

Evaluation and Challenges of Law Enforcement in the Implementation of the 2024 Election: A Case Study of Lebak Police

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Abstract

As the world's third-largest democracy, Indonesia faces complex challenges in the execution of its elections, spanning logistics, security, and law enforcement. In practice, various challenges frequently arise in enforcing laws related to electoral violations. The Indonesian National Police (Polri), specifically the Lebak Police (Polres Lebak) in Banten, plays a crucial role in maintaining order and security throughout the election process. As a law enforcement agency, Polres Lebak is tasked with preventing, controlling, and addressing various forms of violations such as money politics, black campaigns, hoax dissemination, and violence during the campaign period and post-election. This study aims to analyze the challenges faced by Polres Lebak in maintaining the integrity and smooth operation of the 2024 elections and to assess the preventive measures and handling of election violations implemented by Polres Lebak. The article employs a qualitative analysis method supported by law enforcement theory. The findings reveal that Lebak Police faces complex challenges in ensuring the integrity and smoothness of the 2024 elections, including potential social and political conflicts, threats of money politics, hoax dissemination, as well as logistical preparedness and pressure from political actors. Given the broad and diverse socio-cultural landscape, Lebak Police needs to apply a comprehensive approach and coordinate with various parties to secure polling stations (TPS), prevent fraudulent practices, and manage limited human resources and technology. Measures include socializing election rules, establishing Integrated Law Enforcement Centers, monitoring money politics and disinformation, securing TPS, using technology to monitor violations, setting up patrols and security posts in vulnerable areas.

Keywords: Election Law Enforcement, Electoral Violations, Police Challenges, Democratic Security, Indonesian Elections.

1. Introduction

The implementation of the 2024 Election in Indonesia is one of the important events in the journey of the nation's democracy which aims to elect leaders and representatives of the people at various levels of government. As a country with the third largest democratic system in the world, the implementation of elections in Indonesia presents complex challenges, both in terms of logistics, security, and law enforcement. Law enforcement is a vital aspect in ensuring that elections run safely, fairly, and democratically. Nevertheless, in reality, various challenges often arise in the process of law enforcement related to election violations (Gian Erlangga, 2023; Tana & Nita, 2024).



The Indonesian National Police, in this case the Lebak Banten Police, plays an important role in maintaining order and security during the election process. As a law enforcement agency, the Lebak Police are faced with the task of preventing, controlling, and prosecuting various forms of violations that occur, such as money politics, black campaigns, the spread of hoaxes, and violence during the campaign period until after the election. Law enforcement in the context of elections is not only about taking action against violations of the law, but also involves aspects of prevention and education to the public regarding the importance of clean and fair elections (Saidi et al., 2022).

The various challenges faced by the Lebak Police in organizing the 2024 Election include the lack of public legal awareness, the potential involvement of political actors in illegal actions, and limited human resources and technology in carrying out supervision and enforcement. In addition, the complexity of the region and social diversity in Lebak Regency also add to the challenges in creating a conducive election atmosphere.

General elections (Pemilu) held every five years are an obligation mandated by the 1945 Constitution Article 22E. The article states that general elections are held to determine the choice of President, Vice President, members of the DPR, DPD, and DPRD Province and Regency/City with the principles of direct, general, free, secret, honest, and fair. Because of this basis, the 2024 simultaneous elections were held to ensure the implementation of citizens' political rights in the context of democratic governance (Padilah & Irwansyah, 2023).

One of the main concerns in every implementation of the Election in Indonesia is to realize a dignified Election in accordance with the principles of democracy that have become a constitutional reference in Indonesia. However, in the implementation of the Election, the obstacles to electoral democracy today involve several aspects, such as the high cost of politics and the phenomenon of money politics, mobilization efforts based on political identity, the severance of the relationship between voters and political parties or candidates, low levels of accountability in representing political interests, and the reduction of the role of society only as voters, not as active participants in the democratic process (PSHK, 2024).

Hutapea et al. (2023), in their research also explained that potential problems that could arise in the 2024 General Election stem from fears related to the loss of the spirit of tolerance in the 2024 General Election which is triggered by the lack of political maturity that is evenly distributed among the community, the unhealthy views of several political figures in expressing opinions and debating, the use of identity politics (ethnicity, religion) by prospective candidates, the increase in the buzzer phenomenon which causes the spread of hate speech, intimidation of other people's different political choices, misuse of social media with low-quality content, and a lack of respect for differences and a lack of tolerance.

Various problems in the implementation of the General Election also occurred in the jurisdiction of Lebak Police Resort in 2019. Ten violation cases were recorded as reported by various parties, with diverse characteristics and handling approaches. The most common violation was campaigning outside the designated schedule, such as that committed by the Chairman of the Hanura Party District Branch of Lebak Regency, KH. Didin Bahrudin, who distributed takjil (breaking fast food) while encouraging people to vote for his party, which subsequently received a warning from the Rangkasbitung Sub-district Election Supervisory Committee. Additionally, there was a case of campaigning by a Civil Servant (ASN) through social media conducted by a midwife, Zulfiati Muklis, who was also only given a warning to delete the post and not repeat the action. Several reports were not followed up because they did not meet the elements of electoral criminal acts, such as allegations of ASN and Village Head involvement in limited campaigns that were not legally proven. There was also a case of social assistance distribution that included candidate pair attributes, but it was only directed

to be reported further if there was strong evidence. Some other violations such as campaigning in places of worship and government buildings were followed up by the local Election Supervisory Committee, but several of them lacked clarity in follow-up actions. Overall, this data shows that electoral violations in Lebak in 2019 encompassed various forms and actors, ranging from Civil Servants, village heads, to legislative candidates and success teams, but their handling was still predominantly persuasive and administrative in nature, with not many entering the criminal or strict legal domain.

In this situation, there were several incidents including violations of campaigning outside the schedule, invitations to village heads to support certain presidential and vice presidential candidates, ASN campaigns on social media, alleged violations of campaigns in places of worship, distribution of campaign materials at the village head election deliberation activities, involvement of ASN and village heads in limited campaigns, alleged mass gatherings and campaigns in government buildings, installation of campaign props that violate regulations, distribution of social assistance by including the logos and names of certain presidential and vice presidential candidates, as well as black campaigns and hoaxes on social media. Various handling actions have also been taken according to the nature of each violation, as recorded in the "Handling Actions" column in the table. This data provides an overview of the complexity and variety of violations that occurred in the Election process in the jurisdiction of the Lebak Police.

In carrying out its critical role as a law enforcer, the Lebak Police have significant responsibility in maintaining the security and smooth implementation of the Election. Their involvement is not only based on the Republic of Indonesia Law Number 7 of 2017 concerning General Elections, especially Article 1 paragraph (38) which emphasizes the obligation of the Police as a law enforcement agency in prosecuting election crimes, but is also integrated into Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the Republic of Indonesia National Police as part of the *Sentra Gakkumdu*.

The importance of the role of the Lebak Police in preventing and handling violations and criminal acts of the Election is reflected in the process they carry out in accordance with the legal basis that has been regulated in the Joint Regulation of the Chairman of the Election Supervisory Board of the Republic of Indonesia, the Chief of the National Police of the Republic of Indonesia, and the Attorney General of the Republic of Indonesia, namely number 14 of 2016, number 01 of 2016, number 010/JA/11/2016 concerning the Integrated Law Enforcement Center for the Election of Governor and Deputy Governor, Regent and Deputy Regent, and Mayor and Deputy Mayor or *Gakkumdu Center*.

With the fulfillment of the Polri's duties which include prevention, handling, and overcoming of election crimes, the Lebak Police can properly implement the procedures for handling election cases. This step was taken with the aim of avoiding negative perceptions from the public regarding differences in approaches in handling election cases carried out by the Polri, thus maintaining public trust in the integrity of the implementation of the election in the jurisdiction of the Lebak Police. The history of their involvement in previous elections also reflects their high dedication in carrying out these duties. The Lebak Police consistently strive to create a safe and peaceful environment during the election period, ensuring that each stage runs orderly and in accordance with applicable regulations. The involvement of the Lebak Police is not only limited to handling violations, but also involves preventive and proactive efforts to prevent potential vulnerabilities or security disturbances during the election process.

With experience in handling election violations as recorded in the previous table, *Polres Lebak* continues to develop strategies and coordination with related agencies to improve the

effectiveness of law enforcement in the Election. Their active involvement in the election stages, from campaigning to vote counting, reflects a commitment to the principles of democracy and public order. In addition, as a law enforcement agency, Polres Lebak always tries to provide a sense of security to the community so that they can participate in the democratic process without fear. For this reason, synergy is carried out between Polres Lebak and other related components to become a strong foundation for maintaining the integrity and success of the implementation of the Election in their jurisdiction.

Given the complex situation in the election process, the Lebak Police have taken proactive steps to prevent violations and maintain the integrity of the democratic process. Therefore, in this case, the analysis of election vulnerabilities in the jurisdiction of the Lebak Police in 2024 plays a central role. This is because changes in social and political dynamics in each election bring new challenges, prompting the need for strategic adjustments. Therefore, a careful assessment of vulnerabilities is needed involving a deep understanding of the patterns of violations that occur and identification of potential areas that require increased security and supervision (Dahniel, 2018).

Evaluating the effectiveness of Lebak Police Resort's actions in preventing electoral violations is very important, especially through analyzing electoral vulnerabilities in their jurisdiction in 2024. With current data, Lebak Police Resort can map potential risks and design more appropriate preventive measures according to electoral dynamics. This periodic evaluation becomes the foundation for successfully maintaining electoral integrity and security.

Identification of main challenges, such as operational constraints and coordination with various related parties (government agencies, Election Supervisory Committee, etc.), is also necessary. Limitations in personnel resources and facilities affect the capacity for election security, thus requiring strategies such as enhanced cooperation, efficient resource allocation, and personnel training. Analysis of other factors, including regulatory changes and local political dynamics, helps Lebak Police Resort adapt to the latest developments to realize peaceful, transparent, and accountable elections.

As an integral part of election administration, Lebak Police Resort must uphold democracy by eliminating fraudulent practices through prevention, violation handling, and increasing public awareness. This study focuses on the effectiveness of preventive measures and previous violation patterns to provide recommendations that strengthen future violation handling, as well as understanding the role and challenges of Lebak Police Resort in maintaining local electoral integrity.

Beyond local experience, Lebak Police Resort needs to adopt global and strategic approaches by considering information technology developments, global political trends, and election monitoring innovations. This approach enables risk identification and the implementation of international best practices to address democratic challenges, such as political costs, money politics, and increasing active community participation. Thus, the quality of election implementation will improve, while simultaneously providing positive contributions to understanding global democracy at the local level. This study aims to analyze the various challenges faced by the Lebak Police in maintaining the integrity and smooth implementation of the 2024 Election and to analyze the steps for preventing and handling election violations that have been implemented by the Lebak Police.

2. Literature Review

2.1. Theory of Law Enforcement

Law acts as a tool to protect human interests, maintain social order, and create social justice. According to Roscoe Pound, law is seen as "Law as a tool of social engineering", which means that law functions as a tool to regulate social life in groups. Similar to this view, Philippe Nonet and Philip Selznick (2017) examine various variables related to law, such as the relationship between law and state, the relationship between law and politics, the relationship between law and morals, citizen participation, discretionary rules in law, the purpose of legal decisions, the role of coercion in law, and legitimacy and compliance with the law (Kenedi, 2017). Nonet & Selznick (2017) further stated three functions of law:

1. Repressive law, as a tool of coercive power.
2. Autonomous law, as a system capable of neutralizing power and protecting its integrity.
3. Responsive law, as a response to social dynamics in society.

Law enforcement is a process to achieve legal objectives, such as justice, legal certainty, and beneficial law. Rahardjo (2007) defines law enforcement as a step to realize legal desires into reality. However, this process is not always in accordance with what is expected in the legislation because it is influenced by certain factors.

Lawrence M. Friedman stated that the effectiveness of law enforcement is influenced by the legal structure, legal substance, and legal culture. Factors that influence law enforcement, according to Soerjono Soekanto, involve the law itself, law enforcers, law enforcement facilities, society, and culture.

Mochtar Kusumaatmadja (2000) stated that "Law without power is a dream, Power without law is tyranny". In other words, the implementation of a regulation requires the existence of power, but that power must be subject to the limitations set out in the regulation. According to Moh. Mahfud MD., the political configuration of a regime has a significant impact on the results of the formation of law and the implementation of law. Countries with democratic political configurations tend to produce responsive laws, while countries with authoritarian political configurations tend to produce elitist laws.

Law enforcement refers to the process of implementing efforts to make legal norms function concretely as a guide to behavior in legal interactions in the lives of society and the state. As can be seen from the perspective of the subject, law enforcement can be carried out by various subjects with a broad meaning, or interpreted as an effort to enforce the law by subjects with a limited or specific meaning. In general, the law enforcement process involves all legal subjects in every legal relationship, where anyone who follows normative rules or acts in accordance with legal norms is considered a party that carries out or enforces the law. However, in a more specific context, law enforcement can be interpreted as an effort by certain law enforcement officers to ensure that a rule of law is implemented properly. To ensure the implementation of the law, law enforcement officers can use force if necessary.

The definition of law enforcement can also be seen from the perspective of its object, namely from the legal aspect. In this case, the definition of law enforcement includes broad and limited meanings. In general, law enforcement includes the values of justice contained in formal rules and the values of justice that live in society. However, in a more specific context, law enforcement is only related to the implementation of formal and written regulations. Therefore, the translation of the term 'Law enforcement' into Indonesian can use the term 'Law enforcement' in a broad sense or 'Regulatory enforcement' in a more specific sense. Thus, law enforcement can be interpreted as an effort to make the law, both in a specific formal sense and a broad material sense, a guideline for behavior in every legal action, both by the relevant

legal subjects and by law enforcement officers who are officially given the task and authority by law to ensure the function of legal norms that apply in the lives of society and the state.

From a conceptual perspective, the core and meaning of law enforcement lies in the activity of aligning the values contained in stable norms and attitudes as the final stage of implementing values to create, maintain, and defend peace in social interactions. This concept has a philosophical basis and requires further explanation to become more concrete.

Basically, humans have certain views about what is good and bad in social life. These views are manifested in various pairs of values, such as the value of order with the value of peace, the value of public interest with the value of personal interest, and so on. In law enforcement, these pairs of values need to be harmonized, and their implementation occurs through legal rules that serve as guidelines for behavior or attitudes that are considered appropriate. Therefore, law enforcement does not only mean implementing legislation, although there is a tendency to interpret law enforcement as the implementation of a judge's decision.

Wayne LaFave (2010) explains that law enforcement essentially involves the application of discretion, which includes making decisions that are not strictly regulated by legal rules, but rather involve elements of personal judgment. This is in line with Roscoe Pound's view that discretion lies between law and morality. On this basis, disruption to law enforcement can occur when there is a mismatch between values, rules, and behavioral patterns, which arise from differences in paired values and ambiguous rules, as well as undirected behavioral patterns that disrupt the peace of community life.

The main problem of law enforcement lies in the factors that can influence it. These factors are neutral, and their positive or negative impacts depend on the content of each factor. These five factors, namely legal factors, law enforcers, means or facilities that support law enforcement, society, and culture, are closely interrelated and are the essence of law enforcement, as well as being a benchmark for assessing its effectiveness (Andrew, 2021). As outlined by Soerjono Soekanto (2008), there are 5 factors that influence law enforcement, including: 1) The legal factor itself (statutory regulations); 2) Law enforcement factors (Law makers and implementers); 3) Factors of facilities or means that support law enforcement; 4) Societal factors where the law is applied; and 5) Cultural factors as producers of creative works and ideas in human social life (Zefrizal, 2022).

Conceptually, the essence and meaning of law enforcement lies in the act of aligning the values described in solid principles and describing the action as an explanation of the final value, to create, maintain, and defend peace in community life. This conception, which has a philosophical basis, requires further explanation to become more concrete.

Individuals in social life basically have certain views about what is considered good and bad. These views are always manifested in certain pairs of values, such as the value of order with the value of peace, the value of public interest with the value of personal interest, and the pair of values of sustainability with the value of innovation, and so on. In the context of law enforcement, harmony is needed between these pairs of values. For example, it is necessary to align the value of order with the value of peace because the value of order focuses on attachment, while the value of peace focuses on freedom. Humans in their lives need both attachment and freedom in balance.

The harmonized pair of values requires a more concrete explanation, considering that these values tend to be abstract. This concrete explanation is manifested in the form of rules, especially in the context of constitutional law in Indonesia. In these rules there are instructions, prohibitions, or permissions to carry out certain actions. In criminal law, for example, there are prohibitions on certain behaviors, while in civil law there are permits.

Law is present in society with the aim of maintaining order and providing justice. The question arises whether law exists for society or society exists for law. The first question creates a dynamic atmosphere, while the second is static and stagnant. The concept of humanity becomes the main framework when talking about law, and this philosophical principle has long-term consequences when implemented concretely. These rules then become guidelines for behavior or actions that are considered appropriate or should be. The purpose of such behavior or actions is to create, maintain, and defend peace. Thus, the concretization of law enforcement is to follow these principles conceptually. Law enforcement, as a process, essentially involves the use of discretion, namely making decisions that are not strictly regulated by legal rules, but rather involve personal judgment. Referring to Roscoe Pound's thinking, this discretion is between the legal and moral domains.

Based on the above description, disruption to law enforcement can occur if there is a disharmony between the “trinity” of values, rules, and behavioral patterns. This disruption occurs when the paired values are not in line, reflected in ambiguous rules, and undirected behavioral patterns that disrupt social peace. Thus, law enforcement does not only mean the implementation of legislation, although there is a tendency in Indonesia towards this. In addition, there is a tendency to interpret law enforcement as the implementation of judges' decisions. However, it should be noted that this overly narrow view has weaknesses, especially if the implementation of regulations or judges' decisions actually disrupts the peace of social life.

In the modern state structure, the task of law enforcement is carried out by the executive component and implemented by the executive bureaucracy. This is known as the law enforcement bureaucracy. Since the state began to be involved in various sectors of people's lives, legal intervention has become more intensive, such as in the fields of health, housing, production, and education. Such a state is known as a welfare state. The executive with its bureaucracy is part of the series to realize the plans contained in the regulations that handle these various sectors.

The basic question of law enforcement can be started with the question of “what will be enforced?”. Discussion of this is not without purpose, because it can provide clarity regarding the law enforcement process. Basically, the law carries ideas and concepts that can be classified as something abstract. This abstract group includes ideas about legal certainty and social benefits. As such, when talking about law enforcement, we are actually discussing the implementation of these ideas and concepts into reality. This process is the essence of law enforcement.

When discussing the realization of these ideas into reality, we enter the realm of management. Law enforcement in Indonesia is often identified with power, and when viewed from the formulation of the concept of a state of law according to Tamanaha, Indonesia is a type of narrow (thin) legal state, namely a type that is formally regulated by law, where law functions as an instrument of government action. Indonesia is not a type of broad (thick) legal state, where the formal type of democracy and the legality of agreement determine the content or substance of the law, while the substantive type includes social welfare, substantive equality, welfare, and protection of cultural rights. In addition, law enforcement in Indonesia also tends to use autonomous law which emphasizes legal certainty more than the justice expected by society.

3. Methods

This research uses a descriptive qualitative approach that aims to understand in depth the role and challenges faced by Lebak Police Resort in enforcing the law during the implementation of the 2024 General Election. This approach was chosen because it is capable of describing phenomena contextually and comprehensively based on the reality that occurs in the field. Data collection was conducted through three main techniques: interviews, observation, and documentation. In-depth interviews were conducted with parties considered relevant and having direct knowledge or experience related to handling Election violations, such as members of Lebak Police Resort, Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu), and local communities. Observations were conducted in areas prone to violations to directly observe security dynamics, legal socialization, and preventive actions taken by law enforcement officers. Additionally, documentation was used to collect secondary data in the form of previous Election violation reports, policy documents, and archives of Lebak Police Resort activities related to Election security.

Data sources in this research include primary data obtained directly from interview results and field observations, as well as secondary data derived from official documents, related regulations, and academic literature. The selection of informants was conducted using purposive sampling technique, which is deliberate selection of individuals or parties considered to best understand the problems being studied. Data analysis was conducted interactively through the process of data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing, as proposed by Miles et al. (2018). To maintain data validity, this research uses triangulation technique, which involves comparing and confirming data from various sources and methods.

This research was conducted in the jurisdiction of Lebak Police Resort, Banten, focusing on areas that have high vulnerability levels to Election violations or conflicts. The timing of the research implementation was adjusted to the stages of the 2024 General Election administration, to ensure that the data obtained reflects actual conditions in the field.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1. Challenges Faced by Lebak Police in Maintaining the Integrity and Smooth Implementation of the 2024 Election

The 2024 General Election (Pemilu) in Indonesia is an important milestone in the democratic process that is expected to run fairly, transparently, and safely (Hidayat, 2023). As one of the main instruments in forming a government whose legitimacy comes from the people, elections require strict supervision and law enforcement to prevent various forms of violations that can disrupt this democratic process. The Lebak Police, as one of the law enforcement agencies in Lebak Regency, Banten, plays a central role in maintaining the smooth running and integrity of the election implementation. However, these law enforcement efforts are not free from various challenges, ranging from the rampant money politics, the spread of hoaxes, to the potential for social conflict that can threaten regional security stability.

Lebak Banten Police face various challenges in maintaining the integrity and smooth implementation of the 2024 Election, which include aspects of security, politics, and the social dynamics of the local community. As an area with diverse geographical, cultural, and socio-economic backgrounds, Lebak, Banten requires a comprehensive and coordinated approach so that the Election can run in an orderly and fair manner. Some of these challenges include:

1. Vulnerability of Social and Political Conflict

The first challenge faced is the potential for social and political conflict. During the election period, competition between parties and legislative candidates often triggers tension in society, especially if there are controversial local issues or sharp differences in political views. In Lebak, which is still heavily influenced by the dynamics of agrarian and traditional societies, the potential for mass mobilization in order to support certain candidates can trigger clashes between supporters. This is exacerbated by the use of SARA (Ethnicity, Religion, Race, and Inter-group) issues in the campaign which can increase tensions between community groups.

Another challenge faced is the potential for horizontal conflict between community groups, especially those with different political affiliations. Lebak Regency has a diverse socio-cultural background, and sometimes differences in political choices can trigger tension, especially during the campaign period or after the announcement of election results. The Lebak Police must be able to detect this potential conflict early, and prepare strategies to prevent it, including through persuasive approaches and mediation between community groups (Baharudin & Sari, 2022).

2. The Threat of Money Politics and Fraudulent Practices

One of the main challenges is money politics, which is often a common phenomenon in elections in Indonesia. Although there is a law prohibiting money politics, this practice is still difficult to eradicate because it involves many parties, including legislative candidates, campaign teams, and the community. Money politics threatens the integrity of elections because it leads voters to vote based on money, not on the candidate's vision and mission. The challenge for the Lebak Police is how to handle this practice, both with firm legal action and by increasing public legal awareness to reject such enticements.

The integrity of the election is tested by the threat of money politics and vote manipulation. The Lebak Police must be able to supervise and take firm action against election violations such as the distribution of money, gifts, or political promises aimed at influencing people's choices. Given that in several electoral districts in Banten, the practice of money politics is still quite rampant, the Police must ensure that monitoring of the implementation of the election is carried out transparently and fairly. This includes cooperation with Bawaslu, KPUD, and community elements to strengthen supervision (Nurhasim, 2021).

3. Hoax and Disinformation Management

The spread of fake news or hoaxes is a major challenge in digital era elections. With the advancement of information technology, especially the use of social media, hoax news and black campaigns can spread quickly and influence public opinion. Hoaxes targeting certain candidates or political parties can trigger social conflict and damage security stability. The Lebak Police face the challenge of monitoring the flow of information, identifying the sources of hoaxes, and prosecuting perpetrators of spreading fake news. However, the limited human resources capable of analyzing and quickly responding to hoax news is a significant obstacle (Utama, 2021).

Hoaxes and disinformation have proven to be serious threats that can influence public opinion and damage the integrity of the election (Isra, 2014; Tsaniyah & Juliana, 2019). With the growing use of social media among the Lebak community, the spread of false information that has the potential to mislead voters is increasingly easy to do. The Lebak Police are challenged to collaborate with other institutions in carrying out digital literacy and taking swift action against hoax spreaders. They must also conduct intensive cyber patrols to monitor content that has the potential to trigger political instability or violence.

4. Logistics Readiness and TPS Security

The Lebak Police are also faced with challenges in managing election logistics and securing polling stations (TPS). With an area covering rural areas to remote areas, the distribution of election logistics such as ballots, ballot boxes, and TPS equipment requires careful planning. Securing these logistics is very important to prevent sabotage or misappropriation. In addition, the Polres must also ensure that the security situation is maintained at each TPS so that the public feels safe and comfortable when voting (Dawson, 2024).

5. Human Resources and Inter-Institutional Coordination

From a technical aspect, the Lebak Police are faced with the challenge of limited infrastructure and resources in election supervision. The vast area of Lebak Regency and its various remote villages require extra supervision, especially in areas that are difficult to reach. The limited number of personnel and infrastructure, such as patrol vehicles and technological devices, can hinder the effectiveness of supervision and action against election violations, especially in rural areas with minimal access to information.

In facing the Election, the Lebak Police need to ensure that the human resources on duty, from police officers to security officers in the field, have a good understanding of Election regulations and security protocols. Routine training and simulations are needed to prepare for various scenarios, both handling riots and preventive measures against potential fraud. Coordination with other institutions such as the TNI, Satpol PP, and related government agencies is also very important to ensure the smooth running of the Election.

6. Pressure from Political Actors

The involvement of political actors in law enforcement is also a major challenge. Political pressure faced by law enforcement officers often affects their neutrality and independence in handling election violation cases. There is a risk of intervention from interested parties, which can weaken law enforcement efforts that should be firm and fair. This requires the Lebak Police to maintain professionalism and neutrality in handling election violation cases so as not to cause negative perceptions in the community.

The challenges faced by the Lebak Police in maintaining the integrity and smoothness of the 2024 Election mentioned above require a systematic, collaborative approach based on transparency and justice. Through proper management, the Police can play a role as the vanguard in ensuring that the Election takes place democratically, safely and orderly.

Within the framework of Lawrence M. Friedman's legal system theory (Friedman, 2011), law enforcement in elections in Lebak can be analyzed through three main components: legal structure, legal substance, and legal culture. First, from the legal structure perspective, Lebak Regency has formally established complete institutional apparatus to oversee the electoral process, such as Lebak Police Resort (Polres), Regency Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu), and the Integrated Law Enforcement Center (Sentra Gakkumdu) consisting of police, prosecutor's office, and Bawaslu elements. These three institutions function in handling alleged electoral violations, both in enforcement and prevention forms. Nevertheless, the effectiveness of this structure in practice still faces various obstacles. One of the main problems is the limitation of human resources and infrastructure, especially in monitoring remote areas that are geographically difficult to reach. Additionally, the neutrality of law enforcement institutions is often questioned, particularly when officers are perceived as slow or not firm in handling violations involving local political actors with influence. This shows that the existence of legal structure has not been fully accompanied by strong and independent institutional capacity.

In the aspect of legal substance, the regulations governing elections are actually quite comprehensive. Law No. 7 of 2017 on Elections has provided adequate legal basis regarding definitions and sanctions for violations such as money politics, campaigning outside schedule, using places of worship for campaigns, and spreading false news (hoaxes) (Damayanti & Prasetyawati, 2023). However, in implementation, these legal provisions still face serious challenges. One of them is the interpretation of criminal elements that are often subject to multiple interpretations, causing many violation reports to be discontinued because they are deemed not to meet formal or material elements. For example, in several cases listed in the violation table within Lebak Police Resort's jurisdiction, the handling was limited to warnings or guidance, not criminal legal processes. This creates the impression that the existing legal substance has not been able to provide a deterrent effect because its implementation is inconsistent and sometimes selective.

Most determining is the legal culture. Legal culture according to Friedman encompasses values, attitudes, and perceptions of society toward law and legal institutions themselves. In the context of Lebak, the community's legal culture relatively does not yet support ideal electoral law enforcement. The still strong practice of transactional politics (money politics), low legal literacy among voters, and apathetic attitudes toward electoral violations indicate that legal awareness has not grown evenly. Many voters consider money politics as seasonal "fortune" before elections, not as a form of legal violation. Furthermore, public distrust in the neutrality and firmness of law enforcement officers creates reluctance to report or participate in participatory oversight. This is where the importance lies in enhancing public education, persuasive legal socialization, and information transparency in every violation handling process so that the community's legal culture can develop toward a more legally conscious and democratic direction.

From the analysis above, it can be concluded that the application of Lawrence Friedman's legal system theory in the context of elections in Lebak shows that the effectiveness of law enforcement is not only determined by the presence of rules or institutions, but is also greatly influenced by the operational capacity of officers as well as public perception and legal awareness. When the legal structure is not strong enough, legal substance is not enforced consistently, and legal culture has not been formed critically, efforts to maintain electoral integrity will face significant obstacles. Therefore, comprehensive reform is needed in enhancing institutional capacity, harmonizing legal norms, and continuous public education as the main strategy to create a democratic and just electoral ecosystem at the local level such as in Lebak Regency.

4.2. Preventive Measures and Violation Management Strategies by Lebak Police

The Lebak Police have a big responsibility in ensuring that the election runs safely, orderly, and in accordance with applicable regulations. Facing various challenges such as money politics, black campaigns, the spread of hoaxes, and potential conflicts between supporters, the Lebak Police must take steps to prevent and handle violations effectively. In order to ensure the integrity of the election, various strategies have been implemented, ranging from strengthening coordination with election organizing institutions, socializing the law to the community, to using technology to monitor potential violations (Purnamasari et al., 2023).

Lebak Police have implemented various prevention and handling measures for election violations to ensure the democratic process runs safely, fairly, and in accordance with the law. These measures involve a strategic approach, strict supervision, and cooperation with various stakeholders. The steps that have been taken by Lebak Police include:

1. Election Socialization and Education

One of the main preventive measures implemented by the Lebak Police is socialization and education regarding election regulations to the community. The Police actively organize socialization programs, both directly and through the media, to provide an understanding of the importance of elections that are free from violations such as money politics, hoaxes, and intimidation. This activity also involves community leaders, religious leaders, and youth groups to expand the reach of education. Through this socialization, the community is expected to better understand their rights as voters and recognize forms of election violations.

2. Establishment of Integrated Law Enforcement Center (Gakkumdu)

Lebak Police collaborated with the Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu) and the Prosecutor's Office to form an Integrated Law Enforcement Center (Gakkumdu), which aims to handle election violation cases quickly and effectively. Gakkumdu is a coordination forum between law enforcement officers to investigate, handle, and prosecute election violations. With Gakkumdu, the law enforcement process becomes more structured, so that violations found in the field can be followed up immediately without bureaucratic obstacles. This includes handling cases of money politics, voter intimidation, and the use of SARA issues in campaigns (Muslihannisa et al., 2023).

3. Supervision of Money Politics

Lebak Police actively monitors money politics practices that have the potential to harm the integrity of the election. Intelligence operations are carried out to monitor suspicious campaign fund movements, as well as prevent bribery or vote buying attempts. In addition, the Police also tighten supervision in areas considered vulnerable, especially approaching voting day. This effort is carried out through routine patrols at strategic points and coordinating with Bawaslu officers in the field to monitor ongoing campaign activities.

4. Handling Hoaxes and Disinformation

In order to prevent the spread of false information that could affect the election process, the Lebak Police have intensified supervision of activities on social media. The Lebak Police Cyber Crime Unit monitors content that has the potential to divide society or trigger conflict during the election process. This effort is also supported by digital literacy training for the community so that they are able to distinguish between valid information and hoaxes. In addition, the Lebak Police have taken legal action against individuals or groups proven to have spread hoaxes with the aim of manipulating public opinion during the election.

5. Security and Supervision of Polling Stations (TPS)

Another important step is physical security around the Polling Stations (TPS). Lebak Police deployed personnel to secure TPS on voting day, ensure there is no intimidation of voters, and ensure the entire voting process runs smoothly. Each TPS is closely monitored to anticipate riots, sabotage, or vote inflation. The Police also ensure that the distribution of Election logistics such as ballots and ballot boxes runs safely and according to schedule.

6. Prompt and Transparent Action Against Violations

Lebak Police implements a fast and transparent procedure for taking action against any election violations that occur. Through coordination with Bawaslu and other related parties, every report of violations is immediately followed up with investigation and law enforcement. Transparency in handling these violation cases is intended to build public trust in the legal process and provide a deterrent effect for perpetrators of violations. Actions are also adjusted to the rules stated in the Election Law to maintain legality and equality under the law.

7. Cooperation with the Community and Election Institutions

In addition to collaborating with relevant government agencies, the Lebak Police also actively involved the community in maintaining the integrity of the election. The Police

encouraged the community to report if they found any violations or indications of fraud in the election process. Complaint posts were also established in various strategic locations to make it easier for the public to report. This effort aims to create direct community involvement in maintaining the honesty and transparency of the election (Pratama & Adnan, 2022).

Even so, it should be noted that one of the important steps that must be taken by the Lebak Police is to improve coordination with the General Election Commission (KPU) and the Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu) at the regional level. The Lebak Police are actively involved in the preparation and implementation of election supervision protocols, both during the campaign period, voting, and post-election. This coordination includes mapping areas prone to violations, field supervision strategies, and implementing socialization to the community regarding the legal regulations that apply during the election. With good synergy between law enforcement and election organizing institutions, the Lebak Police can be more responsive in preventing and handling election violations.

In addition, the Lebak Police need to implement a proactive approach through legal socialization to the community. In this case, the Lebak Police collaborate with community leaders, religious leaders, and community organizations to increase public awareness of the importance of clean and violation-free elections. Through various outreach programs and public campaigns, the Lebak Police seek to instill democratic values and emphasize the negative impacts of practices such as money politics, black campaigns, and hoaxes. This approach is expected to create intelligent voter participation, who refuse to be involved in election violations and are able to detect potential fraud.

On the other hand, Polres Lebak must also utilize information technology to support supervision and handling of violations. Through the use of digital platforms, such as social media and online complaint applications, Polres Lebak makes it easier for the public to report suspected election violations. This system allows reports to be followed up quickly, so that preventive measures can be taken immediately before violations spread. In addition, active monitoring of online content is carried out to identify the spread of hoax news or black campaigns that can trigger social conflict. This step shows that Polres Lebak is trying to be adaptive to technological developments in supporting election supervision tasks.

To handle cases of violations, the Lebak Police need to enforce the rules firmly and transparently. After receiving reports of violations from the public or the results of internal supervision, the Lebak Police conduct a thorough investigation to collect sufficient evidence before determining legal action. This step is taken to maintain professionalism and ensure that every violation is processed in accordance with applicable laws. In cases of violations such as money politics or violence during the campaign, the Lebak Police not only take action against the perpetrators, but also provide assistance to the injured party to ensure that justice is upheld.

Finally, the Lebak Police are required to implement a special security strategy in conflict-prone areas. By mapping areas that have the potential to experience political friction, the Lebak Police deploy personnel proportionally at points that are considered vulnerable, both during the campaign period, voting day, and after the election. Routine patrols are carried out in areas that are considered prone to voter intimidation or conflict between supporters. In addition, security posts are established in several strategic locations to ensure that the presence of security forces is always ready to face any potential riots or violations (Wahyurudhanto, 2015).

5. Conclusion

This research clearly demonstrates that Lebak Police Resort faces various complex challenges in maintaining the integrity and smooth implementation of the 2024 General Election. These challenges include potential social and political conflicts, threats of money politics practices, massive hoax dissemination, suboptimal logistical preparedness, and pressure from political actors. The vast jurisdiction and socio-cultural diversity in Lebak Regency add to the complexity of election oversight, requiring collaborative, adaptive, and coordinated approaches among related parties. In facing this situation, Lebak Police Resort is required to be neutral, professional, and consistent in upholding democratic principles and fair law enforcement. As a response to these challenges, Lebak Police Resort has taken a number of preventive and repressive measures. These efforts include socialization and legal education to the community, establishment of the Integrated Law Enforcement Center (Gakkumdu), monitoring of money politics practices and digital disinformation, as well as securing polling stations (TPS). Additionally, technology utilization is used to strengthen surveillance systems and community reporting, while routine patrols and establishment of security posts in vulnerable areas support efforts to prevent potential conflicts and violations.

Moving forward, Lebak Police Resort can improve preparedness by conducting comprehensive risk analysis regarding logistics, human resources, and infrastructure. Regular training and simulations on election regulations, security management, and conflict handling need to be conducted so that personnel are ready to face various possible scenarios in the field. Strengthening cross-institutional cooperation with institutions such as Bawaslu, KPUD, TNI, and Satpol PP is also very important to ensure effective coordination in law enforcement and election oversight. Moreover, implementing an effective monitoring system to detect hoaxes, money politics, and safe and transparent logistical distribution can help prevent various forms of election violations. However, this research has several limitations. First, the analysis used is descriptive qualitative in nature and has not been supplemented with comparative assessment or quantitative data to measure the direct effectiveness of the measures that have been taken. Second, the research focus is limited only to the jurisdiction of Lebak Police Resort, so generalization to other areas with different socio-political dynamics is still limited. Third, this research has not examined in depth the internal decision-making process within the police institution, especially when facing political pressure or resource limitations. Therefore, future research is recommended to expand the scope of areas, use quantitative approaches, and explore internal institutional aspects in more detail to provide a more comprehensive picture of the effectiveness of law enforcement in elections.

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