

Woman Leader Victory as the Single Candidate in the Elections in District of Lebak Banten Indonesia in 2018

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One of the provinces that contributes to the emergence of women leadership in Indonesia is Banten. Until recently, there are four municipal regions which are chair-headed by female mayors out of the eight regions in Banten Province including Lebak regency. Particularly, Lebak has already conducted a direct local election in June to elect its regional head (regent). Nevertheless, it has a unique and interesting case for further study, namely the re-candidation of the incumbent head as the only 'single' contestant in the election. As a result, the past female head was successfully re-elected to lead the region for the next five years. What are of significant factors that have successfully contributed to the victory of this female candidate? Of what considerations do people finally put their decisions on this female candidate, whether they chose her because of her quality and characteristics of leadership, or any other factors take play to their decisions such as it is only 'single' candidate available? Thus, the study sets describe the factors that are contributing to the victory of her as a single candidate in the elections in Lebak district 2018. This research was conducted through field research by using interviews with related parties in the district of Lebak Banten.

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The existence of Autonomy in Indonesia gives a very wide flexibility for a district / city to be independent, after that, the re-emergence of direct local elections that provide many opportunities for the entire community is no exception for the generation of regions to take part in political contestation. One of them is the province of Banten, the province which was previously the province of West Java had become a spotlight because the former Governor of Banten. Ratu Atut Chosiah was caught in a corruption case. It was highlighted because she was a very famous female leader in Banten because he was the first female governor in Indonesia. Besides the Former Governor of Banten, Ratu Atut Chosiyah, Banten is indeed a province that has a 50 percent female head of region from 8 regencies / cities, namely the city of South Tangerang, Serang Regency, Pandeglang Regency, and Lebak Regency. Women becoming regional heads are the political rights of all people. Political rights are related to an increase in the number of women in state institutions such as the legislature by becoming members of the legislature, including in executive institutions by becoming important officials of government bureaucracy, as well as judiciary.¹

Direct regional elections provide many opportunities for women to have a career in politics and government. Banten is one of the concrete proofs that women in the national political arena are very calculated, 4 female heads of regions are able to become winners in direct regional elections in each district / city.

The fight for regional head elections was again held in Lebak Regency due to the end of the regional head period, in accordance with the mandate of Law No. 10 of 2016, direct elections must be held. Candidate for the incumbent regent, namely the head of the previous region, is the nominated candidates. ²Not only Lebak Regency in the same year, based on Information from the General Election Commission (KPU), there were 13 districts that had carried out democratic parties with single candidate including Lebak Regency. Why can a single candidate exist even though with a direct election system, the community is given many opportunities to participate in becoming candidates through both parties and individual candidates, should the

1 Joni Lovenduski, *State Feminism and Political Representation*, Cambridge University Press, London 2005, p.1.

2 <https://www.kpu.go.id/>.

candidates for regional heads who register to fight be more men and women?

Lebak Regency has finished carrying out direct elections with the results of the re-election of female leaders, and great is a single candidate who is stretched by 10 parties, in the fight against empty box; Iti Oktavia Jayabhaya with his vice, Ade Sumardi won with 453,938 votes.³ The vote is based on 28 sub-districts in Lebak Regency. Lebak Regency is an area that is still lagging, of course, a leader is needed who can advance Lebak Regency and prosper the community, and there are still many problems that must be solved including infrastructure, health, education and so on.

In the politics of Iti Oktavia Jayabhaya is not a new person, before she was a member of the DPRI-RI on commission XI and the Budget Agency, who was chosen from the Election District 1 of Lebak Banten. Historically the father of Mulyadi Jayabhaya was the regent in office from 2003 to 2013. So indeed the Iti Octavia Jayabaya battle in the Lebak regional election can be said that Iti Jayabhaya has the popularity and experience in politics. At the end of the leadership of Iti Oktavia Jayabhaya there was a video circulating about the assertiveness of the female regent in taking action against subordinates who were not right at work, Iti Jayabhaya came to the location and scolded her underneath who worked slowly using the original Lebak-Banten accent. The incident had become a conversation between the people of Banten and its surroundings.

What exactly was the cause in this second period, the female regent of Iti Jayabhaya was re-elected as the Regent of Lebak Regency. This paper will explain whether there is a relationship between female leaders and the election victory with a single candidate, or are there other factors that deliver Iti Oktavia Jayabaya back to being Lebak Regency Regent in the direct elections in 2018.

Research methods

The method used in this study is a qualitative method with a case study approach. This method is considered relevant to the research carrying out to gain an understanding of why was the female Regent chosen in the Lebak Regency. In addition, with qualitative methods, it is expected to be able to explore and understand the meaning of a problem to be studied. This is similar to what was expressed by Creswell (2016, p.

³ <https://kpu-lebakkab.go.id/>.

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4-5) that: Qualitative research is a method for exploring and understanding the meaning of a number of individuals or groups of people who are considered to be related or come from social or humanitarian problems. The research process involves important efforts, such as asking questions and procedures, collecting data inductively starting from themes that are specific to general themes, and interpreting the meaning of data. The final report for this study has a flexible structure or framework. Anyone involved in this form of research must apply the method of view of the researcher who is inductive in style, focusing on individual meaning, and translating the complexity of the problem.

Furthermore, choosing such a qualitative method can surely help the researcher to explore and understand why the people of Lebak Regency prefer female leaders who are incumbents. Are there any things that influence whether there is a relationship with a regional head candidate women; therefore, the information and research data obtained by the author are consistent with what happens in the field and are not manipulated. This is using data collection techniques in the form of library research, fieldwork field studies consisting of interviews and observations. The interview process involved parties such as high-ranking party bearers, community leaders and the people of Lebak Regency who took part in the Lebak Regency on the regional election.

Victory of Woman Leader as Single Candidates in Banten Lebak on Regional Election

Based on the results of the research with the interview method, why in the Lebak Regency Election there was only one candidate (single candidate) who was also a woman. One of the supporters, the Hanura party explained that he still nominated Iti Octavia Jayabaya because there were no other figures. There are party figures/cadres. Because the Hanura Party chair was only one, so it did not fulfill the requirement to nominate its internal cadre. In addition, we also do not have coalition partners and all parties in the direction of their support for Iti Oktavia Jayabaya. Eventually the Hanura Party just joined the flow of support (Muntoha, 2018).⁴ So the emergence of a single candidate in Lebak Regency is due to the severity of the conditions that political parties must meet to propose regional head candidates, Law No. 10 of 2016 concerning Pilkada which requires party parties or joint parties to submit candidate pairs if they have met the acquisition requirements

4 Interview with the manager of the Hanura Party in Lebak Regency.

of at least 20% the seat of the Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD) or 25% of the accumulated legitimate votes in the election of DPRD members in the area. This is what happened in Lebak Regency.

The second party is the Partai Persatuan Pembangunan or PPP, this party also does not have a role that can be nominated in Lebak Regency elections in 2018. Potential candidates are considered not to have the party bearing the Kabah symbol, and political party development or PPP parties only have 4 seats in the Lebak Regency DPRD, so this is also an obstacle in carrying out the Lebak Regency of Regent candidate. By carrying out Iti Oktavia Jayabhaya is a right and profitable choice for the Partai Persatuan Pembangunan or PPP (Fatih, 2018).⁵ Finding a figure in a political party is indeed difficult especially a figure who has a popularity in the electoral area, but not necessarily able to defeat incumbents who have very much election network.

As a Supporting Party, the Democratic Party succeeded in delivering its best cadre, Iti Oktavia Jayabaya in the 2018 regional election, who was also incumbent and was chairman of the DPC of the two-period democratic party in Lebak Regency, the Democratic Party's hard work with several coalition parties got the desired results by defeating empty boxes in Lebak regency elections 2018. (Mahuri, 2018).⁶ This shows that the Democrat party succeeded in regenerating the party by not nominating people from outside the party or its supporting parties.

The results of the study by interviewing the bearer party and supporting parties as well as the community, the victory of Iti Oktavia Jayabaya as Lebak Regent was not because she was a woman. In other words, there was no connection, supporters and bearers of the party and the community who chose Iti Oktavia Jayabaya or chose the Empty box sex as a woman is not a special thing in the electoral landscape in Banten Regency. The track record, experience, and performance and of course the effort of the successful team that determines the victory of the Lebak Regent wins in the regional election fighters. The Lebak Regency community considers women and men to be the same as the most important thing to lead Lebak Regency well. Therefore, what became the capital of the regent in Lebak, it turned out to be a family factor or strengthening. The political network built by political dynasties based on family political closeness led to the closure of political

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5 Interview with the Executive Board of the Partai Persatuan Pembangunan in District of Lebak Regency.

6 Interview with the Executive Board (BPOKK) of Partai Demokrat in District of Lebak Regency.

recruitment for people outside the dynasty (Susanti in Bathoro 2017, p. 114) and almost all parties there was no chance to nominate a candidate for the Regent other than the absence of a figure and inadequate seats in the Lebak Regency of DPRD. It is undeniable that Iti Oktavia Surabaya is the son of the previous regent, Mulyadi Jayabaya, who was in power in Lebak Regency from 2003 to 2013. The same thing was said in Titi Anggraeni's Executive Director of Elections and Democracy or (Perludem). There were two variants of the first candidate in the first election. The single candidate is a person who was previously in power or incumbent and the second is a single candidate who is a relative or family of a person in power, in this case the regent lebak was elected including the candidate who was previously in power or incumbent with added family factors.

The popularity of the Jayabaya Iti is increasingly rising, in the period leading of the Lebak Regency as a regent; she won the best 10 District Innovation Awards in Indonesia on the even of the 2017 Innovative Government Award (IGA).⁷ Lately, there have also been many videos spread in the social media regarding their work that have garnered praise from the public, such as videos that invite people to clean up garbage that goes straight to the times and participate in cleaning up garbage with the community, video of Lebak Regent who firmly reprimands employees work not according to the rules. All of that as a form of capital and strategy in the vote of the people of Lebak Regency, Strategy in politics is very necessary in winning the elections, Peter Schröder (2009.p, 5), political strategy is the whole conditional decision about the actions that will be carried out in order to achieve political goals. In other words, political strategy is a strategy used to realise political ideals. In general, elections, political strategies are important instruments that can be used to win hearts and gain sympathy for political constituents. It is structured as the main framework in determining the pace of political action. Things that are inherent in the hearts of the people and re-elected as regents mean that the candidate for regent of Iti Oktavia Jayabaya has done a good political strategy.⁸

The strategy carried out by the success team is conducting a survey, and in the survey shows, the Octavia Iti Jayabaya is a popular figure and high electability. Despite her position as as single candidate, the suc-

7 <https://setda.lebakkab.go.id/bupati-lebak-raih-penghargaan-pada-malam-anugerah-iga->.

8 Interview with the Executive Board (BPOKK) of Partai Demokrat in District of Lebak Regency.

cess team continued to go down to the community to forgive Iti Oktavia Jayabaya to community leaders and all groups. Because there are concerns that it is still considered the taboo of a female leader in Lebak district, so that the success team massively conducted campaigns and socialisation to Islamic boarding schools in Lebak Regency.

From the results of the interview, the campaign team worked hard to win the Iti Oktavia Jayabaya in the Lebak Regency election, the choice of the community was right, not seen because charisma as a woman, instead the female regent candidate became a special concern for the success team because there are still many people who are doubtful with female leaders, because there is still an inherent culture if women only work at the domestic level. It is normal if the concern arises, the perspective of Ulama of Banten, Abuya Muhtadi, the scholars limits the activities of women in the narrowest and most domestic areas, this could affect the choice of the Lebak Regency community not to choose women as candidates for the Regent and to choose empty. From the results of research in the field and from interviews with local communities, it was found that some Lebak district communities welcomed the nomination for the second time, as expressed by Udin, Candra and Rohim (2018) and they were people who felt the progress of Lebak regent leadership in the first period and feel that the government must continue, so that in general election in 2018 it is not permissible to choose empty box.

The presumption of victory, Iti Oktavia Jayabaya, in continuing her leadership for the second period was because her leadership in the previous period had a lot of progress, especially in infrastructure development, in addition to the existence of health programs with the re-planning of family planning programs and the establishment of family planning villages in Lebak Regency, p. that made many people re-elect the regent, Iti Oktavia Jayabaya, in Lebak district. Then another thing that made the regent in Lebak regency reelected was the progress in the democratic order, where the Lebak regency community felt that there was freedom in democracy which if there was a community visit, the Regent did not forget to listen to the complaints of the community and local figure.

The research conducted by Egarly and Carli (2003) entitled the *Female Leadership Advantage of Evolution of Evidence* which sees female leaders as more democratic is not realised by the people of Lebak district, it may be true that choosing the first regional head is looking at

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track records and performance, but other aspects like women as leaders are democratic

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Democracy is not always ideal, always demands a variety of things so that no actual regime is able to fully understand. When looking for an ideal democracy there is no democratic regime. Single candidates are actually dangerous in democracy; here there is no competition and enthusiasm from various parties. In the direct local election in Lebak Regency, the power modalities finally became the direction of victory. Even the female character is not a thick tie in the direction of victory. Political dynasty in the vision competition of leaders in this study as confirmed by (Dewi: 2016) stated that women who become regional heads are usually family relationships such as father or husband who previously became the head of the regional area.

Conclusion

Lebak Regency Election which was only followed by a single candidate namely Iti Oktavia Jayabaya was the incumbent who had won the 2018 regional election in Lebak Regency who fought an empty box. There is no supporting party that can propose other candidates because there is no figure considered appropriate in the Lebak 2018 regional election. Besides, it also collides with the rules of Law NO.10 of 2018 parties that nominate candidates must have 20% of seats in the DPRD or 25% of the accumulated legitimate votes in the election of DPRD members in the area. The victory of Lebak Regency Regent was not based on her who was a woman who might have certain charisma in leading, the female figure did not become the allure of the victory of Iti Oktavia Jayabaya in the Lebak Regency Election. The community considers that choosing a Regent is based on the absence of other choices and the performance of the previous period has been seen. The victory factor of the Lebak Regency Regent in the 2018 regional election was a family factor because she was the child of the former Lebak Regency Regent. Previously, a factor of popularity and because of competition with empty boxes.



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