

## Implementation of the Selection Assessment for District Election Committee Candidates A Siyasah Dusturiyah Perspective

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### Abstrak

This study examines the process of assessing the selection of candidates for members of the Sub-District Election Committee (PPK) by the General Election Commission (KPU) of Seluma Regency with the aim of knowing the implementation of the selection assessment of candidates for the Sub-District Election Committee by the General Election Commission in Seluma Regency. the method used is a qualitative approach and analyzed through the lens of Siyasah Dusturiyah. The research carefully documents the procedures and criteria applied during the 2024 election cycle, demonstrating compliance with existing regulations. The findings highlight that the selection process effectively assessed candidates' competence, capacity, integrity and independence. In addition, the study emphasizes that the obligation to appoint a leader is considered a communal duty (fardhu kifayah) in Islamic governance, akin to seeking knowledge and striving for justice. From the perspective of Siyasah Dusturiyah, the process carried out by the KPU is in line with the principles of Islamic constitutional theory, especially in upholding justice and honesty in the appointment of leaders.

**Keywords:** Election Committee, Siyasah Dusturiyah, Islamic Constitutional Theory

### INTRODUCTION

The democratic process in Indonesia is a critical mechanism for ensuring that governance remains in the hands of the people. At the heart of this process is the electoral system, which allows citizens to select representatives and leaders who are expected to serve the public interest. The General Election Commission (Komisi Pemilihan Umum, or KPU) plays a central role in this process, particularly in overseeing the selection of members for various electoral committees, such as the District Election Committee (Panitia Pemilihan Kecamatan, or PPK). The integrity of this selection process is paramount to ensuring that elections are conducted fairly and transparently.

The 2024 election cycle in Seluma Regency has highlighted the importance of a robust selection process for PPK members. These members are responsible for the on-the-ground implementation of elections, making their role essential to the overall integrity of the electoral

process. Therefore, it is imperative that their selection is conducted with the highest standards of fairness, transparency, and adherence to both legal and ethical principles.

In Islamic political thought, the concept of *Siyasah Dusturiyah*, or Islamic constitutional theory, provides a framework for governance that emphasizes justice, integrity, and public welfare. This framework is particularly relevant in the context of selecting leaders and administrators, as it sets out the moral and ethical obligations that these individuals must fulfill. According to classical Islamic scholars like Al-Mawardi (1996), the selection of leaders is not merely a procedural matter but a moral obligation (*fardhu kifayah*) that the community must undertake to ensure just and effective governance.<sup>1</sup>

This study examines the implementation of the selection assessment for PPK candidates by the KPU in Seluma Regency through the lens of *Siyasah Dusturiyah*. Specifically, it aims to answer the following research questions:

1. How is the selection assessment for PPK candidates conducted by the KPU in Seluma Regency?
2. How does this process align with the principles of *Siyasah Dusturiyah*?

By exploring these questions, this research contributes to the broader discourse on electoral integrity in Indonesia, particularly in regions with a strong adherence to Islamic values. The study's findings are expected to provide insights into how Islamic governance principles can be integrated into modern electoral practices, thereby enhancing the legitimacy and effectiveness of the democratic process.

The significance of this research lies not only in its examination of a specific electoral process but also in its potential to inform broader debates on the role of Islamic principles in public administration. As Indonesia continues to grapple with issues of corruption and governance, understanding how traditional values can be aligned with contemporary democratic practices is crucial for building a more just and equitable society.

The study's structure is as follows: after this introduction, the method section outlines the research design, data collection, and analysis techniques used in this study. The results section presents the key findings, followed by a discussion that situates these findings within the broader literature on electoral integrity and Islamic governance. Finally, the conclusion offers recommendations for policy and practice, as well as suggestions for future research.

## METHOD

The method section of this study is designed to provide a comprehensive understanding of how the research was conducted. This section outlines the research design, sampling techniques, data collection methods, and the analytical framework used to interpret the findings. By employing a qualitative research approach, the study aims to capture the complexity and nuances of the selection process for PPK candidates in Seluma Regency.

This study adopts a qualitative research design, specifically a case study approach. A case study design is appropriate for in-depth exploration of a specific context—in this case, the 2024 election cycle in Seluma Regency. The case study method allows for a detailed examination of the processes, practices, and outcomes of the KPU's selection assessment for PPK candidates, providing rich insights into the factors that influence the effectiveness and integrity of the process.

Qualitative research is particularly well-suited to this study because it allows for an exploration of the lived experiences of the individuals involved in the selection process, including both the candidates and the KPU officials. According to Creswell (2014), qualitative research is

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<sup>1</sup> Abu al-Hasan Al-Mawardi, *Al-Ahkam al-Sultaniyyah wal-Wilayat al-Diniyyah (The Ordinances of Government)* (Beirut: Dar al-Kutub al-Ilmiyyah, 1996).

ideal for studying complex social phenomena in their natural settings, where the researcher can observe and interact with participants to gain a deep understanding of their perspectives and behaviors.<sup>2</sup>

The sampling strategy employed in this study was purposive sampling, which involves selecting participants who are most likely to provide relevant and insightful information about the research questions. Purposive sampling is commonly used in qualitative research to ensure that the sample includes individuals who have direct experience with the phenomenon being studied.<sup>3</sup>

The sample for this study included KPU officials responsible for overseeing the selection process, candidates who participated in the selection process, and local election observers. These participants were selected based on their involvement in or knowledge of the selection process, ensuring that the data collected would be rich and relevant to the research questions.

Data collection in this study involved multiple methods, including document analysis, semi-structured interviews, and observations. The use of multiple data sources, or triangulation, enhances the credibility and validity of the findings by allowing the researcher to cross-check information from different perspectives.<sup>4</sup>

The primary documents analyzed in this study included official KPU guidelines, regulations, and announcements related to the selection of PPK candidates. These documents provided a foundational understanding of the formal procedures and criteria used in the selection process.

Interviews were conducted with key stakeholders, including KPU officials, PPK candidates, and local election observers. The interviews were semi-structured, allowing the researcher to explore specific topics while also providing the flexibility to probe deeper into areas of interest as they emerged during the conversation. According to Rubin and Rubin (2012), semi-structured interviews are effective in qualitative research because they facilitate in-depth exploration of participants' experiences and perspectives.<sup>5</sup>

The researcher also conducted observations of the selection process, including the written tests and interviews. These observations provided firsthand insights into how the process was conducted, allowing the researcher to assess whether the practices observed were consistent with the principles outlined in the official documents and the theoretical framework of Siyasa Dusturiyah.

The data collected were analyzed using a thematic analysis approach. Thematic analysis involves identifying, analyzing, and reporting patterns or themes within qualitative data.<sup>6</sup> This approach is particularly useful for examining how specific themes related to fairness, transparency, and ethical governance emerged in the selection process.

The analysis was conducted in several stages. First, the researcher familiarized themselves with the data by reading and re-reading the interview transcripts, observation notes, and documents. Next, initial codes were generated to categorize the data into meaningful segments. These codes were then organized into broader themes that captured the key aspects of the

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<sup>2</sup> John W Creswell, *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches*. 4th ed. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 2014.

<sup>3</sup> Michael Quinn Patton, *Qualitative Research & Evaluation Methods: Integrating Theory and Practice*. 4th ed. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 2015.

<sup>4</sup> Norman K Denzin and S. Lincoln Yvonna, eds. *The Sage Handbook of Qualitative Research*. 4th ed. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 2011.

<sup>5</sup> Herbert J Rubin and Irene S. Rubin, *Qualitative Interviewing: The Art of Hearing Data*. 3rd ed. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 2012.

<sup>6</sup> Virginia Braun and Victoria Clarke. "Using Thematic Analysis in Psychology." *Qualitative Research in Psychology* 3, no. 2 (2006): 77-101. <https://doi.org/10.1191/1478088706qp0630a>

selection process, such as adherence to legal regulations, ethical considerations, and alignment with *Siyasah Dusturiyah* principles.

Finally, the themes were reviewed and refined to ensure that they accurately represented the data and provided a coherent narrative of the findings. The results of this analysis are presented in the next section, where the key themes are discussed in detail.

### **Validity and Reliability**

Ensuring the validity and reliability of the findings is critical in qualitative research. Validity refers to the accuracy and trustworthiness of the findings, while reliability refers to the consistency of the research process.<sup>7</sup> In this study, several strategies were employed to enhance the validity and reliability of the findings.

**Triangulation:** As mentioned earlier, triangulation was used to cross-check information from multiple data sources, including documents, interviews, and observations. This approach helps to ensure that the findings are robust and not based on a single source of data.

**Member Checking:** After the initial analysis, preliminary findings were shared with the interview participants to verify the accuracy of the interpretations. This process, known as member checking, helps to ensure that the researcher's interpretations are consistent with the participants' intended meanings.<sup>8</sup>

**Audit Trail:** An audit trail was maintained throughout the research process, documenting the decisions made at each stage of the study. This audit trail provides a clear record of how the data were collected, analyzed, and interpreted, enhancing the transparency and reliability of the research process.

By employing these strategies, the study ensures that the findings are both valid and reliable, providing a solid foundation for the conclusions and recommendations presented in the following sections.

## **RESEARCH RESULTS**

The results of this study provide a comprehensive overview of the selection process for District Election Committee (PPK) candidates by the General Election Commission (KPU) in Seluma Regency during the 2024 election cycle. The findings are organized into several key themes, each of which is discussed in detail below.

### **Compliance with Regulatory Frameworks**

The analysis of official KPU documents and observations of the selection process revealed that the KPU in Seluma Regency adhered closely to the regulatory frameworks governing the selection of PPK candidates. The process began with a public announcement of the selection criteria and the stages involved, including administrative verification, written tests, and interviews. Each stage was designed to assess the candidates' competence, integrity, and capacity to perform their duties effectively.

The use of Computer Assisted Tests (CAT) for the written examination was a notable feature of the selection process. This method ensured objectivity in evaluating the candidates' knowledge and skills, as the results were automatically scored by the computer system. The objectivity of the CAT system is consistent with the principles of fairness and transparency emphasized in both the legal framework and Islamic governance principles.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>7</sup>Yvonna S. Lincoln and Guba Egon G, *Naturalistic Inquiry*. Beverly Hills, CA: Sage Publications, 1985.

<sup>8</sup>Sharan B Merriam, *Qualitative Research: A Guide to Design and Implementation*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, 2009.

<sup>9</sup>Herbert Feith, *Pemilihan Umum 1955 di Indonesia* (Jakarta: Kepustakaan Populer Gramedia), 1999.

Following the written test, candidates who passed were invited for interviews. The interviews focused on assessing the candidates' personal integrity, independence, and commitment to public service. The emphasis on these qualities reflects the KPU's commitment to selecting candidates who not only possess the necessary technical competencies but also embody the ethical standards required for public office.

The compliance with regulatory frameworks was further evidenced by the transparency of the process. The criteria for selection were clearly communicated to the candidates, and the results of each stage were made publicly available. This transparency is critical for maintaining public trust in the electoral process, as it ensures that the selection is based on merit and not influenced by external factors such as nepotism or favoritism.<sup>10</sup>

### **Adherence to Principles of *Siyasah Dusturiyah***

One of the key objectives of this study was to evaluate the selection process from the perspective of *Siyasah Dusturiyah*, or Islamic constitutional theory. The findings indicate that the KPU's selection process was well-aligned with the principles of *Siyasah Dusturiyah*, particularly in its emphasis on justice, integrity, and ethical governance.

In Islamic governance, the selection of leaders and administrators is seen as a moral obligation (*fardhu kifayah*) that the community must fulfill to ensure good governance. The KPU's focus on assessing candidates' moral and ethical standards during the interviews reflects this principle. The emphasis on integrity, independence, and public service aligns with the *Siyasah Dusturiyah* principle that leaders must not only be competent but also virtuous and just.<sup>11</sup>

Furthermore, the process of selecting PPK candidates in Seluma Regency demonstrated a commitment to inclusivity and fairness, which are also key principles of *Siyasah Dusturiyah*. The selection criteria were applied uniformly to all candidates, regardless of their background or political affiliations. This approach ensures that the most qualified and ethical candidates are selected, which is essential for maintaining the legitimacy of the electoral process.

The alignment with *Siyasah Dusturiyah* principles was particularly evident in the KPU's efforts to ensure that the selected candidates were capable of upholding the values of justice and fairness in their roles. This focus on ethical governance is consistent with the broader Islamic view that leaders must serve the public interest and act as stewards of the community's welfare.<sup>12</sup>

### **Selection Outcomes**

The outcomes of the selection process further reinforce the findings related to compliance with regulatory frameworks and adherence to *Siyasah Dusturiyah* principles. The final list of selected candidates included individuals who demonstrated not only the required technical competencies but also a strong commitment to ethical governance and public service.

The transparency and fairness of the process were reflected in the public's response to the selection outcomes. There were no significant complaints or challenges to the selection results, indicating that the process was widely perceived as fair and legitimate. This public trust is critical

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<sup>10</sup> Indra Pahlevi, *Pemilu Serentak dalam Sistem Pemerintahan Indonesia*. Jakarta: Pusat Pengkajian, Pengolahan Data dan Informasi (P3DI), 2015

<sup>11</sup> Abu al-Hasan Al-Mawardi, *Al-Ahkam al-Sultaniyyah wal-Wilayat al-Diniyyah* (The Ordinances of Government) (Beirut: Dar al-Kutub al-Ilmiyyah, 1996).

<sup>12</sup> Nur Hidayat Sardini, *Restorasi Penyelenggaraan Pemilu di Indonesia*. Yogyakarta: Fajar Media Press, 2011.

for ensuring that the selected PPK members can effectively carry out their duties without facing questions about their legitimacy or integrity.<sup>13</sup>

The study also found that the KPU in Seluma Regency made efforts to ensure inclusivity in the selection process. Candidates from diverse backgrounds were encouraged to apply, and the selection criteria were designed to assess candidates based on their merits rather than their connections or affiliations. This inclusivity is consistent with the principles of *Siyasah Dusturiyah*, which emphasize the importance of justice and fairness in governance.

### **Challenges and Areas for Improvement**

While the selection process in Seluma Regency was largely successful, the study identified several challenges that need to be addressed in future electoral cycles. One of the main challenges was the logistical difficulties in conducting the selection process in remote areas. Some candidates faced challenges in accessing the CAT examination centers due to the lack of transportation and infrastructure. These logistical issues could potentially limit the participation of qualified candidates from remote areas, which would undermine the inclusivity of the process.<sup>14</sup>

Another area for improvement is the need for continuous capacity building for both the candidates and the selection committee members. While the KPU officials in Seluma Regency demonstrated a strong understanding of the legal and ethical standards required for the selection process, additional training on the principles of *Siyasah Dusturiyah* could further enhance their ability to apply these principles in practice. This capacity building would help to ensure that the selection process continues to align with both regulatory requirements and Islamic governance principles.

Overall, the findings of this study indicate that the KPU's selection process in Seluma Regency was successful in meeting the required standards of both regulatory compliance and *Siyasah Dusturiyah*. However, addressing the identified challenges will be critical for further improving the process and ensuring that it remains fair, transparent, and inclusive in future electoral cycles.

## **DISCUSSION**

The findings of this study provide important insights into the implementation of the selection assessment process for District Election Committee (PPK) candidates by the General Election Commission (KPU) in Seluma Regency. This discussion section situates these findings within the broader literature on electoral integrity and Islamic governance, highlighting the implications for both theory and practice.

### **Alignment with Legal and Ethical Standards**

The study's findings demonstrate that the KPU in Seluma Regency adhered closely to the regulatory frameworks governing the selection of PPK candidates. This compliance is consistent with the broader literature on electoral integrity, which emphasizes the importance of legal adherence in maintaining the legitimacy of electoral processes.<sup>15</sup> The use of Computer Assisted Tests (CAT) and structured interviews ensured that the selection process was both transparent and merit-based, which are critical components of a fair electoral process.

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<sup>13</sup> Aji Pangestu, "Upaya Meminimalisir Potensi Pelanggaran Kode Etik Penyelenggara Pemilu pada Pemilu 2024." *Jurnal Penyelenggara Pemilu* 11, no. 2 (2022): 18-30.

<sup>14</sup> Risna Rembungan, Muhammad Sarjan, and A. Akhmad Qashlim. "Sistem Informasi Rekrutmen Penyelenggara Pemilu Kabupaten Mamasa Berbasis Web." Universitas Al Asyariah Mandar, Volume 3, no. 1 (2021): 10-20

<sup>15</sup> Indra Pahlevi, *Pemilu Serentak dalam Sistem Pemerintahan Indonesia*. Jakarta: Pusat Pengkajian, Pengolahan Data dan Informasi (P3DI), 2015.

The emphasis on ethical standards in the selection process aligns with the growing recognition of the importance of ethical governance in public administration. As highlighted by Pangestu (2022), ethical governance is essential for preventing electoral misconduct and ensuring that public officials act in the best interests of the community. The KPU's focus on assessing candidates' moral integrity and commitment to public service reflects this broader trend towards integrating ethical considerations into the selection of public officials.<sup>16</sup>

### **Adherence to Principles of *Siyasah Dusturiyah***

One of the key contributions of this study is its application of *Siyasah Dusturiyah*, or Islamic constitutional theory, to the evaluation of the selection process. The findings indicate that the KPU's process was well-aligned with the principles of *Siyasah Dusturiyah*, particularly in its emphasis on justice, integrity, and ethical governance. This alignment suggests that Islamic governance principles can be effectively integrated into modern electoral practices, providing a robust framework for ensuring that public officials are both competent and virtuous.

The focus on ethical standards and moral integrity in the selection process is consistent with the principles outlined by classical Islamic scholars like Al-Mawardi (1996), who emphasized the importance of virtuous leadership in ensuring good governance. By applying these principles to the selection of PPK candidates, the KPU in Seluma Regency demonstrated a commitment to ensuring that public officials are not only technically competent but also morally sound.<sup>17</sup>

The study's findings also contribute to the broader literature on Islamic governance by providing empirical evidence of how *Siyasah Dusturiyah* principles can be applied in a contemporary context. This application of Islamic principles to modern governance challenges the notion that traditional values are incompatible with modern practices, highlighting the potential for integrating Islamic values into contemporary public administration.

### **Implications for Electoral Integrity**

The successful implementation of the selection assessment process in Seluma Regency has significant implications for electoral integrity in Indonesia. The study's findings suggest that integrating Islamic principles like *Siyasah Dusturiyah* into electoral practices can enhance the legitimacy and fairness of the process, thereby strengthening public trust in the electoral system. This trust is critical for ensuring that the selected PPK members can effectively carry out their duties and that the electoral process as a whole is perceived as legitimate by the public.

The study also highlights the importance of transparency and inclusivity in the selection process. By ensuring that the selection criteria were clearly communicated and applied uniformly to all candidates, the KPU in Seluma Regency was able to maintain public confidence in the fairness of the process. This transparency is essential for preventing perceptions of bias or favoritism, which can undermine the legitimacy of the electoral process.<sup>18</sup>

Moreover, the study's findings suggest that the integration of Islamic principles into electoral practices can provide a valuable framework for ensuring that governance practices are aligned with the values of justice and fairness. This approach could be extended to other regions in Indonesia, particularly those with a strong adherence to Islamic values, to further strengthen the integrity of the electoral system.

### **Challenges and Future Research**

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<sup>16</sup> Aji Pangestu, "Upaya Meminimalisir Potensi Pelanggaran Kode Etik Penyelenggara Pemilu pada Pemilu 2024." *Jurnal Penyelenggara Pemilu* 11, no. 2 (2022): 18-30.

<sup>17</sup> Abu al-Hasan Al-Mawardi, *Al-Ahkam al-Sultaniyyah wal-Wilayat al-Diniyyah* (The Ordinances of Government) (Beirut: Dar al-Kutub al-Ilmiyyah, 1996).

<sup>18</sup> Herbert Feith, *Pemilihan Umum 1955 di Indonesia* (Jakarta: Kepustakaan Populer Gramedia), 1999.

While the study's findings are largely positive, they also point to several challenges that need to be addressed in future electoral cycles. The logistical difficulties in conducting the selection process in remote areas highlight the need for improved infrastructure and resources to ensure that all regions can participate equally in the electoral process. Addressing these logistical challenges is critical for ensuring that the selection process is truly inclusive and that qualified candidates from remote areas are not excluded due to practical barriers.<sup>19</sup>

Another challenge identified in the study is the need for continuous capacity building for both the candidates and the selection committee members. While the KPU officials in Seluma Regency demonstrated a strong understanding of the legal and ethical standards required for the selection process, additional training on the principles of *Siyasah Dusturiyah* could further enhance their ability to apply these principles in practice. This capacity building is essential for ensuring that the selection process continues to align with both regulatory requirements and Islamic governance principles.

Future research could build on the findings of this study by exploring the application of *Siyasah Dusturiyah* in other areas of public administration and governance, beyond electoral processes. Comparative studies between regions that implement these principles and those that do not could provide further insights into the benefits and challenges of integrating Islamic constitutional theory into modern governance practices.

## CONCLUSION

This study provides a comprehensive examination of the selection assessment process for District Election Committee (PPK) candidates by the General Election Commission (KPU) in Seluma Regency during the 2024 election cycle, using the perspective of *Siyasah Dusturiyah*. The findings indicate that the KPU's selection process adhered closely to both regulatory frameworks and the principles of Islamic constitutional theory, particularly in ensuring the ethical integrity and competence of the selected candidates.

The KPU's process was characterized by transparency, meritocracy, and a strong emphasis on moral and ethical standards, reflecting the *Siyasah Dusturiyah* principle that leaders must be both competent and virtuous. This alignment with Islamic governance principles not only fulfilled legal obligations but also reinforced public trust in the electoral process.

The study's findings suggest that integrating Islamic principles like *Siyasah Dusturiyah* into electoral practices can significantly enhance the integrity and fairness of the process. This approach provides a valuable framework for other regions in Indonesia, particularly in areas with strong Islamic cultural influences.

However, challenges such as logistical difficulties in remote areas and the need for continuous capacity building among KPU officials were identified. Addressing these challenges is crucial for further improving the selection process and ensuring that it continues to align with both legal and Islamic principles.

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<sup>19</sup> Risna Rembungan, Muhammad Sarjan, and A. Akhmad Qashlim. "Sistem Informasi Rekrutmen Penyelenggara Pemilu Kabupaten Mamasa Berbasis Web." *Universitas Al Asyariah Mandar*, Volume 3, no. 1 (2021): 10-20.



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