

Strategy for the Effectiveness of the PDI Perjuangan KomandanTe Stelsel in Central Java in the 2024 Election

Efektivitas Strategi KomandanTe Stelsel PDI Perjuangan di Jawa Tengah pada Pemilu 2024

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Abstract

Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-P) In the 2024 Legislative Election, implemented the KomandanTe Stelsel strategy in Central Java, the KomandanTe Stelsel System is a political strategy implemented by the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-P). This strategy is based on the principle of mutual cooperation and organized division of tasks to party cadres, by assigning each legislative candidate (caleg) to manage a certain area as a power area or combat area. which has a varied impact on the acquisition of legislative seats in various districts and cities. This study aims to evaluate the effectiveness of this strategy in mobilizing support and strengthening internal party solidarity. This research method. Using a qualitative descriptive approach and utilizing data from secondary sources, the analysis was carried out by comparing information from various sources and seeing the suitability between the data and the research objectives. The results of the study showed varying impacts in various regions where some regions experienced an increase, decrease, or stability in the acquisition of legislative seats. The variation in results in each district/city shows that this system requires a more in-depth evaluation, as well as more appropriate adjustments so that it can be better implemented in all regions. Overall, although the KomandanTe Stelsel is a significant innovation in managing competition between candidates and strengthening party solidarity, continuous evaluation and adjustment strategies are needed to optimize its impact in the future.

Keywords

KomandanTe Stelsel; PDIP; Election Strategy; Election; Political Party.

Abstrak

Partai Demokrasi Indonesia Perjuangan (PDI-P) Pada Pemilu Legislatif 2024, mengimplementasikan strategi KomandanTe Stelsel di Jawa Tengah, Sistem KomandanTe Stelsel merupakan sebuah strategi politik yang diterapkan oleh Partai Demokrasi Indonesia Perjuangan (PDI-P) Strategi ini berbasis pada prinsip gotong royong dan pembagian tugas secara terorganisir kepada kader partai, dengan menugaskan setiap calon legislatif (caleg) untuk mengelola wilayah tertentu sebagai wilayah ampuan atau wilayah tempur. yang berdampak variatif pada perolehan kursi legislatif di berbagai kabupaten dan kota. Penelitian ini bertujuan mengevaluasi efektivitas strategi tersebut dalam memobilisasi dukungan dan memperkuat solidaritas internal partai. Metode penelitian ini. Dengan menggunakan pendekatan deskriptif kualitatif dan memanfaatkan data dari sumber sekunder, Analisis dilakukan dengan membandingkan informasi dari berbagai sumber dan melihat kesesuaian antara data dengan tujuan penelitian. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan dampak yang bervariasi di berbagai wilayah di mana beberapa wilayah mengalami peningkatan, penurunan, atau stabil dalam perolehan kursi legislatif. Variasi hasil di setiap kabupaten/kota menunjukkan bahwa sistem ini memerlukan evaluasi yang lebih mendalam, serta penyesuaian yang lebih tepat agar dapat diimplementasikan dengan lebih baik di semua daerah. Secara keseluruhan, meskipun Komandante Stelsel merupakan inovasi signifikan dalam mengelola persaingan antar kandidat dan memperkuat solidaritas partai, strategi evaluasi dan penyesuaian terus-menerus diperlukan agar dampaknya lebih optimal di masa depan.



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Kata Kunci

KomandanTe Stelsel; PDIP; Strategi Pemilu; Pemilu; Partai Politik.

1. Introduction

Political parties in Indonesia have historically emerged, grown, and developed along with the growth of Indonesian identity in the early 20th century (Gunanto, 2020). Since Indonesia's independence, the practice of organizing elections has actually implemented a multi-party system (Nadaa & Priyanti, 2023). A multi-party system is a party system in which there are more than two political parties in a country or representative body and no single party holds an absolute majority (Arman, 2018). A multi-party system is a forum to accommodate various aspirations of the community in accordance with the legal basis of a country. This system is implemented in countries that implement a democratic system, one of which is Indonesia (Abra, 2022). The multi-party system emerged because of differences in race, religion and ethnicity which are very strong factors in uniting solidarity in one forum (Fernando et al., 2024). This system allows various political parties to participate in general elections and compete for seats in parliament and other government positions (Widiastuti, 2020).

Miriam Budiardjo defines a political party as an organized group whose members share the same values, orientations, and ideals, which aims to gain political power and position (Budiardjo, 2003). On the other hand, Carl J. Friedrich argues that a political party is a group of people who are stably organized with the aim of seizing or maintaining control over the government for their party leaders and based on that control, providing ideology to their party members. and material benefits (Jurdi, 2020).

The emergence of political parties cannot be separated from the social and political background (Barokah et al., 2022) of the General Election Commission (KPU) in 2024 through its official website reported that Indonesia has a total of 23 political parties registered as election participants, of which there are 17 national parties covering the entire territory of Indonesia, while the other 6 parties are national parties. local political parties in Aceh (KPU, 2022). This dynamic shows that Indonesia adheres to a multi-party system that facilitates diversity of opinions and representation of KPU.

Public interests because the more parties that compete, the greater the opportunity for various aspirations and political views to be considered in the national political process (Mulyani, 2023). Political parties reflect a democratic state, namely channeling interests through two-way communication (Setiawan et al., 2021). Political parties are a bridge between the government and the people (Sintani et al., 2020). In elections, political parties compete for seats of power in the executive, legislative, and regional heads at the national and regional levels (Tampinongkol et al., 2018). These parties compete for public support, both through their political agenda and through effective campaigns. Political competition is a natural thing in the effort to gain power (Wazni, 2013). Political parties are indeed formed as an official means to select candidates for state leaders at various levels and certain positions (Hasanudin, 2019).

Political strategy is the main key in political contestation (Tinov & Handoko, 2017). Parties or candidates must have the right winning strategy to win the election so that each political party implements unique strategies and tactics in its campaign to attract as much voter support as possible (Sepriansyah et al., 2021). The variety of choices available to voters makes competition between parties increasingly fierce where each party competes to win the trust and support of the community by highlighting their flagship programs, visions, and values. This creates an interesting dynamic in the political process, where parties try hard to win as many votes as possible in order to achieve success in the election (Nofriadi et al., 2021). Because the main purpose of the election is to elect people's representatives who are able to provide services to the rulers and the people fairly (Hasanuddin & Syamsuadi, 2011).

Elections are "belt transmissions" that transfer power from the people to the state, then become the government's power to lead and run the government (Solakhudin & Al-Hamid, 2024).

According to Peter Schroder, political strategy can be interpreted as a strategy or method used to realize political ideals (Sahea et al., 2018). Political strategy is very important for political parties to realize long-term change. The theory of political strategy put forward by Schroder is a strategy used to gain political power in the implementation of general elections (Razaqtiar, 2016). Peter Schroder divides political strategy into two categories: offensive strategy and defensive strategy. Offensive strategy is used to expand the number of voters, while defensive strategy is used to retain voters in the previous election. In other words, offensive strategy aims to attract new voters, while defensive strategy aims to maintain the existing voter base (Indriani et al., 2019).

The Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-P) is one of the oldest political parties in Indonesia that has participated in various elections since the reform era. This party has a long and dynamic history in Indonesian politics. Since its establishment, PDI Perjuangan has gone through various challenges and changes, both internal and external, which have affected its achievements and performance in every election (Hakim & Panuju, 2019). During the New Order, PDI Perjuangan positioned itself as a democratic actor that opposed a repressive government. PDI Perjuangan consistently criticized the government on various socio-political issues, even using self-branding as a party of "wong cilik" (small/ordinary people). This position places them alahs the opposite of "wong gedhe" (big people who have power) (Danuwidjaja & Firman, 2023). This is also influenced by the charismatic attachment of PDI Perjuangan figures such as Guruh and Megawati who are descendants of Sukarno (Eklof, as cited in Widyanto, 2022). One of the areas that shows PDI Perjuangan's dominance is Central Java. In the 2019 election, Central Java played an important role as the largest vote warehouse for the PDIP party.

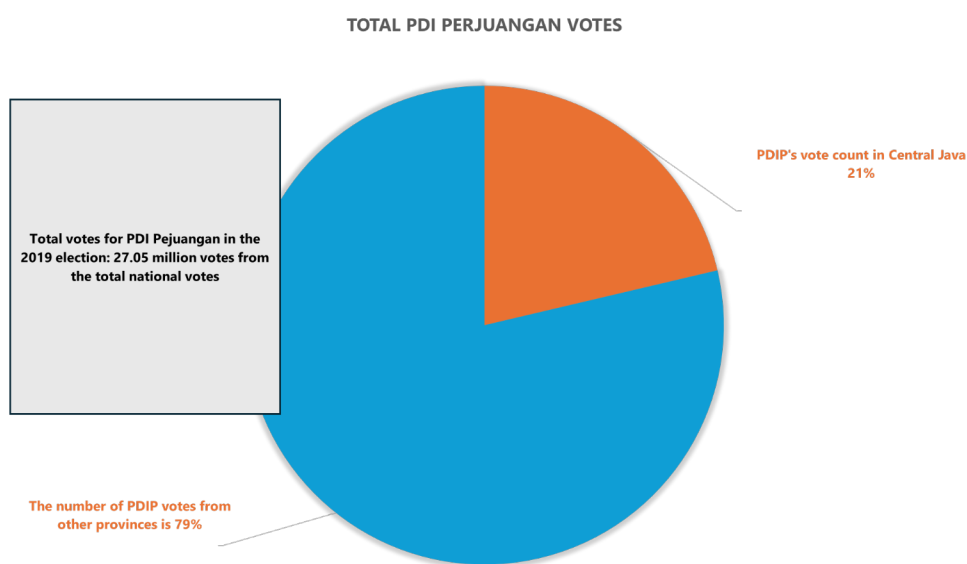


Figure 1. Number of Votes for PDI Perjuangan in the 2019 Election

Data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) shows that PDI Perjuangan won a total of 27.05 million valid national votes in the 2019 election or equivalent to 19.33% of the total valid national votes (BPS - Statistics Indonesia, 2009). Based on the number of votes, Central Java's contribution was very large where this province contributed around 5.77 million votes or around 21.32% of the total valid national

votes won by PDI Perjuangan in the 2019 election. This shows the importance of Central Java as the party's main support base which contributed greatly to PDI Perjuangan's overall national vote acquisition in the election.

PDI Perjuangan Central Java continues to maintain its position as a party with a strong support base in Central Java, which is known as the "bull's cage" because of the large contribution of votes that this province gives to the PDI Perjuangan party (Sahidillah, 2020). Central Java has always been considered as the "Banteng Kennel" because the bull symbol is the identity of the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-P). Based on historical data, it can be seen that Central Java and Bali have consistently shown strong political dominance of PDI Perjuangan, marked by the color "red" which is a color often associated with the party. This consistency has occurred since the first general election in Indonesia in 1955 (Ariandi & Harsasto, 2019).

PDI Perjuangan Central Java implemented a special winning strategy in the 2024 Central Java Legislative Election called the Combat Commander System or abbreviated as CommanderTe Stelsel. The basis of this system is stated in the Regulation of the PDI Perjuangan Regional Leadership Council of Central Java Province Number 01 of 2023. The CommanderTe Stelsel System is a political strategy implemented by the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-P) to optimize vote acquisition and maintain party solidarity in the Election. This strategy is based on the principle of mutual cooperation and an organized division of tasks to party cadres, by assigning each legislative candidate (caleg) to manage a certain area as a power area or combat area. This approach emphasizes the concept of the Fostered Village which stipulates that each commanderte is in charge of one village called a combat area. This system not only aims to increase the party's vote acquisition but also strengthens the party's ranks through structured and organized mobilization.

The Head of the PDI Perjuangan DPD for Central Java, Ir. Bambang Wuryanto MBA explained that the commanderte stelsel is a system born from the teachings of Bung Karno, the result of contemplation of what Bung Karno taught. Then the awareness was born that our electoral system must be adjusted to the spirit of the times without losing the dignity of our identity, as ideological students of Bung Karno. Furthermore, the Secretary of the PDI Perjuangan DPD for East Java, Sri, Untari Bisowarno interpreted the commanderte stelsel as an election winning system based on mutual cooperation. He said that this system relies on the strength of the party machine.

The Komandote Stelsel was designed by PDI-P with the consideration that an open proportional system (where candidates compete to gain the most votes in a electoral district) could trigger unhealthy competition between candidates within a party. This competition is considered to have the potential to weaken party solidarity and reduce overall seat acquisition. Therefore, this system is implemented to ensure that the votes of candidates support the overall party strategy, not just the interests of individual candidates.

This article examines the implementation of the KomandoTe Stelsel in Central Java, including its mechanisms, impacts on election results, and challenges faced. By comparing the acquisition of DPRD seats before and after the system was implemented, the article assesses the effectiveness of PDI Perjuangan's strategy in maintaining its political power. Through an analysis of Peter Schroder's theory, this study offers strategic insights for other political parties to adapt a similar approach in strengthening their support base.

2. Methods

This study uses a qualitative descriptive approach to understand the implementation and impact of the KomandoTe Stelsel system carried out by the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDIP) in Central Java Province. The qualitative approach was chosen because it allows researchers to gain an in-depth understanding of the phenomenon being studied, namely the implementation and impact of the KomandoTe Stelsel system. In addition, a descriptive approach is used to provide a clear picture of how the system is implemented and its impact on election results and local political dynamics. Data were obtained from secondary sources such as party reports, KPU election results, and relevant review literature.

This study focuses on cases that occurred in legislative candidates of PDI Perjuangan Central Java at the provincial level and several districts/cities, where they obtained the most valid votes but had to resign due to the commanderte stelsel system implemented by the DPD PDI Perjuangan Central Java. This study also uses applicable laws and regulations to test whether the cases that occurred are in accordance with the regulations or not, so that it can provide a complete picture of the implementation of applicable laws and regulations on the cases raised.

The data obtained will be analyzed qualitatively using a descriptive approach to identify patterns, trends, and findings that emerge from the data. The analysis is carried out by comparing information from various sources and seeing the suitability between the data and the research objectives. The limitations of this study include access to internal party data that may be sensitive or not publicly available. These limitations can affect the completeness of the data obtained and the interpretation of the research results. By using a qualitative descriptive approach and utilizing data from secondary sources, this study is expected to provide a deeper understanding of the implementation and impact of the KomandoTe Stelsel system by PDI Perjuangan in Central Java Province, while still considering the existing limitations.

3. Results and Discussion

The KomandanTe Stelsel strategy implemented by the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDIP) has attracted attention because of its different approach in managing competition between candidates and strengthening party solidarity. However, as happened in its implementation in Central Java, this approach has also given rise to several challenges and internal disputes.

3.1. Initial Implementation in Wonogiri and Banyumas

The KomandanTe Stelsel was first implemented as a pilot project in two regions, namely Wonogiri and Banyumas. The main objective of this pilot project was to test the effectiveness of the strategy in increasing vote acquisition and mobilizing maximum support in these areas. The results of its implementation in Wonogiri proved to be very effective. In the 2019 Legislative Election, the number of parliamentary seats won by the PDI Perjuangan in this region increased sharply, from 13 seats to 28 seats. This increase shows that the KomandanTe strategy is able to rally support and votes more effectively. Likewise, in Banyumas, in the 2019 legislative election, the number of seats won was 17 seats, previously in the 2014 legislative election it only won 13 seats.

The technical implementation of this commander system is as follows:

- a. The combat area or area of authority of the legislative candidate at the village/sub-district level. The number of villages/sub-districts fostered by internal legislative candidates varies depending on the electoral district and also consideration of the number of voter divisors based on the permanent voter list (DPT) in the electoral district.

- b. Incumbent legislative candidates receive a DPT of two times the divisor (BPP), while new or newcomer legislative candidates receive 1.5 times the BPP. This assessment is considered proportional and provides justice for both incumbent and newcomer legislative candidates.
- c. The division of these battle areas aims to minimize the time when PDI Perjuangan legislative candidates compete for constituents.

The implementation of the KomandanTe Stelsel system combines the electability potential of legislative candidates and parties by requiring each legislative candidate to work together to increase votes and seats and maintain party solidarity. The approach taken by Wonogiri and Banyumas is the same, namely placing legislative candidates (Caleg) as commanders in fostered villages or battle areas. The candidates are responsible for rallying support in their respective areas, working with local party structures to rally votes. The implementation of this system has produced positive results, encouraging the PDI Perjuangan to expand this strategy to all provinces of Central Java in the 2024 Election.

3.2. All of Central Java

In the 2019 election, PDI Perjuangan managed to control 28 regencies/cities out of 35 regencies/cities in Central Java. According to Kompas data, five regencies/cities in Central Java also managed to enter the top 10 vote collectors for PDI Perjuangan. PDI Perjuangan's vote acquisition in the province located in the middle of Java Island almost reached 21% of the total national votes collected. After the success of the pilot project in Wonogiri and Banyumas, PDI Perjuangan decided to expand the implementation of the KomandanTe Stelsel to all of Central Java in the 2024 election. This step was taken based on the results of an evaluation which showed that this system was not only able to increase vote acquisition but also strengthen internal party solidarity. Socialization of the KomandanTe rules and strategies was socialized to all PDI Perjuangan Branch Leadership Councils (DPC) in Central Java for two years before the election.

This socialization ensures that all party cadres understand and are ready to implement the strategy. Training for Candidates and party structures is given training on how to effectively implement the KomandanTe strategy, including mass mobilization techniques and a mutual cooperation-based approach. The formation of this Foster Village, each Candidate is given responsibility for one foster village or combat area. They are tasked with organizing party activities, rallying support, and solving local problems in the village.

The Command Structure in the KomandanTe System includes the assignment of commanders at various levels ranging from One Star Commander to Three Star Commander to ensure tight and effective coordination at all levels. The Commander System aims to Increase Solidarity within the party. The principle of mutual cooperation is the basis of this strategy, where candidates do not only compete for themselves but also support each other to win the party as a whole by placing fellow candidates as friends, not enemies, so that KomandanTe also minimizes destructive internal competition. and strengthens party solidarity.

The KomandanTe Stelsel strategy is an effective strategy, in addition to increasing seats, the strategy strengthens the solidarity of mutual cooperation between PDI Perjuangan legislative candidates. The legislative candidates in carrying out political work in the Legislative Election place fellow PDI Perjuangan legislative candidates as friends. However, the implementation of the KomandanTe Stelsel on a Central Java scale in the 2024 election some time ago did have several PDI Perjuangan legislative candidates who took issue, this was because they received high votes, but had the potential not to be inaugurated as Legislators, On the other hand, the PDI Perjuangan DPD has issued Party Regulation No. 03/2024

concerning the resolution of internal disputes over the results of the 2024 Legislative Election, this Regulation is to provide space for legislative candidates who protest to resolve problems in the Party Court or ethics committee.

3.3. Challenge

The results of the Central Java Provincial KPU determination showed that the PDI-P's vote acquisition for the DPRD was also the highest, reaching 5,270,261 votes from a total of 19,823,032 valid votes. PDIP won in 12 electoral districts out of 13 electoral districts for the Provincial DPRD, the party with the white-nosed bull logo only lost in one area, namely electoral district XIII which was won by PKB.

PDI-P won with 26.59 percent in the Central Java DPRD, followed by the National Awakening Party (PKB) with 3,036,464 votes or 15.32 percent. Gerindra was in third place with 2,592,886 votes or 13.08 percent. Meanwhile, Golkar was in 4th place with 2,253,697 votes (11.37 percent).

A comparison of the top four parties' vote acquisition for the Indonesian House of Representatives and the Central Java Regional People's Representative Council shows that PDI-P dominates. The difference between PDIP and its closest competitor, PKB, reached more than two million votes. This achievement still shows that Central Java is a "bull's den" and a region that provides high electoral capital for PDIP.

With the implementation of the KomandanTe Stelsel strategy throughout Central Java in the 2024 Election, it presents a new challenge, namely legislative candidates who get more votes according to the KPU calculation but lose in the areas that have been divided by this system. This has resulted in many disputes in several areas in Central Java. [Table 1](#) shows the results of the implementation of the KomandanTe system in Central Java as seen in the data presented.

Table 1. Results of the Implementation of the Commander System in Central Java in the 2024 Legislative Elections for Regency/City DPRD

Name of District/City	Number of Seats Won by PDI-P 2019	Dispute	Number of Seats Won by PDI-P in 2024	Information
Cilacap Regency	10 of 50	-	10 of 50	Still
Banyumas Regency	17 of 50	-	17 of 50	Still
Purbalingga Regency	10 of 50	-	14 of 50	Go on
Banjarnegara Regency	9 of 50	-	7 of 50	Down
Kebumen Regency	12 of 50	-	11 of 50	Down
Purworejo Regency	10 of 50	-	9 of 50	Down
Wonosobo Regency	11 of 50	-	13 of 50	Go on
Magelang Regency	13 of 50	-	15 of 50	Go on
Boyolali Regency	35 of 50	-	35 of 50	Still
Klaten Regency	19 of 50	Yes	18 of 50	Down
Sukoharjo Regency	20 of 50	Yes	21 of 50	Go on
Wonogiri Regency	28 of 50	-	27 of 50	Down
Karanganyar Regency	13 of 50	-	15 of 50	Go on
Sragen Regency	13 of 50	-	15 of 50	Go on
Grobogan Regency	19 of 50	Yes	17 of 50	Down
Blora Regency	9 of 50	Yes	8 of 50	Down
Rembang Regency	6 of 45	-	6 of 45	Still
Pati Regency	10 of 50	-	14 of 50	Go on
Kudus Regency	8 of 45	-	9 of 45	Go on
Jepara Regency	8 of 50	-	8 of 50	Still

Name of District/City	Number of Seats Won by PDI-P 2019	Dispute	Number of Seats Won by PDI-P in 2024	Information
Demak Regency	11 of 50	-	11 of 50	Still
Semarang Regency	16 of 50	-	18 of 50	Go on
Temanggung Regency	9 of 45	-	8 of 50	Down
Kendal Regency	10 of 45	-	7 of 50	Down
Batang Regency	8 of 45	Yes	7 of 45	Down
Pekalongan Regency	11 of 45	-	8 of 45	Down
Pemalang Regency	15 of 50	-	12 of 50	Down
Tegal Regency	12 of 50	-	10 of 50	Down
Brebes Regency	13 of 50	Yes	12 of 50	Down
City of Magelang	9 of 25	Yes	7 of 25	Down
Surakarta City	30 of 45	-	20 of 45	Down
City of Salatiga	8 of 25	Yes	8 of 25	Still
CitySemarang	19 of 50	Yes	14 of 50	Down
City of Pekalongan	5 of 35	-	5 of 35	Still
City of Tegal	7 of 35	-	7 of 30	Still

Source: Various Mass Media Sources. Data Processed. 2024

KomandanTe Stelsel system in Central Java in the 2024 Legislative Election showed various impacts on the acquisition of legislative seats in various districts and cities. Here is a summary of the results:

a. Regencies/Cities That Lost Legislative Seats (19 Regencies/Cities)

The decrease in the number of PDI Perjuangan legislative seats in 19 districts/cities compared to the previous election may be due to various factors, including changes in voter preferences, shifts in local politics, or the impact of the implementation of the KomandanTe system which may not be optimal.

b. Regencies /Cities That Increased Their Legislative Seats (7 Regencies/Cities)

On the other hand, there are 7 districts/cities whose number of legislative seats has increased. This could be an indication of the success of the KomandanTe Stelsel Commander's strategy in rallying support and increasing the party's vote acquisition in the region.

c. Regencies/Cities That Remain the Same As the Previous Election (9 Regencies/Cities)

There are 9 districts/cities whose number of legislative seats remains the same as in the previous election. Although there is no significant change in the number of seats, this can be considered a stable result of the implementation of the strategy.

d. Districts/Cities With Disputes Between Legislative Candidates (9 Districts/Cities)

There are still 9 other districts/cities, there are disputes and disagreements between candidates regarding the election results. This can be caused by various factors, such as dissatisfaction with the election results, alleged election violations, or disagreement with the implementation of the KomandanTe system. The internal dispute resolution mechanism in such cases is regulated in Party

Regulation Number 03 of 2024 so that it can be used to resolve conflicts and ease tensions between party members.

Table 2. List of PDI Perjuangan Central Java Legislative Candidates Who Withdrew Due to the KomandanTe Stelsel System

Levels	Number of Legislative Candidates Who Withdrew	Information
Central Java Provincial DPRD	6 people	Achmad Ridwan (Central Java Electoral District 13) Diah Kartika Permatasari (Central Java Electoral District 2) Eko Susilo (Central Java Electoral District 8) Elisabeth Intan Kurniasari (Central Java Electoral District 9) 2 Names not yet known
DPRD of Wonogiri Regency	5 people	Margono (Electoral District 1) Yukanan Supriyatno (Electoral District 1) Ruderikus Wiwoho Adi Sasono (Electoral District 2) Tarmanto (Electoral District 4) Rusdiana (Electoral District 4)
DPRD of Klaten Regency	4 people	Sugeng Widodo (Electoral District 2) Umi Wijayanti (Electoral District 4) Ratna Dewanti (Electoral District 4) Hartanti (Electoral District 5)
DPRD of Sragen Regency	3 people	Wiwin Muji Lestari (Electoral District 1) Rizka Ayu Yadi Putri (Electoral District 2) Waluyo (Electoral District 4)
DPRD of Salatiga Regency	3 people	Bonar Novi Priatmoko, Sarmin English
DPRD of Karanganyar Regency	3 people	Prapto (Electoral District 1) Anton Sugianto (Electoral District 1) Suyanto Legislative Candidate (Electoral District 4)
DPRD of Grobogan Regency	2 persons	Asih Wiji Astutus (Electoral District 1) Siswati Budhiyani (Electoral District 2)
DPRD of Magelang City	2 persons	Iwan Soeradmoko (Electoral District 1) Niekecorry (Electoral District 2)
DPRD of Magelang Regency	2 persons	Miftahufin (Electoral District 3) Heri Suyitno (Electoral District 5)
DPRD of Banjarnegara Regency	2 persons	M Sholahudin (Electoral District 6) Agung Sulistiyanto (Electoral District 4)
DPRD of Blora Regency	1 person	Indra Eko Sulistyono (Electoral District 5)
DPRD of Banyumas Regency	1 person	Kartika Dewi Wulandari (Electoral District 3)

Source: Aji (2024)

From these results, it can be concluded that the implementation of the KomandanTe Stelsel in several regions has not been fully effective and cannot be applied uniformly throughout Central Java. This indicates significant challenges and internal conflicts that need to be resolved immediately to increase the effectiveness of this strategy in the future. Variations in results in each district/city indicate that this system requires a more in-depth evaluation, as well as more appropriate adjustments so that it can be better implemented in all regions.

In addition, resolving internal conflicts within the party is very important to maintain internal stability and harmony. The established rules, such as the Central Java PDI Perjuangan DPD Regulation Number 01 of 2023 and Party Regulation Number 03 of 2024, provide fair and transparent guidelines in dealing with conflicts. With this rule, every party member is expected to understand the steps to resolve conflicts properly, so that internal problems can be resolved without damaging the integrity of the party (The findings of internal problems are less

apparent, so it is necessary to clarify what problems and debates took place during the 2024 election process).

One of the significant challenges in implementing the KomandanTe Stelsel is the advancement of technology that can threaten the security of the party's internal system. The potential for information leaks can be exploited by political opponents to read the party's weak points, which will certainly affect the election results. In addition, not all-party commanders have the same ability to implement this political and technological strategy. Therefore, increasing competence and strengthening technology in each region is very crucial to ensure that this system can run more effectively in the future.

Although the party has its own internal strategy, it should be noted that the process of selecting and determining the elected candidates remains the authority of the KPU according to PKPU No. 6/2024. This shows that the final decision regarding the determination of the elected candidate is based on the ranking of valid votes regulated by the KPU. However, there are several conditions that can be applied to replace the elected candidate, for example in the event of death, resignation, ineligibility, or proven to have committed an election crime. The process of resignation and replacement of the elected candidate must be carried out before the inauguration of legislative members, to ensure the smooth running of the government process. This affirmation is expected to create a good balance between the party's internal policies and the legal provisions governing the election process. This is important to maintain the integrity and credibility of the election and ensure that the decisions taken are the result of a fair and transparent process. As the institution responsible for organizing the election, the KPU has an important role in ensuring that the process runs in accordance with democratic principles and applicable laws and regulations.

3.4. Case Study Analysis of Theory

In analyzing the implementation of the KomandanTe Stelsel using Peter Schroder's theory, which distinguishes political strategies into offensive and defensive strategies, we can understand the various challenges and effectiveness of this strategy in Central Java in the 2024 Legislative Election.

3.4.1. Offensive Strategy

Offensive (attacking) strategies are usually used by parties when they want to increase the number of voters. The success of a campaign determines if there are more people who have a positive view of the party than before. Offensive strategies used during election campaigns should also display a clear difference and attract the public and supporters of competing parties.

Offensive strategies are divided into two, namely, market expansion strategies and market penetration strategies. First, the market expansion strategy aims to form a reserve base of new voter groups in addition to the previously existing fixed base. The market expansion strategy focuses on forming new voter groups outside the previously existing base. In its implementation, the KomandanTe Stelsel is realized through intensive socialization based on areas that have been divided or what are called fostered villages. This offensive strategy is intended to attract new voters, especially in areas where support for PDIP was less strong in the previous election.

Second, the market penetration strategy is a strategy that aims to explore the potential of candidates who have previously been selected by the party so that their potential can be optimally explored. The KomandanTe Stelsel implements this strategy by strengthening relations with existing voters at the RT/RW level while building new trust and deepening local issues. This strategy utilizes local data to

adjust the campaign, so that the party is not only seen as a national entity but is able to answer specific issues in the region.

These two strategies complement each other in supporting PDIP's goal of increasing the number of voters in the election. The KomandanTe Stelsel as an operational tool not only aims to reach new areas but also strengthens voter loyalty. However, the varying results in each district/city show that the effectiveness of this offensive approach is not yet fully optimal. Challenges in implementing it uniformly across regions, such as differences in voter preferences and local political dynamics, show that this offensive strategy still requires adjustments based on the unique characteristics of each region.

3.4.2. Defensive Strategy

Defensive strategy is an approach that focuses on maintaining the majority of voters of a party, especially in the face of threats from competitors. Defensive strategies are divided into 2, namely maintaining the market and releasing the market. PDIP through the KomandanTe Stelsel integrates defensive strategies to maintain the stability of the supporter base and avoid divisions that can affect electability.

The strategy of maintaining the market aims to maintain the loyalty of permanent voters while strengthening the confidence of seasonal voters who have voted for PDIP. The main focus is to create emotional and social closeness between the party and voters through sustainable programs. In its implementation, the commander of the system plays an important role by managing fostered villages into direct interaction spaces between legislative candidates or party cadres and the community through programs such as political education, social assistance and community-based activities designed to strengthen these relationships.

Defensive strategies are also carried out through various actions, including:

- a. Try to maintain and preserve permanent voters and strengthen voter solidarity so that they are not easily taken by political opponents.
- b. Strengthen voters' understanding of programs that they previously considered successful.
- c. Attempting to carry out disinformation operations, namely by obscuring existing differences with political opponents.

In contrast to offensive strategies that emphasize differences, PDIP's defensive strategy often creates harmony or "blurs" differences with competitors so that voters are not influenced by alternative offers. This aims to prevent migration of support to other parties. The strategy of releasing the market is carried out more strategically, such as areas that showed a significant decline in support in the previous election. PDIP chooses to compromise or shift the focus of the campaign to other areas that have stronger electoral potential.

However, internal disputes and conflicts between legislative candidates in several regions show that this defensive strategy also faces challenges. The conflict can damage party harmony and pose a risk of losing support from voters who previously supported PDIP. This defensive strategy, if implemented consistently and adaptively, can ensure the stability of party support while creating a strong foundation to win the next election.

3.5. Effectiveness and Implementation Challenges

Based on Schroder's theory, the combination of offensive and defensive strategies implemented through the KomandanTe Stelsel shows that this approach requires more contextual adaptation and adjustment in each region. Based on the results of the data table above, the implementation of the KomandanTe Stelsel in several regions has not been fully effective and cannot be applied uniformly throughout Central Java. This indicates significant challenges and internal conflicts that need to

be resolved immediately to increase the effectiveness of this strategy in the future. Variations in results in each district/city indicate that this system requires more in-depth evaluation, as well as more appropriate adjustments so that it can be better implemented in all regions.

The effectiveness of this strategy depends on the ability of legislative candidates to balance offensive approaches (attracting new voters) with defensive approaches (retaining old voters) in different local political conditions. Given the variation in results across districts/cities, the KomandanTe Stelsel needs to be evaluated in depth and adjusted so that it can be applied effectively throughout Central Java. This evaluation also includes resolving internal conflicts, which is important to maintain party stability and ensure that the defensive approach runs according to plan. Thus, the effectiveness of the KomandanTe Stelsel strategy in the long term will be better if it is contextually adjusted to the characteristics of each region.

PDI Perjuangan tries to embarrass variations in the general election system and also evaluates the general election system. However, what must be considered is related to the rules that apply to the 2024 legislative elections using an open proportional system with the most votes. The role of political parties is only up to the candidacy and determination of the ballot number, not up to the determination of the elected candidate. If based on this, what PDI Perjuangan did is contrary to Article 422 of Law Number 7 of 2017.

According to the applicable rules, there is no room for variation in the implementation of the electoral system with the most votes. However, what needs to be considered is the evaluation of the electoral system which tends towards individualistic and liberal politics which can be said to be inconsistent with the foundation of the Indonesian state according to the fourth principle of Pancasila, namely "Democracy led by the wisdom of deliberation/representation". The current open proportional system has an impact on expensive political costs, which then gives rise to corruption. Based on these two things, it should be an opportunity to evaluate the election system currently being implemented. Elections are not only a competition to seek power, but also a means of democracy and building a better civilization. Obedience to the foundations of the state and commitment to building the nation are important capital for creating a better election system.

4. Conclusion

PDI Perjuangan Central Java implemented a special winning strategy in the 2024 Central Java Legislative Election called the Combat Commander System or abbreviated as KomandanTe Stelsel. The basis of this system is stated in the Regulation of the PDI Perjuangan Regional Leadership Council of Central Java Province Number 01 of 2023. The KomandanTe Stelsel System is a political strategy implemented by the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-P) to optimize vote acquisition and maintain party solidarity in the General Election.

The implementation of the KomandanTe Stelsel in the 2024 Legislative Election in Central Java showed varying impacts in various regions. In the early phase of its implementation in Wonogiri and Banyumas, this strategy succeeded in increasing PDIP support through intensive socialization, training, and the formation of fostered villages as a support base. This success reflects the effectiveness of the KomandanTe Stelsel strategy in attracting new voters, in line with the concept of an offensive strategy according to Peter Schroder's theory, which aims to expand the number of voters.

However, mixed results in other regions show that the effectiveness of this approach varies depending on local dynamics. In some districts/cities, there was a decline in the number of legislative seats, while in other areas support remained

stable or even increased. This highlights the need for further adjustments because the KomandanTe Stelsel cannot yet be applied uniformly throughout Central Java.

Other challenges include disputes between legislative candidates, differences in voter preferences, and local political dynamics. According to Schroder's defensive strategy approach, maintaining the existing voter base is an important step to maintain the stability of party support. However, the internal conflicts that have emerged indicate that this defensive step has not been fully effective. Resolving internal conflicts and affirming the selection process for elected candidates are important steps to maintain harmony within the party and maintain the integrity of the election.

Overall, the implementation of the KomandanTe Stelsel through an offensive and defensive approach shows that this strategy has the potential to expand and maintain voter support for PDIP. However, the variation in results as well as the challenges of implementation and internal conflicts indicate the need for further evaluation and adjustment. Contextual adjustment in each region is a crucial step so that the effectiveness of the KomandanTe Stelsel can be maximized in the upcoming election, as well as to ensure the stability and internal harmony of the party.

It is necessary to conduct an evaluation of the research of the election system implemented in the following year. Because the election is not only a competition to seek power, but also as a means of democracy and building a better civilization. Obedience to the state's foundation and commitment to building the nation are important capital to create a better election system.

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