

## Using Democracy and Its Development

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### *Abstract*

*This research aims to explore the implementation of democracy and its development. The term democracy, when viewed from an etymological point of view, comes from the words demos (people) and cratein (to rule). Thus, democracy means government by the people, which in its further development, as we saw in the Declaration of Independence, is "of the people for the people and by the people". In other words, democracy means government from the people, for the people, and by the people. The development of a democratic government system does not only concern the political system but also the economy and global issues from only the political sphere to the sphere of social and economic life. Therefore, the discussion of the concepts of freedom and equality in democracy includes the concept of how democracy can be developed and practically can be realized. Although the democratic government system contains elements of strengths and weaknesses, it also contains weaknesses caused by, 1) In a democratic system where the majority wins, a compromise between several views is often sought. The weakness is that a compromise is difficult to find so the government is hampered in carrying out its duties; 2) It may occur that the resulting decision is not the best one, it may only be reached by an intermediate decision (mediocre); 3) Political figures can become thirsty for power and personal gain. This means they seek individual interests or group interests and the interests of the people are neglected; 4) In this democratic system each group (party) seeks as many supporters as possible to be able to influence government decisions. There can be fraud and intimidation to play a role in election campaigns. Even though there are weaknesses in the democratic system of government, this system must be rated as the best at this time. This is because, in a democratic system, the will of the people is obeyed as much as possible.*

**Keywords:** *Democracy, Democratic System.*

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## INTRODUCTION

The ideal democratic system of government has long been described by Jean-Jacques Rousseau, known as the Father of Popular Sovereignty. Rousseau began to dream of a new society, where humans could live happily, by their dignity, and have truly guaranteed freedom. Rousseau argued that humans are essentially free and autonomous creatures. This autonomous freedom is the basis of moral feeling. Driven by these moral feelings, humans feel obliged to live a good life.

In the beginning, humans who lived in primitive conditions had native freedom. Then humans who have original freedom form a life together. This is what is called a social contract. It is through the social contract that humans receive validation of their rights as humans. Both morally and juridically, everyone is equal or of equal standing. This social contract occurs because of the general will (*volonte generale*). Derived from this general will, everyone wants to realize their ideals and ultimately become general ideals. From here a general goal is created, namely the public interest. If a law is then created that does not reflect the public interest, because it does not apply equally to everyone, then the law must be considered unfair (Theo Huijbers, 1982).

This is where the people's sovereignty lies, where the sovereign people determine their ideals and objectives (general will) in controlling the government for the common good.

Initially, in countries where the population was still small, the general will could be requested directly from the people. However, in its development, because the country has more

and more people and more and more state affairs, the general will cannot be carried out directly, so the general will is channeled through its representatives. These representatives must speak on behalf of the people, and strive to ensure that all their actions reflect the interests of the people.

The government system as described above is called a democratic government system. The problems are therefore (1) What is the view and understanding of Democracy? (2) How does democracy develop? (3) What are the weaknesses of a democratic government system?

## RESEARCH METHODS

The research method used in this research is the normative juridical method. The normative juridical research method is legal research carried out by conducting research based on library materials also called secondary data. (Soekanto & Mahmudji, 2003). In this normative juridical research, the law is designed by what is written in the statutory regulations (law in books), or the law is conceptualized as a rule or norm that is a benchmark for humans to behave in their environment as deemed appropriate (Amiruddin & Asikin, 2012). In connection with the type of research used, namely normative juridical, the type of approach that will be used is a statutory approach. The legal sources used in this research are divided into three, namely: 1) Primary Legal Material, consisting of legal rules arranged based on hierarchy; 2) Secondary Legal Materials, namely legal materials obtained from textbooks, opinions of scholars, journals, and research results; 3) Tertiary Legal Materials, are legal materials that can provide meaningful instructions or explanations for primary and secondary legal materials such as legal dictionaries, encyclopedias, etc (Ibrahim, 2012).

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### 1. Several views and understandings of democracy

The term democracy, when viewed from an etymology perspective, comes from the words demos (people) and cratein (to rule). Thus, democracy means government by the people, which in subsequent developments, as we see in the Declaration of Independence, is "of the people for the people and by the people" (Sumantri, 1993). In other words, democracy means the government of the people, for the people, and by the people.

According to President Abraham Lincoln (Lijphard, 1984), the meaning of democracy is not only government by the people, but also for the people, namely government that is by the wishes of the people. Arend Lijphard said that an ideal democratic government is a government whose actions are always appropriate for the wishes of the entire people or nation. This democratic government is characterized not by perfect responsiveness, but by a high degree of concern for the will of the people (Lijphard, 1984). Democracy that fulfills the wishes of the people has at least eight (8) institutions that guarantee democracy, namely:

- a. Freedom to form and become members of organizations (Freedom to form and join Organizations);
- b. Freedom to express an opinion (Freedom of expression);
- c. The right to vote (The Right to vote);
- d. Can be appointed to public office (Eligibility for public office);
- e. The right of political leaders to compete for support and votes (The right of political leaders to compete for support and votes);
- f. Alternative sources of information (Alternative sources of information)
- g. Free and fair elections;

h. Institutions for making government policies depend on votes and other expressions of preference.

Furthermore, according to Arend Lijphard, there are two models of democracy, namely Western democracy and consensus democracy. Western democracy has the following characteristics:

- a. Concentration of Executive power: The cabinet consists of one party and an absolute majority (Concentration of executive power: one-party and bare-majority cabinets);
- b. Fusion of power and cabinet dominance;
- c. Unbalanced two-chamber system (Asymmetric bicameralism);
- d. Two-party system (Two-party system);
- e. One-dimensional party system (One-dimensional party system);
- f. Pluralistic electoral system (Plurality system of elections);
- g. Single and central government (Unitary and centralized government);
- h. Unwritten constitution and parliamentary sovereignty (Unwritten constitution and parliamentary sovereignty);
- i. Democracy that is truly representative (Exclusively representative democracy).
- j. Meanwhile, the characteristics of consensus democracy are as follows:
- k. Power that is exercised jointly (Executive power-sharing: grand coalitions);
- l. Separation of power, formal and informal);
- m. A balanced two-chamber system and minority representation (Balanced bicameralism and minority representation);
- n. Multi party system (Multiparty system);
- o. Multi-dimensional party system (Multidimensional party system);
- p. Proportional representation (Proportional representation);
- q. Territorial and non-territorial federation and decentralization (Territorial and non-territorial federalism and decentralization);
- r. A written constitution and the possibility of veto by a minority (Written constitution and minority veto).

Regarding the importance of democracy, according to Lewis (Lijphard, 1984), those involved in decision-making have the opportunity to participate in decision-making, either directly or indirectly through elected representatives of the people where the will of the majority is what determines. Lewis argued that the losing party would not be allowed to participate in important decision-making. If democracy is viewed from the meaning of the words, then it is impossible to realize it, because it is impossible for people with more to rule fewer people. According to Aristotle, democracy itself has a negative meaning. Democracy emerged as a result of the application of what is called cycle theory (Sumantri, 1993).

Aristotle, in discussing the forms of government that exist and that should apply, as stated in his book C.F.Strong entitled "Modern Political Constitutions", assumes that democracy is a form of decline. The basis of Aristotle's theory is that forms of government must be based on two alternatives, namely Good and Bad, which are then further detailed:

<i>Government by</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Bad</i>
<i>One</i>	<i>Monarchy</i>	<i>Tyranny</i>
<i>Few</i>	<i>Aristocracy</i>	<i>Oligarchy</i>
<i>many</i>	<i>Polity</i>	<i>Democracy</i>

Thus, according to Aristotle, democracy is a form of government which then experiences decline. Even then, democracy was called monarchy, the rule of the mob, namely a government

carried out by the masses. In this way, anarchy occurs (without government). This is related to the cycle theory of Polybios which says that initially, government was in the form of a monarchy. But then because humans are not the same, if the descendant of the reigning king then replaces him and rules arbitrarily then a tyranny will arise, namely where the king only pays attention to his interests. Then feelings of dissatisfaction arose among the nobility and overthrew the king, resulting in an aristocracy. Because humans do not have the same characteristics and are not immortal, oligarchy arises, namely government by a group of people for their interests. But then such a government will be opposed by the people, resulting in democracy and so on. Therefore, it is understandable why a French scholar named Maurice Duverger in his book *Les Regimes Politiques*, said the following:

"According to the meaning of the word as interpreted by the general public, then real democracy has never existed and cannot possibly exist. It is contrary to the nature of nature that the group with the largest number rules, while the few must be governed." (Sumantri, 1993). According to Sri Soemantri Martosoewignjo, what Maurice Duverger put forward was formal democracy or democracy according to its form. Therefore, if democracy can be interpreted in terms of its form, of course, there is also an understanding of democracy seen in terms of its content or material. So in this way, we have two meanings regarding democracy.

Furthermore, the existence of two kinds of understanding of democracy was also put forward by several scholars, namely Robert K. Carr : (American democracy in theory and practice) (Sumantri, 1993). "A further difficulty in defining democracy is that the term is used to describe both an ideology and an actual government mechanism. People refer to the former when they talk about a democratic way of life, and the latter when they talk about democracy in action. In other words, democracy is both theory and practice (a further difficulty with defining democracy is that the term is used to describe an ideology and a real mechanism of government. People refer to the former (ideology) when they talk about a democratic outlook on life and refer to the second thing when talking about democracy in action/implementation. In other words, democracy is both, theory and practice). "Bonger : (Problemen der Democratie) Using two terms, namely material democracy (materiele democratie) and formal democracy (formele democratie). William Goodman: (The two-party system in the United States), calls it Philosophy and Representative in form.

If we connect this with the adoption of democratic ideology by every nation and country, the question arises for us: "Where is the difference between other democracies?" The fundamental difference is democracy in the sense of its content (material), while in the second sense (formal), in principle there are no differences, there are only various variations.

## **2. Development of Democracy**

The development of a democratic government system not only concerns the political system but also the economy and global issues. As Carol C. Gould in her book *Democracy Revisited* says "I think that if the concepts of freedom and equality are sufficiently understandable, then what is then required is the need to demonstrate the conditions under which democracy can be extended from merely the political realm to the realm of social life and economics; and thus in all these areas of life decision making must be as widely participatory as possible, not only by representatives. Therefore, an adequate discussion of the concepts of freedom and equality in political philosophy requires a theory of democracy in which these concepts can be developed and practically realized." (Gould, 1993).

Richard Butwell, in his book entitled *Southeast Assistance Today And Tomorrow*, page 42, says that in its development democracy has had various predicates such as social democracy, liberal democracy, people's democracy, guided democracy, and so on. In connection with this, we can group democracy into two large groups, namely:

a. Democracy is based on progress in the social and economic fields

b. Democracy is based on freedom and equality.

Democracy, however, can also be based on progress in the socio-economic field and mutual independence and equality. Viewed from the point of view of its content, democracy as a realm of thought demands the realization of freedom and justice for everyone in their life in society or state (Sumantri, 1993). Therefore Prof. Usep Ranawidjaja provided his discussion of Prof.'s proposals. Ismail Suni regarding the Pancasila democratic mechanism at the Second National Law Seminar in December 1968 in Semarang, stated that there were five important elements, namely:

- a. The belief is that the condition of society is always changing and moving towards a more advanced direction.
- b. The belief is that changes in society occur due to encouragement from human actions and therefore humans can and must act to create a more advanced situation.
- c. Belief that in social/state life there must be tolerance, concessions, and mutual giving.
- d. In this regard, there must be a willingness to give trust (mandate) to other parties to exercise power/leadership for a certain period.
- e. Belief in the truth of common sense, namely that in the end it is common sense that will achieve victory over unhealthy reason ( Sumantri, 1993).

### **3. Weaknesses of the Democratic System**

In addition to containing elements of advantages and disadvantages, a democratic government system also contains weaknesses. Theo Huijbers (1982) said these weaknesses were caused by, among other things:

- a. In democratic systems where the majority wins, a compromise is often sought between several views. The weakness is that a compromise is difficult to find, so the government is hampered in carrying out its duties.
- b. It can happen that the resulting decision is not the best, it may only be that
- c. the mediocre decision is reached.
- d. Political figures may be thirsty for power and personal gain. This means that they seek individual interests or group interests and the interests of the people are neglected.
- e. In this democratic system, each group (party) seeks as many supporters as possible to influence government decisions. Fraud and intimidation may play a role in election campaigns.

Furthermore, the problems of a democratic government system can be seen in the congestion of two-way communication channels and their lack of function. If it is a purely technical error, then such an error is easily corrected. However, if the jamming of two-way communication channels has been engineered into a kind of component in the power administration mechanism, then it will be difficult to repair. Things that were previously unthinkable, such as the disappearance of the authority of the law, the emergence of legal uncertainty, the exercise of power which can give rise to a feeling of being treated arbitrarily, abuse of the content and sound of the constitution, easily emerge on the surface. This can cause frustration in the community, a sense of their dignity as citizens being trampled on and ultimately the people feeling that they have been treated unfairly (Theo Huijbers, 1982).

Even though there are weaknesses in the implementation of the democratic government system, deficiencies objections, and problems with the democratic system, according to Theo Huijbers (1982), this system must be assessed as the best, at least theoretically. This is because in a democratic system, the will of the people is followed and obeyed as far as possible.



## CONCLUSION

Based As a conclusion in discussing democracy today it can be stated as follows:

- a. The view of the meaning of democracy is now developing not only regarding the political system but also the economy and global issues from only the political area to the area of social and economic life.
- b. While the democratic government system contains elements of advantages and disadvantages, it also contains weaknesses.
- c. Even though the democratic government system contains weaknesses, the democratic
- d. government system must be assessed as the best at present. This is because, in a democratic government system, the will of the people is followed as far as possible

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