

The Influence of Abdullah Sani as a Candidate for Deputy Governor in Winning the Voice of the Muslim Community in the 2020 Jambi Provincial Elections

Pengaruh Abdullah Sani Sebagai Kandidat Wakil Gubernur dalam Meraih Suara Masyarakat Muslim pada Pilkada Provinsi Jambi Tahun 2020

Zakly Hanafi Ahmad ¹, Muhammad Wira Anshori², Galank Pratama³

^{1,2,3}Political Science Study Program, Faculty of Law, Universitas Jambi, Jambi, Indonesia

Corresponding Author: zaklyhanafi@unja.ac.id

Abstract

Jambi gubernatorial election in 2020 reaped many dynamics and a long process until it ended in the Constitutional Court. One of the interesting things in this dynamic process is the involvement of religious issues, especially the role of ulama and Islamic organizations in the victory of the Al Haris and Abdullah Sani pair. The movement of religious issues is inseparable from the figure of Abdullah Sani, who is known as a scholar and has a strong influence among Nahdliyin. The purpose of this study is to see how the influence of Abdullah Sani as a candidate for Deputy Governor in gaining the votes of the Muslim community in the 2020 Jambi Governor election. The method used in this study is qualitative with a literature study approach. The results of this study indicate that Abdullah Sani's decision to run as Al Haris' companion in the 2020 Jambi Governor election was the right decision, Abdullah Sani's track record and contribution in the religious field as well as the clerical charisma inherent in him succeeded in attracting the sympathy of the Muslim community of Jambi Province, a declaration of support From the ulama and Islamic organizations there was also a lot of flow, even after the re-voting this pair was declared victorious and succeeded in sitting as Governor and Deputy Governor of Jambi.

Keywords

Influence; Muslim; Gubernatorial Election; Community Voice.

Abstrak

Pemilihan Gubernur Jambi tahun 2020 menuai banyak dinamika dan proses yang panjang hingga berakhir di Mahkamah Konstitusi. Salah satu hal yang menarik dalam proses dinamika ini adalah keterlibatan isu agama, khususnya peran ulama dan ormas Islam dalam kemenangan pasangan Al Haris dan Abdullah Sani. Pergerakan isu keagamaan tersebut tidak terlepas dari sosok Abdullah Sani yang dikenal sebagai ulama dan memiliki pengaruh kuat di kalangan Nahdliyin. Tujuan penelitian ini adalah melihat bagaimana pengaruh Abdullah Sani sebagai calon Wakil Gubernur dalam meraih suara masyarakat muslim pada pemilihan Gubernur Jambi 2020. Metode yang dilakukan pada penelitian ini adalah kualitatif dengan pendekatan studi literatur. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa keputusan Abdullah Sani untuk maju sebagai pendamping Al Haris dalam pemilihan Gubernur Jambi 2020 merupakan keputusan yang tepat, rekam jejak dan kontribusinya Abdullah Sani dalam bidang keagamaan serta kharisma ulama yang melekat pada dirinya berhasil menarik simpati masyarakat muslim Provinsi Jambi, deklarasi dukungan dari kalangan ulama dan ormas Islam juga banyak mengalir bahkan pasca pemungutan suara ulang pasangan ini tetap dinyatakan menang dan berhasil duduk sebagai Gubernur dan Wakil Gubernur Jambi.

Kata Kunci

Pengaruh; Muslim; Pilgub; Suara Masyarakat.



DOI: [10.35967/njip.v23i2.719](https://doi.org/10.35967/njip.v23i2.719)

Submitted: 11 August 2024
Accepted: 5 November 2024
Published: 31 December 2024

© Author(s) 2024

This work is licensed under a
Creative Commons Attribution-
NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0
International License.

1. Introduction

The 2020 regional head elections were held simultaneously for regions whose regional head terms of office end in 2021. A total of 270 regions with details of 9 provinces, 224 regencies, and 37 cities will enliven the democratic party in Indonesia. Jambi Province is one of the regions that will hold the 2020 simultaneous Pilkada. The political contest to determine the number one person in Jambi Province has interesting dynamics, starting from the long time process because the determination of the election results was postponed because one of the candidates filed a lawsuit against the Pilkada results to the Constitutional Court and caused a re-vote, these dynamics also ended with a very small difference in votes in determining the victory of the candidate pair for Governor and Deputy Governor. The 2020 Jambi Gubernatorial Election was initially contested by three pairs of candidates. First, Cek Endra paired with Ratu Munawaroh who was supported by the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle and the Golkar Party. Second, the incumbent Governor Fachrori Umar is paired with Syafril Nursal who is supported by the Great Indonesia Movement Party, Hanura Party, Democratic Party and United Development Party. Third, Al Haris is paired with Abdullah Sani who is supported by the National Mandate Party, Prosperous Justice Party & National Awakening Party ([Almunanda, 2020](#)).

Table 1. Parties Supporting Candidate Pairs in the 2020 Jambi Gubernatorial Election

Candidate Pair	Supporting Party
Fachrori Umar & Syafril Nursal	Gerindra, Demokrat, PPP, dan Hanura
Cek Endra & Ratu Munawaroh	PDIP dan Golkar
Al Haris & Abdullah Sani	PKS, PKB, PAN

Source: pilkada2020.kpu.go.id

The background of these candidates, starting from pair number one, candidate for Governor Cek Endra is a former Regent of Sarolangun Regency for two terms since 2010 and is also the Chairperson of the Regional Leadership Council of the Golkar Party of Jambi Province. While his partner, candidate for Deputy Governor Ratu Munawaroh is the wife of former Governor of Jambi for two terms Zulkifli Nurdin who is also the biological father of former Governor of Jambi Zumi Zola Zulkifli. Next, pair number two, candidate pair for Governor and Deputy Governor, Fachrori Umar and Syafril Nursal. Fachrori himself is the Incumbent Governor who also served as Deputy Governor of Jambi in 2010-2018. While Syafril Nursal is a two-star Police General who once served as the Chief of Police of Central Sulawesi and is also a native son born in Kerinci Jambi.

Pair number three, as the winning candidate pair for Governor and Deputy Governor, namely Al Haris and Abdullah Sani, the pair supported by three Islamic parties both have a track record as government leaders, Al Haris himself is a former bureaucrat with more than 20 years of experience working as a Civil Servant until the peak of his career as the Regent of Merangin Regency for two terms. While focusing on Abdullah Sani as a candidate for Deputy Governor who is a Banjar-blooded man born in Kuala Tungkal on September 8, 1956, Abdullah Sani was initially known as an academic in the field of Islamic religious education, Abdullah Sani began his career as a lecturer at IAIN Sulthan Thaha Saifuddin in 1987 and was entrusted directly as Head of the Islamic Religious Education Department a year later. Abdullah Sani served until 1993 and was then entrusted to become the Head of the Private Madrasah Aliyah Laboratory of Jambi City from 1993 to 1995. After managing the school fostered by IAIN, Abdullah Sani was appointed as the manager of Akta IV which is a permit for graduates to teach as teachers, he held this position for 3 years until 1998. Abdullah Sani was also trusted for one year to become

Assistant Dean III of the Faculty of Tarbiyah IAIN STS Jambi. Abdullah Sani's career as a lecturer peaked in 2001, Abdullah Sani received the functional position of Senior Lecturer and after that he switched to becoming a bureaucrat in the Jambi City Government.

Abdullah Sani's bureaucratic career began as an Expert Staff to the Mayor of Jambi for Community and Human Resources. He held this job from 2001 to 2009. In 2010, Abdullah Sani was entrusted to become the Head of the Jambi City Community Empowerment Agency, and a year later he was asked to become Assistant II to the Jambi City Regional Secretariat for Economics and Development. After more than 10 years as a bureaucrat, Abdullah Sani began his political career after being elected as Deputy Mayor of Jambi for the 2013-2018 period accompanying Syarif Fasha (ICW, 2020). The pair of Syarif Fasha and Abdullah Sani, supported by the coalition of PDI Perjuangan, Golkar Party, Gerindra, and PPP, won the Jambi mayoral election with 87,955 votes or 35.24%. Abdullah Sani also received the Satya Lencana Kebaktian Sosial award which was directly given by the President of the Republic of Indonesia in 2015. Abdullah Sani then lost in the 2018 Jambi mayoral election when he ran for mayor of Jambi against Syarif Fasha who wanted to return to his second term. After two years, Abdullah Sani ran as a candidate for deputy governor accompanying Al Haris and succeeded in winning this political contest.

At first, no one expected the victory of Al-Ahris and Abdullah Sani, because based on the releases of several survey institutions, the predictions of victory were more directed towards their rival pair, for example, the Puspoll Indonesia survey institution in November 2020 released the pair Cek Endra and Ratu Munawaroh as having the highest electability reaching 42.2% followed by the pair Al Haris and Abdullah Sani with 26.4% and finally the pair Fachrori Umar and Syafril Nursal at 23.3% (Kurniawan, 2020). Not only did one survey institution predicted the victory of the Cek Endra and Ratu Munawaroh pair, a survey from Charta Politika released in September 2020 also showed the superiority of the electability figures for the Cek Endra and Ratu Munawaroh pair with the top position of 20.6%, then the electability of Al Haris and Abdullah Sani with 16.8% and finally Fachrori Umar and Syafril Nursal with 10.9%. The Charta Politika Survey Institute also explained that the superiority of the electability of a Deputy Governor Candidate is an important point that influences the results of this political contestation (Wahyudi, 2020).

Table 2. 2020 Jambi Gubernatorial Election Vote Count Results

Candidate Pair	Percentage	Vote Acquisition
Al Haris & Abdullah Sani	38,1%	597.518
Cek Endra & Ratu Munawaroh	37,3%	585.400
Fachrori Umar & Syafril Nursal	24,6%	385.318

Source: *pilkada2020.kpu.go.id*

Based on Table 2, the results of the voting in the 2020 Jambi Provincial regional head election are known, it is known that the candidate pair Al Haris and Abdullah Sani won with 38.1% of the votes with a total of 597,518 votes. Meanwhile, the candidate pair Cek Endra and Ratu Munawaroh won 37.3% of the votes with 585,400 votes. Finally, the incumbent Governor pair Fachrori Umar and Syafril Nursal got the fewest votes with 24.6% or 385,318 votes. The victory of the candidate pair Al Haris and Abdullah Sani in the Jambi gubernatorial election was an unexpected phenomenon. Previously the electability results from two leading survey institutions stated that their winning percentage was still below the Cek Endra and Ratu Munawaroh pair, but the election results actually showed a victory after the vote. Furthermore, the demands of the candidate pair Cek Endra and Ratu

Munawaroh stating that there was fraud at several polling locations were granted by the Constitutional Court, however the results of the revote still brought victory to the candidate pair Al Haris and Abdullah Sani (Santoso, 2020).

The victory with a fairly long process certainly leaves many questions, especially regarding the determining factors for the victory of Al-Haris and Abdullah Sani, if seen from the existing phenomenon, religious influence is quite attached to this victory process. It can be seen from the beginning of the support of the Islamic party that supported this pair to open the continuation of religious movements that are attached to the campaign that occurred, such as the declaration of support for ulama, religious campaign programs, to campaigns that highlight the strength of the figure of "Ulama" in Abdullah Sani who has long been known as Nahdliyin from the Nahdlatul Ulama circles who are highly respected for their track record of devotion to Islamic preaching in Jambi Province (GemilangPos.com, 2021).

Looking at the historical portrait, Jambi Province is known as part of the land of the Malay people, the power relations between Islam and cultural customs have emerged since the time of the ancient kingdoms, especially in the era of the Islamic sultanate, especially during the heyday of the Malay-Islamic nation, the identity of the Malay-Islamic nation is an ethnic-ideological affiliation that is a symbol of culture and community identity (Erman & Albintani, 2018). Apart from being an identity, culture and customs are also a source of living and developing laws which are used as guidelines for people's lives (Amin, 2015). The power relations between Islam and the government during the Sultanate era were also very apparent in all aspects that were in direct contact with the community, for example, places of worship such as mosques were not only used as places of worship but were also a projection of the Sultan's leadership as Khalifakullah, which means as a representative of each region of the Sultanate, the mosque became a place to convey the aspirations of the community to the government, a place for deliberation, and of course also as a place for the development of political ideology (Ishak, 2015).

Apart from the historical portrait of geography and ethnicity, as a country, Indonesia is one of the countries with the largest Muslim population in the world, which when we talk about religious conservatism and its polarization in society, the typical Indonesian society shows a strong direction towards it. The development of Islamic conservatism in Indonesia is caused by the emergence of many religious groups. This development is closely related to identity politics which is getting stronger among the people because this activity is not carried out in secret like the underground movement in the New Order era, but is instead carried out openly expressing its identity by utilizing democratic means, such as the big example that happened a few years ago which was known as the "Aksi Bela Islam" which was led by a coalition of conservative Muslim groups who in the political momentum of the gubernatorial election did not want Basuki Tjahaja Purnama or known as "Ahok" to win the political contestation, Ahok who was signaled by several survey institutions as the winner of the DKI Jakarta gubernatorial election and had also won many times in several survey institution releases had to accept defeat after the large-scale action carried out by the conservative Muslim movement to demand that Ahok be immediately imprisoned for his statement which was considered blasphemous (Zulfadli, 2022).

Research on the influence of religious issues on the victory of regional head candidates has been studied quite a lot; religious and political issues are very related processes. Religious and political entities have a tug-of-war process in interests. Religion plays a role in constructing and providing a framework of values and norms in building the structure of the state (Jati, 2014). Religious influence in Indonesia is spread by religious figures known as "ulama", besides that there is also a term in naming these religious figures among the Nahdlatul Ulama community which has

also been generally interpreted by the community as “kyai”, a study of this term has been explained by Hiroko Horikoshi, as cited in [Nasir \(2015\)](#) What differentiates the terms kyai and ulama is that ulama play a greater role in administrative functions as religious officials, while Kyai plays more on a traditional cultural level, even though in reality their roles and functions are almost the same in the socio-political life of society, the term used to refer to religious figures is more directed towards the customs of the local community.

The involvement of Ulama or religious figures in winning candidates in political contests is explained in research by [Assidiq \(2020\)](#) which explains that the ulama have their own strategy, namely political communication as Opinion Leaders, political mediators and vote getters. The role of Ulama is seen in preaching activities, religious studies and science assemblies, where in between activities Ulama show their political stance towards certain candidates. Another strategy, especially in rural areas, uses the Silent Majority model, this technique uses village kyai as a bridge for political communication to gain public sympathy and become a bridge connecting aspirations and opinions of the community from below. The role of political kyai is very influential here, when the figure guards the interests of the organization and party groups, the movement to mobilize the community will be more open. Political kyai act as consolidators and embrace non-politician kyai, this network has a significant impact on vote acquisition. A solid group of ulama who support candidates certainly shows even political strength to gain public support. This happens because the movement becomes collaborative which moves at the elite level and the grassroots level ([Aziz, 2020](#)). The influence of Ulama ultimately gave rise to many different perspectives in society, one of which is the opinion that Ulama who are active in bureaucracy or politics tend to have more opportunities to implement religious values in society ([Rasyidin, 2021](#)), This perspective makes people's trust in ulama increasingly high.

The most controversial incident regarding the politicization of religion was when the incumbent gubernatorial candidate for DKI Jakarta, Basuki Tjahaja Purnama or known as Ahok, quoted the Al-Maidah 51 letter which received a response as blasphemy. This tragedy continued until many Islamic scholars and mass organizations supported Ahok to be held accountable in court ([Nastiti & Ratri, 2018](#)). The victory of the Anies-Sandi candidate pair was mobilized by the clerics by creating a campaign to unite Muslims to defeat Ahok who was considered a blasphemer ([Fajar & Kamarudin, 2021](#)). These movements against non-Muslim or ethnic Chinese leaders were not only initiated by modernist and radical Muslim groups, but conservative Muslims such as the Nahdlatul Ulama organization, which is often said to be a fighter for tolerance, have also been proven to have the same sentiments to reject non-Muslim leaders ([Mietzner & Muhtadi, 2020](#)). The involvement of scholars does not stop there, in research by [Tangkas et al. \(2021\)](#), the 2019 Presidential Election also became a momentum for the ulama group to provide political influence on the wider community, this began with the emergence of GNPF Ulama (National Movement to Guard the Ulama Fatwa). This group was formed from a collection of opposition Islamic mass organizations and also members of PA 212, they held the Ijtima Ulama to rally support for the presidential and vice-presidential candidate pair Prabowo-Sandi. The relationship between Islam and politics was further written by [Ginanjar et al. \(2021\)](#) shows that the support of religious scholars for candidate pairs is based on several factors, namely ideology, community, religion, economy and ethics, whereas in the research by [Nasir \(2015\)](#) discussing the great influence of kyai and Islamic religious ideology on the socio-political life of the people of Tasikmalaya City comes from the leaders of Islamic boarding schools who have strong dominance in the structure of Islamic parties such as PKB and PPP, in addition, the culture of the community has also long been

affiliated with the Nahdlatul Ulama organization so that the legislative seats of the Islamic party are dominated by the Islamic party.

Nahdlatul Ulama, which is the largest Islamic mass organization in Indonesia, of course has a very big urgency in building a government in Indonesia, one of which is through political channels (Man, 2018). Nahdlatul Ulama has a good track record in practical politics, this largest Islamic organization provides an opportunity for Nahdlatul Ulama cadres who happen to be active in the world of politics to intelligently utilize Nahdlatul Ulama symbols in practical political interests (Pasa, 2021). The victory of Khofifah Indar Parawansa as Governor of East Java is one example of a political-religious appeal, the emergence of a fatwa of support from the kyai of Nahdlatul Ulama is certainly inseparable from political nuances, where Khofifah herself at that time served as the general chair of the central leadership of Muslimat Nahdlatul Ulama (Sunaryo & Jatningsih, 2021). Group affiliation is a political strategy that has proven effective as an effort to introduce political messages through groups and religious symbols (Tinov & Handoko, 2017). The effects of affiliation with Islamic mass organizations are also explained in the research by Sonny (2019) which support from the Nahdlatul Ulama organization for the Jokowi-Amin candidate cannot be separated from the figure of Kiyai Ma'ruf Amin who is a great figure from Nahdlatul Ulama and also a former chairman of the Indonesian Ulema Council. The influence of Ma'ruf Amin's individual religion as a Vice-Presidential candidate is also explained in the study by Sanusi and Gumilar (2019) which Ma'ruf Amin is considered as the biggest vote magnet for the community from the Nahdlatul Ulama circles. At the traditional/cultural level, the political culture of Nahdlatul Ulama is centered on the decisions and perspectives of a kyai, power over intellectuals encourages the kyai of Islamic boarding schools to shape the political attitudes of their students (Ulzikri et al., 2021). Kyai becomes a place for students to get their political preferences, especially since the students' activities are only focused on the Islamic boarding school, making the students' political communication and preferences limited to referring to the direction of their kyai (Pasa, 2021).

Slightly different from Nahdlatul Ulama, the political relations model of the Islamic organization Muhammadiyah no longer relies on absolute decisions of the organization or instructions from its scholars, practical politics is interpreted in a limited way and returned to its respective cadres (Setiawan & Prabowo, 2022). In several cases, the instructions of the Muhammadiyah organization in the regions to its cadres to support one of the candidates turned out to be ineffective in the field (Adhani et al., 2022). Muhammadiyah's political policy line always adapts to conditions, meaning that differences in perception between the center and regions often occur, political policies mostly return to the policies and cultures that exist in each region, the most important thing is to return to the *khittah* so that Muhammadiyah remains in the corridor of *da'wah* and *tajdid* in society (Sholikin, 2018). Looking at the historical footprint of Muhammadiyah, which is not strongly affiliated with any party, Muhammadiyah's political activities also appear to have closeness to all political parties in general, and the political direction of Muhammadiyah cadres is also seen as individual, not institutional (Sholikin, 2020).

Based on several studies above, studies on the involvement of religious movements and Islamic groups have occurred quite a lot, but in the locus of Jambi Province and referring to the phenomenon that occurred in the 2020 Jambi Province Governor and Deputy Governor Election, which specifically focused on the person of Abdullah Sani as the instigator of the Islamic group movement in practical political campaigns. So the author has a deep interest in the focus of research that refers to the personal influence of candidates as clerics in this case is the appeal of a candidate who has a strong religious background whether it can influence society in

determining their choice, specifically the formulation of the problem proposed in this study is how does the figure of Abdullah Sani influence as a candidate for Deputy Governor in gaining votes from the Muslim community in the victory of the Al Haris and Abdullah Sani pair in the 2020 Jambi Province Governor and Deputy Governor election?

2. Methods

The method used in this research is qualitative using a literature review approach, literature review research in [Creswell and Creswell \(2018\)](#) explained as a study that has several objectives, namely informing readers of the results of other related studies, connecting with existing literature, and filling gaps in previous studies, literature reviews also contain reviews, summaries, and the author's thoughts on several sources of literature and existing publications, and ultimately made as a new conclusion from various previous literature connections. The procedure carried out in this study was to collect data and information related to the influence and role of Abdullah Sani as a candidate for Deputy Governor of Jambi in gaining support from the Islamic community. The data that the author took which was then analyzed further, in general, came from the publication of online media articles containing various political activities in the election of regional heads of Jambi Province, which specifically showed the role and influence of religious activities in political campaigns and the influence and movement of Abdullah Sani in particular and the data was then analyzed descriptively.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Abdullah Sani as a Cleric

Previously it was explained that Abdullah Sani himself is a lecturer in Islamic Religious Education at IAIN Sulthan Thaha Saifuddin, of course it can be said that Abdullah Sani's involvement in religious activities is certainly very strong, even before becoming a lecturer, Abdullah Sani had served as Head of the Tilawah Division for the period 1985-1990, besides that he also served as Head 1 at the BP2 Religion of South Jambi District until 1993. Abdullah Sani also served in the field of da'wah at the Majelis Dakwah Islamiyah organization for the period 1994-1995.

Abdullah Sani was even trusted to be a leader in several religious organizations, starting from being the Deputy Chairperson of the Nahdlatul Ulama Regional Management of Jambi Province in 2003-2008, at that time he also served as the Chairperson of the MUI of South Jambi District for the 2004-2009 period, Deputy Chairperson of the Ittihadul Mubalighin Regional Management of Jambi Province for the 2006-2011 period, Deputy Chairperson of the Jambi Province Interfaith Harmony Forum for the 2007-2012 period, General Chairperson of Baitul Muslimin Indonesia Jambi Province for the 2010-2020 period and also the Expert Council of the Indonesian Mosque Council of Jambi Province in 2007-2012. In the field of Islamic religious education, Abdullah Sani has been the Chairperson of the MAN Model Jambi Committee from 2003 to the present and also the Chairperson of the MTS Model Jambi Committee from 2005-2017. Based on a series of involvements in many religious activities and organizations, and also Abdullah Sani's background as an Islamic religious educator, the people of Jambi Province already know Abdullah Sani as an influential cleric and has a track record of contributions to the development of religious activities in Jambi Province.

3.2. Declaration of Support from Ulama and Society

During the 2020 Jambi gubernatorial election process, various forms of support emerged from religious scholars for the Al Haris - Abdullah Sani candidate pair, for example, there was a declaration of support from the Kyai and Santri Volunteer

Network Forum which was ready to win the Al Haris and Abdullah Sani pair ([Bekabar.id, 2020](#)). This support is certainly inseparable from the figure of the candidate for Deputy Governor Abdullah Sani who is a cleric who is already well-known to the public. Several other supports also came from a great cleric from Seberang Kota Jambi KH Ahmad Mubarak, where the statement of support was directly conveyed to Al Haris during his visit to the cleric's residence, even the head of the Ma'had Al Mubarak Al-Imslami Litahfizil Qur'an Al-Karim Islamic Boarding School invited alumni and all his students to support and pray for Haris-Sani to become Governor and Deputy Governor of Jambi ([Sapajambe.com, 2020](#)).

Previously it was explained that the figure of Abdullah Sani is also known as a highly respected Nahdliyin from the Nahdlatul Ulama circles, his track record of devotion especially to the Nahdliyin circles even made him Deputy Chair of the Nahdlatul Ulama Regional Management in 2003-2008, although there was no official declaration from the Nahdlatul Ulama organization management, but the majority of the Nahdlatul Ulama community sided with the Haris-Sani pair. Several groups of people also considered that the Al Haris-Abdullah Sani pair paid special attention to the issue of religiosity and had emotional closeness to many ulama ([GemilangPos.com, 2021](#)).

Abdullah Sani's character not only attracted interest among Islamic scholars and mass organizations but also attracted sympathy from young people and the community in Bumi Sepucuk Jambi Sembilan Lurah. One of them, a community consisting of dozens of young people who call themselves the Youth of the Village with Abdullah Sani (PEMDA) came to visit Abdullah Sani's residence to convey their support as a form of trust in the cleric ([Sobirin, 2020](#)). After the lawsuit by the Cek Endra-Ratu Munawaroh pair at the Constitutional Court, a decision was made to hold a Re-vote (PSU) in several areas in Jambi Province. It turned out that this did not reduce support from various elements of society, some of the support that emerged was from the Jambi City traders' association who expressed support for the Haris-Sani pair in the 2020 Jambi Gubernatorial Election. The reason they expressed their support was inseparable from Haris' success as a two-term Regent in Merangin Regency and the influence of Abdullah Sani who is known as a cleric ([Jernih.id, 2021](#)). Furthermore, there was also support from Javanese Jambi figures who supported the Haris-Sani pair. Again, one of the factors that made them support this pair was the influence of Abdullah Sani, a cleric who had a good track record in religious education. ([Jernih.id, 2020](#)).

3.3. Abdullah Sani's Political Maneuvers in Influencing Society

In addition to Abdullah Sani's charismatic influence as a cleric, Abdullah Sani also apparently carried out several personal political maneuvers when he wanted to run for Deputy Governor. Abdullah Sani, who was previously a PDI-P cadre for almost 10 years, ahead of the 2020 gubernatorial election, PDI-P actually nominated Ratu Munawaroh as a candidate for Deputy Governor accompanying Cek Endra from the Golkar Party. Even though previously there had been news that Abdullah Sani would also run as a candidate to accompany Al Haris, the PDI-P DPD Chairman Edi Purwanto had also echoed the threat of sanctions and even dismissal against his cadres who were not disciplined in party policies.

Abdullah Sani immediately responded quickly to the narrative of sanctions and threats by declaring his resignation as a PDI-P cadre, Abdullah Sani came directly to the PDI-P DPD office on August 28, 2020 with dozens of his supporters, apart from submitting documents, Abdullah Sani also directly stated his resignation in front of the media crew, of course this is quite shocking news as a form of direct challenge to the party's decision to nominate Ratu Munawaroh as a candidate for Deputy Governor ([Dunan, 2020](#)).

The news of Abdullah Sani's resignation was followed by his running mate, Jambi gubernatorial candidate Al Haris officially following suit by resigning from the Golkar party on September 2, 2020. Internally, Golkar itself has agreed that the one who will advance as a gubernatorial candidate is their DPD I chairman, namely Cek Endra ([Upro, 2020](#)). Following the two big news, the coalition supporting Al Haris - Abdullah Sani is focused on Islamic parties, namely the National Mandate Party, the National Awakening Party and the Prosperous Justice Party, the support from these three Islamic parties certainly makes the largest target of votes to win this pair come from the Islamic community, moreover Abdullah Sani's track record as a cleric who is close to Islamic circles creates its own appeal among prospective voters later.

During his political safari, Abdullah Sani did not only meet with clerics and Nahdliyin circles. Abdullah Sani, who was previously known as an educator, also made his political safari agenda touch on honorary teachers, Abdullah Sani promised to think about the fate of honorary teachers, especially in the matter of very small wages, in his political safari agenda the honorary teachers also prayed for Abdullah Sani to win and become Deputy Governor of Jambi ([MetroJambi.com, 2020](#)). Several other excellent programs in the field of religious education are also promised, including the holding of an umrah program for religious teachers and hafiz Al Quran. In addition, support is also provided for honorariums for religious teachers so that children can study the Koran in mosques near their respective homes, even the largest mega project planned is the creation of the Jambi Islamic Center which will become the center of Islamic civilization in Jambi Province ([JamBerita.com, 2020](#)).

After the voting, the Al Haris and Abdullah Sani pair were declared the winners after a 100% real count by the KPU, but the election dispute process is still ongoing at the Constitutional Court. In January 2021, Abdullah Sani carried out political maneuvers again, what the public had been asking was finally answered with Abdullah Sani officially joining the National Awakening Party (PKB) after several months of leaving the PDI-P, the former Deputy Mayor of Jambi was immediately appointed as Chairman of the PKB Syuro Council of Jambi Province ([JamBerita.com, 2021](#)). The news of Abdullah Sani joining the party that is closely affiliated with Nahdlatul Ulama is considered related to the Jambi regional election dispute. The decision of the Constitutional Court which ultimately led to the order to carry out a Re-vote (PSU) in several regions made this maneuver considered important to strengthen the voice of Muslims in Jambi Province, and of course this influence ultimately resulted in victory, the results of the Re-vote (PSU) turned out to still side with the candidate pair Al Haris and Abdullah Sani, and this result became the final determinant of their election as Governor and Deputy Governor of Jambi Province for the 2021-2024 period.

4. Conclusion

The decision of the Political Party together with Al Haris to choose Abdullah Sani as the candidate for Deputy Governor is the right choice, Abdullah Sani's figure is known as a charismatic senior cleric, a Nahdliyin who has served in various religious organizational structures and a good track record for contributing to Islamic education in Jambi Province is a major asset in gaining sympathy from Muslims. Apart from his image as a cleric, Abdullah Sani is also known as a community figure with a series of experiences ranging from being a lecturer, bureaucrat, even becoming Deputy Mayor of Jambi, increasing public trust.

Abdullah Sani's political safari movement goes hand in hand with the emergence of support from Islamic mass organizations/groups and also several clerics who have expressed their support, the conditions and portraits of the Jambi community culture which are quite thick in conservative Islamic studies make the influence of

movements related to individuals or Islamic religious groups a strong campaign tool in gaining public votes. Predictions from several survey institutions that initially did not broadcast the victory of the Al Haris and Abdullah Sani pair, were finally broken by the massive movement and religious identity brought by Abdullah Sani, changing the situation when entering the campaign period. This was the determining factor and became the main locomotive of the victory of the Al Haris and Abdullah Sani pair who succeeded in moving the political machine of the Islamic group in.

Acknowledgment

The author would like to express his deepest gratitude to the author's parents who have always provided support for the author, as well as fellow lecturers and educational staff at the Department of Social and Political Sciences, Universitas Jambi.

References

- Adhani, A., Lahmuddin, & Sikumbang, A. T. (2022). Kebijakan Komunikasi Muhammadiyah Sumatera Utara pada Pemilu 2019 dan Pengaruhnya di Dunia Pendidikan Islam. *Edukasi Islami: Jurnal Pendidikan Islam*, 11(1), 1043–1060. <https://doi.org/10.30868/ei.v11i01.2840>
- Almunanda, F. (2020, September 24). *Diikuti 3 Paslon, Ini Nomor Urut Cagub-Cawagub di Pilgub Jambi*. detikNews. <https://news.detik.com/berita/d-5186718/diikuti-3-paslon-ini-nomor-urut-cagub-cawagub-di-pilgub-jambi>
- Amin, R. M. (2015). Fungsi dan Peranan Pemangku Adat Rantau Singingi Kabupaten Kuantan Singingi. *Nakhoda: Jurnal Ilmu Pemerintahan*, 14(24), 1–13. <https://nakhoda.ejournal.unri.ac.id/index.php/njip/article/view/44>
- Assidiq, D. U. (2020). Menakar Peran Kiai dalam Pemilihan Presiden 2019 (Studi di Provinsi Jawa Timur). *Journal of Governance Innovation*, 2(2), 191–208. <https://doi.org/10.36636/jogiv.v2i2.505>
- Aziz, R. A. (2020). Kiai dan Politik Elektoral: Peran Kiai Yusuf Chudlori dalam Pemenangan Kandidat Jokowi-Ma'ruf Amin pada Pilpres 2019 di Kecamatan Tegalrejo. *Jurnal PolGov*, 2(2), 223–276. <https://doi.org/10.22146/polgov.v2i2.1678>
- Bekabar.id. (2020, October 4). *Forum Jaringan Relawan Kyai dan Santri Tebo Dukung Haris-Sani*. Bekabar.id. <https://bekabar.id/site/content/politik/forum-jaringan-relawan-kyai-dan-santri-tebo-dukung-haris-sani>
- Creswell, J. W., & Creswell, J. D. (2018). *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches*. SAGE Publications.
- Dunan, H. (2020, August 29). *Abdullah Sani Mundur dari PDIP*. TribunJambi.com. <https://jambi.tribunnews.com/2020/08/29/abdullah-sani-mundur-dari-pdip>
- Erman, & Albintani, M. (2018). Politik Identitas dan Negara Bangsa di Riau. *Nakhoda: Jurnal Ilmu Pemerintahan*, 17(29), 1–13. <https://doi.org/10.35967/jipn.v17i29.7054>
- Fajar, R. Al, & Kamarudin. (2021). Dukungan Habib Idrus bin Hasyim Alatas untuk Memenangkan Pasangan Anies-Sandi pada Pilkada DKI Jakarta. *Journal of Politics and Democracy*, 1(1), 46–54. <https://doi.org/10.61183/polikrasi.v1i1.4>
- GemilangPos.com. (2021, April 1). *PSU Pilgub, Warga Muaro Jambi Rindu Sosok Ulama*. GemilangPos.com. <https://gemilangpos.com/berita/detail/psu-pilgub-warga-muaro-jambi-rindu-sosok-ulama>
- Ginjar, A., Herdiansah, A. G., & Sumadinata, R. W. S. (2021). Ulama dalam Politik Pemilu pada Pemilihan Gubernur DKI Jakarta 2017. *Journal of Education, Humaniora and Social Sciences*, 3(3), 853–861. <https://doi.org/10.34007/jehss.v3i3.414>
- ICW. (2020, December 8). *Calon Wakil Gubernur Jambi - Drs. H. Abdullah Sani, M.Pd.I*. ICW. <https://antikorupsi.org/id/node/87770>
- Ishak. (2015). Relasi Kuasa dalam Kehidupan Politik Masyarakat Melayu Riau: Menemukan Penopang Demokrasi di Aras Lokal. *Nakhoda: Jurnal Ilmu Pemerintahan*, 12(20), 83–102. <https://doi.org/10.35967/jipn.v12i2.2903>
- JamBerita.com. (2020, October 24). *Pilgub Jambi, Ini Program-program Unggulan Al Haris*. JamBerita.com. <https://jamberita.com/read/2020/10/24/5963105/pilgub-jambi-ini-program-program-unggulan-al-haris/>
- JamBerita.com. (2021, January 10). *Jadi Ketua Dewan Syuro, Abdullah Sani Resmi Bergabung dengan PKB*. JamBerita.com. <https://jamberita.com/read/2021/01/10/5964922/jadi-ketua-dewan-syuro-abdullah-sani-resmi-bergabung-dengan-pkb/>
- Jati, W. R. (2014). Agama dan Politik: Teologi Pembebasan Sebagai Arena Profetisasi Agama. *Walisono: Jurnal Penelitian Sosial Keagamaan*, 22(1), 133–156. <https://doi.org/10.21580/ws.22.1.262>
- Jernih.id. (2020, September 19). *Tokoh Jawa Kota Jambi Dukung Penuh Al Haris-Abdullah Sani*. Jernih.id. <https://www.jernih.id/tokoh-jawa-kota-jambi-dukung-penuh-al-haris-abdullah-sani>

- Jernih.id. (2021, January 16). *Kinerja dan Sosok Ulama, Alasan Logis Pedagang Kota Pilih Haris-Sani di Pilgub Jambi*. Jernih.id. <https://www.jernih.id/kinerja-dan-sosok-ulama-alasan-logis-pedagang-kota-pilih-haris-sani-di-pilgub-jambi>
- Kurniawan, E. (2020, December 20). *Hasil Pilgub Jambi 2020 Terbaru 20 Desember: Suara Masuk 100 %, Al Haris-Sani Raih 597.518 Suara*. TribunNews.com. <https://www.tribunnews.com/pilkada-2020/2020/12/20/hasil-pilgub-jambi-2020-terbaru-20-desember-suara-masuk-100-al-haris-sani-raih-597518-suara>
- Man, Y. L. (2018). Urgensi Nahdlatul Ulama dalam Pemerintahan Indonesia. *Al Ijarah: Jurnal Pemerintahan dan Politik Islam*, 3(2), 142–154. <https://doi.org/10.29300/imr.v3i2.2148>
- MetroJambi.com. (2020, October 15). *Dengar Curhatan Guru Honorer, Abdullah Sani: Insya Allah Kita akan Carikan Solusi*. MetroJambi.com. <https://www.metrojambi.com/politik/13539276/Dengar-Curhatan-Guru-Honorer-Abdullah-Sani-Insya-Allah-Kita-akan-Carikan-Solusi>
- Mietzner, M., & Muhtadi, B. (2020). The Myth of Pluralism: Nahdlatul Ulama and the Politics of Religious Tolerance in Indonesia. *Contemporary Southeast Asia*, 42(1), 58–84. <https://doi.org/10.1355/cs42-1c>
- Nasir, N. (2015). Kyai dan Islam dalam Mempengaruhi Perilaku Memilih Masyarakat Kota Tasikmalaya. *Jurnal Politik Profetik*, 3(2), 26–49. <https://doi.org/10.24252/profetik.v3i2a2>
- Nastiti, A., & Ratri, S. (2018). Emotive Politics: Islamic Organizations and Religious Mobilization in Indonesia. *Contemporary Southeast Asia*, 40(2), 196–221. <https://doi.org/10.1355/cs40-2b>
- Pasa, M. F. I. (2021). Partisipasi Politik Santri Pondok Pesantren Al Luqmaniyyah dalam Pasangan Joko Widodo dan K.H. Ma'ruf Amin pada Pilpres Tahun 2019. *Jurnal Civics: Media Kajian Kewarganegaraan*, 10(5), 522–534.
- Rasyidin. (2021). The Social Political Role of Muslim Scholars (Ulamas) in the Acehnese Society. *Journal of Global Responsibility*, 12(1), 1–21. <https://doi.org/10.1108/JGR-10-2018-0040>
- Santoso, B. (2020, December 24). *Gugat Pilgub Jambi, CE-Ibu Tiri Zumi Zola Gandeng Yusril Ihza Mahendra*. Suara.com. <https://www.suara.com/news/2020/12/24/111000/gugat-pilgub-jambi-ce-ibu-tiri-zumi-zola-gandeng-yusril-ihza-mahendra>
- Sanusi, A., & Gumilar, G. (2019). Peran Ma'ruf Amin dalam Meraih Suara Masyarakat Muslim pada Pemilihan Presiden 2019. *Lentera: Jurnal Ilmu Dakwah dan Komunikasi*, 3(1), 65–81. <https://doi.org/10.21093/lentera.v3i1.1407>
- Sapajambe.com. (2020, October 12). *Usai Ajak Al Haris Berdzikir, KH Ahmad Mubarak Mantap Dukung Haris-Sani*. Sapajambe.com. <https://sapajambe.com/content/pilkada-serentak-202/usai-ajak-al-haris-berdzikir-kh-ahmad-mubarak-mantap-dukung-haris-sani>
- Setiawan, I., & Prabowo, M. I. B. (2022). Sejarah Berdirinya Perguruan Tinggi 'Aisyiyah (PTA) di Indonesia. *Sang Pencerah: Jurnal Ilmiah Universitas Muhammadiyah Buton*, 8(1), 28–38. <https://doi.org/10.35326/pencerah.v8i1.1627>
- Sholikin, A. (2018). Perbedaan Sikap Politik Elektoral Muhammadiyah Antara Pusat dan Daerah. *Jurnal Polinter: Kajian Politik dan Hubungan Internasional*, 3(2), 1–22. <https://doi.org/10.52447/polinter.v3i2.1080>
- Sholikin, A. (2020). Dinamika Hubungan Muhammadiyah dan Partai Politik di Indonesia. *Jurnal Polinter: Kajian Politik dan Hubungan Internasional*, 5(2), 1–19. <https://doi.org/10.52447/polinter.v5i2.4050>
- Sobirin, N. (2020, July 19). *Ketokohan Abdullah Sani Membuat "Pemda" Nyatakan Dukungan di Pilgub Jambi*. SindoNews. <https://daerah.sindonews.com/read/106262/174/ketokohan-abdullah-sani-membuat-pemda-nyatakan-dukungan-di-pilgub-jambi-1595164032>
- Sonny. (2019). Nilai Strategis Kefiguran KH Ma'ruf Amin sebagai Pasangan Joko Widodo pada Pemilihan Presiden 2019. *Jurnal Renaissance*, 4(2), 541–550. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3369585>
- Sunaryo, Y. A., & Jatningsih, O. (2021). Pandangan Intelektual Terhadap Wacana Kyai Pendukung Khofifah Indar Parawansa dalam Kontestasi Pemilihan Gubernur Jawa Timur 2018. *Kajian Moral dan Kewarganegaraan*, 9(3), 610–625. <https://doi.org/10.26740/kmkn.v9n3.p610-625>
- Tangkas, S. A., Ngenget, I., & Musthofa. (2021). Gerakan Politik GNPf-Ulama dalam Pemilihan Umum Presiden 2019. *Jurnal Indonesia Sosial Sains*, 2(1), 114–130. <https://doi.org/10.59141/jiss.v2i01.113>
- Tinov, M. Y. T., & Handoko, T. (2017). Strategi Politik: Preferensi Partai Politik Menghadapi Pemilu di Aras Lokal. *Nakhoda: Jurnal Ilmu Pemerintahan*, 15(25), 53–64. <https://doi.org/10.35967/jipn.v15i25.3855>
- Ulzikri, A. R., Kurniawan, R. C., & Indrajat, H. (2021). Budaya Politik Warga Nahdlatul Ulama Kota Bandar Lampung: Belajar dari Pencalonan Ma'ruf Amin dalam Pemilihan Umum 2019. *Nakhoda: Jurnal Ilmu Pemerintahan*, 20(1), 1–16. <https://doi.org/10.35967/njip.v20i1.108>
- Upro. (2020, September 2). *Resmi, Al Haris Mengundurkan Diri dari Golkar*. Jernih.id. <https://www.jernih.id/resmi-al-haris-mengundurkan-diri-dari-golkar>
- Wahyudi, W. (2020, September 10). *Peta Kekuatan 3 Calon Gubernur Jambi Setelah Mendaftar ke KPU, Menurut Pengamat*. Klikwarta.com. <https://www.klikwarta.com/peta-kekuatan-3-calon-gubernur-jambi-setelah-mendaftar-ke-kpu-menurut-pengamat>
- Zulfadli. (2022). Review Buku Konservatisme Islam: Politik Identitas dan Kelompok Islamis di Indonesia. *Jurnal Penelitian Politik*, 19(2), 145–157. <https://doi.org/10.14203/jpp.v19i2.1238>