Political Development in Palembang During the Liberal Democracy Era (1951-1959)

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ABSTRACT
This research described the political development in Palembang during the Liberal Democracy era in 1951-1959. The research problem was how the process of political development in Palembang during the Liberal Democracy era in 1951-1959. This study aimed at finding out the process of political development in Palembang during the Liberal Democracy era in 1951-1959. The method used was the historical method (historical) which was carried out through stages such as heuristics (collection of sources), review of literature related to the object of research, data verification, interpretation, and finally the writing of history itself (historiography). Sources of data used in this study were primary sources and secondary sources obtained from books and informants related to the problem. South Sumatra, which was formed in 1950, made Palembang as the capital of the province with a population that at that time reached 1,374 people per thousand meters. Since then Palembang has several mayors who lead, namely Mr. R. Sudarman Gandasubrata (1950-1954 period), R.A. Abusamah (1955-1956 period), and M. Ali Amin (1956-1961 period). Each period of this government had various kinds of political policies that contributed greatly to the development of urban development during the liberal democracy era.

Keywords: Political development, Palembang, Liberal democracy, History.

1. INTRODUCTION

When Indonesia proclaimed its independence on August 17, 1945, Indonesia adopted the presidential system of government which was established at the Indonesian Independence Preparatory (PPKI) session on August 18, 1945. In managing the government at the beginning of Indonesia’s independence, it was disturbed by Dutch efforts to regain control of Indonesia so that it happened. Military Aggression I and II. This event ended with a diplomatic agreement of the Round Table Conference in Den Hag, The Netherlands on 23 August - 2 November 1949. After the agreement, the period of the early 1950s was the initial period of the government of the Republic of Indonesia which was completely independent without any outside interference. The period of the government of the Republic of Indonesia in 1950 itself began when the United Republic of Indonesia (RIS) was officially dissolved on August 17, 1950. Since then the government of the Republic of Indonesia has continued to strive to improve the whole structure of life, especially in the political and governmental fields from the center to the regional level. In the following years, the history of the Indonesian nation until 1965 was never separated from various kinds of political conflicts that led to the disintegration of the nation. Ironically, the various conflicts that followed were frictions initiated by the Indonesians themselves. This also affects areas in Indonesia.

South Sumatra, which in the previous period was part of a federal state formed by the Dutch government called the State of South Sumatra (NSS), chose to rejoin the Republic of Indonesia on March 18, 1950. The formation of the NSS itself could not be separated from political developments and conditions. Indonesia during the revolution. The NSS region itself covers the city of Palembang and its surroundings which is headed by the then-elected president, Abdul Malik. The formation and election of the president itself was carried out by an advisory board formed by the Dutch government under the control of Regerings Commissarissen Voor Bestuursaangelegenheden (RECOMBA) on April 16th, 1948. RECOMBA itself is a state commissioner for civil government affairs assigned by the Dutch Government to prepare for the establishment of the NSS. NSS was officially established on August 30, 1948 with the approval of Van Mook who was the
Governor General of the Dutch Government at that time.

The NSS itself was not able to last long as many states chose to join the Republic of Indonesia. In the end, NSS was officially disbanded on August 24th, 1950 and the area was then integrated into the Province of South Sumatra under the Government of the Republic of Indonesia. The dissolution of the NSS was carried out on the basis of the demands of the people of South Sumatra who elected their representatives, dr. M. Isa, to be able to talk about the intention of the Palembang people to join the Republic of Indonesia [1].

dr. M. Isa himself was an RIS Commissioner who was later appointed as Governor of South Sumatra replacing Abdul Malik who served as president of the NSS during the RIS era. The process of handing over this position itself took place on March 18, 1950 which is documented in the following document:

1. Deed of submission and acceptance of government power over the State of South Sumatra.
2. The proclamation of the handover and acceptance of the power of the South Sumatra Government.
3. Decree issued by the Governor, dr. M. Isa.

Meanwhile, the basis for implementing regional government itself refers to Law No.1 of 1945, Law No. 10 of 1948, Law no. 22 of 1948, Law no. 1 of 1957, Law No. 28 of 1959, Law no. 6 of 1959, pen press No. 5 of 1960 (enhanced) pen pres. No. 6 of 1959 (which was revised), Law no. 18 of 1965, and so on refers to the law [2].

There are several studies that have been done regarding the Liberal Democracy era. Dewi conducted a research entitled Regional Decentralization in Palembang in 1948-1957. In this study, it is revealed that decentralization which gives flexibility to regions to regulate their own regions is not done because the central government still controls the regional government so that the regions feel that they are being treated unfairly and in the end lead to rebellion in the regions.

Furthermore, research related to the Liberal Democracy period was also examined by Irham with the title Democracy in Indonesia: Reflections on the Institutionalization of Democracy in the Constitution, the Regional Government Law, and the Law on Regional Head Elections. This research explains the comparison of the 1945 Constitution and the 1950 Provisional Basic Law which explains the development of regional autonomy regulations. In addition to the two studies above, there is also a study entitled Indonesian State Administration System in the Liberal Democracy Period in 1950-1959 by Johan. Setiawan, Wahyu Ida Permatasari, and Dyah Kumalasari. This study provides further explanation regarding the elements of state completeness according to the 1950 Constitution, namely the president and vice president, ministers, the People’s Representative Council, the Supreme Court and the Financial Supervisory Board.

When viewed from the above studies, the researchers focused more on the study of the liberal democracy period in the scope of the central government, both in terms of the constitutional system and political policy. One of the interesting things if we try to trace political studies during the Liberal Democracy era is the event of the first election in 1955. The implementation of the first election in 1955 has become a special attraction for researchers to see political developments in the regions, especially Palembang City. The identity of Palembang, which is one of the big cities in Sumatra and has been an area granted decentralization rights (Cementer) since the Dutch colonialism era, makes the history of Palembang’s political development interesting for further study.

Based on the narrative above, the problem formulation in this study is how the political development of Palembang during the liberal democracy era (1951-1959). This study also aims to describe the political development of Palembang during the liberal democracy era.

2. METHOD

In this research, the writer uses historical research method or commonly known as historical method. The historical method according to Sjamsuddin [3] is a process of reviewing, explaining and analyzing critically of past recordings and legacies. The purpose of the historical method itself is to make a systematic and objective reconstruction of an event in the past with scientific steps such as collecting data (Heuristics), verifying and evaluating data (Criticism), and interpreting it into a fact (Historiography). in order to obtain a conclusion from a complete series of events.

Completing the research data of this paper, the author also does a literature review to strengthen and discover new historical facts. The data presented in this study came from books and articles related to the formulation of problems to be discussed in this study.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 The Influence of Liberal Democracy in Palembang

After the dissolution of RIS on 17th of August 1945, the government decided to implement a liberal democratic system. As a result of this decision, the
government no longer used the 1945 Constitution, and as a substitute, the 1950 UUDS was used before new laws were made by constituent members. In the 1950 Constitution, it has regulated a democratic system through parties which can sit in parliament through a general election as a form of democracy. The President appoints the Prime Minister to lead the cabinet and is responsible for parliament.

The 1950 UUDS also regulates regional government as stated in Chapter IV concerning Regional Government and Swapradja Regions, articles 131 and 132 [4]. The article regulates regional autonomy as widely as possible in the context of taking care of one’s own household and monitoring duties [5].

After the dissolution of the State of South Sumatra, the Government of the Republic of Indonesia began to rebuild its political and governmental order, both at the central and regional levels. Sumatra which was previously based on Law no. 1 of 1945, only consisted of 1 province, namely Sumatra province; then in early 1950 it was formed into 3 provinces, namely North Sumatra Province, Central Sumatra Province and South Sumatra Province. The formation of the Province of South Sumatra itself took place on July 20th, 1950 based on Law of 1950 Number 3 dated August 14th which is contained in a government regulation in lieu of law.

This regulation complements the previous regulation, namely Law No. 22 of 1948 concerning regional government. With the issuance of this law, the government officially abolished the residency areas of Palembang, Bengkulu, Lampung and Bangka Belitung and made it the Province of South Sumatra [6].

The capital city of South Sumatra Province is Palembang. The city of Palembang itself consists of the Seberang Ilir area which is divided into 23 villages (17 villages in the Ilir Barat area and 16 villages in the Ilir Timur region) and an additional 16 villages in the Seberang Ulu area. Seberang Ulu itself was eventually included in the part of Palembang, which during the occupation of the Japanese military government and the Dutch East Indies government, the Seberang Ulu area was not included in the Palembang city area. Based on the book History of Government Development in the Region of South Sumatra, the population of Palembang in 1950 reached 1,374 people per thousand meters. This means that this number is included in the category of a fairly dense population for a city outside Java which has just been inaugurated as an autonomous region [7]. The first thing he did was to elect a mayor. The mayors who led Palembang in 1950-1961 were as follows:

1. Mr. R. Sudarman Gandasubrata (1950-1954 Period)

Mr. R. Sudarman Gandasubrata was appointed mayor based on the Minister of Home Affairs issued on July 9, 1950 No. UP / 17/14/25. The policies that emerged during Sudarman's leadership included:

**Forming the Composition of the Palembang City DPR**

In addition to the election and appointment of mayors and city government secretaries, on August 24 1950 a second plenary meeting was held by the Provincial DPRD to form the composition of the City DPR and the formation of other level II autonomous regions in South Sumatra Province. According to Djohan Hanafiah [8] the formation of the Palembang City DPRD itself is chaired by the mayor whose name was originally the Daily Worker Agency and was changed to the Regional Government Council (DPD) based on the regional regulation of South Sumatra Province No. 4/1950. As for the composition in the regional government of Palembang City according to Law no. 22 of 1948 are as follows.

1. Mr. R. Sudarman Gandasubrata : Leader
2. K.H. Malian Djamam : Member
3. Rahman Talip : Member
4. M. Amin Fauzy : Member
5. Abdul Karim : Member
6. R. Sugihartono : Member

The main task of the DPD is to elect and select members of the city DPR. From this process, 20 names of members who will later occupy the Parliament of the Palembang City DPR have succeeded in obtaining a term of 5 years. Among the 20 names, 5 DPD members entered the Palembang City DPR membership structure and only left Sudarman to complete the DPD's duties and then dismiss him. The names of the members of the Palembang City DPR are as follows.

1. Musa Thahir Hasibuan : Leader (PNI)
2. Cek. H. Entik Z. Abidin : Vice (Masyumi)
3. M. Amin Fauzy : Member (Masyumi)
4. K.H Abu Bakar Bastari : Member (Masyumi)
5. Abdul Karim : Member (Masyumi)
6. K.H Malian Djamam : Member (Masyumi)
7. H. Utih : Member (Masyumi)
8. K. Kns. H. M. Junus : Member (NU)
9. K. Kgs. H.M. Sadjadi : Member (NU)
10. Abdullah Gatmir : Member (NU)
11. Basuni Saropi : Member (PSI)
The First Session of the Palembang City DPR

The Palembang City DPR held its first session on June 11th, 1951 with the main agenda being to discuss the symbol of Palembang City. Based on the decision letter of the Palembang City DPRD No. 15 / DPRK, DPRD Palembang City then formed a special commission consisting of experts in their fields to design and translate the Palembang City symbol [10].

This special commission held its first session on July 14th, 1951 which was named the Palembang Big City Symbol Commission with the following membership structure [11]:

1. R. M Saleh (Leader)
2. R. H. M Akib (Member)
3. Noengtjik. A. R (Member)
4. H.M Joenoes Sjamsoeddin (Member)
5. A. K. Saropi (Member)
6. Ir. F. A Neelemans (Advisor)

In 1952, precisely on April 17th, 1952, the Palembang City Government on behalf of the Palembang City DPRD with a special commission, held a competition to find talented painters who were deemed capable of designing a picture of the Palembang City symbol. However, the competition did not produce the expected results. The government did not find a symbol design that was able to represent the great Palembang City during the Sriwijaya Kingdom, the Palembang Sultanate, the struggle for independence, and hope for the future. Even though the competition did not find a winner, on 11th of November 1953 in its Xth session, the government agreed to continue giving awards to the contest participants as a form of appreciation for the Palembang City Government by giving a prize of IDR 150 for each contest participant followed by only 4 participants. In 1954 Sudarman officially ended his term as mayor, and this position was later filled by R. A Abusamah [12].

2. R.A Abusamah (1955-1956 Period)

R.A Abusamah was a temporary official who replaced M. Ali Amin who was completing his education at that time in Jakarta.

3. M. Ali Amin (1956-1961 Period)

M. Ali Amin was appointed Mayor of Palembang based on the Minister of Home Affairs Decree No. UP / 2/36 dated 29 December 1954. The events and important policies that occurred during his reign were as follows.

1955 : First Election

In 1955 Indonesia for the first time held General Elections (Pemlu). This election was held in 2 waves, namely on 29th of September 1955 to elect members of the council, and on 15 December 1955 to elect members of the constituent body. This general election was held simultaneously in all regions of Indonesia and was won by the four major parties that won the most votes. The four major parties were PNI, Masyumi, NU and PKI. Meanwhile for the province of South Sumatra, the election results could only be announced on July 17, 1956 on the basis of Law no. 14/1956 article 7 paragraph 3 concerning transitional DPRD and transitional DPD, Regulation of the Minister of Home Affairs No. 4 of 1956 articles 9 and 12 and based on the Regulation of the Minister of Home Affairs no. 11 of 1956 it was decided that the 10-year-old DPR city of Palembang be dissolved. The dissolution of the DPRD was carried out because the DPRD that was elected in the previous period was selected and appointed to be a member of the council without going through the election process but based on the results of the deliberation decision of the members of the DPRD for South Sumatra Province which were deemed not to reflect the principles of a democracy where the election of council members must be elected by the people through election. (Hanafiah, 1988: 34).

Based on the Decree of the Governor of South Sumatra Province No. G / III / 1956 on September 24, 1956, at the Sekanak Meeting Hall, the inauguration ceremony of the Palembang City DPR and DPD results from the election was held. The members of the Palembang City DPR are as follows:

1. M. Amin Fauzy (Leader) (Masyumi)
2. Ahmad Gasan Gani (Masyumi)
3. Abd Kohar Madjid (Masyumi)
4. R. A Latief bin R. Nanang (Masyumi)
5. A. Rahman bin A. halim (Masyumi)
6. Kms. Zen Mukti (Masyumi)
7. Kgs. Zainal Abidin bin Kgs. H. Badaruddin (Masyumi)
8. Nunggjik AB bin Abu bakar (Masyumi)
The symbol of the Great City of Palembang has three parts, namely:

1. The Sirah building is a Palembang house, the original color of dark red, brown with golden edges, along with $2 \times (4 + 5) = 18$ lotus leaf horns. In the midst of the superiors there is a jasmine flower that has not yet bloomed, which symbolizes harmony, kinship and the prosperity of the Great Palembang City throughout the ages.

2. a) The peak of the bamboo shoots is golden yellow, symbolizing glory and majesty, 8 in number, symbolizing the historic month of August. The month of the proclamation which reminds the struggle for independence of the Republic of Indonesia

b) The triangle is a hill that is famous in Palembang with the name Seguntang Hill in green. 17 golden rays, symbolizing the 17th day of the Proclamation of Independence of the Republic of Indonesia
c) The blue elongated circles are rivers. Four of them are large rivers that meet in Palembang City, namely Komering, Ogan, Lematang, and Musi. While the other five are rivers that meet outside the city of Palembang. The nine gathered together, the main and the water flowing in Palembang City calmly, symbolizing:

d) Palembang City is the center of transportation, port and trade as well as industry with its people who are quiet wise.
e) 1945, namely the year of the proclamation. The white lotus flower symbolizes the sacred religion of all times; past, present and future.
f) Five pieces of lotus flower symbolize the five pillars of Islam.

3. Under the symbol written the word "PALEMBANG DJAJA" which means “in all ages he djaja (glorious)”.

Birth of “Dewan Garuda”

At the end of 1956 the political conditions in the South Sumatra region, especially Palembang City, heated up a little. This was triggered by the formation of the Benteng Council in West Sumatra and the Elephant Council in North Sumatra, which demanded a balance of development between the center and the regions which had been considered by these councils to be unbalanced. The emergence of these councils is because the central government is considered to be only focused on implementing development in the Java region, especially Jakarta, by ignoring regional development. On 15-17 January 1957, the South Sumatera customary congress was finally held which
gave birth to the Garuda Council which also demanded that development be carried out in the South Sumatra region, including the city of Palembang. The Garuda Council demands that the central government provide the widest possible autonomy in order to achieve a balanced development between the center and the regions. The Garuda Council itself is chaired by Lt. Col. Barlian and Major Nawawi as its representatives. Meanwhile, the members themselves consist of Major Alamsjah Ratu Perwiranegara, Major Asnawi Mangku Alam, Major Jusuf Singikine and other military figures [16].

In the face of this political instability, finally the central government took several policies to reduce the political turmoil that was heating up in several regions in South Sumatra, especially Palembang. Although in its development, the central government did not take seriously the turmoil in South Sumatra because the “Garuda Council” movement itself firmly stated that they would not be offensive towards the central government. The Garuda Council also claimed that its formation was limited to a moral movement and firmly refused to carry out rebellion. However, the central government then established the status of Palembang City as a War Emergency Area on March 14, 1957. This status emerged as a response from the government that was worried that the Garuda Council would carry out a rebellion against the center, even though at that time the Garuda Council did not show too much alarming movement.

Meanwhile, according to Putra [17] (2020) in his writing, he explained that the Garuda Council itself carried out more rebellions in the Musi Banyuasin area, precisely in Sekayu which was driven by Nawawi. Meanwhile in the Palembang region, the situation was very conducive and there was no tension at all. This was because Lieutenant Colonel Barlian, who was then the chairman of the council, had resigned from his position because from the start he firmly stated that he had no intention of carrying out a military rebellion against the central government. Even so, the central government continued to take firm action against the remaining Garuda Council troops by forming Operation Awareness to curb military movements that occurred [18].

In addition to the establishment of the Garuda Council in the military, there is also the BPKMSS (South Sumatra Community Willing Agency) which is employed by civilians. The agency is chaired by M. Ali Amin, who demands the implementation of regional development and a clear financial balance between the regions and the center. This condition was exacerbated by the issuance of Law no. 1 Year 1957 on January 18th, which gave a new political direction towards strong liberalism, giving rise to leadership dualism at the central and regional levels, especially in Palembang [19].

Hanafiah said that the reason M. Ali Amin founded BPKMSS was because on November 15, 1956 the Palembang City government was assigned to carry out the development and expansion of several markets in Palembang City such as the Lingkis Market (Cinde Market now), Kertapat Market, Lemabang Market, Fruit Market and Market. Kuto with funds reaching 6,000,000.00. Meanwhile, the financial cash of the Palembang City Government at that time was insufficient and finally forced to make a loan of 1,800,000.00 with an interest of 5.5% in a period of 15 years to carry out development and expansion of land and build a water pipe construction project to distribute clean water in the City Palembang. Not only that, the Palembang City Government is also fighting for the construction of the Ampera Bridge by sending a delegation, namely the Chairman of the Palembang City DPR M. Amin Fauzy to meet with ministers such as the minister of interior, minister of public workers, minister of finance, and Minister of State Design, Ir. Juanda. The results of the meeting finally resulted in an agreement that the Ampera Bridge construction project would be submitted to the Provincial Government of South Sumatra [20].

The End of Liberal Democracy

On July 5, 1959 President Soekarno issued a decree which included re-using the 1945 Constitution as the basis for state law, dissolving the constituent bodies, and forming a provisional MPR and DPA. The issuance of this Presidential Decree dated July 5, 1959 resulted in changes in the structure of government both at the central and regional levels. At the central level, for example, President Soekarno dissolved the DPR as a result of the 1955 election and formed the DPR-GR (DPR-Gotong Goyong). In addition, President Soekarno himself not only served as president but also served as head of government or prime minister without being accompanied by a vice president.

Meanwhile, in the Palembang region itself there was also the dissolution of the DPR election results in 1955 and was replaced by the DPR-GR. The members of the DPR-GR Palembang City are as follows:

1. Siti Chairun (PKI)
2. Usman Selanang (PKI)
3. Mr. M. Sjamsuddin Umar (PNI)
4. R.A Aziz (PNI)
5. Taufik Abdullah Gathmyr (NU)
6. R. Mohd Hasan (NU)
7. Mas Ayu Nurul Husnah (Partindo)
8. K.H.M Asik Solihin (PSII)
9. Mr. Lim Tjong Hian (Baperki)
10. Mattjik Malik (IPKI)
For the Chairperson of the DPR-GR, it is chaired by the Mayor of Palembang M. Ali Amin and the deputy chairman is Mr. Syamsuddin Umar. In 1961 M. Ali Amin resigned from his position as mayor of Palembang on the basis of the legal basis of SK MDn No. Up 1/15/25 issued on October 9, 1961.

4. CONCLUSION

After going through periods of struggle through various battles just before independence and wars during the physical revolution, Palembang began to build a new order in terms of government politics during the liberal democracy era. Apart from arranging the parliamentary membership needed during the liberal democracy era, the Palembang city government was also preparing to welcome the first general election in 1955.

The period of liberal democracy was then ended when President Soekarno issued a Presidential Decree on July 5, 1959. The various political dynamics that occurred in each period of the mayor's leadership contributed to the development of the city of Palembang from time to time.

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