

## POLITICAL DYNASTIES IN GOVERNMENT: A CASE STUDY OF NORTH PADANG LAWAS REGENCY GOVERNMENT

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*Article history: received 19 January 2021; revised 21 February 2021; accepted 26 February 2021*

**Abstract.** The purpose of this study is to analyze how the dynamics of the political dynasty of the harahap clan government in North Padang Lawas, and how the North Padang Lawas people's response to the system of government political dynasties formed in the district. This study uses a qualitative approach with a descriptive method. The informants in this study were selected using purposive sampling, namely by collecting accurate data or information related to the political dynasty of the North Padang Lawas government through individuals who are believed to have sources of accurate information related to research data. The results of this study indicate that the process of political dynasties in North Padang Lawas was formed due to several reasons. The first is from family relations (familism) obtained both in contiguity and marriage. Second, political dynasties are formed through the popularity of prospective leaders. Third, political dynasties are formed from the experiences created by the leaders themselves in the previous period (the quality of leadership) that builds people's trust. Lastly, political dynasties could have been formed due to the influence of the demographic composition of the people who inhabit Paluta district itself, for example the domisioner clan (clan) that inhabited the district, namely the harahap clan. Furthermore, related to the problems above, the community responded with different views, namely positive sentiments and negative sentiments, including: a political dynasty can be a threat to us Indonesians, especially the North Padang Lawas district because it can endanger social mobilization and damage the regeneration of political journeys, as well as the occurrence of practical and dirty political practice.

**Keywords:** political dynasty; harahap marga; paluta community response

### I. INTRODUCTION

North Padang Lawas Regency is one of the regencies in North Sumatra Province, which was a division of South Tapanuli Regency in 2007. The legal basis for the establishment of North Padang Lawas Regency is the Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 37 of 2007 and was ratified on August 10, 2007 regarding the establishment of North Padang Lawas Regency. North Padang Lawas Regency has a fairly large area. The geographic area of North Padang Lawas Regency (Paluta) is 3,918.05 km<sup>2</sup> consisting of 9 sub-districts, 1 kelurahan, and 386 villages. This district has a population of around 263,062 people (in 2020). The first government to serve in North Padang Lawas Regency was the regent of Bachrum Harahap who was elected through the regional elections in 2008. Bahrum Harahap was elected for 2 periods, namely the first period in 2008-2013 and the second period in 2013-2018, with the same representative, namely Hasibuan Risk. The North Padang Lawas Regency KPU has opened the registration of candidates for regent from the party line. At this stage, only one person registered, namely Andar Amin Harahap and Hariro Harahap who were supported by 11 political parties. So that the KPU stipulates that there is only 1 (one) Paslon designated as a candidate by the KPU. All coalition parties have different views, but ultimately provide the same support. There are 11 parties in the DPRD of North Padang Lawas Regency with a total of 30 seats, and all of them support Paslon Amin Harahap-Hariro Harahap. The eleven

political parties each have the following seats: PAN 2 seats, PKB 3 seats, Democrats 3 seats, PKPI 1 seat, PBB 1 seat, PPP 2 seats, HANURA 2 seats, PDIP 3 seats, NASDEM 3 seats, GERINDRA 4 chairs, and GOLKAR 6 seats.

The results of the elections that have been held previously, the Andar Amin and Hariro pairs have high votes by the residents of North Padang Lawas while the votes are obtained from KPU data, namely: registered voters 148,394 (100%), Voter participation: 113,405 (76.42%), Voters did not participate 34,989 (23.58%). Voters Andar Amin Harahap-Hariro Harahap 86,915 (80.13%), Empty boxes 21,559 (19.87%). Prior to his election as regional head in North Padang Lawas, the single candidate pair, Andar Amin, was still serving as the Mayor of Padang Sidempuan and Hariro was the Deputy Chairman of the Paluta DPRD. In the North Padang Lawas regional head election, if a single candidate is elected, in this case Andar will replace his father Bahrum Harahap, who was then the regent of Paluta. So in line with what was stated by (Rumesten [1], (Achmadudin [2]) that in the election of regional heads, regional authorities are widely used by regional authorities by using and utilizing money, time, and relationships to maintain their power. The phenomenon of political dynasties in an electoral district is always accompanied by efforts to extend power. In addition, the phenomenon of political dynasties is always accompanied by the phenomenon of compact support from almost all political parties. The urge to extend or maintain power may be a natural human instinct as a political being. In this case, it is normal that it does not violate the law, if

there is an incumbent who re-nominates himself or his relatives in the next election.

Usually the only candidate in an electoral district is the incumbent. almost all electoral districts with a single candidate are caused by the incumbent factor (Adelia [3]) (Ardipandanto, Arjoyati [4]). The power of North Padang Lawas as an area that can be said to be a fairly new area because it comes from the result of the expansion of the South Tapanuli area. So that this area becomes the territory of authority for the family of the elected Regional Head Andar Amin Harahap because if we examine it more deeply from the beginning of the formation of North Padang Lawas. The one who served as regional head was his father, namely Bahrum Harahap for 2 periods and continued by Andar Amin. From this process we can see that his existence as a ruler is very influential in North Padang Lawas. Because the local community still trusts the regional head The phenomenon of political dynasties accompanied by a single candidate in the election can be said to deviate from the true meaning of democracy, Prianto Budhy [5] stated that: At the local political level, based on the results of research by Indonesia Corruption Watch (ICW) throughout 2010, there were 9 elected regional heads who were still relatives. close to the previous regional head. In line with this, Purwaningsih, Titin [6] that the phenomenon of kinship politics actually occurs not only in Indonesia, but also in other countries such as the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, even in developed countries such as Belgium and the United States. In his research Stephen Hess states that in the United States there are 22 political dynasties in Kurtz II [7].

However, what is a question mark in the 2018 North Padang Lawas Pilkada, why is there only a single candidate in the North Padang Lawas Pilkada in the democratic party and why the Andar Amin Harahap extended family will always rule in the North Padang Lawas. Political dynasties with a single candidate can be considered normal, if the number of voters is very small in an election. But seeing the condition of the number of people in the North Padang Lawas which is currently increasing, it is time for the bachrum harahap government to be replaced. Therefore, it is necessary to be aware of the tendency of the increasing number of regions running political dynasties with a single candidate election system that is not in line with reality. Like a regional leader's election, it can be seen that the choice of political parties is in line with the people's choice, and a single candidate occurs naturally because of the democratic will of a political party or because of political design and engineering to thwart quality candidates just because they maintain the political dynasty system.

In research (Mahardika [8]) it is stated that for regions where there is only one candidate to choose a candidate's image, they are faced with an empty box. The fight at first seemed unbalanced because politically, the empty box was not a candidate who had the political resources to compete, but in the 2018 post-conflict local election there was one area of the empty box that won the political contestation. As happened in Makassar City, the result of the vote was 46,77% chose the candidate pair and

the rest chose the empty box 53.23%. The victory of the empty box in the democratic contestation is not only evidence of people's boredom with the cadre function of political parties, but also proves that the community wants to have a new government leadership by eliminating the harahap clan family which dominates the power of government in the northern plains, ending the political dynasty in North Sumatra. Makassar city. In previous studies, there have been discussions about political dynasties in several regions in Indonesia, starting from the government of President Soekarno to the present. However, no one has discussed in detail and detail about But no one has discussed in detail and in detail what life capital is owned, both from economic capital, social capital and cultural capital which are used as tools of power for elected regional heads. Therefore, the authors are interested in conducting research to see what is the background of the strength of the Elected Regional Head Andar Amin, and what capital is owned by Andar Amin Harahap so that he can be trusted to be the regional head in North Padang Lawas.

## II. RESEARCH METHODS

This study uses a qualitative approach. The informants of this research are people who can be used as sources of information. According to Moleong [9], "informants are people who are used to provide information about the situation and condition of the research background." On this basis it is emphasized that the research subject is a person who has special knowledge in a field, and is used as a source of information to obtain and collect data in a study. Based on the explanation above, the subjects of this research are those who have information and data about political dynasties in the North Padang Lawas district government, including: Paluta KPUD staff, Fak lecturers. Law of IAIN Psp, Secretary of Kesbangpol, Chair of the Paluta Gerindra Party, members of the Paluta Golkar Party, community leaders and religious leaders.

## III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Demographically, there are 272,713 residents (2019) who occupy North Padang Lawas district with 10,529 family heads (2020). Then, judging from the education of the community, the community is classified as developing. The following table is data on the percentage of education for the population of North Padang Lawas Regency aged 10 years and over in the last 3 years (2017-2019). Then, the Paluta community is generally inhabited by the Angkola ethnic/tribe, and is dominated by the Harahap and Siregar clans. There is no real data on the percentage of clan composition, because many citizens have clans, but they are not listed and included in the population and civil records. Thus, to describe the percentage composition of the clan, the researchers took a method by interviewing. The highest position is the clan Harahap. It is estimated that Harahap occupies the position of 80% of the entire composition of the

Angkola Batak tribe, and Siregar occupies the second position.

Table 1. Percentage of School Age Population by Highest Education Completed

No.	Pendidikan Tertinggi yang Ditamatkan	Persentase (%) 3 tahun Terakhir		
		2017	2018	2019
1.	Tidak/Belum Pernah Sekolah	0,96	0,50	1,02
2.	Tidak/Belum Tamat SD	19,11	18,90	16,90
3.	Sekolah Dasar (SD)	29,81	28,03	25,67
4.	Sekolah Menengah Pertama (SMP)	22,23	22,59	25,90
5.	Sekolah Menengah Atas (SMA)	19,36	21,15	22,31
6.	Sekolah Menengah Kejuruan (SMK)	3,70	2,32	2,36
7.	Diploma I & II	0,41	0,36	0,27
8.	Diploma III	0,86	2,25	1,37
9.	D-IV/S1 Keatas	3,56	3,91	4,19
<b>Total (%)</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics of North Padang Lawas Regency in 2020

The background of the occurrence of political dynasties in the North Padang Lawas district government, is based on several factors:

1. BH Regent's leadership experience before leading North Padang Lawas district.
2. The formation of a political dynasty in the North Padang Lawas government is the service of a BH regent in fighting for the expansion of the North Padang Laws district itself.
3. The social spirit of the regent of BH who is known to like to mingle with all walks of life in Paluta.
4. Clan (marga) is also very important in the victory of the incumbent candidate, BH regent to lead North Padang Lawas for two terms.

Regarding the system of political dynasties, this has reaped many responses from the Paluta community themselves. Both positive and negative responses were assessed from all aspects, namely changes in regional development, leadership's contribution to the progress of Paluta district's natural resources, and also the condition of leadership with the political dynasty system. Regarding the response of the Paluta community to the existence of a political dynasty government system, the response obtained was rejection. One of the informants said that he did not agree with the government of the political dynasty system in North Padang Lawas district. According to the informant, government with a dynastic system can hinder the regeneration of government, the region will be difficult to develop due to stagnation of leadership. Another impact of the dynasty, according to him, is the stagnation of government. The perceived stagnation of government may be due to the early age of the government, not long ago. Therefore, it is very difficult to say and conclude that the government with the dynastic system tends to decline and is

not better than the previous government. Because this assumption may not apply to all regions in which there are political dynasties in government.

Based on the results of interviews in the field, political dynasties occur because of the habitus system (direct inheritance) from previous power holders and still have close kinship relations (blood relatives). In other words, the political dynasty that occurred in North Padang Lawas district was motivated by familial factors (sometimes understood as a new social order or 'holder of a new social order'). Familism is a political dynasty government system that emerged and was based purely on direct blood relations in the family (consanguinity) and marital relations (marriage) with other clans (Adelia [3]). In Paluta, the current leader (AAH) is the son of the previous leader (BH) who served for 2 terms, the first in 2008-2013 and the second in 2013-2018. In addition to familial factors and people's trust, political dynasties may occur through the charisma and popularity of the leader himself. Charismatic is a certain trait of a person where it is this trait that distinguishes him from other individuals because of the quality and allure that exists within him. Weber [9] stated that charismatic leadership is based on special abilities, attractiveness and popularity. The charismatic leader he had previously and then obtained from his father, the regent of BH. His popularity as a leader led to the trust of the people of North Padang Lawas to choose him to build the area.

In addition, the demographic composition of the people of North Padang Lawas allows to encourage the process of political dynasties. Based on the demographic data of the North Padang Lawas community, the percentage of the Angkola Batak ethnicity occupies the highest position inhabiting the North Padang Lawas district, dominated by the Harahap and Siregar clans. This encourages the occurrence of political dynasties because of feelings of ethnicity or clan. The closeness of family relations among the Harahap clan has made BH and AAH get a lot of support to develop the North Padang Lawas Regency area. Moreover, the Harahap clan is a hamoraon (considered noble, respected and respected in the traditional lineage) in North Padang Lawas district. In addition to clan (tribe; clan), the percentage of religious adherents also contributed to the formation of a political dynasty in Paluta district. The majority of the people of North Padang Lawas are Muslim. The three previous leaders HA, BH and AAH were all Muslim. The tendency of people to choose leaders based on religion (belief) has been going on for a long time. Then in terms of education, maybe there are still many Paluta people who are still unfamiliar with the Pilkada. Public knowledge about general elections is still relatively low. There are still many people who choose not because of their knowledge of the good vision and mission of the prospective leader, but the principle of following the cardinal directions.

Regarding the practice of irregularities in money politics, we cannot conclude here whether the regents of BH and AAH have ever done this. However, according to the statement of a political practitioner (BH) interviewed, he stated that it was possible that neither of them did this.

Another thing behind the emergence of political dynasties is the legacy of feudalism and the interests of certain groups. Feudalism meant not only the control of economic resources, but also the formation of a network of loyalty in society by involving informal leaders" [10]. In connection with this research, the people of North Padang Lawas responded negatively to the existence of political dynasties that occurred in their area. They claim that the fashion and style of government that was run before was the same as that of today. Because power based on dynasties (kinship/bloodline) causes the election of the next leader to be non-transparent. As previously stated, political dynasties have built strong political networks so that the transparency of recruitment of political practitioners is weak and closed. As a result, people are still hindered by their social status or rights as a result of the political dynasty phenomenon [11].

In line with the previous statement, a supporting statement regarding negative sentiment towards political dynasties was also made by the Executive Director of Needdem, Titi Anggraini [11] published in *voa indonesia.com*. He claimed that "dynastic politics is very disappointing because people are increasingly not getting the opportunity to compete in general elections with the principles of equality and justice". Susanti [12] in her research entitled: Political Dynasty in Pilkada in Indonesia. He stated that this negative sentiment towards political dynasties could not be separated from various cases of KKN involving regional heads and their political dynasties. KKN actions in particular lead to nepotism in office. Indeed, there are not many changes or position changes in the government of BH and AAH regents, but these cases are still found. Constitutionally, political dynasties are not something that violates the rules because the rulers are still won through elections. However, this will not be in line with democracy and actual democratic principles, because political dynasties have created political pragmatism in advance by encouraging the relatives of regional heads to become public officials through the principle of democracy itself, which means political power or government exercised. of the people, by the people and for the people.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

From the explanation above, it can be concluded that the process of political dynasties that occurred in North Padang Lawas district was caused by several things, namely: 1) Family relations (familism) obtained from direct kinship relations (contiguity) or kinship ties that existed from marriage (marriage). 2) Political dynasties occur due to the existence of popularity and charismatic leadership which is an allure because of the certain abilities and qualities of a leader, so that people are encouraged to vote again. 3) The political dynasty is formed from the experiences created by the leader himself in the previous period. 4) Political dynasties may be formed due to the influence of the demographic composition of the people who inhabit Paluta district itself, namely the community whose majority of the population is the Angkola Batak ethnic group and is

dominated by the Harahap and Siregar clans, religion, and the level of education and knowledge regarding Pilkada and politics. Meanwhile, the response of the people of North Padang Lawas Regency to the political dynasty is divided into two, namely positive sentiment and negative sentiment. However, the public's response is more in the negative direction that political dynasties can jeopardize social mobilization and the regeneration of political journeys.

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