

Evaluation of The Effectiveness of The Handling Time of Election Violations Election by Gakkumdu

Fahmi Suleman¹, Roy Marthen Moonti^{2*}, Ibrahim Ahmad³

^{1,2,3} Postgraduate Master of Law Program, University of Gorontalo, Indonesia

fahmisuleman440@gmail.com¹, royoonti16@gmail.com^{2*}, ibrahimahmad.ug@gmail.com³

Address: Jl. Jend. Sudirman No.6, Dulalowo Tim., Central City District, Gorontalo City, Gorontalo 96128

Correspondence Email : roymoonti16@gmail.com

Abstract: General Election (Pemilu) is a fundamental pillar of democracy that often faces various challenges, including legal violations that undermine its integrity. To overcome this, the Integrated Law Enforcement Center (Gakkumdu) was formed as a collaboration between Bawaslu, the Police, and the Attorney General's Office to accelerate the handling of election violations. However, the strict handling time limit of 14 working days is a major challenge in achieving fair and effective decisions. This study aims to evaluate the effectiveness of the handling time of election violations by Gakkumdu and identify the inhibiting factors. Using a descriptive-analytical qualitative method, this study found that the main obstacles include inter-agency coordination, sectoral ego, limited human resources, and lack of supporting technology. In addition, differences in legal interpretation and low public legal awareness also slowed down the enforcement process. In conclusion, the effectiveness of Gakkumdu handling time is not optimal and requires policy reform. Recommendations include simplifying procedures, cross-agency training, utilizing technology, and educating the public. These reforms are expected to improve election integrity and support a fairer democracy.

Keywords: Effectiveness; Handling; Election Violations; Gakumdu

1. INTRODUCTION

General elections are a fundamental instrument in the implementation of democracy, providing space for the people to participate in determining their leaders and representatives. Indonesia as a legal state based on democracy faces various challenges in organizing elections that are honest, fair, and free from violations (Indra et al., 2024). The complexity of elections in Indonesia, which involves many parties and stages, often leads to various legal violations, ranging from administrative to criminal (Junaidi, 2020).

Elections are not only a pillar of democracy, but also a reflection of a nation's political maturity. However, instead of being an instrument of justice and popular sovereignty, elections often become a venue for practices that undermine democracy. Money politics, intimidation, and vote manipulation are some of the problems that continue to undermine the electoral process in Indonesia (Wahyudiansyah, 2019). In this context, the emergence of the Integrated Law Enforcement Center (Gakkumdu) provides a glimmer of hope, although its implementation still faces major challenges.

In an effort to effectively handle violations of election crimes, an Integrated Law Enforcement Center (Sentra Gakkumdu) was formed. Gakkumdu is a collaboration between the Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu), the Indonesian National Police, and the Attorney

General's Office of the Republic of Indonesia, with the aim of accelerating the process of resolving election violations and avoiding overlapping authority between institutions (Wahyudiansyah, 2019). However, although this mechanism has been regulated in Law No. 7/2017, many problems still arise, such as gaps in inter-agency coordination, limited handling time, and difficulty proving cases (Wootton et al., 2024).

The time effectiveness of handling violations by Gakkumdu is one of the main challenges. Based on regulations, Gakkumdu has a limited time to process violation cases, namely 14 working days, which includes the stages of reporting, investigation, and settlement (Syamsurizal, 2021). However, studies show that this narrow time is often an obstacle in reaching the right and fair decision (Azisa et al., 2023).

Gakkumdu was born in response to the urgent need to integrate election law enforcement. As a synergy between Bawaslu, the Police, and the Attorney General's Office, Gakkumdu is designed to accelerate and simplify the legal process for election violations (Junaidi, 2020). However, the reality on the ground shows that this expectation has not been fully met. There are still complaints about the slow handling of cases, overlapping authorities, and lack of transparency in decision-making (Wootton et al., 2024).

One of the main issues that continues to emerge is the effectiveness of time for handling election violations. In the Gakkumdu system, each case must be handled within a very limited time. Meanwhile, cases of election violations often involve evidence that is difficult to find, witnesses who are reluctant to testify, and political pressure that can affect the course of the legal process (Syamsurizal, 2021). This condition creates a dilemma between the need to resolve cases quickly and the need to uphold justice as a whole.

Gaps arise from various aspects, such as coordination constraints between Sentra Gakkumdu members. Differences in perception between institutions often slow down the process of handling violations. For example, disagreement in categorizing violations as criminal or administrative causes cases to stop midway. In addition, the tight timeframe for case resolution, which is only 14 days for the investigation stage until submission to the public prosecutor, is a major obstacle. This limitation is exacerbated by the lack of competent personnel in the field of handling election crimes.

On the technical aspect, the Gakkumdu Center faces challenges in proving the material and formal elements of the offense. Many cases fail to proceed due to lack of evidence or witnesses who are reluctant to provide testimony due to the lack of protection guarantees. This situation reflects the weakness of regulations in providing guidance and support for effective legal processes.

Evaluation of the effectiveness of the handling time of election violations by the Gakkumdu must pay attention to structural factors, such as regulations governing case handling time limits, unsynchronized legal substance, and a legal culture that does not yet support transparent and accountable supervision. This points to the need for policy reforms to increase the capacity of the Gakkumdu Center through intensive training for personnel, revisions to handling time limits, and granting additional authority that allows for more flexible and effective case handling.

More interestingly, these time constraints often have unexpected implications. In some cases, decisions made under time pressure have proven controversial and triggered public dissatisfaction. For example, in the 2019 General Election, only 320 out of 2,724 reported violations made it to the decision stage in court (Wootton et al., 2024). This fact raises profound questions: Is the Gakkumdu system strong enough to accommodate the complexity of election violations in Indonesia?

In addition, external factors such as differences in inter-agency perceptions within the Gakkumdu, lack of training for law enforcement officers, and technological limitations also exacerbate the situation. For example, the underutilization of technology in case management often leads to barriers in inter-agency communication, slows down workflow, and increases the risk of administrative errors (Azisa et al., 2023).

This research is not only important to evaluate the time effectiveness of handling election violations, but also to explore how internal and external factors affect the overall performance of the Gakkumdu. By understanding the root causes, this research can provide concrete recommendations to improve Gakkumdu's working mechanisms, strengthen existing regulations, and create cleaner, fairer, and more democratic elections in the future.

2. RESEARCH METHODS

This research uses a qualitative method with a descriptive-analytical approach. This approach aims to describe in depth the process, obstacles, and time effectiveness in handling election violations by the Integrated Law Enforcement Center (Gakkumdu).

3. DISCUSSION

The Effectiveness of Available Time in Handling Election Violations by Gakkumdu in Accordance with Applicable Regulations

Elections are a reflection of popular sovereignty and the main foundation of democracy in Indonesia. Since the first election in 1955 until now, every election has become an evaluation

of our democratic system. Although various regulations have been designed to ensure honest, fair and transparent elections, challenges are still present in the form of administrative violations, election crimes, and technical problems.

One of the important elements in maintaining electoral justice is the existence of the Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu) and the Gakkumdu Center. These two institutions play an important role in overseeing the elections and handling various violations that occur. However, in practice, law enforcement mechanisms are often colored by sectoral egos, coordination constraints, and a weak legal culture that does not support participatory supervision efforts.

For example, in the 2019 elections, Bawaslu recorded thousands of violations ranging from administrative to criminal. Some cases even stopped in the early stages of discussion due to lack of material or formal evidence. Meanwhile, the Sentra Gakkumdu as an ad hoc institution also faces challenges in equalizing perceptions between the elements involved. This suggests a gap between normative rules and implementation in the field.

To improve this system, a more innovative and integrated approach needs to be implemented. Increasing the capacity of human resources, using technology for supervision, and strengthening people's legal literacy are important steps to ensure that elections run according to the principles of true democracy.

To conclude, Indonesia's democratic journey is a long and evolving narrative. Elections are not just about electing leaders, but also creating space for people to actively participate in the state process. With strong oversight and collective public awareness, we can realize elections that truly reflect the will of the people.

The organization of democratic elections requires strong oversight and law enforcement to ensure that the electoral process runs in accordance with the principles of direct, general, free, secret, honest and fair. One of the main instruments designed to ensure this goal is achieved is the Integrated Law Enforcement Center (Sentra Gakkumdu). The Sentra Gakkumdu is a collaboration between the Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu), the Police, and the Attorney General's Office that aims to equalize perceptions and steps in handling criminal election violations. However, the effectiveness of the time available in handling such violations is often highlighted as it has a direct impact on the success of the electoral law enforcement process.

The main regulation governing the Gakkumdu Center is Law Number 7/2017 on Elections. In this regulation, the time limit for handling election violations is strictly defined. Based on Article 460 of Law No. 7/2017, reports of alleged election crimes must be completed within

14 working days of the report being received by the Gakkumdu Center. This limited time includes the clarification stage, discussion, and the decision to take the case to the further investigation stage if strong criminal elements are found.

Handling election violations in the Gakkumdu Center faces challenges from various aspects. For example, sectoral ego among the three main elements (Bawaslu, the Police and the Prosecutor's Office) can hamper the coordination process. In addition, the large number of cases reported in a short period of time, especially during the campaign and voting periods, increases the pressure on the human resources and logistics of the Sentra Gakkumdu (Sihite, n.d.).

The effectiveness of case handling time by the Sentra Gakkumdu is influenced by several factors. First, the different levels of understanding between elements of the Sentra Gakkumdu regarding the characteristics of electoral crimes. This often leads to different views on whether a case fulfills the criminal elements. In the 2019 elections, many cases were stopped at the first discussion stage due to disagreements between the elements of the Sentra Gakkumdu (Ramadhan, 2021).

Significant constraints. Many reports cannot be continued due to lack of evidence or mismatches in formal and material data. As an illustration, in the 2015 Semarang City Pilkada, 19 out of 27 cases were stopped because they did not meet the requirements of clear evidence and identity. (Kusniati & Monita, 2022).

Third, the legal culture of a society that is still apathetic towards election violations also affects the effectiveness of handling time. Many violations are not formally reported by the community, so the Sentra Gakkumdu must rely on direct findings from election supervisors, which of course take longer to confirm (Sari, 2023).

Efforts to improve the time effectiveness of handling election violations by the Sentra Gakkumdu require a comprehensive approach. Some steps that can be taken are as follows:

- a. Capacity Building and Understanding Joint training between Bawaslu, the Police and the Prosecutor's Office is essential to equalize understanding of the elements of electoral crimes. This step has been shown to improve coordination in several regions that have implemented it (Fatihatun et al., 2020).
- b. Simplification of Procedures Technical regulations related to the collection and verification of evidence need to be simplified so that they do not take too long. The Gakkumdu Center can also adopt digital technology to speed up the reporting process and documentation of evidence (Ramadhan, 2021).

- c. Increasing Public Participation The public needs to be encouraged to be more proactive in reporting election violations. Educational campaigns about the importance of honest and fair elections can increase public legal awareness (Sihite, n.d.).
- d. Stricter Internal Supervision Each element in the Sentra Gakkumdu must have an internal supervision mechanism to ensure there are no delays caused by sectoral egos or lack of coordination.

Obstacles Faced by Gakkumdu in Meeting the Deadline for Handling Election Violations

The law enforcement process in election violations is a fundamental element to maintain the integrity of democracy in Indonesia. Sentra Gakkumdu, which was established based on the mandate of Law Number 7/2017, has a strategic role in handling election crimes by involving Bawaslu, the police and the prosecutor's office in an integrated mechanism. However, its implementation is inseparable from various complex and dynamic challenges, especially related to the time limit for resolving cases stipulated in the law.

One of the fundamental problems faced is the limited time that is often insufficient to thoroughly investigate cases. According to the regulations, each report of an alleged electoral crime must be completed within a certain time, from the investigation stage to the submission to the court. This very tight timeframe covers the initial assessment process by Bawaslu, investigation by the police, and finally prosecution by the prosecutor's office. In practice, this often leads to some cases being discontinued due to insufficient evidence or not meeting the formal and material requirements within the specified time. (Ramadhan, 2021).

Differences in understanding between elements within the Gakkumdu Center are another significant obstacle. For example, different legal interpretations between police investigators and prosecutors regarding the elements of a criminal offense often lead to unresolved debates. In some cases, these different interpretations have led to cases not being able to proceed to the next stage because there is no agreement among Gakkumdu members. This not only slows down the process, but also reduces the level of public trust in law enforcement agencies. (Ananingsih, 2016).

Coordination between the institutions involved in the Gakkumdu is also a problem. High sectoral egos often make the decision-making process difficult and inefficient. Each institution tends to maintain its own internal procedures, making it difficult to reach agreement within the time limit. This constraint is further exacerbated by the lack of an effective communication mechanism between the three institutions, especially in handling cases involving complex evidence or witnesses that are difficult to present.

In addition, limited human resources are a major challenge in handling electoral violations. In many cases, the number of personnel involved, especially police investigators and prosecutors, is not proportional to the number of reports of violations received during the election period. This shortage means that many cases cannot be handled quickly and efficiently. In fact, in some cases, handling is stalled because there is not enough time or manpower to conduct in-depth investigations.

Vague or overly general legal norms are also a major obstacle. Many electoral regulations lack specificity in defining the elements of a criminal offense, such as in the case of money politics. In some situations, these ambiguous normative arrangements often leave room for overly broad interpretation, making it difficult for law enforcement to prove the crime in court. As a result, many perpetrators who should be charged eventually escape due to the weak legal basis used.

Another obstacle is the lack of public legal awareness. Many electoral violations go unreported because people are reluctant to engage in legal processes that are considered complicated and time-consuming. In addition, intimidation of witnesses or whistleblowers by certain parties often makes people afraid to report violations. This phenomenon shows that the success of law enforcement in elections depends not only on law enforcement officials, but also on the active participation of the community.

To overcome these obstacles, several strategic steps can be taken. First, revising regulations that provide greater time flexibility in handling election cases, especially for cases that require complex evidence collection. Second, increased cross-institutional training for Gakkumdu members to equalize perceptions in handling cases. Third, the use of information technology to speed up the documentation and communication process between the institutions involved. Fourth, public education to increase public awareness of the importance of reporting violations and the protection provided to whistleblowers.

From a long-term perspective, the establishment of specialized electoral courts may be an effective solution. Such a court could reduce the workload of other law enforcement agencies and ensure that each case is resolved in a fair and timely manner. In addition, the existence of a specialized court could increase public confidence in Indonesia's electoral law enforcement system.

Law enforcement against electoral crimes is an important aspect of ensuring a free, honest and fair democracy. The Gakkumdu Center, as an integrated mechanism involving Bawaslu, the police and the prosecutor's office, aims to accelerate and equalize understanding in handling

election violations. However, various challenges are still faced by Gakkumdu in meeting the time limit for handling cases as regulated by law.

a. Limited Handling Time

Law No. 7/2017 on Elections sets very strict time limits for the resolution of election crimes. In some stages, the process from investigation to case submission to the prosecutor's office is only given 14 working days. This restriction often prevents the Gakkumdu team from conducting a thorough investigation, especially in cases that require the collection of additional evidence or the involvement of reluctant witnesses.

b. Differences in Inter-Agency Perceptions

Differences in interpretation between Bawaslu, the police and the prosecutor's office regarding the elements of a criminal offense often hamper the process of handling cases. For example, a case that according to Bawaslu meets the elements of a criminal offense may not be considered to meet the criteria by the police or the prosecutor's office. This has resulted in many cases being stopped at an early stage.

c. Sectoral Ego and Coordination

Sectoral ego between institutions is one of the main obstacles in carrying out Gakkumdu tasks. Each institution often maintains its own procedures and interpretations, making it difficult to reach agreement in a short time. This poor coordination results in delays in the case handling process.

d. Lack of Personnel and Supporting Facilities

The limited number of personnel in Gakkumdu, especially police investigators trained in handling election crimes, also slowed down case handling. In addition, the lack of supporting facilities such as information technology to speed up the documentation process and communication between institutions is also an obstacle.

e. Legal and Regulatory Uncertainty

Vagueness in laws and regulations, such as differences in definitions and sanction provisions, is often the main reason for cases to stop midway. For example, in some cases, the sanction norms against money politics are not explicitly spelled out, making it difficult to catch the perpetrators.

f. Many electoral violations, especially money politics, go unreported because people are reluctant to engage in legal processes that are perceived as complicated and time-consuming. In addition, the fear of negative repercussions, such as intimidation from the perpetrators of violations, also hinders law enforcement efforts.

Overall, the obstacles faced by the Gakkumdu Center reflect the complexity of enforcing the law in the midst of political dynamics that are often full of conflicts of interest. With appropriate and directed efforts, Gakkumdu has the potential to become a more effective institution in maintaining the integrity of the democratic process in Indonesia.

4. CONCLUSIONS

Handling election violations in Indonesia through the Integrated Law Enforcement Center (Gakkumdu) is a strategic effort to ensure justice and democratic integrity. Although designed to accelerate the legal process, the effectiveness of the handling time still faces various obstacles, including inter-agency coordination, sectoral ego, limited human resources, and lack of supporting technology. Differences in legal interpretation between Gakkumdu elements and low public legal awareness are also major challenges. In practice, the strict handling time limit of 14 working days is often insufficient to address the complexity of election violation cases. As a result, many cases cannot be resolved fairly and thoroughly. Policy reforms are needed to improve the effectiveness of Gakkumdu, including through simplifying procedures, cross-agency training, utilizing digital technology, and increasing public legal literacy. The implementation of these reforms is expected to strengthen election law enforcement mechanisms, reduce potential conflicts of interest, and create a more transparent, fair and accountable democratic process. Thus, Gakkumdu can play its role more optimally in maintaining the integrity of elections and strengthening the foundations of democracy in Indonesia.

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