

Election Malpractice: A Case Study of the Election Process at the Polling Station in the 2024 Depok City Election

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Abstract

This study examines electoral malpractice in the 2024 general election in Depok City, Indonesia. The research objective is to identify and evaluate indications of electoral malpractice during the voting and vote counting processes. A qualitative explanatory case study methodology was employed, utilizing in-depth interviews with key stakeholders including election commission officials, election supervisors, and district election committee members, supplemented by document analysis of official reports. The findings reveal three primary forms of electoral malpractice. First, administrative malpractice occurred through voter list input errors affecting 18 additional voters exceeding quotas and logistical inadequacies resulting in ballot shortages at three polling stations, with deficits ranging from 45 to 110 ballots. Election supervisors identified 434 missing ballot boxes and 224 damaged ballot boxes. Second, voter preference manipulation manifested through subtle money politics, including distribution of small monetary amounts and food packages by candidates. Third, process manipulation involved technical errors in digital vote counting systems, particularly optical character recognition misreading numbers in the electronic recapitulation application. The study concludes that while no large-scale structured malpractice significantly altered election results, identified administrative, preference manipulation, and technical issues demonstrate systemic weaknesses in electoral integrity. These findings contribute to understanding electoral quality challenges in Indonesian democracy and highlight the need for strengthened oversight mechanisms and technical capacity improvements in future elections.

Keywords: Elections, Malpractice, Depok City, Democracy, Electoral Integrity

INTRODUCTION

General elections (elections) are a legitimate way to compete for political power and serve as a judgment against the current ruler. Elections provide the legitimacy of the people for the candidates for power and aim to determine the people's representatives to form a government from the people, by the people, and for the people (Pamungkas, 2009; Tjenreng, 2020). The concept of elections is inseparable from the democratic system, both show a close relationship based on the principles of government by the people, for the people, and from the people. Elections uphold the supreme right of the people as the main owners of power (Lubis et al., 2023). The electoral process includes several phases such as political campaigns, candidate nominations, propaganda, elections, and the announcement of results, which are governed by regulations that determine the procedures for implementation (Torres & Diaz, 2015).

The democratic process in Indonesia in 2024 is colored by various problems, such as the issue of the neutrality of Village Heads and ASN, money politics, and the Constitutional Court's decision on the age limit for Presidential Candidates/Vice Presidential candidates towards the end of registration. The Economist Intelligence Unit placed Indonesia in the category of "Flawed Democracy" with a drop in ranking from 56 to 59 out of 167 countries. Bawaslu RI recorded 129 reports and 71 findings of alleged violations of the neutrality of Village Heads in 2024, the most in Banten (20), Lampung (22), Southeast Sulawesi (16), East Java (12), and West Java (10). Regarding the neutrality of ASN, Bawaslu found 878 cases of partiality against certain candidates. Allegations of money politics also occurred at the voting stage.



Figure 1. Graph of the Indonesian Democracy Index in 2022-2024
Sumber : The Economist Intelligence Unit, 2024

Not only that, defects in the process of democracy in Indonesia are also found in crucial issues, one of which is the emergence of questions about the Neutrality of Village Heads and ASN in the democratic process in Indonesia, according to Bawaslu RI, in 2024 Bawaslu received as many as 129 reports and also 71 findings of alleged violations regarding the Neutrality of the Village Head, violations regarding the neutrality of the village head occurred most in Banten, as many as 20 reports, then Southeast Sulawesi as many as 16 reports, Lampung as many as 22 reports, East Java as many as 12 reports and West Java as many as 10 reports.

The implementation of elections must be transparent, balanced, and democratic. The minimum requirement is the existence of freedom and equality, with parameters such as accountability, representation, justice, and equal voting rights (Ramadan & Saputra, 2025). Quality elections must have high integrity at all stages, organizers, and means used (Hayckel, et al., 2024). Election integrity includes the implementation process and final results. The voting and vote counting stages are in the center of attention because they are prone to manipulation (Juwita et al., 2023). Election integrity is realized when the implementation follows the principles of democracy with voting rights for all citizens, political equality, professionalism, and transparency (Rahmatunissa, 2024). The issue of the integrity of election organizers is still the main problem. The high level of violations by organizers from the center to the lowest level has raised public distrust. The high intensity of simultaneous elections has an impact on the effectiveness of the performance of the KPU and other executive ranks, affecting the quality of ballots and procedural aspects of democracy. Although it saves time, simultaneous elections cause officer fatigue and high-tension conflicts (Amrullah et al., 2021).

One indication of fraudulent practices in the voting process and ballot counting for the 2024 election is in the city of Depok. In the 2019 election, even though DPT data has been collected, problems on voting day still occur. A number of polling stations in Depok are experiencing the problem of lack of ballots for the House of Representatives. Another evidence is further corroborated by multiple petitions submitted to the Constitutional Court concerning administrative irregularities documented during the 2019 General Election in West Java province (Virdaus et al, 2025). The implementation of the 2024 election recorded several negative things during the voting process. The problems that have arisen include allegations of fraud in the form of ballots that have been voted and the exhaustion of ballot supplies at several polling stations. The author has summarized the various obstacles that occurred during the implementation of the 2024 election in the Depok City area. Considering that the same incident also happened in the

2019 regional elections, it is undeniable that there is negligence or intentionality in the election process in 2024. In this article, the researcher will discuss some indications of election malpractice that can refer to fraud in the 2024 general election in the city of Depok with the elaboration of data and explanatory qualitative analysis.

RESEARCH METHODS

The type of research used in this study is qualitative explanatory research, research with an explanatory method, which is research whose purpose of explanatory research is to provide an explanation of why something happens or answer questions. According to Neuman, explanatory research is research that connects or seeks cause and effect between two or more concepts (variables) to be studied (George & Merkus, 2023). This study uses case studies as the main method. Case studies include qualitative methods in which researchers explore the programs, processes, events, or activities of the institution being researched in depth. The cases studied are usually limited by specific time and activities (Deterding & Waters, 2021). Researchers generally collect detailed data through various data collection procedures that are carried out on an ongoing basis as well as in-depth interviews with the sources. This research has several limitations and contexts on the object of its research. First, this study focuses on election malpractice that occurred at the stage of counting and recapitulation votes in the 2024 Legislative Election. Second, this study provides a scope of research only on the involvement of the KPU based on one of them, on a report to the DKPP regarding violations of the KPU code of ethics and its staff (including adhoc organizers) in the vote recapitulation stage in the legislative election. From here, it can be seen and analyzed the patterns of involvement of election organizers in election malpractice and also the opportunity for corruption to occur. Then, based on the initial pre-research study, this study focuses on the involvement of the Depok City KPU, mainly at the grassroots level, namely: 1) District Election Committee (PPK); Voting Committee (PPS); and 3) Voting Organizing Group (KPPS).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

General Election Rules

The KPU is given the responsibility to hold elections in Indonesia. The 1945 Constitution Article 22 E paragraph 5 emphasizes that elections are held by a national, permanent, and independent general election commission. From a legal point of view, it can be concluded that the KPU is the only official body that is given the authority to hold elections, without any other institution that has similar rights. Bawaslu, DKPP, and the Constitutional Court are not election organizing bodies. The rule emphasizes that only the KPU carries out the entire series of election stages. The KPU carries out its duties guided by electoral laws, namely all laws and regulations related to elections.

In Article 167 paragraph 4 of Law 7 of 2017 and KPU Regulation Number 3 of 2022, a series of stages for holding the 2024 election have been stipulated in detail. These stages include: Preparation of regulations for the implementation of elections along with program and budget planning. The next stage includes the preparation and updating of voter data, the verification and registration process of election participants, and the determination of election participants. The KPU also regulates the determination of constituencies and the number of seats, followed by the nomination of members of the DPR, DPD, DPRD provinces, district/city DPRD as well as the President and Vice President. In addition, the election campaign period, quiet period, and the

process of counting and voting ballots are also regulated. The final stage is in the form of determining the election results followed by the pronouncement of the oaths/promises of members of the DPR, DPD, DPRD provinces, district/city DPRD along with the president and vice president.

According to PKPU No. 17 of 2024, basically the implementation of voting and vote counting in elections must be guided by the principles of independence, honesty, fairness, legal certainty, order, openness, proportionality, professionalism, accountability, effectiveness, efficiency and accessibility. The stages of voting and vote counting according to PKPU No. 17 of 2024 itself have 4 stages, namely the preparation of voting, the implementation of voting, the preparation of vote counting, and the implementation of vote counting (KPU, 2024).

2024 General Election in Depok City

The 2024 Election will be held, the Depok City KPU has inaugurated the number of Permanent Voter Lists (DPT) for the 2024 Simultaneous Elections. Details of the number of registered voters in Depok City for 2024 are presented below.

Table 1 Number of Depok City DPTs in the 2024 Election

Total Numbers (Souls)	Man (soul)	Woman (soul)
1.427.674	700.215	724.459

Source : Depok City Election Supervisory Agency

Similar to the problems in the 2019 election even though DPT data collection has been carried out, problems on voting day still occur. A number of polling stations in Depok are experiencing the problem of lack of ballots for the House of Representatives. The implementation of the 2024 election recorded several negative things during the voting process. The problems that have arisen include allegations of fraud in the form of ballots that have been voted and the exhaustion of ballot supplies at several polling stations. The author has summarized the various obstacles that occurred during the implementation of the 2024 election in the Depok City area.

Table 2 Problems in the Implementation of the 2024 Election in Depok City

Problem Indicators	Location	Amount of Damage/Deficiency
Disadvantages of ballots	TPS 119 Mekarsari	110 ballots
	TPS 67 Bakti Jaya	100 ballots
	TPS 16 Cipayung	45 ballots
The number of additional voters exceeds the DPT quota	TPS 140 Charm of Illusion	Additional voters: 18 people

Source : Researcher Recap

Three polling stations in Depok City, West Java experienced a shortage of ballots in the presidential election yesterday. The cause of this problem may be due to an error during the implementation of the ballot entry set, so that there is a shortage. The shortage of ballots at three Depok polling stations in the implementation of the election was quite significant to reach 100.

Residents of the Nirmala Valley Housing in Cimanggis Mekarsari, Depok experienced anxiety due to the case of running out of ballots at TPS 119 since 09.30 WIB. When the time almost reached 13.00 WIB, the unrest was increasing among the people present. As a result of this situation, the organizing committee was forced to make a decision to postpone the voting procedure until 13.00 WIB while waiting for additional ballots from other polling stations (Puspitasari, 2024). This caused the elections at the location to be disrupted, so that the residents

who had come had to return home first to wait for the completion of the ballots, which had the potential to affect the quality and integrity of democracy at the local level during this transition period (Ramadhanty & Maullana, 2024).

TPS 67 Bakti Jaya in Depok experienced a commotion on voting day because some voters did not receive ballots for presidential and vice presidential candidates. The problem occurred when out of a total of 275 ballots that should have been available, there were only 175 presidential ballots. When the committee opened the ballot envelopes, they found a discrepancy between the number written on the envelope (275) and the contents of only 175 sheets. This case shows that there are problems in the quality of the implementation of elections that have the potential to reduce the integrity of the democratic process procedurally and substantially for the community. The step taken by the committee then was that registration was stopped when the number of ballots reached 175. Registration at the polling station will only open again at 11.30 WIB. They waited until the ballots were delivered by the PPS of Bakti Jaya Village, but it turned out that only 50 were accepted. In total, only 225 were received out of 275 presidential ballots that should have been received. Regarding the problems that occurred, the PPS of Bakti Jaya Village did not provide an explanation regarding the shortcoming. They just kept telling their party to wait for the short-lived presidential ballots to arrive. Until there was a heated situation from residents who did not receive the presidential ballot (Amelia, 2024)

The problem occurred at TPS 140 Pesona Khayangan due to the number of additional voters that exceeded the limit of two percent of the Permanent Voter List (DPT) that had been set by the KPU. The Chairman of the KPPS TPS said that based on applicable regulations, additional voters should only be six people. But in reality, the number has swelled to 18 people. As a result, KPPS faces operational obstacles due to a shortage of ballots to accommodate all voters (iNews, 2024).

The Depok City Bawaslu has found a shortage of 434 ballot boxes needed for the 2024 election when overseeing the process of distributing voting logistics. Not only that, the marker sticker for each ballot box also experiences a similar thing, even though the sticker serves to distinguish the forum for the Presidential Election, the election of members of the DPD, the Indonesian Legislative Election, provinces and districts/cities. In addition to the number problem, the Depok City Bawaslu also recorded 224 damaged ballot boxes, ranging from light to severe damage after arriving from the manufacturing plant. Some of the forms of damage identified include tears, transparent mica that are broken or loose, and some even have been completely destroyed. The accumulation of boxes during transportation from factories is believed to be the main cause of the damage, which has the potential to disrupt the quality and integrity of election administration for the community (Juliansyah, 2023).

Then if we look at several cases of logistical problems during the voting stage in several places in Depok, it indicates that there is a lack of coordination from the organizers, both in terms of collecting data on the number of local voters and other logistical equipment. Some polling stations that faced logistical problems at the time of voting turned out to be located in big cities. The area should have easy access to logistics distribution, so problems such as insufficient ballots do not need to occur. Based on information obtained from the Depok news media, the Sukmajaya District Election Supervisory Committee (Panwascam) is committed to continuing to monitor the process of distributing logistics equipment for the 2024 elections. Monitoring will be carried out up to the polling station level to ensure that the quality of election implementation is well maintained. Mekarjaya, Abadijaya, Tirtajaya, and Cisalak Villages have received distribution. Currently, on January 26 (Friday), distribution activities are running in Sukmajaya Village and will continue to Baktijaya Village. Supervision by Panwascam will cover 726 polling stations. The details of supervision are divided into several areas: 173 polling stations in Abadijaya Village, 54 polling stations are in Cisalak Village, Tirtajaya Village has 68 polling stations, and Mekarjaya Village has 170 polling stations. Meanwhile, 95 polling stations are in Sukmajaya

Village and 164 polling stations are in Baktijaya Village, with the two locations still waiting for the completion of the election logistics distribution process (JD 02, 2024).

All efforts have been made so that the logistics of the 2024 Election in Depok City are carried out with the principles of accuracy of type, quantity, quality, time, and targets. Even so, on the day of the implementation, several defects were still found that ultimately hampered the voting process. This kind of case is part of a form of election malpractice that reduces the integrity of the election administration as a whole. The problem of defective ballots is not only an ordinary procedural problem, but has the potential to interfere with people's democratic rights to participate optimally.

Analysis of the Causes of Malpractice

According to Sarah Birch in her book, she defines malpractice as any form of deviation in the concept of ideal democracy that violates the universal principles of free, fair, and integrity elections such as: (a) secret ballot; (b) under universal and equal suffrage; (c) in a nondiscriminatory manner; (d) allowing direct choice; (e) Free expression. **Law No. 7 of 2017** concerning Elections in Indonesia prohibits all forms of election malpractice and classifies it as a form of election crime. For example, **Article 551** regulates the provisions for sanctions from forms of election malpractice in the form of vote manipulation which states: *"Every member of the KPU, Provincial KPU, Regency/City KPU, PPK, and/or PPS for intentionally causing the loss or change of the minutes of the recapitulation of the results of the vote count/certificate of recapitulation of the vote count shall be punished for a maximum of 2 years and a fine of Rp. 24,000,000"*.

Based on an interview with Hendra as the Chairman of the PPK, the recruitment of PPK members is carried out openly by the KPU through CAT selection and interviews, reflecting the principles of transparency and accountability. However, the system has not been fully able to filter out political actors with corrupt tendencies, as can be seen from the fact that there are still loopholes in the practice of money politics outside the polling stations. In terms of the right to vote, many residents tried to vote without the procedure to move to vote in accordance with regulations, even using intimidation to officers. This situation is in line with the concept of electoral coercion according to Birch, where the validity of the right to vote is questioned when it is not based on administrative legality. The weak political literacy of the community indicates the lack of effectiveness of socialization by the KPU, although Mas Hendra said that socialization has been carried out massively. Regarding logistics, which is a prominent issue, Hendra highlighted the shortage of ballots due to obstacles at the central level, especially in the tender and procurement process by the Indonesian Election Commission. The hampered distribution led to follow-up voting at several polling stations. In Birch's perspective, this condition includes maladministration that threatens the integrity of the electoral process.

In the campaign aspect, the practice of dawn attacks (envelopes) was found the night before voting. Even though it occurs outside the scope of the polling station, this practice still affects the election results as a form of vote buying in the concept of electoral manipulation. Unfortunately, this action was not followed up by Bawaslu because there was no formal report, showing weaknesses in the violation reporting system. The voting process procedurally went well with all polling stations opening the ballot boxes on time without delay. However, there were errors in the recording of votes due to fatigue and unintentional mistakes by KPPS which according to Birch can be categorized as inadvertent malpractice. Fortunately, the correction system at the PPK level runs effectively through C-Plano results and digital recapitulation (Sirekap).

The recapitulation at the PPK level was carried out with a cross-proof mechanism between the plano and a copy of the results, supported by active supervision from Panwascam and party witnesses even though errors in the vote input were still found. The effectiveness of supervision is the main key to preventing procedural fraud, with the obligation of KPPS to follow

technical guidance as a positive step even though fatigue constraints remain a vulnerable point. Overall, the quality of the 2024 election in Cipayung District is described as the best according to Mas Hendra's experience, despite facing various challenges such as external pressure, intimidation, lack of logistics, and vote buying practices outside the polling station. The internal correction system has succeeded in reducing the potential for systemic fraud.

Based on an interview with the Chairman of the Depok City Bawaslu, the quality of the election is not only measured by the smooth technical process, but also by the lack of malpractice that occurs according to Sarah Birch's theory. In the registration and verification stage of election participants, no significant reports were found related to violations. However, the issue of women's representation in the list of candidates at the local level shows the need to strengthen supervision of compliance with administrative requirements. The Chairman of Bawaslu acknowledged the limitations in taking action against violations related to central policies such as the 30% quota of women's representation, which according to Birch is a form of structural malpractice. Problems with voting rights arise in several polling stations related to additional voters who exceed the DPT quota, especially at TPS 140 Pesona Kayangan. This phenomenon indicates weak socialization and coordination of election administration, which in Birch's theory is classified as administrative malpractice that has an impact on exclusion or unauthorized inclusion. Although the arrangement and mapping of constituencies is not discussed explicitly, the implications appear to be in the inequality of logistics distribution and the number of voters that are not in accordance with the projection. This mistake has the potential to affect the principle of proportionality in elections which is the main element in maintaining the quality of electoral competition. Regarding candidacy, the report of campaign fund violations by one of the candidates illustrates potential administrative violations that can affect the fairness of the competition. This non-compliance with campaign finance regulations fits within the framework of "legal malfeasance" in Birch's theory. The shortage of ballots at several polling stations (TPS 119 Mekarsari, TPS 67 Bakti Jaya, and TPS 16 Cipayung) has become a striking issue in election logistics. Bawaslu said this happened due to human error and the lack of technical expertise of KPU officers in logistics management, which is a form of "technical maladministration" according to Birch.

The campaign stage is the phase with the most reports of alleged violations, including money politics practices such as the distribution of money by candidates in the form of buying snacks to residents. Although not legally proven, this practice includes "vote buying" which Birch categorizes as "coercive manipulation". The voting and vote counting process went quite well with a high participation rate and a quick resolution of logistical shortcomings through cross-subsidies. However, the chaos of ballot management still has an impact on public trust, which in Birch's concept is categorized as malpractice that undermines "input legitimacy". Problems in the Sirekap application also occur, such as errors in submitting C1 results. Although there are mechanisms for correction and openness through physical copies, the potential for manipulation of digital data is included in institutional manipulation, according to Birch. Fortunately, the involvement of many parties, including party witnesses and supervisors, ensures that there is an adequate correction system.

Referring to Sarah Birch's theory, it can be concluded that the 2024 election in Depok City still shows symptoms of election malpractice, especially in administrative aspects (DPT input errors and lack of logistical readiness), subtle manipulation (money politics in the form of feeding), and technocratic (technical errors in logistics management and digital systems).

Evaluation of the Quality of the 2024 Election

An interview with the Chairman of the Depok City KPU, Mr. Wily, provided a comprehensive overview of the process and challenges of holding the 2024 Election. In the framework of measuring election quality which includes the main stages, the results of the interviews show a number of successes and weaknesses when viewed through the theory of

electoral malpractice from Sarah Birch. At the stage of registration and verification of participants, the interview does not review explicitly. However, the absence of reports of conflicts or significant problems indicates that the initial stages are going relatively well. From Birch's perspective, electoral malpractice is not always visible; Potential administrative manipulation or non-transparent verification processes still need to be monitored even if they do not come to the surface.

The Depok City KPU admitted that there was a shortage of ballots at several polling stations such as Mekarsari and Cipayung, which caused some residents to not be able to vote on time. In Cipayung, voters are even asked to vote from home at night. According to Sarah Birch, failure to guarantee the right to vote, even if due to human error, can be classified as maladministration that weakens the legitimacy of elections. The aspect of constituency mapping was not explicitly discussed in the interview. The absence of public complaints or protests means that this process at least does not arouse political suspicion. Sarah Birch emphasized that election malpractice can occur in the form of manipulation of constituency mapping that is latent and difficult to prove without quantitative data.

The interviews did not reveal conflicts or malpractices in the candidacy process, but the absence of this issue does not mean that this stage is free of hidden malpractice, given that party control over the list of candidates and internal party transparency are often weak in Indonesia. The most prominent problem is the lack of logistics in the form of ballots due to errors in the sorting and packaging stages. Fatigue officers are cited as the main cause. This is a clear example of technical malpractice according to Birch. The KPU's swift response demonstrates a commitment to restoring the integrity of the process, but voting outside polling stations and at night can cast doubt on transparency.

The KPU said that the collection process went smoothly with high enthusiasm from residents despite the rain. For the count, the monitoring mechanism by witnesses and polling station supervisors as well as digital documentation helps maintain transparency. However, the Sirekap application experienced technical problems such as an error reading the numbers in the C1 photo. Systemic failures in optical character recognition can be considered a form of digital malpractice. The KPU acknowledged that there were allegations from two parties (PPP and NasDem) about alleged vote inflating, but the Constitutional Court rejected the lawsuit because there was not enough evidence. From Birch's perspective, repeated accusations of recapitulation integrity indicate the risk of institutional manipulation. Based on Sarah Birch's theory of electoral malpractice, the quality of elections is measured through the ability of election organizers and systems to avoid three main forms of malpractice: legal manipulation, manipulation of voter preferences, and manipulation of the voting process and vote counting.

In the context of Depok City, no strong indication of regulatory manipulation was found, although there were indications that transfer voters did not understand the administrative procedures that caused conflicts on the ground. This ignorance is not direct legal manipulation, but can give rise to administrative malpractices that have an impact on citizens' electoral rights. Regarding the manipulation of voter preferences, Bawaslu found money politics in the form of the distribution of Rp5,000 by one of the candidates even though it could not be processed legally. The Chairman of PPK Cipayung also said that there was intimidation of officers that had the potential to interfere with the independence of the organization. In terms of manipulation of the voting process and vote counting, interviews showed a lack of ballots in a number of polling stations and data input errors in the SIREKAP system. Bawaslu noted that logistics problems do not come from intentionality, but from the lack of managerial and technical capacity of human resources at the KPU. Overall, although no large-scale and structured malpractice was found, technical and administrative indicators still showed vulnerable points that had an impact on the quality of the elections.

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis of interviews with various election stakeholders (Chairman of the Depok City KPU, Chairman of the Depok City Bawaslu, and Chairman of the Cipayang District PPK), it can be concluded that the 2024 election in Indonesia, especially in the Depok City area, experiences various challenges that affect its quality even though it can be held relatively well in general. The 2024 election in Indonesia is colored by a number of problems that put Indonesia in the category of "Flawed Democracy" according to The Economist Intelligence Unit. The decline in Indonesia's democracy index occurred in the functioning of government and the electoral process as well as pluralism. Some of the key problems identified include:

First, the administrative aspect is a critical point that has a significant effect on the quality of elections. The lack of ballot logistics at several polling stations (such as in Mekarsari, Cipayang, and Bakti Jaya) caused some voters to not be able to exercise their voting rights on time. Within the framework of Sarah Birch's theory, this condition is categorized as maladministration that, while not always intentional, still undermines the legitimacy of elections because it violates the principles of inclusivity and equality. Second, there are still weaknesses in the neutrality of the election organizing apparatus. Bawaslu data shows 129 reports and 71 findings of alleged violations of the neutrality of the Village Heads, as well as 878 cases related to the neutrality of ASN. This situation illustrates the fragility of the integrity of the electoral process at the grassroots level and the weak enforcement of the principle of neutrality for public officials. Third, the practice of money politics still colors the democratic process, albeit in a more subtle form such as food distribution or a small nominal amount (Rp5,000). Although difficult to prove legally due to the absence of an element of *mens rea* (intent to influence), this practice is still a form of vote buying which according to Birch is categorized as coercive manipulation that distorts voter preferences. Fourth, technological innovations such as the Sirekap application still face technical obstacles such as OCR reading errors (the number 0 is read as 6 or 8) which has the potential to raise suspicions of data manipulation. This weakness shows that the digitization of the election process, although aimed at increasing transparency, can actually create new vulnerabilities in the form of digital malpractice if not implemented with careful preparation. Fifth, the weak political and administrative literacy of the community is reflected in the number of voters who do not understand the procedure for moving to vote, even to the point of intimidating officers. This indicates the lack of effective socialization of election regulations and has the potential to cause exclusion or unauthorized inclusion in the voter list. Despite various weaknesses, the internal correction system in the election process is quite effective. The mechanism of cross-proving between physical (plano) and digital (Sirekap) documents, active supervision from Panwascam and party witnesses, and the quick responsiveness of organizers to logistical shortages through cross-subsidization between polling stations show efforts to maintain process integrity.

In the perspective of Sarah Birch's theory, the implementation of the 2024 election in Indonesia still shows symptoms of election malpractice in three main forms: administrative malpractice (DPT input errors and lack of logistical readiness), voter preference manipulation (money politics in subtle forms), and process manipulation (technical errors in digital systems). Nonetheless, no evidence of large-scale and structured malpractice was found that significantly altered the outcome of the election. For the upcoming general elections, improvements need to be focused on strengthening the managerial and technical capacity of the organizers' human resources, more reliable digitalization, increasing people's political literacy, and enforcing the principles of Luberjurdil elections (Direct, General, Free, Secret, Honest, and Fair) more consistently to ensure that elections run with high quality and produce a government that has strong legitimacy.

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