

## CHAPTER FOUR

### FINDING AND ANALYSIS

#### A. An Overview of the Result of Bantul Regional Head Election of 2015

This research was conducted in the office of General Election Commission (KPU) of Bantul Region using interview to obtain data related to the political understanding on voters, their political rights as voters, and the implementation of the political rights in Regional Head of Election in Bantul of 2015. The research obtained data as follows:

Table 1  
List of Voters and User of Voting Rights of Bantul Regional Head Election of 2015

	<b>Man</b>	<b>Woman</b>	<b>Total</b>
List of Voters	314.852	330.248	684.080
The user of Voting Rights	229.541	256.422	519.887
Participation	<b>72,90%</b>	<b>77,65%</b>	<b>76,00%</b>

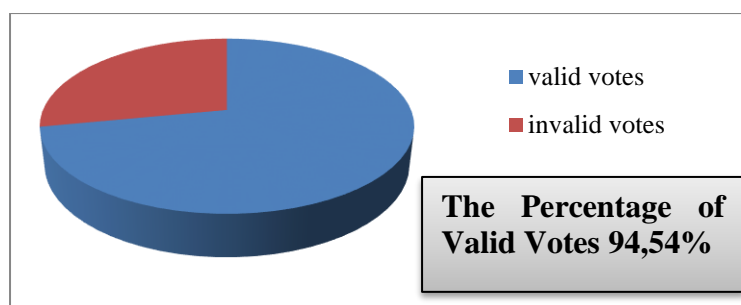
*Source: General Election Commission of Bantul Region*

Table 2  
Valid Votes Data and Invalid Votes Data of Bantul Regional Head Election of  
2015

<b>Valid votes</b>	493.239 votes
<b>Invalid votes</b>	28.711 votes
<b>Total</b>	521.713 votes

*Source: General Election Commission of Bantul Region*

Diagram 1  
The Percentage of Valid Votes Bantul Regional Head Election of 2015



*Source: General Election Commission of Bantul Region*

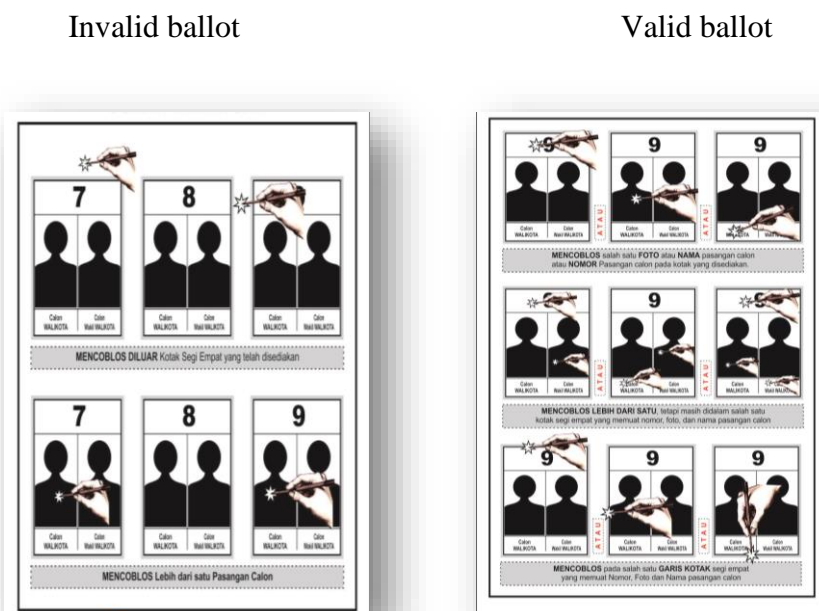
Based on the data in table 1, it shows that there were people who did not use their right to votes. The number of people who did not use their rights was 164.193 peoples from the number between the list of voters and user of voting rights. It means that there was a problem of participation due to abstaining

(Golput) in Bantul election of 2015. Then, based on the data in table 2 and diagram 1, there was a lack of political understanding as proved by the invalid votes in Bantul Regional Head Elections of 2015. The number of invalid voters which was 28.711 votes showed a considerable number. Actually, the invalid votes were divided into two categorized as follows:

1. Votes on two pairs of candidates
2. Votes outside the column of candidates

Figure 1

The Differences between Invalid Ballot and Valid Ballot



Source: [www.google.com](http://www.google.com)

The abstaining or political participation are insufficient and the people still did not understand their political rights as proved by the invalid votes. It gave a question to all of us and this phenomenon had to be fixed immediately and resolved. To answer about the problems above, the writer submitted a response from the General Election Commission of Bantul Region who was one of the parties contributing to organizing the Bantul Regional Head Election of 2015. This was presented by the Chairman of the Division of Community Participation and Human Resources, namely Titik Istiyawatun.

According to Titik Istiyawatun, the number of 76% of the participation of the people in Bantul Regional Head Election of 2015 appeared due to many factors and the numbers were actually good enough. The facet that public participation in the Bantul election was good enough can be seen from the participation of the people in the elections that was equal to 76% of Bantul residents who participated in Bantul election of 2015 although it was still in below of national standard that was 77%. It was not merely because of the political awareness of the people and they were not present to the Voting Place (TPS). There were several factors that caused the existence of invalid votes and lack of public participation, as follows:

1. Outdated Voters Data
2. Frustrated feeling with the Leaders
3. Quality of Voters

The above three factors are explained in detail as follows:

#### 1. Outdated Voters Data

According to Titik Istiyawatun, the factors that caused the existence of invalid votes and the lack of public participation were double data noted in the voter's list. The duplicated data coming from the data on voters who had died were still listed on the voter's list, so the voter data were invalid. Then, the data of settled foreigners were also noted in the voter's list. According to her statement, in some voting places, there was one voting place that had a fixed voter showing that about 400 voters and 50 voters were not present because they were settled foreigners. Therefore, it was necessary that data collection should be updated. Related to the people who were settled foreigner, the General Election Commission could not remove the names because it could violate the Articles of law stating that anyone who deliberately committed an act against the law falsifying data and voter lists as referred to in Article 58 shall be subject to imprisonment of at least 12 months and a maximum of 72 months and a fine of at least IDR 12,000.000; and maximum of IDR 72,000.000.<sup>1</sup> So, the consequence was the participation rate decreased due to invalid voter data.

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<sup>1</sup> See Article 177A Paragraph 1 of Law Number 10 of 2016 on Election of Governors, Regents, and Mayors.

## 2. Frustrated Feeling with the Leaders

There was one condition that caused a low level of public participation in the Bantul Election of 2015 because the people were already frustrated with the current leaders. This happened in areas where people had a high political understanding. The people were reluctant to exercise their right to vote because they were frustrated with the current leadership. The people assumed that it was useless to vote for leaders who were corrupt or not trusted. When the assumption appeared, according to Titik Istiyawatun, an abstain was a rational political right but it would harm a person who abstained. For example, an abstain, to some extent, in a more massive movement could give an opportunity for a bad person to be a winner because good persons did not use their rights.

## 3. Quality of Voters

Quality of voters were the most important factor in the election. The people had not understood their position as citizens concerning rights and obligations. The people assumed that vote was not their rights. In fact, it was one of their rights as citizens. Then the people were still as followers, so they chose not from their conscience. In addition, the quality of voter participation was also disturbed by the practice of money politics.<sup>2</sup> The existence of money politics because of the low level of people's education. This was in line with the results of a survey showing that the level of voter education in Indonesia was still low. Approximately 65% of Indonesian voters education level only

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<sup>2</sup> Interview results with Titik Istiyawatun as the representative of KPU Bantul on March, 13<sup>th</sup> 2018 at 10.56 am.

finished in primary school.<sup>3</sup> So, it caused the lack of understanding of the people about their position as citizens and their choice of not using their right to vote. If they chose to votes, it was because of other factors such as money politics.

Besides, factors that caused the lack of public participation and understanding of the society in the Bantul election of 2015 were related to the disabilities voters.

According to Titik Istiyawatun,<sup>4</sup> all efforts had been made by the General Election Commission of Bantul to provide political communication of elections to the whole community, including disabilities person. They had also a great influence in determining the result of the election. The General Election Commission of Bantul had provided services to persons with disabilities and in voting place. There was a special access for persons with disabilities, such as assistance from family or officers, political communication with a disability, and special tools to vote. However, practically only 33% of disability voters used their voting rights. This was not merely a voter error. There was a mistake regarding the list of voters by the officer that the data in Voting Organizer Group (KPPS) were not all noted in C1 form<sup>5</sup> pertaining to the presence of disability in the election. So, the final result of the percentage of voters who did not participate in the Bantul election of 2015 must have been from the disability data.

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<sup>3</sup> Valina Sinka Subekti, The Honorary Council of the General Election Organizer (DKPP), in the delivery of integrated technical guidance of KPU, Bawaslu, and DKPP at Hotel Natsepa, Maluku on July 26<sup>th</sup> 2016.

<sup>4</sup> Titik Istiyawatun is the Chairman of the Division of Community Participation and Human Resources in KPU Bantul.

<sup>5</sup> C1 form is a notes of voting and counting of votes at the Voting Place.

Although, the General Election Commission of Bantul had done various ways to solve the problems related to the lack of public participation and political understanding of the people of Bantul the General Election Commission of Bantul needs to cooperate with another party to improve political education including a matter related to the coordination with political parties. Actually, in coordination with political parties, the General Election Commission of Bantul did not have the authority to manage issues related to political education. The General Election Commission only coordinates matters related to the campaign to obey the General Election Commission, rules, regulations, and appeals to conduct good political education process, so as not to violate the campaign. The General Election Commission might consolidate with all elements including political parties only to provide political education and democratic awareness in the community.

According to Titik Istiyawatun, to make general election succeed, the party had done many strategies. First is a political education in terms of political communication of procedures. It held as part of political parties' interest in order to educate citizens. If the people had less understanding, the ordinance would have been definitely be impactful to their own group, so political parties had to work hard in this regard. The other ways to do by the political party besides political communication to the public were through the internal cadre and spreading the nationality ideology. But then, according to her, it was not only the General Election Commission nor political parties which had to contribute in making general election success, but also all elements of the nation, such as the



government and the whole community. One sure thinks that what the government could do was facilitating the budget to the region.

From that explanation above, the General Election Commission was actually had done a very good job in organizing Bantul Regional Head Election in 2015. The causes of low quality of voters and the lack of political understanding in society became a responsibility of all elements such as the General Election Commission, political parties, government, and society itself. All elements must support each other and they should be well coordinated with one another for the sake of the realization of democracy.

Here, the writer would emphasize more on how far the role of political parties especially PDIP and Gerindra parties was in improving the political education in Bantul community related to a mandate of what political parties had to do as it was their important role to improve the political understanding in society. When political parties can increase their roles, especially in improving political education in the community, it was expected that they also can solve the problems related to the lack of political participation and public awareness in the election. Hopefully, it can create a better democracy in society.

## **B. Role of PDIP Party in Improving Political Education in Bantul Region**

According to Law Number 2 of 2011 on Political Party, political education is a process of learning and understanding about the rights, obligations, and responsibilities of every citizen in the life of nation and state. It means that all of the political parties in Indonesia have an obligation to provide and deliver a political education to society by all means. It later can be used as a means of

reconciling political parties concerned. Political education was a real action against the concern and the seriousness of the political parties in creating a literate politic society. The growth of democracy in this country depends on the capability and process making implemented by political parties to realize the good political education for all cadres and members.

In this case, the Indonesian Democratic Struggle Party (PDIP) as one of the political parties in Indonesia has an obligation to improve political education. As brief information, the PDIP is actually a continuation of the Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI) which was established on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 1973. The PDIP was born from the unification of 5 (five) political parties. The five political parties were the Indonesian National Party (PNI), the Indonesian Christian Party (Parkindo), the Catholic Party, the Indonesian Independence Supporters Association (IPKI), and Murba (combination of The People's Party, The Party of the Common People and the Independent Labor Party of Indonesia).<sup>6</sup>

The majority of PDIP members came from the Indonesian National Party. It was a party founded by Ir. Soekarno with a mass base in East Java and Central Java. The party was committed to the ideology of Pancasila as the basic principle of its struggle and purpose. This is stated in the vision and mission of the PDIP.<sup>7</sup>

In order to figure it out the role of PDIP, especially in the Branch Leadership Council (DPC) PDIP in Bantul region, the writer conducted a research

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<sup>6</sup> Benedicto Solleander Heatubun, 2018, "Pendidikan Politik Oleh Kader PDI Perjuangan Provinsi Riau", *JOM FISIP* Vol. 5 No. 1, p. 8.

<sup>7</sup> Partai Demokrasi Indonesia Perjuangan, "Profil Partai Demokrasi Indonesia Perjuangan", <http://www.pdiperjuangan.or.id/&lc=id->, accessed on April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 09.24 pm.

at the Regional Representative Council (DPRD) office in Jendral Sudirman Street, No. 85, Bantul, Yogyakarta.

The role of PDIP as a political party has been regulated in Article 9 of PDIP's AD/ART, as follows:

1. Training and educating the people to be responsible for using their rights and obligations as citizens.
2. Recruiting the members and party cadres for assignment in the party's structural, political institutions, and public Institutions.
3. Establishing a pioneering party cadre, and have the understanding, ability to describe and implement of Bung Karno's values in the life of society, nation, and state.
4. Collecting, formulating, and fighting for the aspirations of the Indonesian people into the Government policy.
5. Collecting, building, and mobilizing people's power to build and achieve the ideals of Pancasila in society; and
6. Establishing political communication based on the basic nature of political life, and to improve political participation for the society.

In this part, the writer would like to discuss the role of PDIP as a political party to political education. In this section, the writer conducted an interview with Sudarmanto as the representative of PDIP, a fraction of Commission D in the field of welfare, education, health, and social. The purpose of this interview was to provide an information about the importance of political education and what effort they made to improve political education in Bantul.

Political education is a very important subject and it was in line with Sudarmanto's statement. According to him, political education itself was very important. Based on democracy and the system used by Indonesia right now, Indonesia's policy was actually shaped and formed by policy maker. It resulted in the thought of a political member in parliament. The members of parliament came from a political party. So, people should be aware of the political matter as our system was based on political thoughts. PDIP as one of the biggest political party in Indonesia should implement their roles and rule to achieve the state's goal of the highest understanding of democracy.

Nowadays, the condition of society is being apathetic. The factors are because they do not want to know or do not understand the politics or there is no one who understands and this has made them an anti-politics. So, when the parties approach society, they will be rejected by them. Probably the parties have not been able to give an understanding to the public. That is why political education is needed to be done to re-awaken the public about the importance of political understanding and preventing them to be apathetic. If they did not want to get involved in politics, like general election perhaps or any other, then the system of democratic governance will be difficult to gain.

Therefore, political education is utmost important to gain for our country goodness sake and PDIP has already made efforts to re-awaken the society about this matter. The PDIP has made an effort to improve political understanding in Bantul by holding a program and political communication to the community. The

scope of its program included the internal and external programs. Each program will be described as follows:

#### 1. Internal program

DPC of PDIP Chapter of Bantul regency had several internal programs to improve political education for its member, party cadre, sympathizer, and for their future leader:

##### a. Cadre education

PDIP had a program named cadre education which was held annually to improve political education for all their cadres. They would learn from *Kader Pratama*, *Madya*, and *Utama*. The regulation of cadre level was set in AD/ART of PDIP party (Congress III Bali Decree, 2010: 34), PDIP cadres could be classified into several levels, such as:

##### 1) *Kader Pratama*

*Kader Pratama* was cadre training located in the regency/city level.

##### 2) *Kader Madya*

*Kader Madya* was cadre training located in the provincial level.

##### 3) *Kader Utama*

*Kader Utama* was cadre training located in the central or national level.

The cadre education program was conducted annually for the party structural since *Anak ranting*, *ranting*, *Pimpinan Anak Cabang (PAC)*, and

*Dewan Pimpinan Cabang (DPC)*. Based on Article 26 of AD/ART of PDIP, the meaning of party structural level was described as follow:

- 1) *Anak ranting* was party structure hamlet/village/Citizen Association (RW) level or other names;
- 2) *Ranting* was party structure at village/neighborhoods level or other names;
- 3) *Pimpinan Anak Cabang (PAC)* was party structure at the district level or others;
- 4) *Dewan Pimpinan Anak Cabang (DPC)* was party structure at region/city or other names.

When the cadre finished their training, then they had to socialize it to the community for what they got during their trainee days. The political communication itself was conducted every month. The PDIP party continued the monthly program by conducting an annual program through the *madya* activity. To conclude, in *Madya* activity, they used to hold a regular political communication to the public aimed to find a potential cadre for the party and later will train them.

b. A training for finding information and technological experts

In addition to cadre education, the PDIP party also had an information and technology (IT) expert training program to give a media knowledge for party cadres, party management or community officials. The program was conducted by the “*Regu Penggerak Pemilih*” which then finding out youth or young generation that had the ability to operate social

media. This program was considered as necessary in order to support and introduce party programs as well as any other activities through social media.

c. Political school

According to Sudarmanto,<sup>8</sup> political school was a formal education formed by PDIP party for a party member, cadres (such as *Kader Pratama, Madya, and Kader Utama*), sympathizer and future leaders. It was located in Pajangan, Bantul. The material given in political school would be different. The content of the political education materials was not far away from the importance of development for the Unitary Republic of Indonesia, diversity, Pancasila and also the 1945 Constitution as well as party ideology. The Political party itself was an activity provided by the central of PDIP.

However, in Bantul itself the school was considered as a newly founded. The leader's candidates who advanced through the PDIP were given party schools for better understanding inside and outside of the political world. In addition, the community also had an opportunity to participate in political school. It means the school was not only established for the internal but also external members. It aimed to make the external member have the same opportunity to get knowledge. The society knowledge became more widespread related to politics. Besides, it was also used as an effort to get close to the community.

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<sup>8</sup> Sudarmanto is the representative of PDIP, fraction of Commission D in the field of welfare, education, health, and social.

## 2. External program

In order to deliver political education, PDIP had socialized to the community which was represented by the party cadre after gaining a training program. The cadre would deliver political understanding rather than introducing their own party. It aimed to eradicate the public apathy regarding politic, later the society will no longer become a follower with no political acknowledgment but a high level of political awareness.

When the public has gained a better understanding of what is politic and others, the cadre would start to introduce the party program. During the political communication events, PDIP would always emphasize the importance of strengthening our Indonesian ideology which was related to them such as the ideology of party struggle, party struggle values, party vision, and mission.

In this case, the society was educated to politic in accordance with the principles of Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution. It aimed to grow the idealism contained in Pancasila that could provide optimism and motivation to society as already stated in the regulations. Then, it was also to improve the quality of political awareness for the community.

In addition, according to Sudarmanto, besides the political communication program to the community, PDIP had tried to carry out its role as well as possible to the community and advised them to choose a leader who could accommodate public aspiration and expectation, such as matters related to the development program of public welfare.



So far, a political education conducted by PDIP had been effective in approaching and mixing the role of community through community activities based on what they need, such as patrolling activities and other formal meetings. It was also conducted in different languages, mindsets, and media which depended on their respective regions. It was because each region had different need such as in rural and urban communities. The urban community was identical with individualist and intellectuals. It required observation before going directly to the location. Since urban communities were more homogeneous than rural communities, the approach from party to society was very important to return their belief to political parties. When the people regained their trust to the political parties then the public apathetic would decrease and the political understanding in society would increase.

The political education conducted by PDIP emphasized the introduction of ideology such as Unitary Republic of Indonesia, diversity, Pancasila and also the 1945 Constitution as well as party ideology in every program for both internal party and society could influence a successful of political communication for a party. This would give an impact on the position of that party. The public would have a better understanding after the party delivered their political ideology and it must be consistent with their own ideology. It was because ideological issues were very crucial for a political party; their ideology appeared a firm promises that they gave to society.

Then, to approach the community by introducing their political ideology, it would increase the awareness and understanding related to the importance of

politics. In addition, citizens would have a high level of political awareness and responsibility in choosing the election candidate. Then, the political participation will increase and will change the public behaviors.

### **C. Role of Gerindra Party in Improving Political Education in Bantul Region**

Besides the PDIP party, the research was also conducted to study the Great Indonesia Movement (Gerindra) party which was a party that participated in the Bantul election of 2015. In this research, the writer conducted an interview with Datin Wisnu Pranyoto as the Legislative Board of DPRD Bantul from Gerindra fraction and Gayuh Pramudhita as Secretary of Commission A of Governmental field.

The Gerindra party is a political party in Indonesia which was established and lead by Letnan Jenderal TNI (Purn) H. Prabowo Subianto. The Gerindra party was established on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008. The Gerindra Party had vision, mission, and manifesto of party struggle, namely the establishment of an independent, sovereign, united, democratic, justice and prosperous, and civilized Indonesian society based on Pancasila as set forth in the Preamble of 1945 Constitution.<sup>9</sup>

The writer interviewed Datin and Gayuh Pramudhita to know the importance of political education for the people especially in Bantul Region and the effort to improve political education in Bantul Region. According to Datin<sup>10</sup>, political education was a very important element. However, before we discuss political education, we have to discuss politic because one of the elements of

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<sup>9</sup> Partai Gerakan Indonesia Raya, "Profil Partai Gerakan Indonesia Raya", <http://partaigerindra.or.id/uploads/manifesto-perjuangan-partai-gerindra.pdf&lc=id->, downloaded on March 28<sup>th</sup> 2018, at 1.25 am.

<sup>10</sup> Datin Wisnu Pranyoto is the Legislative Board of DPRD Bantul from Gerindra fraction.

political education is politic. Then, politic cannot be separated from policy. It is to determine a direction and purpose of the State, for example, president and major are from politics and they have a role for made policies, so the people have to know about politics because it is determined from a policy whether it is welfare, education, development, and infrastructure. It can be said that if the people do not care about politics then the people who will determine a policy are people who are not good at politics. So, the people have to know politic and participate in politics to determine the future direction of a state goal.

It is in line with Stiglitz's statement that the development requires a change of way of thinking where it can not only be governed or coerced from the outside, but it comes from the society itself. The changes are related to the participation of the people. The participation includes the implementation of transparency, openness, and also gives the voting rights to the public to votes their interests. It means the people must have a role in policy making through their participation in determining development policy and economic changes that occur and it does not eliminate civil rights and the people's access in influencing policies concerning his life.<sup>11</sup>

The arrangement of political education itself has already contained in the Article of Association of Gerindra party as stated in Article 12 Paragraph (2) on the function of the party, stating that "to train and educate the people to be responsible for using their political rights and obligations as citizens". It means Gerindra party had a role to train and educate the people for using their rights and

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<sup>11</sup> Siti Witianti, 2016, "Demokrasi Dan Pembangunan", *Jurnal Wacana Politik* ISSN 2502 – 9185 Vol. 1, No. 1, p. 72.

obligation in the election. The ways to train and educate people depended on the programs conducted by the party. Related to the program of Gerindra party, Gayuh Pramudhita<sup>12</sup> explained some of the programs to improve political education for the community in Bantul which referred to the national program, as follows:

1. Developing a strong sovereign, just and prosperous economy;
2. Carrying out the people's economy;
3. Developing food and energy sovereignty as well as to secure water resources;
4. Improving the quality of Indonesia's human development through education, health, social, cultural and sports programs;
5. Developing infrastructure and preserving nature and the environment;
6. Establishing the strong, decisive, and effective government that is free from corruption,

Obviously, the Gerindra party conducted political education both to party members and to society in accordance with the above principles in order to improve political education in Bantul Region, namely:

1. Cadreization
2. Political Communication
3. Community Programs

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<sup>12</sup> Gayuh Pramudhita is the Secretary of Commission A of Governmental field in Gerindra party fraction.

The three programs above are explained in detail as follows:

#### 1. Cadreization

Political education conducted by the Gerindra party especially to the party cadres and the community was by conducting training in each of *Pimpinan Anak Cabang (PAC)*. Political education through cadreization aims to build a constituent at the lower level and give political understanding to the people. It makes people understand the political rights. In addition, Gerindra party opened a training conducted once for some generation called "*Gerindra Masa Depan*" for members who were still young who had met the requirement in that they had completed undergraduate education and their Grade Point Average (IPK) was over of 3 points. In this case, the Gerindra party educated the community who later became party members from as early as possible to serve as cadres to lead both regional and central regions. The cadres were trained and educated to be leaders to meet the standards as a leader. The learning that was used by the Gerindra party was well prepared, so the leaders could be competent in their respective fields.

In Bantul election of 2015, Gerindra party conducted a selection to the public to elect candidates of a regional leader according to the requirements and standards of the General Election Commission through the party structure from the level of *Anak ranting* and *ranting*. This recruitment was open to all citizens who met certain requirements such as capabilities, abilities, ages, and so on. Hence, they had equal opportunity to play their political role in government institutions. The determination of the criteria and skills abilities or

personal capability for citizens who were running as a candidate of a regional leader was important even it is in the highlights of the community.<sup>13</sup> So, we can conclude that the figure of a leader also determines the increase in public participation to improve party electability. As stated by Manshuri Maschab<sup>14</sup>, a regional leaders face several challenges that require a capability. Based on his explanation, it is very necessary for a figure of a regional leader to possess excellent quality. The leadership of the regional leader becomes very important, not only their skills (capability) but also their integrity and acceptability in society.

Besides the training program for the cadres, there was another program that was the recruitment of new members of the party by promoting the vision and mission of the party in accordance with the society's interest. This was conducted not only for gaining popularity without a clear vision and mission. It determined the vision and mission in accordance with the needs of the people that had aims in social justice. It is due to the main factor that was promoted in the community.

## 2. Political Communication

The next program in improving the political understanding of the community was through the existing schools in Bantul Region. This political communication was very important for the beginner voters because according to Gayuh, the beginner voters did not have an understanding of politics and still

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<sup>13</sup> Restu Rahmawati, 2016, "Pengaruh Figur Calon Pemimpin Terhadap Partisipasi Politik Masyarakat Kelurahan Sunter Agung pada Pemilukada DKI Jakarta 2012", *Journal of Governance* Vol. 1 No. 1, p.101.

<sup>14</sup> Manshuri Maschab is master's lecturer in political science at Gadjah Mada University.

acted as followers. In addition to political communication through schools, Gerindra party also conducted political communication in remote areas because of the low level of political understanding of rural communities that was vulnerable to money politics. The political communication was conducted by “*Tunas Indonesia Raya (Tidar)*”. Not only conducting political communication program, Gerindra party also has social media as an up-to-date communication form by attaching the activities done by Gerindra party. When there were activities that were related to the society, they would be published. According to Gerindra party itself, the community was part of the party, so any activities conducted by Gerindra party aimed at the community. The social media of Gerindra party was *garuda yaksa.com* in national level while at the regional level, it was facebook namely *DPC Partai Gerindra* and *Fraksi Gerindra*.

### 3. Community Programs

Gerindra party provided the program to the community. This community program aimed to be an independent, productive movement and based on local wisdom. It is an effort to create a justice and prosperity for the society. The program was done by recitation with the community, inculcating the soul of care through disaster care programs, and improvement of local products. As a movement, Gerindra party always struggled with the people and made people power as the main force in building a nation and the unity of Indonesia.

Datin<sup>15</sup> gives an additional information related to the declining index of democracy. The information by BPS stated that one of the factors of the causes of

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<sup>15</sup> Datin Wisnu Pranyoto is the Legislative Board of DPRD Bantul from Gerindra fraction.

declining of democracy is due to the decline in the role of political parties itself. According to him, it was not entirely the fault of political parties but it was due to the apathy of the community. Actually, the political party wanted to be closer to the community but the society already thought that the image of the political party is bad. Gerindra party overcame this problem by introducing its role to the welfare of the people, fighting for people aspirations, and advocating the community, such as by looking for places of poor development. The ways that were used by political parties made the people appreciate them.

For all of the programs conducted by Gerindra party as an effort to improve political education in Bantul Region, there was an interesting program that was political communication to schools by giving political understanding as early as possible. The Gerindra party provided a new political understanding, especially to beginner voters. Political understanding to beginner voters was a very important thing. It was due to young voters as the young generation who had not understood politics. It can be said they were the younger generations who were less able to keep up with the times or slightly behind the trend. So, they were still as followers who needed more accompaniment and knowledge. Political understanding to the younger generation needed to be enhanced.

In this case, all of the elements of society were required to obtain political education for both the beginner and adult voters. All groups and elements of society had rights to get a political education. The political parties provided a forum to socialize the importance of political education for all. The forum to socialize with political knowledge should provide interesting and innovative



events, so every people could easily understand what the party delivered based on the needs of each.

#### **D. Problems Facing the Role of PDIP and Gerindra Parties in Political Education**

Political parties are required to be able to perform their roles and functions as a drafting body to achieve the nation's political ideals. Political parties are required to be able to articulate the direction and purpose of the party and to provide political support to all constituents constructively. The role is very possible considering the political parties are known as one of the pillars of democracy.<sup>16</sup> However, the journey of political parties in performing their roles and functions will not be separated from the obstacles. This was felt by the PDIP and Gerindra parties in carrying out their roles especially in the process of political education. So, in performing their role as political parties, there are some problems in improving political understanding and public participation in Bantul Region. Some of these problems are:

1. The Community's Interests
2. Internal Communication
3. Pragmatism
4. Money politics
5. Financial Problem

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<sup>16</sup> Muhammad Arifin Nasution, 2012, "Peranan Parpol Dalam Pendidikan Politik", *Jurnal POLITEIA* ISSN: 0216-9290 Vol.4 No.1, p. 36.

Each of the above problems will be explained as follows:

#### 1. The Community's Interests

According to the PDIP party, the problem in conducting political education to the people of Bantul Region was due to lack of public interest. The people were still apathetic when the party tried to get closer to the community. Even the people still stigmatized the PDIP party as the *abangan* group.<sup>17</sup> Therefore the PDIP party had to carry out serious effort in society and provided innovative ways to get closer with them to conduct political education, so the negative thoughts about the party did not re-emerge in society. The ways of the party to overcome this problem was by conducting national seminars and involving religious leaders in activities as well as conducting first level training (*Pratama*) and second level training (*Madya*) education. So, the people understood the political rights and they were no longer apathetic. In addition, the party attempted to provide innovative ways of not bringing the party's identity first when communicating to the people, so the party blended with the community not as party cadres but as a society in general. It gave emotional closeness and made the community trust the party again. The party also provided an understanding of the public to know the vision and mission of the party well and must know in detail the party of their choice in the election. So, the people are not easily affected and more selective in conscience.

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<sup>17</sup> According to KBBI, *abangan* is groups of people who adhere to Islam, but do not implement the teachings as a whole.

## 2. Internal Communication

During the political education process, there was a problem of the participation of internal parties. This was due to the lack of internal communication and even some party cadres did not follow the activities of the party. This problem made the cadres less aware of the inside and outside of the party. This was due to lack of communication in providing political education in the community. The political communication of political education was not done well for the public because of difficulties with the party itself.

## 3. Pragmatism

Implementation of political communication activities of political education would not run smoothly if there was still a pragmatic society. The people did not see who the candidates of regional leader or legislative candidates were, but they see how the number of funds the candidates provided. The condition was sometimes still found in the community, especially in the region with a low economic level. It was very vulnerable in terms of money politics activities in the community. The pragmatic conditions could eliminate the clean political value and disturb the practice of ideal politic.

## 4. Money politics

According to the Gerindra Party, money politics was also one of the major factors that caused the failure to grow a good and correct political understanding in society. When election began, political game by the interest group started. This happened in remote areas that still lacked of the political

knowledge of the community. If there was no money then they did not use their votes or they vote for money.

#### 5. Financial Problem

According to Gerindra party, during the process of political communication, there was a problem that requires a lot of financial matter, for example, they must prepare a comfortable place, dishes, and entertainment that could be accepted by the society. So, the funding from the government also influenced on the progress of political communication of political education. The fund was used for party operations in performing its functions, for example in socializing political education to the community.