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## **CAPACITY BUILDING OF COMMUNITY PROTECTION UNITS IN FACING THE 2024 SIMULTANEOUS GENERAL ELECTIONS IN KARANG BINDU VILLAGE, RAMBANG KAPAK TENGAH DISTRICT, PRABUMULIH CITY, SOUTH SUMATERA PROVINCE**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*The Community Protection Unit (Satuan Perlindungan Masyarakat/Satlinmas) has a task plays an important role in maintaining public order and security during the general elections to ensure the smooth running of the democratic process. Satlinmas units in Indonesia, including in Karang Bindu Village, face challenges in the simultaneous elections, such as a lack of understanding of their roles and responsibilities, lack of training and knowledge about the election process, and lack of adequate resources. This research aims to identify and analyze these problems so that the capacity of the Satlinmas can be increased in facing the simultaneous elections in Karang Bindu Village. This research used descriptive qualitative method with an inductive approach. The data were collected through observation, interviews, and documentation, and then analyzed through the stages of data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions. The research showed that the capacity building of Satlinmas in facing the 2024 simultaneous general elections in Karang Bindu Village has not been optimal.*

**Keywords:** *Capacity Building; Community Protection Unit; General Election.*

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## ABSTRAK

Satuan Perlindungan Masyarakat memiliki peran yang sangat penting dalam menjaga ketertiban umum dan keamanan selama pemilihan umum berlangsung. Satuan Perlindungan Masyarakat merupakan garda terdepan yang bertanggung jawab dalam memastikan kelancaran proses demokrasi tersebut. Adapun sejumlah tantangan yang dihadapi oleh Satlinmas di Indonesia dalam menghadapi pemilu serentak tanpa terkecuali di Desa Karang Bindu yang disampaikan oleh direktorat jendral administrasi kewilayahan secara umum, seperti kurangnya pemahaman tentang peran dan tanggung jawab mereka, kurangnya pelatihan dan pengetahuan tentang proses pemilu, serta kurangnya sumber daya yang memadai. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi dan menganalisis masalah-masalah tersebut sehingga dapat terselenggaranya peningkatan kapasitas Satlinmas dalam menghadapi pemilu serentak di Desa Karang Bindu. Metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah deskriptif kualitatif dengan menggunakan pendekatan induktif. Teknik pengumpulan data yakni melalui observasi, wawancara dan dokumentasi, kemudian dianalisis dengan melalui tahapan reduksi data, penyajian data, dan penarikan kesimpulan. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa peningkatan kapasitas satuan perlindungan masyarakat dalam menghadapi pemilihan umum serentak tahun 2024 di desa karang bindu belum optimal.

**Kata Kunci:** Peningkatan Kapasitas; Satuan Perlindungan Masyarakat; Pemilihan Umum.

## INTRODUCTION

Twice in the nation's history, Indonesia has held general election events with five levels of election simultaneously, namely the President and Vice President, the People's Representative Council of the Republic of Indonesia (*Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat Republik Indonesia/DPR RI*), the Regional Representative Council (*Dewan Perwakilan Daerah/DPD*), the Regional People's Representative Council of the Province (*Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat Provinsi/DPR Provinsi*), and the Regional People's Representative Council of the Regency/City (*Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat Daerah/DPRD*). Further details according to the General Election Commission (in Wibawana, 2023) are 1 President and Vice President, 575 members of DPR RI, 136 members of DPD, 2,207 members of

DPRD *Provinsi*, and 17,610 members of DPRD of the Regency/City.

The simultaneous general elections in 2024 will certainly have the potential for conflict leading to criminal acts or disputes. Based on data from the General Election Supervisory Agency (*Badan Pengawas Pemilihan Umum*) (Badan Pengawas Pemilihan Umum, 2019) in the 2019 general election, there were 581 cases of election disputes at the district/city level and 171 cases at the provincial level, as well as 437 criminal acts due to the election and one of the crimes was the work of a member of the community protection unit (*Satuan Perlindungan Masyarakat/Satlinmas*). In the 2024 General Election, the level of vulnerability to election crimes can be seen in the Election Vulnerability Index (*Indeks Kerawanan Pemilu/IKP*). The IKP of South

Sumatra is categorized as moderately vulnerable, spread across 16 regencies and cities in South Sumatra, one of which is Prabumulih City (Rohekan, 2023). One of the cases was the bribery involving the Commissioner of the Prabumulih City General Election Commission (*Komisi Pemilihan Umum/KPU*) related to alleged vote buying in the 2019 general election (Junjati, 2022). This could give rise to public distrust of the KPU in the next simultaneous general election which can lead to potential conflict. Another case was the stabbing of the head of the Election Organizing Group (*Kelompok Penyelenggara Pemilihan Suara/KPPS*) in Musi Rawas Regency, South Sumatra Province, whose perpetrator was a member of the Satlinmas in Musi Rawas Regency (Kholid, 2019).

The Indonesian government is required to establish a policy that is the initial step of peace, public order, and community protection in facing the election. This is part of the mandatory basic service affairs as stated in Article 12 paragraph 1 of Law Number 23 of 2014 concerning Regional Government. To follow up on peace, public order, and community protection in facing the election, the Minister of Home Affairs Regulation No. 26 of 2020 on the implementation of public order and public

security and community protection was enacted. Article 27 paragraph 1 explains that one of the duties of the Community Protection Unit (Satlinmas) is to assist in maintaining peace, public order, and security in the implementation of regional head elections and general elections.

Based on the Minister of Home Affairs Regulation No. 26 of 2020, Satlinmas is an organization consisting of community elements in the village formed by the Village Head to implement community protection which is all efforts and activities to protect the community from disturbances caused by disasters, to assist in disaster management in reducing and minimizing the impact of disasters, and to help maintain security, peace, and public order during elections.

Satlinmas has an important role in maintaining public order and security during the general election. They are the front line responsible for ensuring the smooth running of the democratic process. Satlinmas members are specially trained to monitor and secure the area around election locations, manage crowds, and provide assistance if needed. In this case, Satlinmas is the spearhead in ensuring peace and order during the general election in the village, so that the community can participate safely. Satlinmas also contributes to creating a conducive environment to prevent potential security disturbances, provide a sense of security for

all election participants, and increase public trust in the integrity and transparency of the general election.

Seeing the importance of Satlinmas in facing the simultaneous elections, it is necessary to increase the capacity of Satlinmas based on the Minister of Home Affairs Regulation No. 42 of 2017, Article 2 concerning the Implementation of Capacity Building of Community Protection Unit Members. The capacity building of Satlinmas members is the process of building knowledge and skills as well as fostering attitudes and behavior of Satlinmas members in carrying out their duties and responsibilities.

The village has a very important role to ensure the safe and smooth general elections which is the main task of Satlinmas. Satlinmas in the village can certainly help handle riots, public order, and security during the elections. In the 2022 Village Head election in Karang Bindu Village, Rambang Kapak Tengah District, Prabumulih City, several riots occurred before, during, and after the election due to the series of events that happened beforehand in the 2019 simultaneous elections in Karang Bindu Village such as group attacks, provocations, and rifts within the Karang Bindu Village Community group (Karang Bindu Village Head, personal interview,

2024).

In ensuring the smooth running of the democratic process, Satlinmas members are specially trained to monitor and secure the areas around election locations, manage crowds, and provide assistance if needed. In this case, Satlinmas plays a spearhead role in ensuring peace and order during the general election in the village, so that the community can participate safely and calmly in this very important democratic process. The existence and involvement of Satlinmas also contributes to creating a conducive environment to prevent potential security disturbances, provide a sense of security for all election participants, and increase public trust in the integrity and transparency of the implementation of the general election (Direktorat Jenderal Bina Administrasi Kewilayahan, 2022)

There general challenges faced by Satlinmas in Indonesia in the simultaneous elections, including in Karang Bindu Village, were conveyed by the Directorate General of Regional Administration. They are a lack of understanding of their roles and responsibilities, lack of training and knowledge about the election process, and lack of adequate resources (Direktorat Jenderal Bina Administrasi Kewilayahan, 2022). Therefore, this research aims to identify and analyze these problems so that the capacity of Satlinmas can be increased to

face the simultaneous elections in Karang Bindu Village. By understanding and overcoming the problems faced by Satlinmas, it is hoped that the simultaneous elections in Karang Bindu Village can run smoothly, safely, and fairly, so that the community can participate effectively in the democratization process and express their political will freely.

## **THEORETICAL STUDIES**

### **1. Capacity Building**

Brown et al. (2001) defined capacity building as the process of doing a movement, or a series of movements to make multilevel changes within individuals, groups, organizations, and systems to improve the ability of individuals and organizations to adapt to environmental changes. While Milen (2004) described capacity as the ability of a person, organization, or system to carry out functions as they should effectively, efficiently, and consistently. Similarly, Morgan (as cited in Suprpto et al., 2021) stated that capacity building is the ability, skills, understanding, attitudes, values, relationships, behaviors, motivations, resources, and conditions that enable each person, organization, network/sector, and the wider system to carry out their functions and achieve set goals gradually.

Thus, it can be concluded that capacity building is a concept on institutional ability to move towards a better direction, which is in line with Grindle (1997) who elaborated the dimensions of capacity building as follows:

1. Human resource development dimensions: namely training, direct practice, working conditions, and recruitment.
2. Organizational strengthening dimensions, namely incentive systems, personal equipment, leadership, organizational culture, communication, and managerial structure.
3. Bureaucratic reform dimensions, namely regulations and policy changes.

In this study, the Capacity Building theory by Grindle (1997, p. 23) was used as the basis to find out about the capacity building of Satlinmas in Karang Bindu Village.

### **2. Community Protection Unit**

According to Eviany and Sutiyo (2023), the Community Protection Unit (*Satuan Perlindungan Masyarakat/Satlinmas*) is an organization established by the village head to implement community protection. Satlinmas members are Indonesian citizens who meet the criteria and voluntarily participate in activities.

### **3. General Election**

General election is basically an instrument to realize the sovereignty of the

people, with the aim of forming a legitimate government and voicing the goals and interests of the people. (Tricahyo, 2009). Based on the definition, general election is a means to obtain the sovereignty of the people, form a legitimate government, and articulate the interests of the people. In Indonesia, citizens are involved in the administration of the state. People's representatives sit in the parliament to exercise the people's sovereignty based on representative democracy or indirect democracy. The people elect their own representatives in general elections held periodically, so that they can fight for the people's aspirations.

Security, peace, and public order are required before, during, and after general elections. Therefore, the Indonesian Military and Police Units are needed to maintain unity and integrity during the general election, the General Election Supervisory Body is needed to supervise election fraud, and Satlinmas is needed to help handle security, peace, and public order during the election.

## **METHOD**

This research used a qualitative method in which the researcher is the key instrument of a research method based on post-positivist philosophy used for research on natural object conditions (not

experiments) (Sugiyono, 2011, p. 9). The approach used was inductive research based on facts and data from the field which were then juxtaposed with relevant theories to reach general conclusions (Arifin, 2012).

The data sources in this research were primary and secondary data. The primary data were the results of interviews with informants, namely from the Civil Service Police Unit (*Satuan Polisi Pamong Praja/Satpol PP*), the Community and Protection Unit (*Satuan Perlindungan Masyarakat/Satlinmas*). The secondary data were documents of the Karang Bindu village profile, the Village Government Administration Information Report (*Laporan Keterangan Penyelenggaraan Pemerintahan Desa/LKPPD*), Strategic Plans (*Rencana Strategis/Renstra*), and the Prabumulih City Satpol PP Work Plan.

Data collection techniques in this research were observation, semi-structured interviews, and documentation. In conducting qualitative data collection, the informants were chosen using the Purposive Sampling Technique by conducting in-depth interviews with 19 informants consisting of the Head of the Prabumulih City Satpol PP, the Head of the Community Protection Division of the Prabumulih City Satpol PP, the Head of the Public Order and Security Division of the Prabumulih City Satpol PP, the Head of the Karang Bindu Village

Satlinmas (the Head of Karang Bindu Village), the Executive Head of the Karang Bindu Village Satlinmas (the Governmental Section Head of the Karang Bindu Village), the *Bhayangkara* Community Security and Order Officer of Karang Bindu Village, (*Bhayangkara Pembina Keamanan dan Ketertiban Masyarakat/Bhabinkamtibmas*), three members of the Karang Bindu Village Satlinmas, and 10 Karang Bindu Village residents.

The techniques used in the data analysis were data reduction, data display, and drawing conclusions and verification. The analysis was based on Grindle's theory, the Capacity Building, which states that capacity building can be divided into three dimensions: human resource development, organizational strengthening, and bureaucratic reform (Grindle, 1997, p. 23).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 1. Capacity Building of the Community Protection Units prior to the 2024 Simultaneous General Elections in Karang Bindu Village, Rambang Kapak Tengah District, Prabumulih City, South Sumatra Province

To find out and analyze how to build the capacity of Satlinmas in facing the 2024 simultaneous general elections in Karang Bindu Village, observations,

interviews, and data reviews were conducted based on Grindle's three dimensions. The results are presented as follows.

#### a. Human Resource Development Training

The first indicator is the training provided for Satlinmas related to facing the simultaneous general election to build the unit's capacity. The training is very important but it has not been implemented by the Prabumulih City Satpol PP. Based on interviews and observations, the training for the 2024 Simultaneous General Election has not been conducted. Training was given in the previous year, but it was only for the basics of marching, understanding regulations, principles of community protection, effective communication, handling emergency situations, and professionalism in interacting with the community.

#### *Direct Practice*

Direct practice has been carried out by Satlinmas to evaluate or measure the performance or results of an activity. Based on observations on the activities and interviews with the head of Karang Bindu village and the Karang Bindu community regarding one of Satlinmas' main tasks in facing the general election based on the Minister of Home Affairs Regulation No. 46 of 2020, namely assisting in maintaining peace, public order, and security during the regional head elections and general elections,

the Karang Bindu Satlinmas unit has carried out direct practice optimally.

### ***Working Conditions***

Working conditions refer to the situation and environment in which Satlinmas works, including aspects such as security, health, facilities, and work culture. It can be said that the working environment of the Karang Bindu Village government is quite conducive and comfortable based on the results of observations and interviews. Erdoni, one of the members of the Karang Bindu Village Satlinmas, stated:

“Overall, I feel very grateful to be part of Satlinmas in Karang Bindu village. A comfortable and solid working environment, as well as a harmonious relationship between Linmas and the community, motivates me to continue to give my best in doing our duties as the front guard in maintaining security and order in this village.”

In conclusion, the work environment supports the capacity building of the Karang Bindu Village Satlinmas.

### ***Recruitment***

Recruitment in the context of Satlinmas refers to the process of selecting and accepting new members to join the unit. The process aims to fill personnel vacancies, strengthen operational capacity, and ensure that Satlinmas do their tasks well at the village or sub-district level. In

the Minister of Home Affairs Regulation No. 26 of 2020, the requirements to become a Satlinmas member are: (1) Indonesian citizens, (2) devoted to God Almighty, (3) loyal to Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, (4) Physically and mentally healthy, (5) at least eighteen years old and/or married, (6) a minimum education level of elementary school graduates and/or equivalent and preferably junior high school graduates and/or equivalent and above, (7) willing to make a statement to become a Satlinmas member voluntarily and play an active role in Linmas activities, and (8) Residing in the local village.

The recruitment was only carried out in the previous period and there has been no new recruitment. It can be concluded that the Karang Bindu Village Satlinmas recruitment was in line with the regulations although it was not carried out annually and in facing the general elections.

### ***b. Organizational Strengthening Incentive System***

In organizational strengthening in capacity building, the incentive system is important to realize a reciprocal relationship for fulfilling Satlinmas' obligations. Based on interviews and observations, the incentive system is in the form of monthly salaries from the government which is paid every three

months. Currently the Prabumulih City Satpol PP pays the Satlinmas members' salary. During election times, an additional incentive of IDR 700,000 is given, but many Satlinmas members have not received membership certificates in facing the simultaneous general election in 2024.

### ***Personnel Equipment***

Not only an incentive system or salaries, certificates, and other things, the personnel equipment must also be provided to support the activities of the community protection unit in facing the simultaneous general elections in 2024. Based on the Minister of Home Affairs Regulation No. 11 of 2023 on Facilities and Infrastructure for the Community Protection Task Force and Community Protection Unit, the equipment is (a) uniform, (b) cap (c) Satlinmas identification card, (d) Satlinmas membership card, (e) belt, (f) shoes, (g) socks, (e) belt buckle, and (f) armband for Squad Commander.

Based on the results of interviews and observations, in facing the simultaneous general elections, Karang Bindu Village Satlinmas had not received their equipment.

### ***Leadership***

Leadership in Satlinmas is the process by which the Head of Karang Bindu Village Satlinmas leads, directs, and

coordinates the efforts of the members to carry out their duties. Leadership in this context involves the ability to inspire, motivate, and guide the Satlinmas members, as well as make the decisions to achieve organizational goals and provide effective services to the community. It can be said that in facing the simultaneous elections in Karang Bindu Village, the leadership role of the Head Satlinmas is crucial. The Head holds the control in planning, organizing, and coordinating community protection efforts during the election period. Thus, the Leadership of Karang Bindu Village Satlinmas can be said to be optimal.

### ***Organizational Culture***

The organizational culture in Karang Bindu Village Satlinmas is a collection of values, norms, beliefs, and behaviors that together form the identity and unique characteristics of Satlinmas. This includes how members interact, collaborate, and adapt to their work environment, especially in the Karang Bindu village government. Based on observations and interviews, Karang Bindu Village Satlinmas members have a strong sense of togetherness and support each other in carrying out their duties as stated by the Head of Karang Bindu Village:

“The organizational culture built in the Karang Bindu Village government is like the village's traditional culture, that is family and mutual cooperation so that the work units in the Karang Bindu can

work in line, but it needs to be underlined that they must work according to their respective duties and be professional in their work.”

There was also a spirit of mutual cooperation and concern for the security and welfare of the local community. It can be concluded that the organizational culture of Satlinmas in Karang Bindu Village is a valuable asset in maintaining security and order in their environment.

### ***Communication***

Communication within Karang Bindu Village Satlinmas in facing the election was the process of conveying information, understanding, and coordination between unit members, related parties, and the community in an effective and efficient way. This was to ensure a clear understanding of security and safety procedures during the election period involving the use of various media and communication channels, directly and indirectly, to present active participation, in-depth understanding, and solid coordination in maintaining order and security during the general election process. Effective communication between Satlinmas and the Police and Satpol PP plays a crucial role in facing the election. Through intensive coordination and continuous exchange of information, these three parties can develop a solid and mutually supportive security strategy.

Open and transparent communication allows them to quickly identify potential problems and take appropriate preventive measures, creating a safe and conducive environment during the general election.

### ***Managerial Structure***

There is an organizational framework consisting of a number of positions and functions responsible for the management and coordination of activities related to the election at the village level. The managerial structure of Karang Bindu Village Satlinmas can be said to have been established. With a well-organized structure, the duties and responsibilities of Satlinmas members can be divided efficiently. Coordination between administrators, field coordinators, and field members becomes smoother, allowing information and instructions to be delivered quickly and accurately. In addition, the presence of a leader who is able to coordinate and motivate members is also an important factor in ensuring operational success during the elections. Thus, the managerial structure plays a crucial role in maintaining order and safety during the general election process, creating a conducive environment for the entire village community.

### ***c. Bureaucratic Reform Regulations***

The regulations applicable within the Karang Bindu Village Satlinmas aim to ensure that elections are held safely, orderly,

and peacefully. Regulations can be in the form of Laws, Presidential Regulations, Ministerial Regulations, Regional Regulations, and so on. The Minister of Home Affairs Regulation No. 26 of 2022 implemented by Satlinmas in facing the election is a solid foundation in maintaining security and order as expressed by one of the Satlinmas members:

“In 2023, we were informed about the Minister of Home Affairs Regulation No. 26 concerning Satlinmas. The socialization provided a deeper understanding of our roles and responsibilities as Satlinmas members, as well as the legal framework that governs our operations. With a better understanding of these rules and regulations, we feel more confident in carrying out our daily tasks in Karang Bindu village.”

By complying with the regulations, Satlinmas members are able to carry out their duties effectively. This includes in-depth knowledge of security procedures, clear division of tasks, and skills in dealing with potential conflicts. Thus, Satlinmas regulations become an important instrument in creating a safe and conducive environment during the election process, which contributes to the smooth implementation of democracy at the local level. It can be concluded that regulations regarding the capacity building of Satlinmas in Karang Bindu Village already

exist but their implementation has not been maximized.

## **2. Inhibiting Factors and Supporting Factors of the Capacity Building of Satlinmas in Facing the 2024 Simultaneous General Elections in Karang Bindu Village, Rambang Kapak Tengah District, Prabumulih City, South Sumatra Province**

### **a. Inhibiting Factors**

The results of observations, interviews, and document reviews showed that there are several obstacles in implementing the Capacity Building of Satlinmas in facing the 2024 simultaneous general elections in Karang Bindu Village.

1. Limited budget for the capacity building of Satlinmas in facing the 2024 simultaneous general elections. Lack of funds results in limitations in training, procurement of equipment, and provision of other resources needed for optimal operations. This financial constraint makes it difficult to achieve task standards, which in turn reduces the effectiveness and efficiency of Satlinmas.
2. Lack of personnel. In Karang Bindu village alone there are only 10 Satlinmas members thus hinders the training and skills development process, because limited resources must be focused on day-to-day operations rather than capacity building efforts. Thus, additional personnel is crucial in

increasing the capacity of Satlinmas, so that they can operate more effectively and be ready to deal with potential challenges.

#### **b. Supporting Factors**

In addition to inhibiting factors, there were also supporting factors. The results of observations, interviews, and document reviews showed that there are several obstacles in implementing the Capacity Building of Satlinmas in Facing the 2024 simultaneous general elections in Karang Bindu Village.

1. Good coordination by Satlinmas. Observation results showed that one of the supporting factors for increasing the capacity of Satlinmas in facing various challenges is good communication. The Karang Bindu Village Satlinmas is able to establish effective communication with various parties, such as Satpol PP, KPU, Bawaslu, and the local community. The communication not only strengthens coordination and cooperation in carrying out tasks, but also increases trust and support from the community. Thus, close collaboration between various parties has been proven to strengthen the ability of the Community Protection

Unit to carry out their roles and responsibilities optimally.

2. Karang Bindu village community awareness. One of the supporting factors for increasing the capacity of the Community Protection Unit in facing the general election is high public awareness of the role and function of Satlinmas. Communities who are aware of the importance of security and public order during the general elections are more likely to support and participate with Satlinmas. This support is not only in the form of active participation but also in increasing trust and cooperation between the community and Satlinmas. This collective awareness creates an environment conducive to learning and capacity building, strengthening the unit's ability to carry out its duties effectively. It was noted that an engaged and proactive community plays a key role in the success of Satlinmas, especially in the context of elections that are often prone to conflict and security problems.

#### **CONCLUSION**

After going through the stages of data processing, in-depth analysis, and a series of interviews, several significant conclusions was drawn.

1. The capacity building of Satlinmas in facing the 2024 simultaneous general

elections in Karang Bindu village has not been running optimally because it requires an adequate budget and supporting resources. In terms of the human resource development dimension, the human resources in the Karang Bindu Village Satlinmas have fulfilled their main tasks in the community. Recruitment requirements have also been met, but training and socialization have not been carried out properly by the government. While regarding of the organizational strengthening dimension, the organization plays an important role in terms of organizational culture, environment, managerial structure that supports community protection units, but there are still many Satlinmas members that have not received adequate personnel equipment. In the bureaucratic reform dimension, there has been changing regulations. Although the latest regulations basically favor Satlinmas, the implementation of local governments needs to be questioned.

2. The inhibiting factors in the capacity building of Satlinmas in facing the 2024 simultaneous general elections are limited budget and lack of personnel. Meanwhile, the supporting factors are good communication and

high public awareness.

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