

UGM Hold Seminar on Election Act Reform

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The emergence of bad politicians due to poor quality of the 2009 elections would present a reflection for many stakeholders. Therefore, it is necessary to address this problem by doing a review of several critical articles of Election Act Plan (RUU) through technocratic approach.

According to Dr. rer.pol. Mada Sukmajati, some things to consider in order to improve the election bill are related to general principles of organization and determination of the parliamentary threshold, in addition to the allocation of seats and vote counting.

"All options will certainly have consequences. Similarly, the choice of electoral system -whether by proportional system or party simplification- all have consequences," he said in the seminar room of UGM, Monday (12/3).

Speaking at the seminar "Election Act Reform: Electoral Challenge Opportunities " held by Department of Politics and Government, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, he hoped that the most important thing is to encourage people to continue to engage in the production of Election Act. Therefore, the Election Act will be more representative than the previous one.

Election Act improvement is expected to result in better politicians. In addition, it could encourage political parties to run the ideal functions, and not least important that the Election Act could improve political ties. "Therefore, what people say is what government does. Do not let all the shouting go on after things get done. Therefore, some important principles must be explained first," he added.

Partnership consultants for Election Affairs, Didik Supriyanto, revealed some weaknesses of 2009 election are not merely due to the low professional skills of election organizer, but also the low quality of Act no 10/2008 which became the implementation base of the legislative elections. For in the Act No.10/2008 there are 20 items of legal void, that there is something that should be set but not so. There are also 12 items of law inconsistencies, where one provision is different or even contrary to other provisions, and 13 items multiple interpretations with unclear provisions. "The low quality of this Act led to 14 review claims, judicial review at the Constitutional Court, and seven of

them were granted," said Didik, Chairman of the Society for Elections and Democracy (Perludem).

Of the seven Constitutional Court's decision in favor, there are 6 decisions on the election management (implementation of the elections) and the enforcement of election laws. In addition, there is one decision on dispute of election results related to the election system.

According to Didik, the main cause of poor formulation of the Act No.10/2008 is the overlap between the election system arrangements, election management (election activities). "There is also an overlapping between the stages of the election activities and non-election activities," he said.

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