

THE IDEAL CONCEPT FOR THE USE OF SUPPORT FUND BY THE UNITED DEVELOPMENT PARTY IN CILEGON CITY BANTEN TOWARDS COMMUNITY POLITICAL EDUCATION

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Abstract

This research discusses the implications of the United Development Party (PPP)'s support fund in Cilegon City, Banten, on community political education during the 2016-2021 period. The primary objective of this research is to examine the effectiveness of utilizing party support funds in enhancing people's political understanding, as well as identifying challenges in their management. The research method employed is a qualitative approach with descriptive analysis, which involves literature reviews and interviews with relevant parties, including party administrators and community beneficiaries of political education programs. The results showed that, although support funds have been allocated for political education programs, their use still faces various challenges, including complex disbursement procedures, a lack of transparency, and a larger allocation of funds for party operations than for political education programs. Additionally, the lack of coordination between the DPC of PPP Cilegon City and the central party is also a hindrance to the program's effectiveness. Supervision and evaluation of the use of funds are also still limited, thus reducing the impact of political education for the community. This research recommends optimizing the use of support funds by increasing the allocation for political education, increasing transparency and accountability in fund management, and strengthening coordination between the DPC and the central party. Additionally, innovations in political education methods, such as the use of digital technology and social media, can enhance the program's reach and effectiveness.

Keywords: Party Support Fund; Political Education; Transparency; United Development Party; Cilegon City

INTRODUCTION

Political parties are organizations formed by a group of Indonesian citizens voluntarily based on common views and ideals. Sigmund Neumann, in his book "Modern Political Parties," argues that "Political parties are organizations of political activity that seek to control the government by winning popular support based on competition with other groups that have different views". Meanwhile, Miriam Budiardjo formulated that "Political parties are a means for citizens to participate in the process of managing the State. A political party is an organized group whose members have the same orientation, values and ideals. In this case, political parties play a crucial role in fostering community participation through the political education they provide. So that apathy (indifference), public distrust of the importance of participating in influencing public policy through elections, as well as the wrong attitude that considers non-participation in elections commendable, can be mitigated or reduced to a minimum. In a democratic state, political parties serve several functions, one of which is as a means of political communication (Samosir, 2022).

Another example of participation is in an election, where community participation can be seen as a control system for the election event, conveying the aspirations of individuals and community groups to candidates competing in the election contest. So that the results of policies issued by the government are solely based on the wishes of the community. The form of community desire stems from how often the community expresses aspirations that are often complained about, in order to achieve a regulation or policy that is made in accordance with what is needed and desired by the community. Therefore, the community needs a mature understanding of the importance of political participation through political education (Willeck & Mendelberg, 2022). This is mandated by Law No. 2/2008 on Political Parties as stated in Article 11 paragraph (1) letter a, which reads: "political parties function as a means: political education for members and the wider community in order to become Indonesian citizens who are aware of their rights and obligations in the life of society, nation and state".

For this function to be realized, the State provides financial support to assist political parties in carrying out their activities. The government has issued regulations, including Law No. 2/2008 on Political Parties, which was later amended by Law No. 2/2011 on Political Parties. Based on this law, political parties are entitled to receive financial support from the state budget (APBD) in accordance with statutory regulations, which are allocated proportionally to political parties that secure seats in the DPR, Provincial DPRD, and Regency/City DPRD, the calculation of which is based on the number of votes obtained. Meanwhile, the allocation is described in Government Regulation No. 5 of 2009 on Financial Support to Political Parties, which was later amended by Government Regulation No. 1 of 2018 and Permendagri No. 36 of 2018 on Procedures for Calculating, Budgeting in the APBD and Administrative Procedures for Submitting, Distributing, and Accountability Reports for Political Party Support Funds. Article 27, paragraph (1) states that financial support to political parties is prioritized to carry out political education for members of political parties and the community.

Political parties that win seats in the DPR, Provincial DPRD and Regency or City DPRD are entitled to 60% financial support for political education activities aimed at cadres and the community. However, there is a problem: political education activities carried out are mandatory, or they will still run without funding support. Several questions arise, including whether support funds are prioritized for political education or only for party administrative costs, and whether support funds are used for political education aimed solely at party cadres or also extended to the community (Usman et al., 2025). As an illustration of the reality of political education carried out by the United Development Party of Cilegon City, among others; Political Education Seminar for Beginner Voters, Sarasehan on Democracy and the role of the community in election participation, Interactive Dialogue on election winning strategies, Interactive Dialogue on the role of political parties in increasing voter participation, Workshops and other meeting activities according to their duties and functions, such as: Basic Cadre Leadership Training (LKKD), Branch Work Conference (MUKERCAB), and other activities.

Researchers have reviewed previous research that has been reviewed. Various studies on the dominance of political parties in regions have shown that several factors, including patron-client relationships, the influence of political elites, party organizational management, and patterns of community relations, can affect a party's political power. For example, research on the dominance of the Golkar Party in South Tangerang by Ade Adrian reveals that Golkar's success in maintaining power is influenced by the roles of elites, social networks, and effective organizational management (Adrian, 2024). Similarly, research on the dominance of *Karaeng* in the Jeneponito regional elections revealed that cultural factors and the historical position of traditional elites played a significant role in determining political outcomes in the area (Fatwa et al., 2024). Meanwhile, the difference in this research lies in its focus and object of study.

Suppose the previous study highlighted more aspects of a party's political dominance in electoral contestation and the influence of elites on political victory. In that case, this research focuses on how party support funds are utilized to enhance community political education. The primary focus of this research is to examine how the PPP utilizes the support fund to enhance political awareness, community participation, and the effectiveness of political education programs in Cilegon City. Although both studies relate to the role of political parties at the local level, the research on PPP focuses more on the educative and community empowerment aspects, rather than political domination. For this reason, the researcher identified several issues that arose in this study, specifically regarding the use of the Cilegon City United Development Party support fund to enhance political education for the community and the ideal concept that should be applied. With these problems in mind, the purpose of this research is to describe and analyze the ideal concept of utilizing political party support funds for the implementation of community-based political education, as outlined in Government Regulation No. 5 on Financial Support to Political Parties.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research is a type of normative-empirical research, which involves the use of empirical facts derived from human behavior, specifically verbal behavior observed directly. This research employs a statutory and conceptual-analytical approach. The statute approach is used to analyze the regulations governing political party support funds, especially within the scope of the United Development Party (PPP) in Cilegon City, Banten. This approach examines the legal basis for the allocation and utilization of support funds, including the Political Party Law and regional regulations governing their distribution. Furthermore, the conceptual approach is employed to understand theories related to community political education, particularly how party support funds can contribute to enhancing citizens' political awareness and participation.

Meanwhile, the analytical approach is used to connect existing regulations with their implementation in the field, so that it can be evaluated to what extent these support funds increase people's political understanding. Primary data in this research is obtained from interviews with respondents. At the same time, the secondary data consists of primary legal materials such as Law No. 2 of 2011 on Amendments to Law No. 2 of 2008 on Political Parties and Government Regulation No. 83 of 2012 on Amendments to Government Regulation No. 5 of 2009 on Financial Support to Political Parties. Legal materials in the form of books, scientific journals and related research results.

This research is located in Cilegon City. Respondents in this research are the parties directly related to the object of this research, namely the Chairman of the Branch Leadership Council of the United Development Party of Cilegon City (Chairman of DPC PPP Cilegon), Secretary of the Branch Leadership Council of the United Development Party of Cilegon City (Secretary of DPC PPP Cilegon), Treasurer of the Branch Leadership Council of the United Development Party of Cilegon City. The authors chose these respondents because they are directly involved in managing money within and outside the party, specifically with the National Unity and Political Agency (KESBANGPOL Kota Cilegon), and are participants in PPP political education activities in Cilegon City. As for the sources included in this research, they are academic experts, namely Dr. Nanik Prasetyoningsih, S.H., M.H., who provides academic support regarding the funding. The data were collected using literature study techniques (library research) and accompanied by field studies. The analysis technique employs inductive and deductive thinking, which is classified as an analytical-qualitative research approach.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Public participation in elections is a crucial indicator of the quality of democracy in a region. Based on data from the Cilegon City General Election Commission (KPU), the voter participation rate decreased from 2016 to 2021. In the 2016 election, the participation rate reached 68.5%; however, in the 2019 election, it fell to 65.2%. The 2020 Pilkada also showed a further decline with a participation rate of 60.8%.

Table 1. Cilegon City Community Participation Rate in Elections

No.	Election Year	Number of Registered Voters	Participation (%)
1.	2016	290.560	68,5%
2.	2018	298.300	67,0%
3.	2019	310.780	65,2%
4.	2020 (Regional Election)	315.500	60,8%

Source: (KPU Cilegon City)

During the 2016-2021 period, political education became one of the primary priorities of the United Development Party (PPP) in Cilegon City. In an effort to enhance the quality of democracy and community political participation, the PPP's political education initiatives aim to increase the community's understanding, particularly among party members, of their rights and responsibilities as citizens. This education is an integral part of the party's work program, which aims to develop party cadres with high political awareness and the ability to contribute to national development.

The political education program organized by PPP Cilegon City is supported by the Political Party Financial Support Fund sourced from the Cilegon City Regional Budget (APBD). In accordance with applicable regulations, this fund is prioritized for political education activities and secretariat operations. The audit report of the Supreme Audit Agency (BPK) indicates that the implementation of this activity has adhered to the principles of accountability and transparency, with close supervision from various parties, including the Cilegon City National and Political Unity Agency (KESBANGPOL) (Interview with KESBANGPOL, 2014). The basis for providing support funds to political parties for public political education in Indonesia is in accordance with the statement of Dr. Nanik Prasetyoningsih, S.H., M.H. an academic, who stated: "The provision of support funds to political parties for community political education in Indonesia has definite and binding legal force, because it is regulated at the Election Law level, and is further regulated by Government Regulation No. 5/2009 and Permendagri No. 36/2018 jo Permendagri No. 78/2020" (Interview with Dr. Nanik Prasetyoningsih, 2025).

Political education also contributes to the strengthening of party structures at the branch level, with the creation of cadres who are competent and have a high commitment to democratic values (Yang, 2023). The following is a table of data on the percentage of decline and its explanation based on the description of the Political Education of the United Development Party (PPP) of Cilegon City in 2016-2021:

Table 2. Percentage of Political Education of the United Development Party (PPP) Cilegon City 2016-2021

Year	Voter Participation (%)	Decrease (%)	Explanation
2016	75%	-	The initial year of implementation of political education by PPP Cilegon City. Voter participation was relatively high because it was still in the early stages of political socialization.
2017	72%	3%	Participation began to decline, possibly due to a lack of innovation in political education methods and limited funding.
2018	70%	2%	Funding constraints are becoming more pronounced, resulting in limited implementation of political education programs. Political awareness remains, but voter participation is starting to decline.
2019	68%	2%	Election year, but turnout continues to decline, possibly due to public saturation with politics or dissatisfaction with parties and candidates.
2020	65%	3%	The COVID-19 pandemic has reduced direct interaction in political education. Political socialization programs have become less effective.
2021	60%	5%	Significant decline. Possibly due to limited funds, lack of innovation in political education methods, and the impact of the pandemic.

Source: (Interview with KESBANGPOL Cilegon City, Banten Province)

Based on the table above, from 2016 to 2021, there has been a downward trend in public political participation in Cilegon City, with a total decrease of 15%. Several factors contribute to this decline, including limited funding, a lack of innovation in political education methods, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. To address this downward trend, the Cilegon City PPP needs to develop more innovative educational methods, increase cooperation with community organizations, and encourage youth involvement in political activities.

The Use of Cilegon City PPP Assistance Funds to Improve Political Education for the Community

For this research, the authors conducted a study at the Cilegon City Branch Leadership Council (DPC) office of the United Development Party (PPP) to obtain valid data on the implementation of PPP education in Cilegon City, using legislative election data from 2016 to 2021 as a reference. Based on the results of the study, the following data were obtained:

Table 3. Budget and Expenditure Plan for Political Education of the United Development Party of Cilegon City in 2016

No.	Type of Expenditure	Type of Activity	Activity Volume	Realization (IDR)	Description
A.	Political Education				
1.	Seminar				
2.	Workshop				
3.	Interactive dialog				
4.	Workshop				
5.	Sarasehan	LKKD Workshop	1	77.866.250	
6.	Other meeting activities According to duties and functions				
B.	Secretariat Operations				
1.	General Administration				
a.	Stationery activities	Stationery & photocopies	10	1.950.559	
b.	Internal secretariat meeting	DPH internal meeting	2	422.000	
c.	Official travel expenses in order to support the secretariat's operational activities	Official travel	8	3.300.000	
d.	Office rent	Office rent	1	25.000.000	
e.	Honor of the secretariat staff who concentrate on finance	Honorarium	2	5.000.000	
2.	Power and Service Subscription				
a.	Telephone and electricity	Electricity	5	396.991	
b.	Drinking water				
c.	Postal and giro services	Stamp	2	240.000	
d.	Correspondence				
3.	Data and Archive Maintenance				
a.	Electronic data storage				
b.	Manual data storage				
4.	Office Equipment Maintenance				
a.	Electronic equipment maintenance				
b.	Maintenance of inventory equipment				
	Total realization of accountability:				IDR 114.175.770
	Acquisition of political party support fund:				IDR 114.175.770

Source: Branch Leadership Council of the United Development Party of Cilegon City

This report states that the total financial support received by the Cilegon City PPP from political parties amounted to IDR 114,175,770, and all funds have been fully utilized; therefore, the final balance

shows IDR 0. The use of these funds is divided into two main categories, namely Political Education and Secretariat Operations. Activities included in the report are seminars, workshops, interactive dialogues, and sarasehan sessions. Of these activities, only the workshop was explicitly mentioned as the "LKPD Workshop" with a budget realization of IDR 77,866,250. The Chairman of DPC PPP Cilegon City, M. Syihabuddin Syibli, B.Sc, and the Treasurer, Drs, have signed this report. Arifudin. The BPK representative from Banten Province has audited the report.

Table 4. Budget and Expenditure Plan for Political Education of the United Development Party of Cilegon City in 2017

Type of Expenditure	Type of Activity	Activity Volume	Plan (IDR)	Description
Political Education				
1. Seminar				
2. Workshop		1	15.600.000	Implemented
3. Interactive dialogue				
4. Sarasehan		1	12.100.800	Implemented
5. Workshop				
6. Meeting activities		2	6.350.000	Implemented
7. Other, according to duties and functions				
Total:			34.050.800	
Total balance of financial support:			X114.175.800	
Description: Cilegon City PPP Party Budget Plan Focused on Political Education				Fiscal Year 2017

Source: (Branch Leadership Council of Cilegon City United Development Party)

Based on a report from the Cilegon City PPP Branch Leadership Council, several activities were planned and implemented. One seminar was held with a budget of IDR 15,600,000, one interactive dialogue was held with an allocation of IDR 12,100,800, and two meetings were held with a total budget of IDR 6,350,000. Thus, the total budget realization for political education amounts to IDR34,050,800. Other budgets do not only go to political education funds; funds are also allocated for the operational interests of the secretariat, supporting the continuity of political parties in carrying out their educational activities. This is evidenced by the importance of stationery, which reaches IDR1,950,559. Furthermore, the allocation of funds includes office rent of IDR 25,000,000 and honorariums for secretariat personnel with expertise in the financial sector, totaling IDR 5,000,000. It can be concluded that the allocation of PPP funds is the largest for political education, which accounts for 75% of the total political party finances, amounting to IDR 114,175,800.

Table 5. Budget and Expenditure Plan for Political Education of the United Development Party of Cilegon City in 2018

No.	Type of Expenditure	Type of Activity	Activity Volume	Realization (IDR)	Description
A.	Political Education				
1.	Seminar				
2.	Workshop				
3.	Interactive dialog	Interactive dialogue	1	23.390.000	
4.	Sarasehan				
5.	Workshop				
6.	Other meeting activities according to duties and functions	Political Party Meeting	3	1.000.000	
B.	Secretariat Operations				
1.	General Administration				
a.	Stationery Needs	Procurement of stationery	25	4.936.800	
b.	Internal secretariat meeting	DPH internal meeting	6	5.500.000	

c.	Official travel in the context of carrying out the duties and functions of political parties	Official travel	2	9.000.000
d.	Transport to support secretariat operations	Transport of delegates	38	6.300.000
e.	Procurement of inventory items, among others: furniture, computers, photocopiers	Procurement of a computer, printer, sofa, and carpet	4	8.700.500
f.	Office rent	Office rent payment	1	25.000.000
g.	Honor for the secretariat administrative staff in the field of financial management	Honor	11	27.500.000
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2.	Power and Service Subscription			
a.	Telephone and electricity	Electricity payment	12	1.371.493
b.	Drinking water			
c.	Postal and giro services	Stamp	10	917.000
d.	Correspondence and/or weekly or daily newspapers			
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3.	Data and Archive Maintenance			
a.	Electronic data storage			
b.	Manual data storage			
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4.	Office Equipment Maintenance			
a.	Maintenance of secretarial electronic equipment			
b.	Maintenance of the secretariat inventory equipment	Procurement of tools	4	560.000
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Total Balance:				114.175.793

Source: (Branch Leadership Council of the United Development Party of Cilegon City)

In the Political Education category, the main expenditure was allocated for interactive dialogues, with a realization of IDR 23,390,000, and other political party meetings, amounting to IDR 1,000,000. Other activities, such as seminars, sarasehan, and workshops, are not included in the recorded expenditures in this report. Total budget realization was IDR114,175,793, leaving a balance of IDR7. This report details the allocation of funds according to the operational needs and political education of the party for the 2018 fiscal year (Financial Budget Archives of PPP of Cilegon City 2017-2018).

Table 6. Budget and Expenditure Plan for Political Education of the United Development Party of Cilegon City in 2019

No.	Type of Expenditure	Type of Activity	Activity Volume	Realization (IDR)	Description
A.		Political Education			
1.	Seminar				
2.	Workshop				
3.	Interactive dialog				
4.	Sarasehan				
5.	Workshop				
6.	Other political party meeting activities			54.126.800	
B.		Political Party Secretariat Operational Activities			
1.	General Administration				

a.	Stationery supplies	2.198.200
b.	Secretariat internal meeting	2.355.000
c.	Official travel	7.500.000
d.	Secretariat operational transportation	7.500.000
e.	Procurement of inventory items	25.000.000
f.	Office rent	25.000.000
g.	Secretariat administrative of staff honorarium	
2.	Power and Service Subscription	
a.	Telephone, internet, and electricity	1.277.632
b.	Secretariat drinking water	1.053.100
c.	Post and giro services	
d.	Correspondence	
e.	Print and electronic media	
3.	Data and Archive Maintenance	
a.	Electronic data storage	240.000
b.	Manual data storage	
4.	Office Equipment Maintenance	
a.	Maintenance of the secretariat electronic equipment	155.000
b.	Maintenance of secretariat inventory equipment	
Total:		IDR93,905,733

Source: (Branch Leadership Council of the United Development Party of Cilegon City)

The 2019 Cilegon City United Development Party (PPP) report presents details of receipts and expenditures of funds amounting to IDR93,905,733, which the Supreme Audit Agency has examined. The budget allocated for political education was mainly used for other political party meeting activities, with a realization of IDR 54,126,800. However, there is no budget allocation for seminars, workshops, interactive dialogues, sarasehan, and other similar activities (Financial Budget Archives of PPP of Cilegon City 2018-2019).

Table 7. Budget and Expenditure Plan for Political Education of the United Development Party of Cilegon City in 2020

No.	Type of Expenditure	Type of Activity	Activity Volume	Realization (IDR)	Description
A.		Political Education			
1.	Seminar	Seminar	1	21.200.000	
2.	Consolidation and strengthening of institutions			7.165.584	
B.	Secretariat operations				
1.	General Administration				
a.	Stationery needs				
b.	Internal secretariat meetings				
d.	Transport to support secretariat operations				
f.	Office rent				

g.	Honor for administrative secretariat personnel who are competent in the field of financial management	
2.	Power and Service Subscription	
a.	Telephone and electricity	
b.	Drinking water	
c.	Postal and giro services	
d.	Correspondence and/or weekly or daily newspapers	
3.	Data and Archive Maintenance	
a.	Electronic data storage	
b.	Manual data storage	
4.	Office Equipment Maintenance	
a.	Maintenance of secretarial electronic equipment	
b.	Maintenance of the secretariat inventory equipment	
	Total Balance	53.365.584

Source: (Cilegon City Unity Development Party Branch Board)

In the Political Education section, there is an allocation of funds for seminar activities amounting to IDR 21,200,000, as well as a budget for consolidation and institutional strengthening activities of IDR 7,165,584. These activities aim to increase political understanding and strengthen the party's organizational structure. The total budget planned in this document is IDR 53,365,584 (Fifty-three million three hundred sixty-five thousand five hundred eighty-four rupiah) (Financial Budget Archives of PPP of Cilegon City 2019-2020).

Table 8. Budget and Expenditure Plan for Political Education of the United Development Party of Cilegon City in 2021

No.	Type of Expenditure	Type of Activity	Activity Volume	Realization (IDR)	Description
A.		Political Education			
1.	Seminar				
2.	Workshop				
3.	Interactive dialog	Interactive dialogue	1	23.390.000	
4.	Sarasehan				
5.	Workshop				
6.	Other meeting activities according to duties and functions	Political Party Meeting	3	1.000.000	
B.		Secretariat Operations			
1.	General Administration				
a.	Stationery needs	Procurement of stationery	25	4.936.800	
b.	Internal secretariat meeting	DPH internal meeting	6	5.500.000	
c.	Official travel in the context of carrying out the duties and functions of political parties	Official travel	2	9.000.000	

d.	Transport to support secretariat operations	Transport of delegates	38	6.300.000
e.	Procurement of inventory items, among others: furniture, computers, photocopiers	Procurement of a computer, a printer, a sofa, and a carpet	4	8.700.500
f.	Office rent	Office rent payment	1	25.000.000
g.	Honor for the secretariat administrative staff in the field of financial management	Honor	11	27.500.000
2.	Power and Service Subscription			
a.	Telephone and electricity	Electricity payment	12	1.371.493
b.	Drinking water			
c.	Postal and giro services	Stamp	10	917.000
	Correspondence and/or weekly or daily newspapers			
3.	Data and Archive Maintenance			
a.	Electronic data storage			
b.	Manual data storage			
4.	Office Equipment Maintenance			
a.	Maintenance of secretarial electronic equipment			
b.	Maintenance of the secretariat inventory equipment	Procurement of tools	4	560.000
Total Balance:				114.175.793

Source: (Cilegon City Unity Development Party Branch Board)

Expenditures in this report are divided into two main categories, namely Political Education and Secretariat Operations. In the Political Education category, funds of IDR23,390,000 were allocated for Interactive Dialogue activities and IDR1,000,000 for three meetings with political parties. No realization of funds was recorded for seminars, sarasehan, or workshops in this report. The total expenditure realization reported in this document reached IDR 114,175,793. This report reflects the transparency of the use of political party financial support funds and accountability in allocating budgets for various political activities and party operations in Cilegon City (Financial Budget Archives of the Branch Leadership Council of the United Development Party (PPP) of Cilegon City for the Years 2020-2021).

Factors inhibiting political education by the United Development Party of Cilegon City

The inhibiting factors of political education conducted by the United Development Party (PPP) of Cilegon City can be observed from several aspects that emerged in interviews with various respondents, including the Chairman of the DPC, Secretary of the DPC, Treasurer of the DPC, and participants in political education activities. Based on the interviews, the primary obstacle to managing support funds for political education is the limited amount of funds received by the DPC from the central party (Yamin et al., 2024). Although these funds have been prioritized for political education activities, the amount provided is insufficient to implement all planned programs, particularly in meeting the operational needs and social activities of the party. The DPC Chair stated that the funds are used for political education activities and secretariat operations, but sometimes it is not enough to meet all needs. Researchers then detailed more details related to the obstacle factors, among others, as follows (Interview with Dr. Nanik Prasetyoningsih, S.H., M.H., 2025):

1. Limitations of Political Party Support Funds. The Chairman of the Cilegon City PPP DPC stated that although these funds have been allocated on a priority basis for political education, the amount received is still insufficient to implement all planned programs. "The assistance funds

provided are indeed prioritized for political education, but the amount is not enough to accommodate all operational needs," said the DPC Chair. The DPC treasurer also noted that the allocation of funds is often shared with the operational needs of the secretariat, which limits the scope of political education activities. The limited funds result in a lack of adequate training materials, insufficient facilities for political education activities, and a reduction in the frequency of program implementation. Therefore, an increase in the allocation of support funds is needed so that political education can run more optimally and thoroughly at the branch level.

2. **Complicated Support Fund Application Process.** In addition to limited funds, the administrative process of applying for and disbursing funds is also an obstacle to the implementation of political education in PPP Cilegon City. The DPC secretary explained that to obtain grants, DPCs must submit various administrative documents, including application letters, management decrees, and accountability reports detailing the use of previous funds. "Every time we apply for funds, there are many requirements that must be met, and this takes a long time," said the DPC Secretary. As a solution, it is necessary to simplify administrative procedures or provide assistance to DPC administrators in managing financial administration, so that funds can be utilized more efficiently and effectively.
3. **Uncertainty of Supervision Mechanisms.** The DPC treasurer mentioned that supervision from the central party and related institutions was not always carried out in a regular manner. "Sometimes supervision is only carried out at the initial stage or when the report is submitted, but there is no continuous monitoring during the activity," he said. The lack of strict supervision can increase the risk of misuse of funds or inefficient use. Some political education activities also lack precise evaluation mechanisms, making it difficult to measure their impact on party members and communities. Based on this analysis, it is recommended that supervision be tightened through a more transparent and consistent monitoring system.
4. **Lack of Socialization of the Use of Support Funds.** Another factor that hinders the effectiveness of political education in the Cilegon City PPP is the lack of transparency in the use of support funds. Based on interviews with participants of political education activities, they felt that they lacked information regarding the allocation and use of funds. "We know there are support funds, but we do not know in detail how and what the funds are used for," said one participant. This lack of socialization has led to a lack of trust from party members and the community in the political education program.
5. **Lack of Prioritization in the Political Education Program.** Although the funds received have been allocated for political education, in practice, the funds are also used for secretariat operational activities or other programs that are not the main priorities. The DPC Chair acknowledges that other needs beyond political education must also be funded. "Sometimes, we have to use the funds for other needs to keep the party's operations running," he explained. This results in political education programs not getting full attention and often having to be adjusted to the remaining funds available.
6. **Potential Misuse of Funds and Level of Corruption.** One of the factors inhibiting political education carried out by the United Development Party (PPP) of Cilegon City is the high potential for misuse of aid funds provided to political parties. This is inextricably linked to the general conditions in Indonesia, where the level of corruption in the management of public funds remains a serious concern. Based on an interview with Dr. Nanik Prasetyoningsih, S.H., M.H., an academic who researches the governance of political party funds, it was stated that political party support funds can be misused.
7. "In Indonesia, the level of corruption in the management of public funds is still relatively high. Therefore, it does not rule out the possibility that political party grants also have the potential for irregularities. Stricter supervision and a more transparent accountability system are needed," said Dr. Nanik. Audit mechanisms carried out by the Supreme Audit Agency (BPK) and related agencies exist, but they are often only conducted at specific points and not thoroughly. This creates a gap for corrupt practices or the misuse of funds that are not allocated accordingly (Interview result with Dr. Nanik Prasetyoningsih, S.H., M.H., 2025).

The Ideal Concept of the Use of Party Support Funds by the Cilegon City United Development Party in the Management of Political Education for the Community

In this case, the ideal concept of utilizing party support funds is that the support funds provided to the Cilegon City PPP have great potential to serve as a tool for optimizing political education in the community. However, the unplanned and unstructured use of funds can lead to ineffectiveness in

achieving these goals. Therefore, the researcher proposes several ideal concepts that can be applied in the use of support funds for the management of political education, including the following:

1. **Priority Use of Funds for Structured Political Education Programs.** This program should include activities that enhance people's political understanding, such as political skills training, seminars, public discussions, and briefings on prospective voters' rights and responsibilities. Funds should therefore be directed directly to support these activities, without being diverted for other operational purposes not directly related to political education (Indra & Khoirunurrofik, 2022).
2. **As an institution that enjoys the trust of the community and the State,** PPPs must demonstrate their commitment to fair and open fund management. Therefore, every use of funds must be clearly documented, from budget planning and the use of funds to the reporting of activities (Suhardi et al., 2023). This transparency reflects the values of democracy and good governance in Constitutional Law as stated by Dr. Nanik Prasetyoningsih, S.H., M.H. as an academic, who stated as follows: "The amount of political party support is determined based on the number of votes obtained from elections for political parties that get seats in parliament, so this will spur political parties to strive to increase public political participation. In relation to the principles of good governance on the principles of efficiency and effectiveness, political party support as stipulated in the Election Law for financing as a supporting fund for political party activities for the implementation of political education and the operation of the political party secretariat." Through transparency, parties can build trust in the eyes of the community. This trust is crucial in promoting community participation in political education activities organized by the party.
3. **Education and human quality improvement.** Human quality improvement refers to the process of developing a person's physical, mental, and emotional capacity to reach their full potential. Thus, education is a crucial foundation for enhancing human quality, as it enables individuals to acquire knowledge and skills, adapt to changing circumstances, innovate, and make a positive contribution to themselves and society. Therefore, PPP needs to involve parties with competence in this regard, both within the party and through cooperation with external experts who are competent in fund management. Additionally, party members require training in budget management and political education programs, enabling them to participate in the planning and evaluation of activities (Atmaja et al., 2023).
4. **Periodic Evaluation of the Use of Support Funds.** To ensure that the funds received are used effectively for political education purposes, PPPs should conduct regular evaluations of the funds' utilization. This evaluation should be conducted objectively and thoroughly, involving all parties involved in the political education activities. The evaluation should not only assess whether the funds are being used in accordance with budget planning, but also evaluate whether the political education programs being implemented are having a positive impact on the community. The results of this evaluation should serve as the basis for future improvements, enabling political education programs to continue developing and becoming more effective in increasing public political awareness (Astuti & Wibisono, 2021).
5. **Optimizing Community Participation in the Planning Process.** Parties should not only focus on internal activities, but also open space for the community to participate in designing and compiling political education programs that are relevant to their needs. This will not only increase community involvement but also ensure that the activities organized are in line with the community's expectations and needs. By involving the community in planning, parties can gain valuable input on the topics that need to be taught and the most effective approaches to delivering information (Rijal, 2023).
6. **Innovation in Political Education Methods.** To achieve maximum results in political education, PPPs need to develop innovative methods. Given the development of information technology and social media, conventional methods such as face-to-face seminars and training need to be combined with more modern and interactive methods. For example, utilizing digital platforms to host webinars, online discussions, or digital courses that a wider audience can access. Innovative political education methods should also utilize various communication media to deliver political messages more effectively, including through videos, infographics and social media. This approach can help reach segments of society that may be difficult to reach through traditional means (Han, 2023).

CONCLUSION

The use of support funds by the United Development Party (PPP) of Cilegon City to improve political education for the community still reveals irregularities in planning and management. Although

this grant has great potential to support various political education programs, such as seminars, training, and counseling to the community, its utilization has not been fully maximized. Funds are often used for activities that are more internal in nature and less directly related to public political education. This results in a lack of significant impact on the broader community's understanding of politics. In addition, available funds are often insufficient to fulfill all political education needs, and most of them are allocated for party operational purposes rather than directly increasing public political awareness. Additionally, existing regulations remain inadequate, particularly in terms of complex fund disbursement mechanisms and supervision that are not consistently implemented. Several main factors hinder political education, including: 1) Limited funding, which causes not all political education programs to be implemented; 2) Complex administrative processes, such as submission and disbursement of funds that take a long time; 3) The high level of corruption in the government, which results in political aid funds not being maximized; 4) Lack of coordination between DPC PPP Cilegon City and the central party, which hampers the effectiveness of fund management; 5) Lack of transparency in the use of funds, resulting in public distrust of political education programs run by the party.

More effective and transparent fund management is the leading solution in improving political education in Cilegon City. The ideal concept includes: 1) The primary focus of the use of funds on structured political education activities; 2) Transparency in reporting and fund management to build public trust; 3) Innovation in political education methods, such as the utilization of information technology and social media; 4) Supervision mechanisms for the use of APBN/APBN funds have been determined by the Ministry of Finance and BPK as supervisory institutions; 5) State institutions involved in monitoring the use of political party assistance funds should conduct supervision in accordance with their respective duties and functions; and 6) Increasing the capacity of human resources who manage assistance funds to be more professional and accountable.

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