

Regional Government's Role in Inclusive Deliberative Democracy for the Regent Election in Tolitoli Amid the Covid-19 Pandemic

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Abstract. *The implementation of the election of the regent and deputy regent of Tolitoli Regency in the midst of a pandemic presents challenges that threaten security stability, disrupted information connectivity due to the pandemic invites risks that endanger the implementation of the election of the regent and deputy regent, as the main key to ensuring the democratic process runs according to plan, avoiding security disturbances, the regional government is considered important in carrying out its role in ensuring the deliberation process for inclusive participation in the election of the regent and deputy regent in the context of general government affairs, especially in fostering national insight and national resilience in order to strengthen the practice of Pancasila, the implementation of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, the preservation of Bhinneka Tunggal Ika and the defense and maintenance of the integrity of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia. This study aims to investigate the extent of the role and support of the district government in building deliberation for Inclusive participation in the implementation of the democratic process in Tolitoli Regency which took place amidst the pandemic, a deep understanding was obtained by tracing its commitment to the ideal aspects reflected in the fulfillment of the formal conditions of deliberative democracy which are reflected in the absence of an exclusive place for certain parties in a discussion participation on relevant themes, or the absence of restrictions in the form of prohibitions on discussing relevant information, this study shows a positive trend in government commitment, inclusive participation is answered as shown in the condition where all segments in society are part of every policy presented in the implementation of the regent election amidst the threat of a pandemic, which is the priority of deliberative democracy.*

Keywords: *Local Government, General Government Affairs, Deliberative Democracy*

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INTRODUCTION

The implementation of the election of the regent and deputy regent of Tolitoli Regency was welcomed with full respect as a democratic process that promises good hopes for what is produced, so that the implementation process is in the spotlight because it is considered the main door that will present quality, especially opening up deliberative space, in the form of freedom and equality for the community in decision-making through a dialogue process that can be easily accessed (Gutmann & Thompson, 2009), one important thing that is the main challenge in the implementation of the election of the regent and deputy regent in Tolitoli Regency is its

implementation amidst the threat and alertness of the dangers of the pandemic that hit at that time which then gave birth to the complexity of the rules of restrictions in many ways to threaten the quality of deliberative democracy. Elections amidst the threat of a pandemic that has given rise to complex mechanisms in the form of restrictions, pose an important challenge in the implementation of the election of the regent and deputy regent in Tolitoli Regency amidst demands for the principle of deliberative democracy in its implementation, in the form of efforts to produce inclusive, transparent, substantial and sustainable decisions, these demands are also translated into various forms to ensure that demands are met, the promising correlation is the same as that conveyed by Daniel Landfall who proved a positive correlation between democracy and climate, through the quality of the policies taken (Lindvall & Karlsson, 2024).

This situation requires the presence of a bloody government as a key element to ensure that the democratic process runs according to plan, and the stability of security at the local level is well reflected in the election, The role of the President, Regent, and Deputy Regent of Tolitoli Regency is to advance national insight and national resilience, advance the practice of Pancasila, facilitate the implementation of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, and encourage the preservation of Bineka Tunggal Ika and maintain the integrity of the Republic of Indonesia, advance national unity and integrity, advance harmony between tribes, inter-tribes, religious communities, tribes and other groups, and advance security stability and social conflicts at the local, regional and national levels, Coordinate the implementation of the task of handling laws and regulations and resolving problems that arise, by paying attention to the principles of democracy, human rights, and equal justice between regions and cities, states and prefectures Special privileges and special functions, possibilities and diversity according to the provisions of regional laws and regulations, as well as the development of democratic life based on Pancasila and the implementation of all government affairs that are not included in its jurisdiction and are not carried out by vertical institutions.

The pandemic conditions that present large-scale activity restrictions in the democratic process amidst demands for broad involvement for the community in the decision-making process as the main demand in deliberative democracy invite dilemmatic conditions, it is not an easy responsibility to ensure that all segments from various backgrounds in society take part, are involved or contribute to every policy that is presented or make their aspirations part of decision-making, including in producing regulations to resolving all problems, because the diversity of society is an important part that is basically recognized (Dodd et al., 1997). However, considering the importance of this because direct elections have the advantage of a wide space of freedom in determining choices (Hendra Nurtjahjo, 2008) and the democratic system refers to all people in power or a perfect human society while still understanding that in the space of freedom and equality requires someone to take the perspective of people and project themselves into the perspective of others and also themselves (Habermas, 2012) then in these difficult conditions it really requires strong efforts and commitment, even though it gives rise to slightly different conditions when referring to the main features of democratic politics and market competition, (DeCanio, 2024).

One important thing to understand is that the regent election four years ago was successfully held, no crucial problems emerged, even though it was implemented in the midst of a pandemic, there were no claims of exclusive treatment for certain parties, everyone got the same opportunity to participate in every relevant discussion theme, restrictions on discussions as long as they were still relevant to the discussion theme also got space without pressure, there were only prohibitions in the form of restrictions on the number of meeting invitations held, in each meeting held, participants also got a large space, a condition where everyone or participants were allowed to be freely involved in raising arguments, free from domination and intimidation. Everyone can initiate, continue and question discussions on relevant topics. (Menoh, 2014).

METHODS

This study uses a qualitative research approach, by examining the local government in the Implementation of General Government Duties through support for the Inclusiveness of Deliberative Democracy Participation in the Implementation of the Election of the Regent and Deputy Regent of Tolitoli Regency in the Midst of the Covid19 Pandemic, to what extent is the presence of the local government in providing support to ensure that there is nothing exclusive to certain parties in a participation, especially in activities discussing relevant themes, there are no restrictions and prohibitions on discussing relevant information, piles of data and verified field notes are analyzed in depth to understand the phenomena that occur and understand the meaning behind the data and information collected.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Deliberative Democracy and the Election of the Regent and Deputy Regent of Tolitoli Regency

The discussion of deliberative democracy basically emphasizes public involvement through discussion or deliberation, it can be traced to the thoughts of Jurgen Habermas (Dodd et al., 1997) who emphasizes legitimacy, Fishkin (Fishkin, 2013) on political equality, Gutmann & Thompson (Gutmann & Thompson, 2009) on the need for justification, the meaning is in accordance with the origin of the word deliberative, namely "deliberatio" which means consultation, weighing or deliberation Habermas considers that the process of obtaining important legitimacy is obtained through discursivities to ensure that deliberation proceeds fairly, a discursive public test is needed, he informs that how public institutions including legislative institutions as a discursive arena for citizens, how discursive procedures are carried out, their existence as a political public space, how the media becomes a presentation of public space, how decisions gain legitimacy from the public, it is a challenge in the deliberation process, (von Malmborg, 2024) testing of public decisions, collective decisions as written law and neutrality of state power (Dodd et al., 1997). On the other hand, the need to justify decisions by citizens or their representatives, leaders must provide reasons for the decisions taken, more specifically the reasons why decisions need to be made, broad access for all citizens, decisions that are binding for some time and the existence of a dynamic process. (Gutmann & Thompson, 2009) Understood as a conversation that presents political equality (Fishkin, 2013) sees changes in voting intentions, changes in citizen capacity, changes in political consistency, changes in public dialogue and changes in public policy.

The election of the regent and deputy regent of Tolitoli Regency which was held in the midst of a pandemic which brought about large-scale changes in how it was carried out, amidst demands for the quality of the implementation of the election of the regent and deputy regent, there were many challenges that had to be faced with necessity to ensure that the five-yearly event did not lose its main meaning, especially providing a guarantee of deliberation present in its implementation, public involvement through discussion or deliberation, (Ronsumbre & Sri K, 2020) as conveyed by Jurgen Habermas (Dodd et al., 1997) fishkin (Fishkin, 2013) Gutmann & Thompson (Gutmann & Thompson, 2009) cannot close their eyes that what Habermas (Dodd et al., 1997) said is very reasonable, that legitimacy through discursivities is an important aspect to ensure that democracy does not lose its main meaning, everyone agrees that deliberation as a process to produce fair decisions, because in that process it will be what promises quality through public testing. discursive, it is an important and necessary discursive stage for citizens or society, that is where discursive procedures are carried out, important political public spaces are opened, the media becomes a presentation of public space, decisions gain legitimacy from the public, testing of public decisions, collective decisions as written laws are presented. (Dodd et al., 1997) Including justifying decisions by citizens, there are also leaders providing reasons for decisions taken, reasons for the need for decisions to be made, providing broad access for all citizens, so that decisions are fairly binding with a dynamic process. (Gutmann & Thompson, 2009) Also

including presenting political equality, (Fishkin, 2013) changes in voting intentions, citizen capacity, political consistency, public dialogue and changes in public policy.

General Government Tasks for Inclusive Participation in Deliberative Democracy

There are many studies developed in the framework of implementing government duties, but discussions on General Government Duties are still very rare, these general government duties refer to the role in maintaining the stability and welfare of society, maintaining public security and order is an important study in this discussion, in the context of Indonesia, general government duties refer to general government affairs found in the current Regional Government Law (Government of the Republic of Indonesia, 2014) namely Article 25 paragraph 1 states that general government affairs include: building national insight and national resilience in order to make the practice of Pancasila even stronger, the 1945 Law is implemented, Bhinneka Tunggal Ika is maintained, Indonesia's integrity is maintained, national unity and cohesion are promoted, harmony between and among ethnic groups, religious communities, races, and other groups to achieve local, regional, and national security stability is encouraged, social conflicts are resolved in accordance with legal regulations, tasks between government agencies in the regions and districts to resolve problems that arise, by paying attention to the principles of democracy, human rights, equality, justice, privileges and specialties, potential and diversity region; Legal regulations.

Development of democratic life based on Pancasila. and the implementation of all government affairs that are not the authority of the region and are not implemented by vertical agencies. The principle of equality is an important requirement in deliberative democracy, the practice is in the form of equal treatment where individuals get the same place to build arguments, listen to each other and exchange information, there is nothing exclusive to certain parties in a participation, especially in activities discussing relevant themes, there are no restrictions and prohibitions on discussing relevant information, all accumulated information is verified through a deliberation process that gets a healthy space, (Guzmán, 2024) the importance of this being presented cannot be separated from an understanding that results are not more important than a process, because the process is the main source of strong legitimacy, the deliberation process in deliberative democracy is the main support for providing solid legitimacy and inclusiveness of participation that can promise that, because the presence of inclusiveness of participation is reflected in fair representation, transparency of information and responsive participation mechanisms so as to create a democratic, transparent and responsive political atmosphere to the interests of the wider community, it cannot be separated from the fact that dialogue creates a meaning of togetherness, (Acuti et al., 2024), a simple picture of togetherness in Indonesia is present in the form of the noken system in Papua, (Handayani & Sri Hardjanto, 2023), the practice of the Constituent Forum in the context of regional head elections in Bandung Regency, (Dewansyah, 2011) as a form of deliberative democracy.

In the election process, the lack of deliberation in decision-making has negative implications for the decisions chosen (Nurlia, 2019). Inclusiveness is reflected in the absence of an exclusive place for certain parties in a relevant theme discussion participation, or the absence of restrictions in the form of prohibitions on discussing relevant information, as a deliberative democracy in the election of the regent and deputy regent of Tolitoli Regency is required to ensure that all voices and aspirations of the community are accommodated in a process of how decisions are made, Inclusiveness as the key to providing a guarantee of the elimination of discrimination, by ensuring that all views are heard, including minorities so that inclusiveness becomes vital in democracy, because it carries the idea that every individual has the right to participate in public discussions and decision-making, without exception, every voice has the same value, regardless of their social, economic, or political background, including controversial opinions or opinions that disagree with the majority are also heard and considered seriously, because with that it will make democracy more responsive to the needs and aspirations of all citizens, without distinguishing between the strong and the weak as well as protecting minority groups, who are often marginalized or forgotten in political decision-making.

Along with the presence of strong inclusiveness, minority voices are given the same important space as the majority, so that the resulting decisions reflect the needs and interests of the entire community. In the midst of complex and diverse competing interests, inclusiveness in deliberative democracy becomes increasingly important, because listening to all voices and ensuring equal participation from various groups in society can strengthen the legitimacy of political decisions produced as a foundation towards a more just, equal, and democratic society and fair representation of various groups in society in the deliberative process by ensuring that all groups, including those marginalized or underrepresented, have equal opportunities to participate and be recognized in political discussions and decision-making, this condition then directly has a very broad impact on giving birth to a peaceful democratic process, far from conflicts and vulnerabilities that damage and harm society and regions on a wider scale or worsen the situation and security stability in the implementation of the election of the regent and deputy regent in Tolitoli district.

In the implementation of the election of the regent and deputy regent of Tolitoli Regency, on many occasions it showed encouraging efforts in the aspect of inclusivity, it refers to the existence of all efforts to include all levels of society in the democratic process, regardless of the differences in social status of each individual, or economic conditions, including religion, or ethnicity, by assuming that every citizen basically has the same opportunity to participate and vote in determining their regional leaders, one of which is ensuring accessibility to elections for people with disabilities, providing special facilities and services that are friendly to people with disabilities so that they can exercise their right to vote independently and without obstacles, the spirit of inclusivity is shown to involve all elements of society in the democratic process, it can be seen that the local government also shows its commitment in providing financial support to ensure that the democratic process runs well, the local government together with election organizers also encourage active socialization and education to various community groups, including new voters, minority tribes, and indigenous peoples, campaigns and outreach activities, it was done as an effort to increase voter participation from various backgrounds in the election of the regent and deputy regent of Tolitoli Regency, he not only understands that the success of an election lies not only in the voting process, but also in public awareness and understanding of the importance of their political role, so that the inclusive aspect in every stage of the election is considered by providing a positive contribution in strengthening the foundation of democracy in Indonesia, creating an inclusive election of regents and deputy regents that continues to be encouraged and strengthened to ensure the sustainability of the participation of all elements of society in the democratic process, which as a whole is in various forms of activities.

Addressing Vulnerability and Conflict through Inclusive Participatory Education

In the implementation of the election of the regent and deputy regent of Tolitoli Regency, it shows various efforts to ensure strong citizen participation, strengthening the values of inclusion, equality, and diversity as important choices that are considered as strong instruments for citizens, these efforts are to ensure that citizens understand and appreciate the importance of listening to various perspectives in a political decision-making activity, there is a strong suggestion for all stakeholders who take part in the implementation of democratic events in the region that education plays a very important role, especially in building the quality of awareness of inclusion which characterizes deliberative democracy, which emphasizes that decisions taken reflect collective interests and needs, there are many activities in the implementation of elections that lead to efforts to build awareness of rights and obligations in the democratic process, especially emphasizing the importance of giving respect to differences of opinion that emerge in the democratic process, this condition in turn is able to reduce sharp conflicts that lead to violence in the debate space that is presented so that it does not present high vulnerabilities that lead to disturbances of stability and security in every discussion space that is opened.

Basically, efforts to strengthen election inclusiveness as a five-year routine, but the government is also known to provide education to the public on many occasions, the government's strong commitment to providing material on the importance of inclusiveness on

several occasions indirectly contributes strongly to strengthening the legitimacy of the democratic process which in turn contributes to maintaining stability and security in the ongoing democratic process, the content of material on inclusiveness is used as important material and disseminated to the public, through socialization that is held to reach the community on a wider scale, including being disseminated to all stakeholders to be understood and socialized together in order to ensure the implementation of the regent election that upholds inclusive participation, without ignoring the role of the government.

The organizers have a very large role in the process of socialization about inclusiveness which involves many components, given serious efforts, in order to ensure that all segments are accessible, to ensure that all are accessible, educational places such as schools are also accessed on a large scale, places of worship, village halls to markets are also used as a means of campaigning for the importance of inclusive regional head elections, residents' religious study activities are also accessed more widely, not claiming that all levels of society are accessible, but maximum efforts for this are seen to be intensively carried out. Although the election of the regent and deputy regent of Tolitoli Regency was held amidst the threat of a pandemic, it was still successfully held under conducive conditions and situations, there is no claim that the condition was born as an effect of inclusive regional head election education and campaigns, but what happened has a strong correlation with the efforts made, there is some truth in the opinion of some residents who say that they have become mature voters because they have gone through several times the same democratic celebration, but the efforts of inclusive education and election campaigns carried out massively by all stakeholders are also very difficult to ignore, because it is a reality that is seen in society, especially inclusive education that promotes the values of equality and diversity which are basically understood together will lead to the formation of an inclusive mindset and open to change, because with that it will form a society that understands differences and diversity.

Basically, there are many components that contribute to forming positive perceptions and deep understanding of the community towards a phenomenon that occurs in the implementation of regional head elections in the midst of a pandemic, but the involvement of residents in discussion activities in the implementation of the election of the regent and deputy regent in Tolitoli Regency is still considered to play an important role there, contributing to building a broad view of the community, strengthening their horizons of thinking, so that they are not dominated by narrow and old-fashioned thoughts that prioritize emotional aspects that invite violence, thus inviting strong community involvement in the deliberation process that prioritizes the process of exchanging information rather than feeling more correct and their opinions must be accepted, which in turn makes the community open to understanding all the information they receive related to the issues that develop in the implementation of the election of the regent and deputy regent in Tolitoli Regency, so that they remain positive towards the issues that develop, this correlates with the organized efforts of stakeholders who provide democratic education in the area, which is none other than helping to find a deeper meaning of democracy (Acuti et al., 2024).

Massive inclusive awareness education was carried out involving all components in the implementation of the election of the regent and deputy regent in Tolitoli Regency which received government support and was considered to have made a strong contribution to the process of electing a regent and deputy regent that was representative and democratic, because that is what presents an open attitude of the community towards the voices that are developing, thus encouraging a strong effort in building togetherness in the struggle for interests, the election of the regent and deputy regent in Tolitoli Regency was carried out in the midst of a pandemic, the democratic process that was held still showed strong legitimacy, (Kroll & Edinger-Schons, 2024) the development and exchange of ideas and diverse views greatly colored its implementation, the involvement of all components that were able to build synergy between the stakeholders involved was considered the main key to creating this condition, in addition to the organizers who took part in this process, the local government became part of a positive collaboration, where their

daily lives took part in the deliberation process, including the sub-district government, village government, community organizations such as Nahdatu Ulama, the HMI Alumni Corps also took part, to the student organization Islamic Students Association and the Indonesian Christian Student Movement.

Addressing Vulnerability and Conflict through Participatory Inclusion Campaigns

In addition to providing education to the community from various segments, in the context of general government duties, the government also takes an important part in the campaign for inclusive values in the implementation of the election of the regent and deputy regent of Tolitoli Regency by providing information about participation rights, the use of media in various platforms is an important choice as a strong instrument that supports the deliberation process, this condition is in line with the support of democratic accountability which is the current trend. (Samson et al., 2024) social media, radio and newspapers are maximized to ensure that inclusive messages are conveyed to the community on a wider scale, stakeholders show several important activities on social media platforms, WhatsApp, Instagram and Facebook are their choices in conveying inclusive values, this condition provides awareness of how the media is a strong political infrastructure in controlling democracy, various messages and information found there, including invitations to vote, are used as a solution to the pandemic which limits the number of people in meetings, there is a lot of recorded information that leads to the strong effect of the inclusive values campaign which makes people follow the democratic process well, inclusive value campaign activities are carried out with various material content and methods, including, delivery of participation rights, losses if not participating, this is done by building strong collaboration with all important components involved, it cannot be ignored that deliberation norms are present in a discussion and these norms are key to promoting sustainable democracy in the media as moderation (Samson et al., 2024).

Public participation in the implementation of the election of the regent and deputy regent of Tolitoli Regency in the midst of a pandemic is basically not as massive as the democratic process carried out under normal conditions without the disruption of the pandemic, but an interesting condition was found that even though the election was held in the midst of a pandemic, public participation did not experience a significant decline, there is no claim that it is a condition created from the campaign activities of inclusive values that have been carried out, but one thing that cannot be ignored is that in the context of general government affairs, many serious government efforts have been made to ensure the stability and security of the implementation of the election of the regent and deputy regent of Tolitoli Regency through the delivery of inclusive values, the delivery of information about participation rights carried out by the government is considered an important element that supports peaceful elections, avoiding conflicts that end in violence, the efforts made by the government are considered capable of building awareness of inclusion, there are many the growing trend in the implementation of the election of the regent and deputy regent shows a public awareness of their right to participate, even in pandemic conditions, the community still has a strong motivation to participate in the implementation of the election of the regent and deputy regent as the main effect of the understanding they gain about the importance of their involvement, there is such a strong motivation reflected in the democratic process that was running at that time, there was no condition of community participation that decreased significantly there, the people of Tolitoli Regency were so aware and understood the losses they would receive if they did not take part in the democratic process, the community understood very well the importance of the involvement of all parties in the implementation of the election of the regent and deputy regent so that they also took part in building the values of inclusion of participation for a peaceful democratic process.

In the context of general government duties to ensure security stability is maintained in the implementation of the election of the regent and vice regent, the local government also encourages it through strengthening inclusion values by building collaboration with various components including collaborating with organizers, to community groups, the limited resources

owned by the government to promote the inclusion value campaign in a wider scope make collaboration the main choice, even though the organizers who have high intensity in building collaboration to campaign for inclusion values, the presence of the government cannot be ignored, election organizers campaign for inclusion values to strengthen democracy while on the other hand the government campaigns for inclusion values for security stability and a safe, peaceful and conducive democratic process. The campaign for inclusion values promoted by the government in the implementation of the election of the regent and vice regent in Tolitoli district is very much used as a communication medium to create strong security stability conditions, by presenting justice, equality in the democratic process.

Addressing Vulnerability Through the Formation of Caring Partnerships Inclusion Participation

Building partnerships with civil society organizations, educational institutions, and the private sector that care about inclusion in deliberative democracy in the implementation of the regent and vice regent elections can expand the reach of inclusive messages. By working together, awareness of inclusion can be strengthened and spread to various levels of society. Building partnerships with civil society organizations, educational institutions, and the private sector that care about inclusion in deliberative democracy in the implementation of the regent and vice regent elections is a strategic step in expanding the reach of inclusive messages. By synergizing, various parties can work together to strengthen awareness of inclusion and spread its values to various levels of society. This important step taken by the government cannot be ignored as an important contribution in supporting security stability and the success of the implementation of regional head elections in Tolitoli Regency which were held in the midst of a pandemic. The reality of the Tolitoli Regency community is also given important attention, especially in efforts to resolve problems through deliberations held by integrating various discussions in every delivery of information, both in formal and non-formal meetings held (Verhasselt, 2024).

The partnership built by the Tolitoli Regency government with all levels of society is basically used as an important meaning of its presence as a regional head who has a great responsibility in maintaining security stability in its area of government, as its existence in carrying out general government affairs, this involvement provides youth in building effective and efficient awareness of inclusion, because the government does not only work alone in the process, because it is able to utilize civil society organizations and the private sector in helping, so that general government affairs can achieve their priority and be achieved together, complementing and complementing each other, considering that these general government affairs have such a broad scope, government resources available is not more than enough to handle all the problems that arise, especially in many matters that must be resolved related to it, not all of which can be resolved using the security apparatus approach, because the awareness that is formed to jointly maintain security and order is a very important manifestation of everything, community involvement in various existing communities is the main resource that is effective in building inclusion values and minimal costs. The partnership built by the government in building inclusion values to ensure the stability of security and public order in the democratic process is considered important for the success of the implementation of the regional head election in Tolitoli Regency, not claiming that the various programs that are encouraged directly contribute to the creation of inclusion awareness in the implementation of the regional head election, but what is felt in the implementation of the regional head election shows a correlation that cannot be ignored, the narrative of consistent and deep inclusion awareness is so felt side by side with the regional head election running well according to plan without significant disruption to security stability, efforts to fight for the creation of a deliberation process in democracy are so felt that the community is increasingly empowered which then in the next process is able to access inclusive participation and the quality of democratic deliberation in the implementation of the election of the regent and deputy regent in Tolitoli Regency.

Addressing Vulnerability Through Open Participatory Spaces for Inclusion Participation

Ensuring the existence of a safe, open, and inclusive participation space in deliberative democracy in the implementation of the election of the regent and deputy regent of Tolitoli Regency is an important step to encourage the participation of all parties in public discussions, respect for diversity and different opinions need to be upheld to create an environment that supports inclusivity, ensuring the existence of a safe, open, and inclusive participation space in deliberative democracy in the implementation of the election of the regent and deputy regent of Tolitoli Regency is one of the important steps to encourage the participation of all parties in public discussions, by creating an environment that supports inclusivity, respect for diversity and different opinions can be upheld, the Tolitoli Regency government has shown several important efforts in ensuring an inclusive participation space, such as ensuring equal access in the participation space, involving various important elements in society, respecting diversity, education and upholding ethical values, to affirming the mechanism for resolving problems that arise in the implementation of the election of the regent and deputy regent of Tolitoli Regency, these conditions show the government's strong commitment to ensuring the presence of inclusive participation which in turn contributes to the presence of positive conditions for stability and security as important aspects in general government affairs, these interrelated conditions are reflected in several research that has been conducted, David Schieferdecker, explains how conversations influence the formation of different opinions compared to one-way exposure, (Schieferdecker et al., 2024).

Easily accessible information and resistance to all forms of discriminatory practices in the implementation of the election of the regent and deputy regent in Tolitoli district, seem to be important qualities that are so felt by the government's presence, these efforts are interpreted as a form of government commitment in ensuring equality is present, this condition then encourages the willingness of people in various segments to be involved and take roles in various forms in the implementation of the election of the regent and deputy regent of Tolitoli district, the disturbance of minority issues that are sometimes present in every regional head election held in the area is no longer so sharp, there is no discrimination against women there, no less important is that the involvement of youth groups is so felt in the implementation of the election of the regent and deputy regent with various forms of involvement, groups of voters who are in vulnerable conditions can also be accessed to ensure that they can exercise their right to vote, by Tomas Chramme calling it part of the deliberation process (Schramme, 2024) inclusiveness of participation is really felt in the implementation of the election of the regent and deputy regent. Debates and differences in perspective are important aspects that are so difficult to avoid, but the contribution of awareness of inclusive values makes the problem not lead to sharp conflict, tension between supporters in responding to information is something that is certain, but awareness of inclusivity is a strong fortress that prevents the presence of bad situations, differences in interpretation of regulations are debates that always color several occasions in the implementation of the election of the regent and deputy regent of Tolitoli Regency, but high respect for diversity and differences makes every mediation that usually involves the local government, the prosecutor's office can be resolved at the negotiating table.

Strengthening the understanding of the community and all important components that are interested in the implementation of the election of the regent and deputy regent of Tolitoli Regency is also an option to facilitate communication, or to make the discussion space strong, so that the discussion space that is opened becomes very productive and every theme discussed becomes quality and has benefits, because a good discussion space is a discussion space that involves people who have good abilities and understanding, skills and abilities are needed there, not only the ability to convey ideas but also the ability to understand the discussion theme, and the most important thing there is the ability to maintain ethics in interacting, to produce strong recommendations in every discussion held, the discussion process also presents people who have authority, or people who have understanding and competence, this is done to ensure that the

discussion really leads to substantive issues, and most importantly ensures that interactions through discussions become more inclusive, inherent in what Chikako Endo said (Endo, 2024).

The Tolitoli district government also always encourages strong ethical values, especially ensuring high respect for diversity, closing as much space as possible for all forms of discrimination for any reason, regardless of the effects that lead to the implementation of inclusive regent and vice regent elections, but it is done with the main goal of ensuring that the democratic process runs conducive, or ensuring the creation of security stability as a key responsibility holder in the context of general government affairs, there is no intimidation that ends in sharp violence as an inseparable part of the government's commitment to ensure that it is created, in addition to other components that also take part in ensuring that the implementation of the regent and vice regent elections runs according to plan, by interpreting that debate and mutual attacks are conditions that are certain to be present in every democratic process. All the problems that develop are also able to be consolidated well without ignoring the rights of the community, proportional conflict resolution is held firmly which in turn presents just decisions, which indirectly this condition then presents democratic inclusiveness, which in its broader explanation shows that the practice of deliberative democracy is truly present.

Addressing Vulnerability Through Community Engagement for Participatory Inclusion

In the context of general government duties, the local government also involves many communities to ensure the presence of security stability during the implementation of the Tolitoli Regency Regent and Deputy Regent Election which in turn contributes strongly to building Inclusive Participation in the Implementation of the Tolitoli Regency Regent and Deputy Regent Election which was carried out in the Middle of a Pandemic, this was done by involving the community in the decision-making process, listening and providing opportunities for minority or underrepresented groups to voice their interests, this condition directly provides an illustration of a strong commitment to presenting inclusive participation in the democratic process in the area, this was done through several important activities carried out such as opening dialogue forums, encouraging active community participation, strengthening community capacity, utilizing online media, strengthening literacy, becoming a pioneer in the importance of transparency and accountability in the implementation of the Tolitoli Regency Regent and Deputy Regent Election. The local government on many occasions has used discussion forums that present various communities in various segments as a momentum to build inclusive values, be it youth, religious and cultural groups to ensure that voices related to the democratic process in the midst of a pandemic that were previously blocked or cut off are conveyed clearly, one interesting thing about this momentum is that it substantially really presents deliberation, the discussion forum that was held was not only a place to convey inclusive values but also presented a deliberation process, along with the process of exchanging information, not a little information that emerged in the process was used as evaluation material to make policy improvements in facing the implementation of elections in the midst of a pandemic, the discussion forum was also used as a momentum to provide support to jointly build inclusive values in the implementation of the election of the regent and deputy regent which in turn the practice of deliberative democracy was consciously truly present in the implementation of the election of the regent and deputy regent in Tolitoli Regency, encouraging various communities to convey the problems faced in the democratic process in the midst of a pandemic.

In addition to carrying out conventional methods through discussion forums, the government is also exploring social media to campaign for inclusive values, not a little information received from the media is used as an important part of policy making, reminding the public to maintain security and order in following all stages of the ongoing democratic process, considering the pandemic situation that is occurring, the government also supports and cooperates with various components including organizers to ensure that the public participates safely in following all stages of the regional head election, through the use of social media, important information conveyed by the government can easily reach the wider community in various segments and communities (Rashid & Fernandez, 2024), although on the other hand it is

sometimes directed at the wrong goal, used as a weapon to influence public opinion with all the tricks that are encouraged, (Fatmala et al., 2020) there is a lot of important information from the government in order to strive for the success of the regional head election amidst the threat of a pandemic that is easily found on various open and easily accessible digital platforms, including important information related to voting rights to the importance of community participation and involvement in the implementation of the selection, so that the existence of the community feels very important in providing responses and information that related to the democratic process to its role in influencing the policies to be presented, thus making the implementation of regional head elections more transparent and accountable which in turn builds public trust in the implementation of elections, including having a strong belief that they are truly an important part of the democratic process. The strong interaction process between the community and the government, especially on policies that are carried out in the democratic process, provides an important message about how deliberative democracy is practiced, especially in community involvement or listening to community aspirations in the decision-making process, the most important thing there is not only increasing community participation, but also directing it to the aspect of prioritizing inclusive and just values.

CONCLUSION

The election of the regent and deputy regent of Tolitoli Regency is recognized as requiring deliberation, while the deliberation process is none other than an important aspect of deliberative democracy, it is very much realized that the Tolitoli Regency government is an important part in creating security stability in the implementation of the election of the regent and deputy regent of Tolitoli Regency, general government affairs as the basis for the Tolitoli Regency government to take part in it, general government affairs especially in fostering national insight and national resilience in order to strengthen the practice of Pancasila, the implementation of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, the preservation of Bhinneka Tunggal Ika and the defense and maintenance of the integrity of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia. Through general government affairs, it is known to have done many things to ensure the stability of security in the implementation of the regent election, Responding to vulnerabilities and conflicts through Inclusive Participation Education by means of massive inclusive awareness education which involves all components in the implementation of the regent and deputy regent election in Tolitoli Regency, Responding to Vulnerabilities and Conflicts through Inclusive Participation Campaigns, In the context of general government duties to ensure the stability of security that is maintained in the implementation of the regent and deputy regent election, the regional government also encourages this through strengthening inclusive values by building collaboration with various components including collaborating with organizers, to community groups, the limited resources owned by the government to promote inclusive values campaigns in a wider scope make collaboration the main choice, Reducing Vulnerability Through the Formation of Inclusive Participation Care Partnerships, Partnerships built by the government in building inclusive values to ensure the stability of security and public order in the democratic process, efforts to fight for the creation of a deliberation process in democracy are so felt that the community is increasingly empowered which then in the next process is able to access inclusive participation and the quality of democratic deliberation in the implementation of the regent and deputy regent election in Tolitoli Regency, Reducing Vulnerability Through Open Participation Space for Participation Inclusion, The Tolitoli Regency Government also always encourages strong ethical values, especially ensuring high respect for diversity, closing the space as much as possible against all forms of discrimination for any reason, regardless of the effects that lead to the implementation of inclusive regent and deputy regent elections, but it is done with the main goal of ensuring that the democratic process runs conducive, or ensuring the creation of security stability as the holder of key responsibilities in the context of general government affairs, there is no intimidation that ends in sharp violence as an inseparable part of the government's commitment to ensure that it is created, All the problems that develop can also be consolidated well without ignoring the rights of the community, proportional conflict resolution is held firmly which in turn presents just decisions, which indirectly these conditions then present democratic

inclusiveness, which in its broader explanation shows that deliberative democracy practitioners are truly present.

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