

Conference Paper

Power Sharing of Political Position in Jeneponto Regency

Syarifuddin*, Jumadi, Muhammad Syukur

State University of Makassar, Indonesia

ORCIDSyarifuddin: <https://orcid.org/0009-0003-0546-0639>Jumadi: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9246-2610>Muhammad Syukur: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2547-6107>**Abstract.**

This study aims to explore in-depth, discuss, and provide a detailed description of power distribution in political positions in Jeneponto. The power-sharing of political position in Jeneponto Regency can be seen from several aspects, first, power-sharing is intended to create a balance, harmony, and political order by adhering to the principle of checks and balances. Second, it anticipates the occurrence of power practices dominated by specific groups or factions. Third, it is a political strategy to acquire power and fight for the rights and interests of the people. This research is qualitative and descriptive in nature. The informants of this study were government officials, political party leaders, general election commission commissioners, and registered voters selected through a purposive sampling technique. Data collection techniques included observation, interviews, and documentation. The data analysis techniques used were data presentation, data reduction, and conclusion. The results of the study indicate that (1) an imbalance was observed in the distribution of political power, which has the potential to create political imbalance, disharmony, and division. (2) There is a tendency for power distribution to be dominated by specific groups or factions. (3) There is still the practice of oligarchy driven by political elites who prioritize their interests and their groups while neglecting or disregarding the interests of others and the general public.

Keywords: power sharing, political positions

Corresponding Author:

Syarifuddin; email:

syarifuddin7987@gmail.com

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1. Introduction

Indonesia is a country formed by cultural diversity and vast territory. Its historical footprint as a former colony named the Dutch East Indies has transformed its feudal government into a sovereign state. Indonesia, initially consisting of various local kingdoms, later became a unitary state in the form of a republic [1].

As a unitary state, the government in Indonesia has the power to govern every region, spanning from the western tip of Sumatra to the eastern tip of Papua Island. According to C.F. Strong, a unitary state has centralized sovereignty in the central government,

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based on the principle that only the central government has the authority to create laws [2].

There are two underlying reasons for the devolution of power from the central government to local governments to govern and manage their respective regions. Firstly, due to Indonesia's vast territory, it is impractical for the central government to control and manage such a large area. Secondly, the aspiration to achieve democratic welfare cannot be realized without the distribution of power from the central government to local governments [2].

Jeneponto is one of the regions in Indonesia located in the province of South Sulawesi. As a region with a rich historical heritage of its past kingdoms, the division of political power in Jeneponto is interesting to explore further. Essentially, the division of political power in Jeneponto is intended to create balance, harmony, and political order by adhering to the principle of checks and balances.

The division of political power, which prevents power from being centralized in a single institution or party, creates balance, harmony, and order. This is in line with the principle of checks and balances. The principle of checks and balances is crucial for governance in Jeneponto to ensure a democratic government. Each element of the government must mutually control and oversee each other to prevent any institution or party from abusing power [3].

The principle of checks and balances assigns clear functions and authorities to each institution. Clear authorities and functions are essential for the continuity of governance. Checks and balances eliminate the overlapping of power and authority among institutions, as each institution has its own specific powers and functions. Consequently, power does not concentrate on a single institution as its central point [4].

The division of political power also aims to anticipate the dominance of power by specific groups or factions. Power dominance sometimes arises when power is centralized in a single institution or government. Horizontal power dominance occurs when there is no division of power among equivalent institutions. Vertical power dominance occurs when power solely resides in the central government [5].

The presence of horizontal power division gives rise to the division of institutions, namely the legislative, executive, and judiciary. The legislative branch is responsible for creating laws, such as the DPR (People's Consultative Assembly). The legislative institution only has the authority to draft laws that serve as the foundation for decision-making by stakeholders. The executive branch, consisting of the president, vice president, and ministers, enforces the laws established by the legislative branch. In the event of disputes and legal issues, the judiciary, as the institution upholding the law,

ensures justice based on the laws created by the legislative branch and enforced by the executive branch [6].

The division of political power is also a political strategy to acquire power and advocate for the rights and interests of the people. This aligns with the principle of democracy, which emphasizes the sovereignty of the people, by the people, and for the people. Power is exercised to create better conditions and situations. The welfare of the people becomes the goal pursued by every government. With the division of power, local governments can fight for the rights and interests of their own people, thus achieving social justice, which is the nation's aspiration [7].

2. Research Methodology

This research utilizes a descriptive qualitative research approach, which aims to describe and analyze phenomena as they are. The studied phenomena are described in detail to understand their development [8]. This type of research is based on the analysis of data obtained by the researcher from the field, which is then described in words and not obtained through statistical procedures [9].

Data collection techniques are carried out through observation, interviews, and documentation. Observation involves observing the phenomena under investigation. Interviews are conducted through direct question-and-answer sessions with informants. Documentation involves collecting relevant documents related to the research problem. The data analysis technique used includes data presentation, data reduction, and concluding [10].

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Inequality in the division of political power

Inequality can be defined as a condition when something becomes unbalanced or biased. Inequality in the division of political power occurs when certain groups or factions have greater and more influential power than other groups or factions [11]. Such a condition has the potential to create imbalance, disharmony, and political divisions that can disrupt the functioning of the existing government system in Jeneponto.

First, there is an imbalance. The imbalance in the division of political power in Jeneponto can create imbalance. This is because every government system fundamentally requires control and supervision from other institutions to maintain balance.

When power is heavily concentrated in only one group or institution, it leads to abuses of power by the ruling group.

The principle of separation of powers is a concept used to create a balance of power in a government system. According to this concept, power must be divided into three forms: the power to make laws (legislative), the power to execute laws (executive), and the power to judge and enforce laws (judiciary) [5].

Second, there is disharmony. Disharmony means a state characterized by a lack of harmony. In essence, the division of power is meant to make institutions equal and aligned. The division of power establishes clear boundaries and jurisdictions for each institution or government, making each institution accountable for its respective tasks. This condition eventually leads to harmony or alignment, as even though power is divided, it cannot be separated and can foster cooperation [5].

Third, there is political division. Centralized power is vulnerable to political divisions. Abuses of power create opposition groups that seek to overthrow the regime or ruling government. Undivided power generates social jealousy and triggers criticisms, leading to political divisions because policy-making does not involve various stakeholders.

3.2. Dominance of power by certain groups or factions

The division of power is still dominated by certain groups or factions. This is because some groups or factions are superior and dominate the political arena. The nobility is a group that dominates the power structure in Jeneponto. The nobility, which holds the highest status in the society of South Sulawesi, especially in Jeneponto, holds power, and its influence is strongly felt in governance and politics [12].

The nobility, specifically the descendants of karaeng, hold a high status in Jeneponto society. They were the holders of the highest power in the past, acting as rulers who governed every aspect of their people's lives. After Indonesia gained independence and Jeneponto became part of Indonesia, the sacredness and position of karaeng have not been completely displaced. Karaeng is still placed in a different position from the general population.

The existence of noble descendants leads to the dominance of power in the government. The nobility and their descendants dominate power and centralize it within the karaeng lineage. The community still holds a high level of trust in the noble descendants due to the feudal history of the past. The nobility is seen as the highest stratum entitled to occupy positions in the government. As a result, there is a noticeable dominance by the noble descendants [13].

The dominance of power is caused by the presence of kinship politics within the government structure. This is in line with the term nepotism, which is the tendency to prioritize one's relatives, especially in terms of positions and ranks within the government. Kinship politics that give rise to the dominance of power are characterized by the distribution of power solely among blood relatives or those who are related [14].

3.3. Oligarchy practices by political elites

Oligarchy practices, driven by political elite figures who prioritize only their personal interests and their group, have colored the political landscape and governance. Oligarchy, which is a political system implemented by a few individuals or a group known as the political elite, is a clear deviation from the system of government. This is because oligarchy practices lead to absolute and authoritarian rule. Such a model of governance allows for the concentration of power in one dominant group [15].

According to Winters, oligarchy is the practice of resource domination carried out by a few individuals to enrich themselves and their own group, without regard for the well-being of society. Oligarchy practices can be characterized by several main features, such as coercion in the ownership of others over certain goods or wealth, involvement in the governmental structure, involvement in collective power, and the potential to be benign or wild [15].

The practice of oligarchy, which only prioritizes personal interests and the interests of their own group, undoubtedly disregards or neglects the interests of others and the general public. However, as a country that upholds democracy, the government should prioritize the interests of the people above all else. This aligns with the definition of democracy, which is the sovereignty of the people, by the people, and for the people [16].

4. Conclusions

The division of political power in Jeneponto still exhibits a significant imbalance that has the potential to create political disparities, disharmony, and fragmentation. An imbalance in the distribution of political power occurs when certain groups or factions possess greater and more influential power compared to others. Disharmony refers to a state characterized by a lack of coordination due to the absence of power distribution, making it difficult to achieve harmony among those in power. Political fragmentation arises when

decision-making and policies are made without involving various stakeholders, resulting in opposition.

There is a tendency for the division of power to still be dominated by specific groups or factions, particularly the nobility. The nobility, being the highest social status in the society of South Sulawesi, particularly in Jeneponto, holds significant power and influence in the realms of governance and politics.

The presence of oligarchic practices driven by political elite figures who prioritize only their own interests and those of their factions, while neglecting or disregarding the interests of others and the general public, further exacerbates the existing conditions. The oligarchic practices that concentrate power in the hands of a few individuals in governance have led to the neglect of the people's interests.

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