

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

A. Background

In 2014, the data show that intra party conflicts happened in some political parties in Indonesia. Golkar Party and United Development Party (PPP) are two examples of parties that face intra political party conflicts in Indonesia. Various mass media have published the trend of intra party conflicts as happened between Surya Dharma Ali's group and Rohmahurmuzzy's group in United Development Party and Aburizal Bakri's group and Agung Laksono's group in Golkar Party. These parties are actually the oldest and the biggest party in Indonesia since 1970. These intra party conflicts indicate that there is uncertain settlement mechanism of intra party conflicts in the political parties. This research will analyze how the mechanism of political parties resolve their intra party conflicts.

The prolonged intra party conflicts between the two groups of two parties resulted in spending their tremendous energies. They lost their time and strategic moment which causes stagnation of many agendas in developing their parties and therefore influence their constituency in society. The experiences of these two parties, at least, produce some adverse effects which affect the existence of the political parties themselves. There are several effects of intra party conflicts. The first effect is the disruption of the performance of members in the legislative organ. Political party cadres in legislative organ will get difficulty to work well because of the domino effect

of the conflicts. It also affects the strength of factions in the House of Representatives (DPR) which may become splitting. The second effect is the disruption of concentrations of political parties to face the elections. As it is known that at the time it was adjacent to the simultaneous local election activities that would be held for the first time in Indonesia. The existence of the intra party conflicts may hamper the concentration of political parties in attempt to dominate the local election result. Moreover, the existence of dualism stewardship of political parties will further complicate the application of electoral democracy at the local level. The third is the loss of public trust in to political parties.

It would be a logic that a conflict of political parties has influenced the public perception toward the political parties. Bad actions that are reflected from the political parties will certainly worsen their public image. The trust level in political parties or political party elites will lose and of course it would damage the political parties because it will lose their constituents.¹ The biggest disadvantage that is never thought due to intra party conflicts of political party is the decreasing of possibility for losing support from the faithful and loyal voters. The results of the mapping of the 630 pairs of candidates as presented by the National Coordinator of the People's Voters Education Network (Jaringan Pendidikan Pemilih untuk Rakyat), Masykurudin Hafiz shows that there is a strong relationship between the intra party conflicts in Golkar Party

¹ See Zulpandi. "Konflik Internal dan Pelembagaan Partai Politik", <http://academia.edu/>, accessed on 29th October 2016 at 5.30 pm.

and United Development Party, with the number of voters taken by the two parties as happened in the simultaneous local election in 2015.²

The intra party conflict of political parties proved that nowadays the political parties cannot perform its function well particularly as conflict management. Basically, the function of political party as the conflict management is trying to control/manage the existing conflicts by making dialogue and compromy. However, in the reality political parties cannot perform this function for them internally. The inability of party elites in managing conflict within their structure indicates that they are not well structured yet. At the end, it totally requires the internal mechanism to settle the conflict in the party that governs how to control, direct and settle the conflicts. Therefore, it becomes something positive for a change and for achieving the purposes in accordance with the goals of the political parties.

Admittedly, the settlement of intra party conflict is a hard process and affairs. Each group tried hard to defend themselves strongly and other groups do the same and make the conflict as a tool to get legitimacy and legality, especially from the government as the instruments to get the legality.

It also shows that the existence of Articles of Association of each political party does not work effectively as the guidance to carry out the function, duty and authority of political party itself. The Articles of Association that supposed to become the guideline only limited to be a piece of paper that means nothing. Any various institutional instruments are

² See JPNN.com, 2015, "Ini Penyebab Dukungan Golkar dan PPP Menurun", <http://www.jpnn.com/read/2015/09/09/325504/Ini-Penyebab,-Dukungan-Golkar-dan-Partai-Persatuan-Pembangunan-Menurun>, accessed on 29th October 2016 at 4.16 pm.

available as a tool to settle the conflict, such as the court which is called Political Party Tribunal (*Mahkamah Partai*)³ and the Judiciary⁴ almost failed and unable to end up the conflict between their stronghold (Golkar Party and United Development Party). Hence, it requires further study to find out a constitutional and democratic solution from the failure of conflict settlement of intra party conflict in Indonesia by considering and providing the proper democratic mechanisms and institutions to settle the intra party conflicts. Law as an instrument of a tool for a social engineering and as the problem solver should be able to provide a proper, constitutional and democratic way over the intra party conflict in Indonesia.

B. Research Problem

Based on the background above, it can formulate a research problem “how is the intra party conflict settlement mechanism of political party in Indonesia, particularly in the case of Golkar Party and United Development Party?”

C. Objective of Research

There are some objectives of the research as follows:

1. To collect data on the intra party conflict settlement of political party in Indonesia;
2. To describe and analyze on how the Golkar Party and United Development Party settle their intra party conflicts;
3. To propose recommendation for a better intra party conflict settlement

³Article 32 paragraph (2) of Political Party Act 2011.

⁴Article 33 of Political Party Act 2011.

mechanism to strengthen the quality of the political party.

D. Benefit of Research

The benefits of research, are:

1. Theoretical Benefit

This research will provide scholars, the government, and other supported instruments an understanding on political party mechanism to resolve their political conflicts. Besides, this research will open the view of the proper intra party conflict settlement mechanism of political party.

2. Practical Benefit

This research will suggest recommendation for a better intra party conflict settlement mechanism to strengthen the quality of political party as the main pillar of democracy.