ac.id/index.php/ishlah/article/view/v26n1-1/123> (accessed on 24 February 2024)

²¹See Law No. 30 of 2014 concerning Government Administration

concerning General Elections²² regarding the prohibition on state officials, structural officials and functional officials from carrying out campaign activities and using state facilities for campaign purposes as well as sanctions for violations of campaign prohibitions by public officials, including administrative and criminal sanctions.

Apart from that there is also Law No. 10 of 2016 concerning Regional Elections Article 71 paragraph (2): Prohibition for governors, regents, and mayors to use their authority, programs, and activities related to their positions for campaign purposes. This rule is like a fence that separates government duties and political interests. Article 72 Prohibition for state officials, structural officials, and functional officials to use state facilities for campaign purposes. Article 188: Sanctions for violations of campaign prohibitions by public officials, including administrative and criminal sanctions.²³

However, the implementation of the principle of impartiality in the Administration of Public Apparatus for Community-Based Development (AAUPB) still faces various obstacles, such as conflicts of interest in the decision-making process and implementation of government policies. In addition, the lack of transparency is also an issue, especially in the decision-making process. Political intervention still often occurs, both in decision-making and implementation of government policies, as well as the use of the state budget for political interests. This situation can result in the use of the state budget that is not effective and efficient for the public interest, for example, when the state budget is used for political campaign activities which ultimately affect the results of the general election.²⁴

In the 2024 election, the opposite happened. Many violations were allegedly committed by public officials and/or ASN. The violations were allegedly carried out in a structured, systematic, and massive manner. These violations are serious because the organizers could be involved, as could ASN.²⁵ Example of village apparatus deployment. The chaos of the Permanent Voters List (DPT) which experienced inflation. State officials openly admitted that they sided with the

²²See Article 280 paragraph (1), 281 paragraph (1) and Article 282 of Law No. 7 of 2017 concerning General Elections

²³See KPU Regulation Number 23 of 2013 concerning Campaigns and the Code of Ethics for General Election Organizers which emphasizes the principles of Impartiality and Professionalism of General Election Organizers in carrying out their duties.

²⁴Institute for Strategic Initiatives, "Penggunaan Dana Publik Untuk Kampanye", *Jurnal Riset*, <https://media.neliti.com/media/publications/45189-ID-penggunaan-dana-publik-untuk-kampanye.pdf> (accessed on 23 February 2024)

²⁵Claudio C. Warouw, dkk. "Tinjauan Yuridis Pelanggaran yang Bersifat Terstruktur, Sistematis dan Masif dalam Sengketa Pemilihan Kepala Daerah". *Jurnal Lex Privatum*, Vol 11, No.1 (2023), <https://ejournal.unsrat.ac.id/v3/index.php/lexprivatum/article/view/45930> (accessed on 23 February 2024)

Prabowo Gibran Pair. Many people think that this is due to Jokowi's interference, so that ministers, governors, regional heads and village heads have taken sides. Very structured.

The issue of abuse of authority as a state official or public official is inevitable. Many policies emerge ahead of the general election, including the presidential and vice presidential elections. These policies include the distribution of social assistance ahead of the voting, the distribution of basic necessities with pictures of Prabowo Gibran, the increase in Bawaslu allowances ahead of the election and many other things. Very systematic. What state officials and public officials do covers most of Indonesia and occurs very massively. All is not done sporadically but is structured, systematic and massive.

In Law No. 10 of 2016 concerning Regional Elections, Article 71 actually already existsthe prohibition on governors, regents, and mayors to use their authority, programs, and activities related to their positions for campaign purposes in another article prohibits state officials from using state facilities for campaign purposes. Even in Article 188 provides sanctions for violations of the campaign ban by public officials, including administrative and criminal sanctions. These sanctions are like a whip ready to ensnare violators of the rules, in order to uphold justice and neutrality.

Bawaslu's own regulations establish technical rules related to the prohibition of campaigning by public officials and provide guidelines for Bawaslu in receiving reports, conducting investigations, and taking action against violations of ASN neutrality. The problem is, trust in Bawaslu itself has decreased with the many frauds that occurred in the 2024 election.

What do good officials do? If a state or public official does not implement the general principles of good governance, this will have implications for the first undermine Public Trust. The public is the main pillar of democracy. When public officials, who should be role models, break the rules, public trust in the election system and organizers collapses. Apathy and cynicism towards politics can increase, prompting people to be reluctant to participate in elections. Second, weakening Election Integrity. Fair and honest elections are the foundation of democracy. Violations by public officials undermine these principles, creating doubts about the validity of election results and triggering disputes. This can trigger a crisis of legitimacy and weaken political stability. Third, triggering Injustice and Inequality. Public officials who use their positions to campaign have an unfair advantage over other participants. This creates an unlevel playing field, undermining the principles of equality and justice in elections. Fourth, strengthening money politics and other fraudulent practices. Campaign violations by public officials can be an example and encourage other fraudulent

practices. Money politics, intimidation, and vote manipulation can be rampant, polluting the democratic process and triggering horizontal conflict in society. Fifth, tarnishing the Face of Indonesian Democracy. Indonesian democracy is still developing. Violations by public officials can be highlighted by the international media and public, damaging the image of Indonesian democracy in the eyes of the world.

Regarding what happened, it is necessary to find a concrete solution, namely Strengthening Law Enforcement. Bawaslu must be strengthened with adequate authority and resources to take firm action against violations by public officials. Political education is needed for public officials. Public officials must be equipped with a comprehensive understanding of election rules and the importance of maintaining neutrality. There must be increased public participation. The public must be involved in the election monitoring process to assist Bawaslu in detecting and reporting violations and strengthening the culture of integrity. Integrity and professionalism must be the main values upheld by all public officials.

4. CONCLUSION

Maintaining the neutrality of state officials including the president and public officials including leaders in government institutions is the obligation of the office holder. If not done, it will have implications for a chaotic democracy and cause friction in society. The president must not side with one of the presidential and vice presidential candidate pairs and use power to win, let alone use state instruments, both apparatus and policies. The election organizer, namely the KPU, must be neutral, must not be in the shadow of power. Likewise, Bawaslu must function as an election supervisor, must not be weak.

Elections are honest and fair if state officials, both executive, legislative and judiciary are neutral, making regulations that support the interests of the people. The community monitors and reports violations of neutrality. The media provides objective and educational information about the importance of neutrality and civil society organizations educate and encourage community participation in maintaining neutrality. With a shared commitment, we can build an honest bureaucracy and realize shared prosperity for all Indonesian people.

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