

Regional Head Election And Democracy

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Abstract

Democracy can be interpreted as society's power. One of the easiest definitions of democracy is often defined as government by the society. It is a form of country in which the governmental sovereignty of the society is executed by the society or leaders elected by the society. Democracy as a system that provides opportunities for society to be directly involved in decision making. Democracy as a model of the state which deals with the wishes and unwillingness of the society. Meanwhile, democracy is a political system in which all citizens are positively or negatively given the right to make principle decision for public interest.

From the definition above, it shows that in a democratic government system there are two categories, namely direct democracy and indirect democracy. Direct democracy is a political system in which the society directly chooses to make political decision. Indirect democracy is a political system in which the society makes political decisions indirectly through their representatives who sit in the House of Representatives. The decisions to be made connected directly to the representatives of the society who has been elected by the society. Thus, a democratic government is a government based on the desire and sovereignty of the society. Based on these pure values above, a conclusion has been made by political scientists that democratic government system will give birth to a government of the society and for the society.

Keywords: *democracy, election, local Governor*

1. INTRODUCTION

Aceh is a region in Indonesia that has a great history in the dictionary of civilizations in Southeast Asia. History has recorded that the Samudera Pasai kingdom was one of the first Acehnese Islamic kingdoms capable of conducting political diplomacy in international level. With those capabilities,

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become known as one of the most developed regions in the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia especially in politics, government and trade [1]. The name Aceh became popular and authoritative in the eyes of the international community at that time.

Tsunami had changed the situation in Aceh, this disaster had opened the new hope for Aceh society. Furthermore, this disaster had encouraged the two quarreling sides to discuss and find the way how to solve the political conflict in Aceh with a memorandum of peaceful and reconciliation agreement in Helsinki which was signed by Indonesia and Aceh Freedom Movement (GAM). The agreement in Helsinki was an important event for the democratic

validation in Aceh. This condition is different from the conflict period, democracy in Aceh was full of engineering and intimidation. Society couldn't use their rights absolutely as the citizen. The MoU in Helsinki had pushed spirit to use the democracy system absolutely and justly in Aceh.

One of the points within Mou in Helsinki was democratic validation directly in Aceh on "Regional Head Direct Election" in 2006. This election is a party of democracy in Aceh as the most historic event in Indonesia. Furthermore, the direct governor election also involved the independent candidate pairs to compete freely against other candidates from other political parties, whoever can be the candidate on the election. The opportunity also gave the chance for the ex-member of Free Aceh Movement to go to the election as the candidate by using the independent system.

The governor election in Aceh also showed the unbelievable result. A pair of an independent pair was success as the winner over other pair from political party. They, who were predicted would dominate the election of Aceh in 2006, were obviously unproven. They lost from the independent pair of Free Aceh Movement (GAM). This proves that the Aceh citizens are quiet smart to do the democracy system, they are able to understand the existence of democracy as a good change, either politically, economically or socially to build Aceh.

After the independence of the Republic of Indonesia, Aceh became a part of the Republic of Indonesia. However, the harmonious relation between Aceh and Indonesia did not run normally due to political upheaval. The upheaval broke out in 1953 or better known as the DI / TII movement under the leadership of Teungku Muhammad DaudBeureueh. TeungkuDaudBeureueh as the leader of Aceh has aspirations to uphold Islamic Sharia in the state structure in Aceh. This goal was challenged by Sukarno. Sukarno, who had promised to give Aceh the right to govern its own territory based on the principles and foundations of Islamic state. However, Sukarno reneged on this political contract with the Aceh society. This difference caused TeungkuDaudBeureueh and his followers to take up military arms against the Indonesian government. This resistance was successfully resolved by the Central government through the peace memorandum of peace and reconciliation agreement called damaiLamteh. However, ten years later the Aceh conflict flared up again, after TeungkuHasan di Tiro as a student of TeungkuDaudBeureueh proclaimed Aceh Freedom Movement (GAM) in 1976 to fight for Aceh's independence from Indonesian territory.

The conflict caused Aceh to return to political upheaval, resulting in instability in the political, economic, social and development fields. The Aceh society suffered insecurity, trauma, fear and various acts of intimidation. Their hopes for a safer and more prosperous future in Aceh disappeared. This dark situation that occurred in Aceh had lasted for 30 years then the tsunami occurred on December 24, 2004. The tsunami had opened the darkness of Aceh to light again, it is true that there is a saying that 'behind the tsunami, there is a hidden wisdom'. The tsunami had caused Aceh Freedom Movement (GAM)- Republic of Indonesia (RI) conflict to stop fighting in Aceh. They agreed to resolve the Aceh political conflict peacefully facilitated by the Crisis Management Initiative (CMI) in Helsinki. The Helsinki negotiations lasted five stages, and succeeded in reaching an agreement between Aceh Freedom Movement (GAM) – Republic of Indonesia (RI) which was signed on August 15, 2005. One of the peace agreement agreements was related to the Law on the Government of Aceh (UUPA) which was successfully enacted and signed by the Government of Indonesia on 11 July 2006 to become the official Law on the Government of Aceh. One of the points that must be implemented based on the Law on Governing Aceh (UUPA) is related to the 2006 Aceh "Regional Head Direct Election" to elect the governor, deputy governor, regent, deputy regent and mayor at both the provincial and district / city levels. The Regional Head Direct Election election is the first step towards creating democratic openness in Aceh after being closed for 30 years. This Regional Head Direct Election will cause the dynamics of Aceh democracy to take place more freely and fairly. The dynamic democracy in Aceh certainly made the Aceh Regional Head Direct Election interesting to observe, especially the emergence of independent Aceh Freedom Movement (GAM) candidate to compete in the Regional Head Direct Election. Not only that, the participation of the Aceh

society was very enthusiastic in welcoming the Regional Head Direct Election, this can be seen from the percentage who voted, which reached 79,9% of the total number of voters throughout Aceh. This study examined the Pilkada and democracy in Aceh. The initial hypothesis of this study is that the 2006 Aceh Regional Head Direct Election has succeeded in bringing openness to democracy and political, economic and development stability in Aceh.

2. Democracy and Election

This study will use the theory of democracy and election, those two concepts are related to one another, when discussing the relationship with the "Regional Head Direct Election" in Aceh, we have discussed an important part of the democratic system. General election shows the first level of characteristic of a democracy.

2.1. Democracy

Democracy can be formulated as a system of government that practices the following characteristics:

1. The highest power of a democratic government is in the hand of the society and cannot be broken.
2. There are representative members who are elected by the society to represent them, especially in the direct democracy system.
3. All citizens are equal, there are no privileges between one another.

The democratic government system has become a political system that is practiced by all countries, both developed and developing countries [2]. Not only that, the democratic system has also been included in the structure of the regional government system. This can be seen in the structure of the smallest region that have implemented Regional Head Direct Election. Democracy includes five characteristics: first, every citizen has the same right in the process of making a decision. Second, the participation of citizen has the same opportunity to convey their rights in the process of making decision. Third, every citizen has the same opportunity to assess and criticize the government logically in order to achieve better result [3]. Fourth, every citizen has the opportunity to oversee the performance of the government. Fifth, every citizen has the right to get justice before the court without any differences between ordinary society and political elites.

Democracy as the participation and role of citizen in determining or making decision, equal right between citizens, freedom, a system of representation and general election system [4]. Meanwhile, democracy from a comparative nature, namely the recognition of differences between all groups to create political and government stability. The measure of democracy as the universal right of every citizen to vote according to their own wishes, without pressure from any party. Democracy is a balanced relationship between citizens as voters and leaders who are elected in making political decision [5].

There are important characteristics of democracy [6]. The first is accountability, namely the responsibility of the government to the society who has elected them, regeneration of power occurs by holding election, open political recruitment in free and fair election. Every democratic country must hold election because it is an absolute characteristic of democracy [7]. society is given the right to elect candidates for leaders according to their conscience, there is no pressure, freedom from fear, freedom to participate in every campaign and see the vote counting process in the general election. Second, get basic right such as the right to express opinion (freedom of expression), assembly and organization (freedom of assembly) and freedom of media (freedom of the press) [8].

In the context of Aceh, the implementation of democratic values has never been perfect, especially in the New Order era or the beginning of the reform era. This factor was due to the political conflict between Aceh Freedom Movement (GAM) and Indonesia government. This conflict has led to the implementation of democracy in Aceh beyond the boundaries of propriety, such as the imposition of the will, the society is not free to elect the leader they want. The violation of the democratic rights of the Aceh society was freely practiced during the

military emergency in Aceh on 19 May 2003. Thousands of TNI / Polri were sent to Aceh to conquer Aceh Freedom Movement (GAM), this condition caused the Aceh society to be involved in fake democracy, Aceh society was apathetic to the government bureaucracy. However, this darkness of democracy has changed after the 2004 tsunami. The tsunami has become a lesson to resolve the Aceh political conflict peacefully in Helsinki.

The Helsinki negotiation has become historical momentum for Aceh, beside of resulted in an agreement to end the war, the negotiation has also opened wider implementation of democracy system in Aceh. This can be seen from the direct election of the 2006 Aceh Regional Head Direct Election which has provided opportunities for independent candidates to join for competition with candidates from other political parties. Regional Head Direct Election is to elect the Governor, Deputy Governor, Regent, Deputy Regent and Mayor and Deputy Mayor in Aceh. This good opportunity was used by former Aceh Freedom Movement (GAM) members to join the election through independent path in the Regional Head Direct Election. So it is not surprising that the democracy in Aceh has attracted other regions in Indonesia to carry out Regional Head Direct Election as it was carried out in Aceh. It is true that based on word history, Aceh has become a model for Indonesia in every new dynamic of change, including the implementation of the first Regional Head Direct Election in Aceh, this has also become a model for other regions in Indonesia.

2.2. General Election

In the national context, election is referred to as general election (Pemilu), while in the local context they is called Regional Head Election (Pilkada), both of those terms have the same meaning [9]. Election is one of the requirements to ratify that a country adheres to a democratic system, because with election it will be able to realize society's sovereignty, credible government, count society's aspiration, and regenerate leadership among the political elite [10]. Election is one of the ways to gain political power for a country that practices a democratic government system. Election can be defined as a process in which the society has the power to elect representatives who will be given the mandate to decide a political decision. In simpler term, election can be defined as the process which the society elects leaders to make policy and political decision [11].

Realizing honest, fair and democratic election is not an easy job. According to Salleh (1997: 169), to guarantee democratic election, there are several conditions that can be used as guideline: first, election must be carried out by transparent and accountable institution. Second, the election law must be based on justice and prevent anything that is not good. Third, all problems related to election must be resolved by special court [12].

Election has a function to elect a candidate for leader as well as a place to communicate directly between the society and the candidate for leader. The election function is for the society to directly elect the leader, as a channel for society's participation in a democratic party, to legitimize a candidate for leader who is worthy to hold the mandate to rule [13].

Direct election has several distinctions: first, it is more participatory process and has broader popular participation, not only involving a group of society (oligarchs) in parliament. Participation will also open up space and stronger public scrutiny of the elites involved in the electoral process [14]. Second, community participation enables social contracts between candidates, political parties, support groups and voters. The social contract is a process that brings together the visions of the candidates and the desires of the voters through the channels of political parties or their support group. The social contract is not a place to deliver program, on the contrary, it is a place to learn to build local government commitment to the community. Third, the electoral process provides an open space and options for voters to determine a better candidate for leader (having capacity, integrity and commitment). Thus, direct democratic elections will strengthen legitimacy, so leaders can produce more fundamental decisions with the support and trust of community [15].

In elections all political power moves quickly to fill the public space, political elites will carry out various strategies so general opportunities can be controlled by them to seek support from the

public. This is what political elites do to attract the public's desire to provide support when general election is held [16].

In the Election regulation in Indonesia, if civil servants want to be elected in the election, they must resign from civil servant position. This decision was taken to keep the General Election fair. Society also has an assessment of election, where it is one of the ways to determine change [17]. If a candidate for leader who suits their choice can lead the government and can carry out all the work programs that have been promised, this result is the desire of all the citizens. Election is important because it is the basis for the legitimacy of power for an elected candidate to lead a government [18]. The government has won the trust of the society to lead the government until the time stipulated by law.

After the end of the New Order regime, election was seen as an important instrument to encourage the democratization process in Indonesia. His study found that there were very significant changes to society's participation in the election [19]. This factor is because the society want a major change in Indonesia leadership as well as a change in a more democratic political system, where the society can experience development for improving education, economy and politics. The Indonesian society has not enjoyed the convenience of democracy for a long time, and finally they are given the full right to implement democracy openly and freely [20].

The implementation of regional election (Pilkada) directly is an effect of political freedom, every citizen has the right to vote and be elected freely in every election. Election is a system in which there are elements to produce more democratic leader, namely head of regional government. Those elements include voter registration, candidacy, campaign, vote counting, endorsement and determination of elected candidates. Those elements are related to each other and work in accordance with their respective function, such as the organs in the human body. Prihatmoko further stated that the election had political effect on the region. However, from 205 elections that had been held from June 2005 to June 2006, it was found that 29.3% of the citizens did not use their right to vote. When compared with the 2004 presidential election, the percentage was only 8.3%. The high percentage of society who do not use their voting rights shows that society's participation is still very low, the factor is due to three factors: distrust of candidate, saturation of the political atmosphere, and lack of socialization [21].

Aceh is the only province in Indonesia that held the first Regional Head Direct Election in 2006, the Aceh Regional Head Direct Election is a step or strategy to resolve the political conflict in Aceh which has been happen for 30 years. All citizens in Aceh have also taken the opportunity of the Regional Head Direct Election to reorganize the political and democratic system in Aceh, especially to elect leader who cares about Aceh's development. Unlike other electoral systems in Indonesia which are organized by the Regional General Election Commission (KPUD), the 2006 Aceh Pilkada was organized by the Election Commission (KIP). Likewise, in term of candidacy, the 2006 Aceh Pilkada independent candidates can be elected for the positions of Governor and Deputy Governor, also in terms of eligibility candidates must be able to read Al-Qur'an and be free from the use of narcotics.

3. Aceh Regional Election

After the tsunami on 26 December 2006, there were two important events in the context of Aceh's political dynamics: first, the implementation of the peace memorandum of peace and reconciliation agreement in Helsinki between the Indonesia Government and Aceh Freedom Movement (GAM) on 15 August 2005. The second was the Regional Head Direct Election (Aceh) to elect the Governor and Deputy Governor on 11 December 2006. Those two incidents have been the first step to build political stability and development in Aceh, the most interesting thing is that the Aceh Regional Head Direct Election has been conduct safely and peacefully. Independent candidates who received support from Aceh Freedom Movement (GAM) have won with a significant number of votes, while candidates from political party lost in the 2006 Aceh Regional Head Direct Election.

The 2006 Aceh's democratic party was broadcast by mass media at local, national and international levels. This is because Aceh is an area that has just finished from a political conflict with Indonesian government, the Regional Head Direct Election is a way to determine the future of democracy in Aceh. In addition, the Aceh Regional Head Direct Election is a very interesting phenomenon because several political experts analyze that candidates from political parties will win the Regional Head Direct Election, but this analysis does not happen. Candidates from the national party which in fact have a strong political organization were rejected by the society, this fact shows the reality of the Aceh society's desire for a change. No one can prevent the society's desire to make decisions in order to determine the political direction of Aceh. The Golkar Party (Partai Golkar), PPP Party (Partai PPP) and several other major parties were unable to provide answers to their supporters because the candidates from those major parties were defeated by the Independent candidates from Aceh Freedom Movement (GAM).

Nine candidates for governor competed in the 2006 Aceh Regional Head Direct Election. One of the independent candidate pairs was Irwandi Yusuf and Muhammad Nazar, this pair received support from Aceh Freedom Movement (GAM). They managed to beat other candidates by getting 768.745 votes or 38.20%. Meanwhile, Ahmad Humam and Hasbi Abdullah Candidate from PPP Party (Partai PPP) was in second place with 334.484 votes or 16,62%. Candidate from the Golkar party (Partai Golkar) was in third place with 281.174 votes or 13,97%. Azwar Abubakar and Nasir Jamil combined with PAN Party (Partai PAN) and PKS Party (Partai PKS) received 213.566 or 10,61% votes, Tamlicha Ali and Harmen Nuriqman from the PBR Party (Partai PBR) received 80.327 or 3,99% votes. Other independent candidates such as Muhammad Djalil Yusuf and Syaughas Rahmatillah received 65.543 votes or 3,26%. Iskandar Husein and Saleh Manaf received 111.553 or 5,54% votes, Ghazali Abbas Adan and Shalahuddin Al Fata with 156.978 or 7,80% votes.

The victory of independent candidate was not only at the governor level, but also at the regent and mayor election level. This represents a very reformist change in the political culture system of the Aceh society. This victory is part of the victory of the Aceh society, and it has become a historic election that has ever occurred in Aceh. The victory of Irwandi Yusuf and Muhammad Nazar who received Aceh Freedom Movement (GAM) support was campaign issues related to Aceh peace and development. With their enthusiastic voices, they give new hope to the Aceh society in every political campaign. Irwandi-Nazar promised to make a commitment to the development of Aceh, to study and to revise policies that did not support the welfare of Aceh society. In addition, historical images of the emergence and success of Aceh Freedom Movement (GAM) since it was proclaimed have become their campaign strategy to attract the attention and support of the society who have suffered the consequences of the conflict. Irwandi Nazar's campaign team confirmed that their candidate had the support and blessing of the Aceh Freedom Movement (GAM) elite and their supporters. This is also a strategy to convince the society that this independent candidates need to be supported in order to improve the lives of the Aceh society in order to be more prosperous.

The Irwandi-Nazar pair uses a very simple marketing concept, namely using Aceh symbols such as platform, language, clothing, and Aceh traditions in any political marketing. This factor is one of the determinants of the victory. In every advertisement broadcast on the radio, this pair always uses the Aceh language, this pair also fully wears Aceh clothes which are the symbol of Aceh culture, when compared to other pairs who display more national symbol. This symbol of Aceh has become something very attractive in political marketing which is very special for Aceh society, so it has aroused the Aceh characteristic from this candidate and finally society supported this independent pair.

The society's vision has become the main issue of Irwandi Nazar's campaign, simplicity and closeness to the society is the key to this pair's victory, Aceh citizens are more sympathetic to them. With a vision of supporting the society's welfare, this pair is seen as being able to build better future for Aceh. Likewise, the vision of peace, although other candidates for governor have almost the same vision as this independent pair, the most important thing for the society is an example. The Aceh citizens need proof that Aceh Freedom Movement (GAM) will be able to

build peace when they can lead Aceh. Another factor in the pair's victory was using the organization as Aceh Freedom Movement (GAM) political force to market its political product. The very large strength of Aceh Freedom Movement (GAM) in the Districts all around Aceh turned out to be able to bring political messages very well to the Aceh citizens so a very effective message was successfully built by them.

The defeat of other independent candidates also shocked some parties, the factor of the defeat of those independent pairs was because they were not so popular among Aceh society. For example, the pair IskandarHusein and SolehManaf, this pair had never been predicted by the society to be the winner of the 2006 Aceh Regional Head Direct Election. This pair only got 111.553 or 5,54% votes and was ranked sixth in the Regional Head Direct Election. If you look at the number of votes of this pair, there is no single region that supports them with a strong voice. This is proof that they have not received support from the Aceh society as a whole. Likewise, the defeat of the pair Ghazali Abbas and Saladin Alfata, they got 156.978 or 7,80% of votes and were ranked fifth. There are several areas that are strong enough to support this pair, such as the Pidie region with 32.734 or 13,65% votes, North Aceh with 25.536 or 10,75% votes, in Lhokseumawe with 14.526 or 22,13% votes. However, the votes acquired in those three regions were not supported by the other 18 regions causing this pair to get along and admit defeat to the Irwandi-Nazapairr.

If we analyze the defeat of the national party candidates where almost all polls or surveys before the Regional Head Direct Election election conducted and the polls and surveys concluded they would beat the independent candidates. However, after calculating the result of the 2006 Aceh Regional Head Direct Election, the facts show that the national party candidates were defeated by candidates from the Independent. This decision is certainly a big question as to why a political party candidate lost in the 2006 Aceh Regional Head Direct Election. Actually there were several factors that led to this defeat. First, it seems very centralistic. Second, they don't care about the aspirations and interests of the society. Third, they no longer have the trust from Aceh society to lead Aceh. So far, the support of the Aceh society for national political parties has not brought positive changes to the development of Aceh. Thus Aceh citizens have learned from past experiences that they doubt the commitment of the party's political elite, so the image or trust of political parties and political elite figures is getting worse in Aceh society's perspective.

The victory of the independent pair of former Aceh Freedom Movement (GAM) and SIRA members is evidence that previous government policies or programs have never touched on defending the interests of the society, but for the interests of the political elite both at the central and regional elites. The Aceh citizens are increasingly brave enough to show their opposition to government policies which are considered to be more coercive than giving political freedom. In the other hand, the victory of Irwandi-Nazar also shows the failure of all national political party programs in Aceh. For example, the defeat of the Golkar party candidates who brought Malik Raden and SayedFuadZakaria to become Governor and Deputy Governor is very surprising to political analysts. The results of the initial poll or survey conducted by LSI showed that Golkar Party (Partai Golkar) would be the winner in the Regional Head Direct Election, by placing Malik Raden's position in favor of other candidates for governor pairs, namely 22,3%, followed by AzwarAbubakar 19,6%, Tarmizi A Karim 7,3%, Ahmad Humam Hamid 4,7%, M. Djalil Yusuf 4,2%, IskandarHusein 3,0%, and Tamlichia Ali 1,6%.

The defeat of Humam Hamid and Hasbi from the PPP Party (Partai PPP) also made political analysis chaotic. This pair is one of the strong candidates who have the support of almost all regions in Aceh. With the strength of the PPP Party (Partai PPP), the political machine should run, especially since the deputy governor candidate Hasbi is a former Aceh Freedom Movement (GAM) member who also has power in Aceh Freedom Movement (GAM) organization. Even the Aceh Freedom Movement (GAM) elite in Sweden have supported Hasbi. Although not so long after that support from the Aceh Freedom Movement (GAM) elite was withdrawn due to differences of opinion among Aceh Freedom Movement (GAM). The strength of this pair was also found in areas that have previously been the base of PPP Party (Partai PPP) supporters. Two

regions that supported this pair were Banda Aceh and Pidie. In Banda Aceh this pair received as many as 14.426 or 22.01% votes, while for Pidie totaled 118.884 or 49.59 votes. However, the victories in those two regions did not receive support from other regions in Aceh, so this pair had to agree with the losses they received. This pair is in second place with 334.484 votes or 16,62%. When analyzed from political marketing, this pair has advantages compared to other partners, especially the publication is through publication media. One of the campaign media that they use is by distributing flags and placing large billboards on very strategic roads, so it is very effective to seek society's attention on this PPP Party (Partai PPP) pair.

Likewise, the pair from the PAN Party (Partai PAN) and PKS Party (Partai PKS) AzwarAbubakar and NasirDjamil was defeated. Although AzwarAbubakar, the former temporary officials of Aceh Governor after Aceh Governor Abdullah Puteh was imprisoned for corruption case, this pair did not receive significant support and did not win in any district. The campaign issue raised by this pair was related to welfare and peace. If analyzed, the greatest support for this pair was from rational supporters or those who have higher education. An example could be seen in the Banda Aceh region, the support for this pair was more than 20% and ranked second after the Human Hamid pair from the PPP Party (Partai PPP). Then for the Central Aceh region with a number of votes of more than 32%, but it was below the Golkar Party (Partai Golkar) pair. This pair received more equal votes in each region when compared to the Tamlichia and Djalil Yusuf pair who did not get significant votes.

One aspect of the victory of the independent pair in the 2006 Regional Head Direct Election showed that Aceh has a better democratic system when compared to other regions in Indonesia. Regional Head Direct Election showed that anyone among the members of society can become governor even without having to go through a political party. This dynamic has created a positive democratic space for the Aceh society to elect leaders honestly and freely. The Aceh democracy that has been running at the same time will become a never-ending process of political education for the future. And whoever leads Aceh in the future still respects the rights of the general public and adheres to the democratic values that have been wide open in Aceh, namely the government of the society, by the society and for the society.

To build a democratic system in Aceh, it must start with the awareness of all Aceh society. Democracy that has taken place in Aceh must be maintained while maintaining the achievements that have been carried out well. Aceh democracy is not just a matter of regional election (Pilkada), but also has a relationship with the distribution of economic and political resources to make them more equitable. Aceh democracy on the other hand has become a prerequisite and an impression of the transfer of centralized power to the Aceh society. The impression of the Aceh Regional Head Direct Election on democracy is that the Aceh citizens have been given the opportunity to establish local party. Local party will become channel for leaders who have had different understanding with the government to integrate into the Indonesian political system and government. Local party will become a place of aspiration and a place for local community political participation. Local party in Aceh will be an important part of the democratic transition process in Aceh. The presence of local party in Aceh shows the existence of high political dynamics in articulating interest through official channel after the Helsinki agreement and the 2006 Aceh Regional Head Direct Election.

4. CONCLUSION

In the 21st century, democracy has become a political system that has been adopted by both developed countries and developing countries. The democratic system has entered into the regional structure level in a country. Sometimes, even in the lowest regional structure direct election is held which is one of the characteristics of democracy. One of the characteristics of a democracy is that it holds free and fair election. This is a very effective way to get the power to lead where society can choose and legitimate representatives in making a political decision. The election can be held at the national, provincial and district levels even though at the village level which is carried out with different system and formss.

Aceh which is one of the regions in Indonesia has become an example of a region that has practiced a better democratic system. This is proof that Aceh is the first region in Indonesia to hold Regional Head Direct Election involving independent candidate. The Regional Head Direct Election was an opportunity for the society to elect or determine a leader directly, compared to previous elections. Aceh conflict which has been occurred for 30 years has closed the principles of society's democracy. Aceh society implements democratic principles always under threat of weapon and intimidation. However, after the memorandum of reconciliation peace agreement in Helsinki on 15 August 2005, Aceh society had the opportunity to carry out Regional Head Direct Election in a fair and democratic manner.

The Regional Head Direct Election was held in Aceh and it was one of the manifestations of implementing democracy as stipulated in Aceh Governing Law (UUPA) which was an agreement between the Government of Indonesia and Aceh Freedom Movement (GAM). Thus the implementation of the 2006 Aceh Regional Head Direct Election is a democratic party protected by the laws and constitution of the Republic of Indonesia which aims to elect the governor and deputy governor directly. This Pilkada showed very significant political changes in Aceh society so they have participated enthusiastically in the success of Aceh democratic party. This can be seen from the percentage of Aceh's society involvement as much as 79.9% when compared to the previous Aceh election.

The results of the 2006 Aceh Regional Head Direct Election also show a very significant difference compared to the results of the election that have been held in Aceh. Political experts predict national political party that will win the Pilkada is not proven at all. In fact, candidates from national political parties are not able to perpetuate and maintain their power as in the previous election. Their candidate was defeated by an independent candidate supported by Aceh Freedom Movement (GAM). This decision is something very special and the first in the Republic of Indonesia, Aceh is the only region that provides an opportunity for independent candidates to compete in Regional Head Direct Election. This history was engraved with the victory of the Irwandi-Nazar pair as governor and deputy governor.

The victory of the independent pair proves that the Aceh society aware of the democracy function, they have given choices according to their wishes. The result of the 2006 Aceh Regional Head Direct Election has shown some very interesting cases and have resulted in several new cases in political history in Aceh. Among those are the victories of independent candidate who received support from Aceh Freedom Movement (GAM) and significant defeat of candidates from national party.

Independent candidates succeeded in winning the 2006 Aceh Regional Head Direct Election in 15 districts / cities with 38,20% votes, Ahmad Humam Hamid and Hasbi Abdullah from PPP Party (Partai PPP) received 16,62% votes, Malik Raden and SayedFuadZakaria were candidates from Golkar Party (Partai Golkar) with 13,97% votes. AzwarAbubakar and NasirJamil from PAN Party (Partai PAN) and PKS Party (Partai PKS) received 10,61% votes, Tamlichha Ali and HarmenNuriqman from PBR Party (Partai PBR) received 3,99% votes, Muhammad Djalil Yusuf and SyaugasRahmatillah received 3,26% votes, while other independent candidate pairs such as IskandarHusein and SalehManaf received 5,54% votes, Ghazali Abbas Adan and Saladin Al Fata received 7,80% votes.

The victory of the independent candidates was due to their success in gaining support from society in the rural areas which are the base of Aceh Freedom Movement (GAM) strength. Meanwhile, the defeat the candidate from national party was due to the fact that the Aceh society had lost trust in the candidate from the party, they were deemed to have failed to fight for the fate and interests of the Aceh society. This defeat will at the same time be a lesson for political party elites in Aceh to see the desires and aspirations of the Aceh society. Likewise, for the independent pair, this victory was a victory for the Aceh society, hopefully they will pay more attention to the fate of the Aceh society in running the government in Aceh. Not like the opposite, at the time of the Regional Head Direct Election they really cared about the fate of the society, but after the election the fate of the society was again in grief and suffering.

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