

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini mengkaji bagaimana konfigurasi politik lokal terbentuk melalui interaksi dan kepentingan elit dalam proses pembentukan Daerah Otonomi Baru (DOB) Kabupaten Balanipa pasca moratorium 2014. Dengan pendekatan kualitatif berbasis wawancara, observasi partisipan, dan studi dokumen, penelitian ini menyingkap dinamika koalisi elit yang memainkan peran krusial dalam mengarahkan wacana dan strategi perjuangan pemekaran.

Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa konfigurasi politik lokal Balanipa dibentuk melalui pola interaksi kooperatif, kompetitif, dan kooptatif antar-elite. Koalisi horizontal tercermin dalam konsolidasi elit lokal, ada KAPP, camat, tokoh adat, serta jejaring masyarakat, sementara koalisi vertikal terbangun melalui hubungan dengan partai politik, anggota DPR/DPD RI, kementerian, hingga forum nasional seperti FORKONAS. Kedua jenis koalisi ini menghasilkan arsitektur kekuasaan yang cair dan sarat kepentingan. Kepentingan elit yang mendorong pemekaran tidak hanya berkaitan dengan legitimasi budaya atau janji pembangunan, melainkan juga menyangkut akses jabatan, distribusi sumber daya politik-ekonomi, serta perhitungan elektoral. Partisipasi publik relatif terbatas dan lebih sering dijadikan basis legitimasi simbolik ketimbang aktor substantif. Narasi historis, seperti posisi Balanipa dalam konfederasi Mandar dan gagasan *Mappenpendulu Akaiyanganna*, dimobilisasi untuk memperkuat klaim administratif dan kultural, bersanding dengan rasionalisasi spasial-demografis: tujuh kecamatan, luas 964,01 km², serta jumlah penduduk 215.295 jiwa (BPS, 2023). Kondisi keterisolasian, khususnya di wilayah Tutar dan beberapa titik di wilayah Alu, Luyo dan Limboro, menjadi argumen kuat atas urgensi layanan publik yang dekat.

Kata kunci: Koalisi Elit, Konfigurasi Politik Lokal, Pemekaran Daerah, Moratorium, Balanipa

ABSTRACT

This study examines how local political configurations are formed through elite interactions and interests in the process of establishing the New Autonomous Region (DOB) of Balanipa Regency after the 2014 moratorium. Using a qualitative approach based on interviews, participant observation, and document studies, this study reveals the dynamics of elite coalitions that play a crucial role in directing the discourse and strategies of the expansion struggle.

The research findings show that the local political configuration of Balanipa is shaped by cooperative, competitive, and co-optative interactions among elites. Horizontal coalitions are reflected in the consolidation of local elites, including the KAPP (Regional Leadership Coordination Committee), sub-district heads, traditional leaders, and community networks. Vertical coalitions are built through relationships with political parties, members of the House of Representatives (DPR) and Regional Representative Council (DPD), ministries, and national forums such as FORKONAS. Both types of coalitions create a fluid, transactional, and interest-laden power architecture. The elite interests driving the expansion are not only related to cultural legitimacy or development promises, but also to access to office, the distribution of political-economic resources, and electoral calculations. Public participation is relatively limited and is often used more as a basis for symbolic legitimacy than for substantive actors. Historical narratives, such as Balanipa's position within the Mandar confederation and the notion of Mappenpendulu Akaiyanganna, were mobilized to strengthen administrative and cultural claims, alongside spatial-demographic rationalization: seven sub-districts, an area of 964.01 km², and a population of 215,295 (BPS, 2023). Isolation, particularly in the Tutar region, strongly argues for the urgency of close public services.

Keywords : *elite coalition, local political configuration, regional expansion, moratorium, Balanipa*