



## POLITICAL STUDIES OF REGIONAL AUTONOMY LAW IN TERMS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLITICAL PROMISES OF THE LEADER ELECTED IN RIAU PROVINCE

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### Abstract

*The promise of political became a very important indicator for influencing voters. This study seeks to describe and analyze the political policies of the implementation and performance of the Governor of Riau, Syamsuar, after becoming the regional head of Riau Province. The purpose of this study was to analyze the political relevance of Syamsuar to political promises in Riau Province during his reign. This type of research is normative legal research. The data collection method used in this study is by conducting a literature study related to the object of this study. Data analysis in this study was carried out systematically based on research problems that were described qualitatively. The main theories used in this study are Public Policy and Power. The results of this study show that the political promises of Syamsuar have been implemented as a whole. However, there are some political promises that have not been realized according to people's expectations, especially in the field of infrastructure because they are developing slowly. This is due to the lack of development budgets and the problem of inefficiency in bureaucratic performance.*

**Keywords:** *Politik Hukum, Otonomi Daerah, Kampanye, Janji-janji Politik.*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Legal politics is the policy of the state through state bodies authorized to establish the desired regulations in society and to achieve what it aspires to. Legal politics is a certain social and legal activity in society. <sup>1</sup> One aspect of legal politics is related to the implementation of political promises by regional heads in elections.

A promise is something that must be kept. Moreover, the promise that was said in front of the people was crowded to attract the sympathy and support of the people. Usually this often happens during the campaign period of the candidates for the regional head leader against the voters, because without the votes of the voters to the prospective leaders, the leader will not become the leader. Hari, kebanyakan leader forgets his promise to his voters or followers. Forthat, sudah in his place the newly appointed leader on behalf of the people must do for the welfare of the people he leads.

The expectation is related to the implementation of direct elections, namely assuming that the government will be more democratic, aspirational, and *legitimate*, it is not possible to prevent the outbreak of moral pragmatism. It is this moral pragmatism that makes money politics color every Election, which maintains an oligarchy of power, swallows up very high budgets and fuels

<sup>1</sup> Ma'shum Ahmad, *The Politics of Law After the Amendment of the Judicial Power of the 1945 Constitution*, Total Media, Yogyakarta, 2009, p. 27.

the politicization of the bureaucracy. This phenomenon reinforces the allegations that the regional elections have proven to have failed to elect good regional heads. Democracy at the local government level is understood to be limited to formal procedural matters. Whereas culturally, democracy will flourish if it is sustained by democratic behavior.

Based on the question on the Kompas.com website, namely whether democracy at the local government level that has been running so far through regional elections produces regional heads with democratic character or vice versa has proven to fail to choose good and moral regional heads? It was answered that based on data from the Ministry of Home Affairs, there were 863 regional heads directly elected from 2005 to November 2012, as many as 280 people or 16.2% of whom were entangled in legal problems, especially corruption (83%). As well as the latest KPK records, approximately 22 people from 34 Governors throughout the Province, and 122 people from 542 Regents/Mayors are entangled in corruption problems. This high rate of corruption is associated with the high political costs of regional elections. For example, a governor can spend 60 billion to Rp 200 billion. The political costs incurred are certainly not in accordance with the official income that will be received as a regional head. Bisa imagined bagaimana na the way the head of the region acquired the capital he had spent. Thus arises the phenomenon of deviant behavior (actions that are beyond reasonableness) to abuse its power by committing corruption.

Some categories of forms of deviant behavior in the regional elections include *money politics*, abuse of authority, corruption, and actions related to moral and moral issues. Corruption in Indonesia has certainly plagued the system of filling positions of power. The pattern of replenishment of power carried out through an electoral process that was imaged as full of irregularities led to the result being officials who were also corruptors. This kind of corruption, caused by the perversion of power for personal gain.

The election selection process is expected to end well according to the expectations of the people and elected leaders can make changes according to political promises which of course will benefit the wider community. It turns out that in the reality of the recruitment process, the qualification aspect of ability is marginalized by the aspect of popularity, the ability of financial, and the political party of the proponent. This is where the leader selection process becomes biased. The selection process for the nomination of regional heads factually shows that it has been hijacked by the interests of capital and power, as a result of the high political costs of local elections.

The political process in elections often ignores the design of candidates for regional heads. This is one of the factors that causes the leadership selection process in the regions not to be well selected. The track record of a regional head must be an issue that is put forward in the public domain, so that the public can provide an assessment of the candidate for regional head. The track



record in question is in the form of his views, attitudes about commitment and consistency. Misalnya, towards the values of justice, honesty and law enforcement. On a practical level, it is reflected in his leadership as a leader, namely the bebas of Corruption, Collusion and Nepotism. So that community involvement / participation in determining a worthy candidate for regional leader can refer to the reference track record of the candidate. Or in other words, the track record of the prospective leader should be one of the barometers in the selection process for regional leaders through regional elections.

According to Budaya Melayu, the so-called leader is a person who takes precedence and is exalted, as well as in his decision-making for the welfare of the community he leads. The nature of this, the point of it all is that in the Riau society it is very important that the Melayu community prioritizes leadership that defends and prioritizes the interests of the community in the life of the existing community.

Riau province as part of the ten autonomous regions has a leader who also delivers political promises during the campaign period. These promises are certainly within the scope of change, both physical and non-physical changes. These changes must certainly be enjoyed jointly by the people of Riau. Based on this, the author is interested in conducting a study on the implementation of regional autonomy, with the title: "Political Studies of **Regional Autonomy Law in terms of the Implementation of Political Promises of Elected Leaders in Riau Province**". The formulation of the problem in this study is: What are the political promises of elected leaders in Riau Province? What are the obstacles to the implementation of the political promises of elected leaders in Riau Province?

## 2. IMPLEMENTATION METHOD

This research has a descriptive methodological (illustrate). Descriptive research is a method used to solve problems that exist today based on facts and existing data. This research is to provide a more detailed picture of a symptom or phenomenon.<sup>2</sup> This type of research is normative legal research. The data collection method used in this study is by conducting a literature study related to the object of this study. Data analysis in this study was carried out systematically based on research problems that were described qualitatively.

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A promise according to the Big Dictionary Indonesian is a saying that expresses a willingness and ability to do something. It means that a promise only implies a willingness and

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<sup>2</sup> Bambang Prasetyo et al, *Quantitative Research Methods: Theory and Applications*, Raja Grafindo Persada, Jakarta, 2005, p 42.

ability to do something. If the jani is not implemented or not kept, no legal sanction will be accepted by the person but social sanction will be accepted. This social sanction is in the form of loss of trust and constituents and other negative things. In the political context, political promises are not unfamiliar to hear, especially in the process of elections and regional elections. Every politician must be synonymous with a promise and a successful team appears in public to give political promises from research that is used as an attraction for each candidate.<sup>3</sup>

The political promises offered by each candidate for regional head and his successful team are also said to be political products. In a political marketing, superior political products are needed that can attract mint from constituents. Candidates for regional heads must also be able to build two-way communication with constituents to introduce themselves through the political products they offer.

Similarly, as a Governor of Riau, Syamsuar must be able to convince the people of Riau that he is a figure who is able to bring prosperity to the people of Riau by building two-way communication through his political promises. If the relationship is drawn to the 4 (four) elements of political *marketing* proposed by David Cangara in his book, namely product, place, price and promotion, he almost meets these four elements. Starting from the products he offered according to the needs of the people of Riau in Riau at that time it was still said that the province was still "vulnerable" as a new autonomous region. He uses political vehicles from parties dominated by political parties with religious nuances, namely PBR, PAN, PKB, PPDI and Hanura. All the networks used to promote itself be it the successful team, the winning team of the party, and the aspects of society that support it work well. This is evidenced by the very significant number of votes he got, far behind the number of votes obtained by his competitors.

### **Social Field**

In line with the dynamics of democracy that developed in Riau Province, the journey of socio-cultural conditions including the economy in this province also experienced development. But it is undeniable that the social situation in Riau Province is still far from the expectations of most people, especially the lower middle class. Farmers, laborers, traders, and private employees make up the majority of the social structure of Riau's penduduk. The total labor force in Riau in 2021 was 227,914 or about 61.63% of the 86.62% male labor force participation rate and 36.34% of the labor force rate in women.<sup>4</sup>

This figure is a low figure for the percentage of the unemployment rate in Riau, especially since many women are still unemployed. However, in terms of employment and income feasibility,

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<sup>3</sup> Big Dictionary Indonesian.

<sup>4</sup> Bps Riau Province Data 2021.



the people of Riau are still relatively low. To overcome the problem of unemployment which has an impact on the poverty rate, Syamsuar as the Governor of Riau has a political promise to the people of Riau. On the other hand, the problem of criminality in the Province that is quite eye-catching is drug use, and theft. The main problem is the use of narcotics and illegal drugs in society, especially among teenagers, which has reached a level of concern. The majority of drug use in the Province is among teenagers and youth, in their teens and productive youth. Indeed, Riau Province has collaborated with police officers to socialize the dangers of drugs for the people of Riau, especially young people in Riau. However, it seems that the Riau government and police officers are still less assertive in cracking down and monitoring people who use drugs. It is not enough if Riau Province and the Police officers only provide socialization without being accompanied by concrete actions, especially in terms of supervision and sanctions for Riau people who use drugs.

Similar to Syamsuar as governor of Riau, he must have known the environment in which he governs and what his people need. When viewed with the development of the social environment in Riau, the political promise of the Governor of Riau in the social sector is still not fully successful. Of the three indicators that exist, such as emotionally established relationships with fellow Riau people, there is no sensitivity between fellow religious or tribal believers. However, what is unfortunate is the lack of firmness of Riau Province and police officers in monitoring and cracking down on drug users. And the last indicator that has not been achieved by the Governor of Riau is the low level of the economy in Riau, especially there are still many women who are not empowered so that the unemployment rate for women is very high in Riau.

## **Education**

It is undeniable that education plays an important role in the progress of a nation. The level of education reflects the progress of human resources in a country. As a developing country, Indonesia must be recognized as having a low quality of education when compared to countries on the European and American continents. Education in Indonesia includes compulsory education of 9 (nine) years, compulsory education of 12 (twelve) years, the provision of educational assistance through scholarships for students and teachers, exchange students and teachers, and most importantly the allocation of apbn and APBD of at least 20% is a tangible form that can be seen from the seriousness of the government to advance the quality of education.

Based on the theory of power initiated by Ramlan Subakti, the power that a person has is used to obtain other parties in terms of policy making, the only thing is budgeting. The Governor of Riau has also used his resources in preparing Riau's budget and allocating it to education in accordance with his political promises. The political promises that have been implemented by the

Governor of Riau, especially in the field of education in terms of improving education in terms of physical and providing assistance to underprivileged students, have gone well. Even the people of Riau really appreciate the performance of the Riau Provincial government. The community hopes that in the future every education policy implemented in Riau is indeed profitable in nature and in accordance with what is needed by the people of Riau.

In general, it can be concluded that Syamsuar's promise in the field of education is almost carried out when viewed based on three indicators. First, namely the implementation of the promise to provide scholarship assistance for underprivileged students from Riau. In addition, the improvement of education in Riau during the administration of Riau Governor Syamsuar has also been seen with the improvement and addition of building facilities for the sekolah serta there are excellent classes in every high school in Riau. However, one promise that has not been kept is the problem of lack of equitable distribution of teaching staff in Riau which is caused by the low wages received by teachers, causing a lack of teaching staff, especially in rural areas.

When associated with the theory of power, the task of the executive is to determine decisions that are public service in nature and the executive does not have to account for the decisions that have been taken. Sama case with Syamsuar's political promise, which has not been fulfilled in the field of education, is about the lack of equitable distribution of teaching staff. Syamsuar does not have to account for this situation to the people of Riau. Because there is basically no legal sanction for him from the people of Riau if only they cannot keep their political promises.

### **Infrastructure**

Infrastructure is one of the benchmarks for the presence or absence of development in an area. One of the important agendas in every provinsi is to do development both physically and non-physically. Development in terms of the physical in question is of course development whose results are visible and can be felt directly the function and benefits. And development in terms of non-physical aspects, for example, improving the quality of human resources. Infrastructure is a term used to describe a set of facilities that are deliberately created to support people's living facilities. Infrastructure is usually built to facilitate community activities, such as transportation, population data collection, and other kinds of activities. On the other hand, despite all the positive things that the Governor of Riau has done today, there are still problems that occur in infrastructure development in Riau. The results of existing infrastructure development in Riau so far are far from expectations. For example, in the construction of road facilities in Riau, such as roads in rural areas, it can already be passed by four-wheeled vehicles, but when it comes to quality, it is still far from





expected. Although the road facilities can already be passed by four-wheeled vehicles, in terms of feasibility, it is still not feasible because the road is still not fully paved. This certainly makes road users less comfortable and prolongs the travel time of the road user community. People in rural Riau are feeling this situation. In addition, there are still very few bridges built in Riau during one period of the Governor's administration. In fact, bridges are one of the important factors for the distribution of goods and services to the community.

In addition to the problem of road infrastructure that is still not feasible, the construction of office facilities that are running slowly is something that must be given attention by Riau Province. If the flashback at the beginning of Syamsuar's reign to see a range is this, he only built 6 SKPD offices out of the 38 SKPDs that should have been built and a few connecting bridges between cities. This fact is certainly a disappointment for the people of Riau. One period of government is certainly not a short time to be able to build at least 50% of office buildings in Riau. But again Riau Province has its own answer to answer this question. The main reason for the slow process of office infrastructure development in Riau is because of the limited budget. This is the obstacle why the development process in Riau is running slowly.

Another problem in infrastructure development is that there are still uneven development that occurred during the Riau Governor's administration. Development in terms of infrastructure, in particular, is still centered at several points such as Pekanbaru City, Pelalawan Province, Siak Province, and Kampar Province which are included in Pekanbaru. It is in accordance with the theory of power that one of the duties of the executive is in terms of *budgeting*. Basically, the head of state has the task of designing where the regional budget will be allocated. Then this draft will be discussed together with the legislature and the legislature will give approval when indeed the draft has been on target.

Based on T.A 2021, it can be seen that development in the infrastructure sector occupies the second largest fund allocation position after the education sector, which is IDR 155,613,486,426.00 of the total Riau REGIONAL BUDGET of IDR 754,766,389,131.52.<sup>5</sup> This shows the seriousness of the Governor of Riau to implement his political promises in developing Riau by improving and adding infrastructure facilities in Riau both in terms of road facilities, office buildings, and other public facilities. Indeed, it must be admitted that more budget is needed to add and improve infrastructure in Riau Province. Because when viewed in general, it is not only building infrastructure that experiences problems but also road infrastructure, bridges, and other public infrastructure. If you look at so many points to fix, it is very difficult to realize budget fairness for every infrastructure sector. Because in carrying out bureaucracy and power functions, it has become commonplace to use the principle of priority. Ketika suatu hal diprioritaskan untuk

<sup>5</sup> Bps Riau Province Data 2021.

diselesaikan, maka sektor lain yang akan terbengkalai. Hal tersebutlah yang menjadi salah satu permasalahan terbesar infrastruktur di Provinsi Riau.

Some of the development that has been running in Riau can already be enjoyed by the people of Riau. However, this does not mean that all levels of society have observed infrastructure development in Riau, because some people still regret this situation. Moreover, when compared to other new autonomous regions, Riau is still far behind. The lack of budget is the reason why infrastructure development in Riau has not been enjoyed by all levels of society.

### **Health Sector**

One of the most fundamental and very important ideals of the state is to prosper its people. A prosperous society is certainly not only established educationally, economically, and even must have a decent quality of life. The quality of a person's life is certainly realized by a healthy life both physically and spiritually healthy. Health itself is one of the indicators of public welfare that needs to be considered. With a healthy body and soul, the community certainly optimizes all the potential and abilities that exist in him. This ability is usually carried out for activities, meeting daily needs, and even politically participating in the community. As stated in Law Number 36 of 2009, "That health is a human right and one of the elements of welfare that must be realized with the ideals of the Indonesian nation as referred to in Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia and that every activity in an effort to maintain and improve the highest degree of public health is carried out based on nondiscriminatory principles, participatory, and sustainable in the context of shaping Indonesia's human resources, as well as increasing competitiveness for national development".<sup>6</sup>

Health is one of the elements of public welfare that is the responsibility of the state. The state must indeed pay attention to the health condition of its people in order to create a society that has competitiveness and can contribute to carrying out development in this country. For this reason, the state through every government both at the central and regional levels and stakeholders must work together in providing health services for the people of Indonesia. As mandated in Law number 36 of 2021 Article 4, "The Government and Local Governments are responsible for regulating, fostering supervision and improving the quality of health, planning, procurement, and utilizing Health Workers as needed".<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Agus Dwityanto, *Restoring Public Trust through Bureaucratic reform*, Gramedia Pustaka Utama, Jakarta, 2011.

<sup>7</sup> Agus Dwityanto, *Restoring Public Trust through Bureaucratic reform*, Gramedia Pustaka Utama, Jakarta, 2011.





The Riau regional government under the leadership of Syamsuar has activities that have been carried out in order to improve the quality of health of its people. The health sector was also one of Syamsuar's highlights before serving as Governor of Riau. Moreover, seeing new autonomous regions, medical devices as supporting tools in the medical world are very minimal. For this reason, Syamsuar gave promises to improve the quality of health of the people of Riau. As previously mentioned, one of the executive duties that is administrative in controlling the wheels of government starts from staff affairs, policy selection, and budgeting. If it is related to corruption cases that occurred in the Riau Health Office, it seems that the Governor of Riau has been less successful in carrying out his duties as an executive. It is evident from the existence of corruption cases that can escape its supervision. Because as a regional head, it is the Governor who assigns duties and responsibilities to each existing staff, so it is certain that the leader knows clearly where the position of each staff in the government is.

When something like this has happened, it certainly provides losses for many parties, especially for the people of Riau. The funds that were supposed to be used to provide health facilities that could benefit the community, ironically, were instead used by irresponsible parties by ignoring the interests of the community. Another effect is the emergence of a sense of suspicion and distrust from the community towards Riau Province. In other words, it can be concluded that the implementation of the Riau Governor's political promise in the health sector has also not been fully successful. Judging from the three indicators, only two indicators have been met, namely the addition of Puskesmas and inpatient facilities in each puskesmas have been met. And the lack of health problems that occur in the Riau community. However, the problem of providing medical devices is still not fully met, even there are indications of corruption from officials of the Riau Health Office.

Provinsi Riau is one of the regions in the territory of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia which was formed to improve the effective administration and development in accordance with the mandate of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia. Therefore, the development of Riau Province is carried out in a sustainable manner in one regional unit to achieve the welfare of the people of Riau Province.<sup>8</sup>

#### 4. CONCLUSION

The conclusions of this study are as follows:

To seek the support of the Riau people during the 2020 elections, there were several things promised by Syamsuar Shah before finally being elected governor of Riau. These promises can be classified into four fields, namely, the social sector, the education field, the infrastructure sector,

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<sup>8</sup> Consideration letter b of Law Number 19 of 2022 concerning Riau Province.

**Kajian Politik Hukum Otonomi Daerah Ditinjau Dari Implementasi  
Janji-Janji Politik Pemimpin Terpilih Di Provinsi Riau**  
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and the health sector. The facts on the ground explain that the implementation of the political promise of Syamsuar as governor of Riau has been fully successful. Of the four existing fields, only a few of its promises were not fulfilled, namely the education field and the social field. Even then, there are still obstacles that the Province of Riau adapi in implementing janji-promise from the Governor of Riau. And for the health and infrastructure sector, the implementation of Syamsuar's political promises is still not optimal. There are also some promises that have been achieved, but they are still going on slowly and require a long process and time. Syamsuar's reign as Governor of Riau certainly received various appreciations and criticisms from the people of Riau. The facts on the ground are still several aspects that must be addressed, especially in terms of infrastructure. Road infrastructure is the most frequently complained about need by the people of Riau. The community's need for connecting roads between sub-districts in Riau should be a serious concern for Riau Province. After almost ten years of government running, there has been no proud infrastructure progress in the Riau area. Most of the existing infrastructure is inherited from Riau Province which previously housed the area of present-day Riau Province.

1. Riau Province as an autonomous region has many things that must be addressed. Under the leadership of Governor Syamsuar and Deputy Governor Edi Natar, Riau has more or less undergone changes, both physical and non-physical changes. This change has indeed been enjoyed by the people of Riau itself. However, it is also undeniable that the time of one period of government is a short time to provide change. And of course, during that time, the leader can make mistakes through performance in the wheels of government that is not satisfactory to the people. The lack of budget funds from the center is the biggest reason why the performance of leaders in Riau Province is still not maximal in answering every problem that occurs in the Riau community. Based on the foregoing, the author hopes that Riau will also obtain rights in the form of special autonomy such as in Aceh and in Papua because Riau Province, is one of the regions that contributes its oil and gas revenues to Indonesia.

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