

Habib Hadi's Leadership Transition in Probolinggo 2024 Election

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Abstract

Elections in Indonesia reflect the practice of popular sovereignty as stipulated in the 1945 Constitution and Law No. 7 of 2017. This study examines the leadership transition of Habib Hadi in the 2024 Probolinggo Mayoral Election. This transition mirrors the dynamics of local democracy, presenting challenges in ensuring the continuity of development programmes and upholding good governance. Based on charismatic and transformational leadership theories, the study explores the influence of Habib Hadi's leadership on public political participation, government stability, and sustainable development. The study employs a case study method with a qualitative approach through in-depth interviews and document analysis. The results indicate that while Habib Hadi has made positive contributions in various sectors, challenges in transparency and efficiency need to be addressed to strengthen leadership legitimacy.

Keywords: *Leadership Transition, Probolinggo Mayoral Election, Charismatic Leadership*

Introduction

Indonesia's elections, in accordance with Articles 1 and 22E of the 1945 Constitution and Law No. 7/2017, are a manifestation of popular sovereignty to strengthen democracy and ensure election accountability. This situation must be understood as part of a democracy that continues to grow and develop in a political transition process that experiences various maturations in the political behaviour of the state and its people. As Robert Dahl once stated, an ideal democracy always demands various things that no actual regime is able to fully understand: "when looking for an ideal democracy, there is no democratic regime".

Habib Hadi's leadership transition in the 2024 Probolinggo Mayor Election (Pilwali) is part of the dynamics of local democracy regulated in the 1945 Constitution, Law No. 7/2017 on Elections, and Law No. 10/2016 on Regional Head Elections. In the context of the constitution, Article 18 paragraph (4) of the 1945 Constitution states that governors, regents and mayors are democratically elected, emphasising the importance of elections as a leadership transition mechanism at the regional level. This is reinforced by the principle

of popular sovereignty as stated in Article 1 paragraph (2) of the 1945 Constitution, which states that sovereignty is in the hands of the people and is exercised through a democratic process.

As the main legal basis, Law No. 7/2017 regulates the implementation of elections that include the principles of direct, general, free, secret, honest, and fair. In Pilwali, this law works side by side with Law No. 10/2016, which specifically regulates the stages and mechanisms of regional head elections, including nomination, campaigning, voting, and determination of results. This law also ensures the continuity of local government through an orderly and planned leadership transition (Sholikin, 2021).

Habib Hadi, as Mayor, faces the 2024 Pilwali Probolinggo within the framework of a democratic transition that allows the people to give him another leadership mandate (Sholikin, 2023). If re-elected, he is expected to continue the programmes that have been running, while if not, the leadership transition must be carried out by upholding the principles of good governance that ensure the sustainability of public services (Sholikin, 2024b). This

transition process is overseen by election organisers, namely the General Election Commission (KPU), the Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu), and other relevant institutions to ensure compliance with regulations and avoid potential conflicts (Sholikin, 2019).

Pilwali Probolinggo 2024 reflects the practice of democracy at the regional level that is strategic for local development. With clear regulations, this leadership transition is a means to strengthen the legitimacy of elected leaders and provide space for people's aspirations in determining the direction of Probolinggo City's development.

METHOD

This research uses a qualitative approach with a case study design to understand leadership dynamics in the context of the Probolinggo Pilwali. This approach allowed the researcher to explore in depth the community's perceptions of their leaders, as well as the factors that influence the level of political participation. Data was collected through in-depth interviews with respondents consisting of community members and through document analysis.

RESEARCH FINDING AND DISCUSSION

The direct election of the Mayor in Probolinggo is an example of the implementation of local democracy that reflects some of the principles of Robert Dahl's ideal democracy theory. Dahl, in his work *A Preface to Democratic Theory* (1956), states that ideal democracy involves active participation of citizens, political freedom, and collective decision-making that reflects the interests of the whole society. Therefore, the Pilwali in Probolinggo has led to the application of the basic principles of ideal democracy that provide equal opportunities for people to participate in choosing their leaders (Sholikin, 2024a).

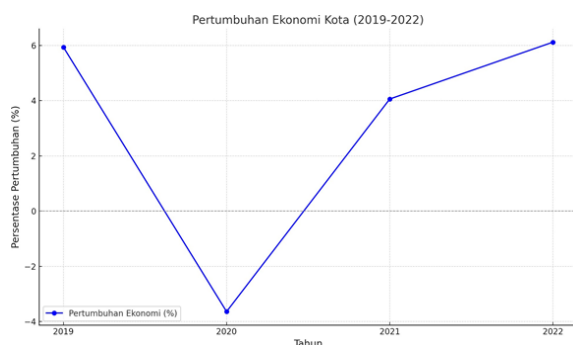
Community involvement in the Pilwali Probolinggo also shows that this local democracy reflects political freedom guaranteed by law. Article 1 paragraph (2) of the 1945 Constitution states that sovereignty resides in the hands of the people, which is exercised through honest and fair elections. In this context, Pilwali as part of the elections in Probolinggo provides a space for the community to channel their aspirations in determining leaders who are considered to represent their interests. However, further efforts are needed to ensure that political freedom is not only

limited to elections, but also in monitoring policies and important decisions that affect the community.

The community's perspective is the main record and reference, to assess and weigh the extent of the quality of the previous leadership, namely during the leadership of Hadi Zainal Abidin as the elected Mayor for the 2019-2024 period. Within 5 years, the community should have been able to evaluate all aspects and achievements in Probolinggo City. For example, aspects of developing the economy, education and health and infrastructure. Mayor Hadi Zainal's leadership record is the main highlight, which should be deeply interpreted by the people of Probolinggo through experience and understanding in the last 5 years. There are achievements during his leadership in the 2019-2024 period such as:

1. Economy

Figure 1: Economic Growth Chart of Probolinggo City



Source: Tempo, 2023

Probolinggo City shows fluctuating economic growth dynamics, from 5.94% in 2019, dropping to -3.64% due to the pandemic in 2020, but rebounding to 4.06% in 2021 and jumping to 6.12% in 2022. Economic development in the city is not only orientated towards numbers, but also on strengthening facilities, infrastructure, and public awareness. With a strategic location on the main Java-Bali route and complete infrastructure access such as ports, stations, and toll roads, Probolinggo has the advantage of supporting logistics distribution, tourism, and business connectivity. Going forward, strengthening digital infrastructure, economic diversification, improving human resources, and regional collaboration will be key to maintaining growth momentum and improving the city's competitiveness.

2. Health

Figure 2: Construction Process of Ar-Rozy Hospital



Source: Radar Bromo, 2024

Habib Hadi, as a charismatic figure, has shown various successes that are recognised by the community, especially in the health sector. One of the key achievements is the success in achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) of 100% by 2023, up from 99.57% in 2019. This was supported by the free BPJS programme for the underprivileged with a budget allocation of IDR 35.9 billion. In addition, the number of ambulances increased from 19 units in 2019 to 29 units 2023, which is accompanied by a 24-hour free service.

Habib Hadi also fulfilled his campaign promise by building a modern hospital in the south of Probolinggo City using a budget of Rp 200 billion and medical equipment worth Rp 34.5 billion.

This programme was strengthened with a halfway house facility for families of inpatients to ensure optimal and humane health services. While the programme was appreciated, some respondents felt that the construction of the hospital was ineffective, given other pressing infrastructure needs. One respondent noted that the programme is "good, but there are more urgent priorities," thus an evaluation of the sustainability of the programme is needed.

3. Agriculture

Based on information from the official website of Probolinggo City, the government provides superior seed assistance to local farmers. The seeds are selected based on their suitability for local soil and climate conditions, and are expected to increase agricultural productivity.

Figure 3: Providing Rice Seed Assistance for Farmer Welfare



Source: probolinggokota.go.id, 2024

Farmers who received seedlings reported a 20-30% increase in yield compared to the previous season. With improved seedlings that are more resistant to pests and weather changes, the risk of crop failure is significantly reduced. In , the government also provided technical training to farmers, which includes modern planting methods, the use of organic fertilisers, and efficient irrigation management. Thanks to the innovation, the Probolinggo City Government received a food security award from the East Java Government. According to Statistical Data on Rice Production in Probolinggo City (Tonnes) in 2019 at the beginning of Habib Hadi's leadership year, the amount of rice production reached 7,165.00 (tonnes) in the second year, 2020 as much as 7,543.00 (tonnes), then in

the third year 2021, as much as 8,924.00 (tonnes), in 2022 as much as 8,104.00 (tonnes).

4. Infrastructure Development

Habib Hadi also prioritised the development of road and bridge infrastructure to support regional economic activities. At the beginning of his term, the length of roads in good condition was recorded at 77.57 per cent, increasing to 80.35 per cent in 2019, and reaching 94.69 per cent in 2022. Respondents generally appreciated this improvement in infrastructure quality. One respondent mentioned that infrastructure development is "quite satisfactory and the impact can be seen in various regions." Another respondent added that previously damaged roads have been repaired, making it easier for people to access their activities, although there is still a small note regarding the optimisation of the use of new infrastructure.

Meanwhile, other views underline that while these infrastructure improvements bring significant benefits, it is important

to ensure the sustainability of road and bridge maintenance, especially in peri-urban areas that sometimes receive less attention. The community's expectation for Habib Hadi's leadership or his successor is to maintain the good momentum of infrastructure development while still paying attention to other priority needs that support the local economy holistically.

In this transitional condition, the continuation of the Probolinggo City Government controlled by the Acting Mayor must carry out its main task of providing services and development of the people of Probolinggo City, as well as delivering the elected Mayor / Deputy Mayor to the inauguration process and this must be carried out in accordance with the standard rules of the planning stages in the Region which are adjusted to the stages of national planning in accordance with Law Number 25 of 2004 concerning the National Development Planning System which mandates that the national development planning system aims to ensure the creation of integration, synchronisation and synergy both between regions, between spaces, between times, between government

functions and between the centre and regions.

Figure 4: Registration of Candidates for Mayor and Deputy Mayor 2024



Source: Wartabromo, 2024

Habib Hadi Zainal Abidin has officially re-registered as a candidate for Mayor of Probolinggo in the 2024 Mayoral Election (Pilwali). This step shows his seriousness to continue the leadership that has been running during the previous period. In this candidacy, Habib Hadi is carried by a coalition of parties that includes the National Awakening Party (PKB), Prosperous Justice Party (PKS), and United Development Party (PPP). He has partnered with Zainal Arifin as his Deputy Mayor candidate to complement his vision and mission.

The people of Probolinggo gave various views on Habib Hadi's re-nomination. Several respondents from

the survey mentioned that Habib Hadi has a positive track record, especially in infrastructure development, improving the quality of health services, and implementing religious and social value-based programmes. One respondent stated, "His step to run again gives hope for the sustainability of the programmes that are already running."

However, the community also highlighted the challenges to be faced if re-elected, such as the need for greater transparency in budget management and optimisation of development programme implementation. Habib Hadi is expected to not only maintain previous achievements, but also bring new innovations that are relevant to the current needs of the community. With the support of the coalition and experience during the previous period, Habib Hadi's candidacy reflects the dynamics of competitive local democracy and provides space for the people to determine their leaders democratically.

Figure 5: Implementation of the Grand Campaign of Candidates for Mayor and Deputy Mayor 2024



Source: Pantura7, 2024

As a leader, Habib Hadi relied on a personal approach based on emotional closeness with the community. This approach succeeded in creating a close relationship, but in Pilwali 2024, bigger political challenges arise, such as the increasingly competitive competition between candidates. In the context of Huntington's theory of political participation, the local democratic process in Probolinggo shows distinctive dynamics. Public participation has increased, but the uneven distribution of political information remains an obstacle. Respondents recognised the importance of more open and inclusive communication to support effective campaign strategies.

In addition, people expect the next leader to be able to present a clear vision for development. Based on visionary leadership theory, success in political transition lies in the leader's ability to describe a direction that is measurable

and relevant to the needs of the community. In this case, although Habib Hadi has the advantage of being a charismatic leader, his vision needs to be transformed into more strategic policies.

Habib Hadi's defeat in Pilwali 2024 provides an important lesson on the dynamics of local democracy. Some respondents attributed this result to the public's perception of government accountability and transparency. While flagship programmes such as the construction of hospitals have had a positive impact, the lack of transparency in budget management is a recurring issue.

From the perspective of transformational leadership theory, a leader needs to inspire change by presenting policy innovations that are based on community needs. This approach not only increases public trust but also creates stronger legitimacy. In the case of Probolinggo, the new leadership is expected to continue successful programmes while addressing existing shortcomings.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The leadership transition in Probolinggo City is an important moment that affects the stability and development

of the city. Habib Hadi's leadership during the 2019-2024 period has had a positive impact in various sectors, although there are still challenges that need to be overcome. The community has high expectations for the next leader, focusing on programme continuity, welfare improvement, and government transparency. This change of leadership is expected to be a momentum to bring Probolinggo City to a better future, while maintaining and improving the successes that have been achieved previously.

Although Habib Hadi did not win the 2024 elections, the suggestions from the community are still relevant as learning and reflection. One of them is to continue to improve the quality of programmes that are already running and to be more respectful of time in policy implementation. Some respondents also suggested that Habib Hadi should be closer to the community in the decision-making process if he plays a role in politics or government again. Thus, his experience can be an asset to continue making positive contributions to the community.

Recommendation

1. Enhancing Transparency and Accountability

The Probolinggo City Government is encouraged to enhance transparency in budget management and accountability in the implementation of development programs. This is crucial to strengthening leadership legitimacy and building public trust.

2. Program Continuity and Policy Innovation

Although Habib Hadi's leadership showed positive results in several sectors, the continuity of existing programs should be maintained. Additionally, more innovative policies that are relevant to current community needs are required.

3. Increasing Public Participation

To strengthen local democracy, it is necessary to increase public participation not only in elections but also in policy oversight and decision-making processes that impact the community.

4. Strengthening Digital Infrastructure and Economic Diversification

Strengthening digital infrastructure and economic diversification are key to maintaining economic growth momentum and enhancing Probolinggo City's competitiveness.

5. Evaluation and Prioritization of Infrastructure Development

Although infrastructure development, such as roads and bridges, has provided significant benefits, a more targeted evaluation and prioritization of development are needed to support the local economy holistically.

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