

ARTICLE

The Conflict Dynamics of General Election Commission of Republic of Indonesia and Ummat Party in 2024

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ABSTRACT

This research discusses disputes in the 2024 General Election process involving Ummat Party, the General Election Commission of Republic of Indonesia (KPU), and Election Supervisory Agency of Republic of Indonesia (Bawaslu RI). This research also examines the dynamics of the conflict between the General Election Commission of Republic of Indonesia (KPU) and Ummat Party because of Decree of KPU number 528 of 2022 and the inconsistency of data and information. Ummat Party's dissatisfaction led to fraud in its membership across two provinces. Tensions escalated as Ummat Party openly rejected the decision, only to end when it was declared eligible to contest the 2024 General Election. According to the research results, there was a miscommunication during the selection of political parties, and the dispute intensified due to fraud allegations. Therefore, to understand the reasons and effects of the administration of the 2024 General Election, the dynamics of this disagreement were analysed. This study finds that the fundamental causes of the dispute are data discrepancies, miscommunication, and a perceived lack of transparency during the factual verification. Nevertheless, the General Election Commission of the Republic of Indonesia (KPU) demonstrated its dedication to transparency and objectivity, adhering to electoral principles and existing regulations. This case highlights the vital significance of data accuracy and effective communication in preserving the integrity and public confidence in electoral processes. This qualitative research used interviews and documentation. The data analyses were performed using Conflict Theory, particularly the application of conflict wheel indicators. The informants were representatives of the General Election Commission of Republic of Indonesia (KPU) and the Election Supervisory Agency of the Republic of Indonesia (Bawaslu RI). At the same time, Ummat Party refused to be interviewed.

A. INTRODUCTION

Indonesia's quinquennial general election elects leaders to legislative and executive bodies. The event, carried out in accordance with Law Number 7 of 2017 concerning General Elections, reflects the country's national ideals and goals. According to the Law, general election shall be organized by referring to the 11 principles (i.e., professionalism, accountability, proportionality, effectiveness, efficiency, legal certainty, honesty, justice, order, openness, and independence) and the seven principles (i.e., direct, general, free,

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confidential, honest, and fair) (Lubis et al., 2022). However, certain challenges do exist; one of which is disputes. One of the disputes in the 2024 general election that has attracted public attention is the one involving Ummat Party, a new political party. This party, whose establishment was initiated by Amien Rais, filed a dispute on December 16th, 2022, following the announcement of its ineligibility to run in the 2024 General Elections. It started with the issuance of a decree on December 14th, 2022, officially announcing 17 political parties eligible to participate in the 2024 General Elections and excluding the Ummat Party. The regional General Elections Commission, also known as the KPU of East Nusa Tenggara and North Sulawesi, stated that Ummat Party did not meet the requirements for party management and membership in their jurisdiction (CNN Indonesia, 2022a). Thus, based on the recapitulation of the factual verification results, KPU decided to grant the status of "unqualified" for the Ummat Party, nullifying its participation to compete in the 2024 General Elections.

The requirements for political parties to participate in general elections are set out in Article 173, Section 2, of Law Number 7 of 2017. The points of this law are (1) "having management throughout the province" in letter b, (2) "having management in 75% (seventy five percent) of the number of regencies/cities in the province in question" in letter c, (3) "having management in 50% (fifty percent) of the number of sub-districts in the relevant regencies/cities" in letter d, and (4) "having at least 1,000 (one thousand) members or 1/1,000 (one thousandth) of the total population in the management of the political party as referred to in letter c as evidenced by the ownership of membership cards" in letter f. The problem is that Ummat Party saw this as fraud and openly stated that there were irregularities in the process and results of the factual verification in the two provinces in question (Farisa, 2022). This highlights the research point that fraud occurred during the process of determining political parties. To a news portal (CNN Indonesia, 2022b), the Ummat Party stated that the factual verification in East Nusa Tenggara and the Regional General Election Commission made things difficult for the Ummat Party and that the organizer had manipulated the data by deliberately adding the number of Ummat Party members to the data of other parties. Ummat Party claimed that it had evidence of fraud by KPU and suspected attempts to obstruct its competition eligibility (Akbar & Raharjo, 2022). Thus, it took the general election process disputes to regain its right to participate.

The decision on the appeal has led to the implementation of re-verification based on the official record for mediation application number 006/PS.REG/BAWASLU/XII/2022 between the KPU and the Ummat Party on December 20th, 2022. KPU had to allow Ummat Party to carry out corrective factual verification in two provinces with questionable data. The results of the corrective factual verification made the Ummat Party on December 30th, 2022, showed that it was eligible to participate in the 2024 General Elections. Public uproars erupted over how and why KPU changed its decision. The dynamics of the conflict between the Ummat Party and the National KPU provide the background for this research, as the differences in statements between the two have attracted public attention and there is no specific data or information about the dispute or the fraud. This research aims to analyze the dynamics and causes of the dispute during the 2024 General Election process. This research was also limited to the case of the Ummat Party's disqualification from the verification process, and did not cover other political parties' issues.

The urgency of this research also arises because KPU, the general election organizers, was expected to conduct fair and independent general elections in accordance with the principles governing general elections. However, the Ummat Party's allegations present a different reality. This research aims to analyze the dynamics of the conflict between Ummat Party and KPU and its resolution through general election process disputes. Hence, this research provides academic benefits by introducing an understanding of governance to address general election process

disputes and contributes to the academic literature on conflict dynamics and conflict management, especially between the Ummat Party and the KPU in the 2024 General Election.

B. LITERATURE REVIEW

Utomo discussed the dispute between the Ummat Party and KPU by analyzing the transparency of KPU in validating the Ummat Party (Utomo, 2023). His research findings suggested an allegation of data manipulation, due to KPU's lack of transparency in providing data and information to both new political parties and the public. The integrity of KPU in implementing the 2024 general election stages and the disqualification of Ummat Party are among the main issues arising from the use of SIPOL (Political Party Information System) (Purnomo et al., 2023).

The failure of new political parties to pass the political party determination stage created a negative stigma towards KPU and created the perception that the integrity of KPU in the 2024 general election was lacking (Mustafa & Maharani, 2023). Problems also occurred in the verification process during the general election, which caused certain political parties to be disqualified as election participants (Lestari & Widodo, 2023). Another research also found evidence of alleged maladministration in the political party verification process by KPU in terms of the ineffectiveness in electoral dispute resolution (Syafriandre et al., 2019).

A similar issue was discussed by (Lestari E. & Kurniawan, 2021), who highlighted that the electoral dispute lawsuit in Metro City in 2019 was driven by differences in opinion and the political situation at the time. The Election Supervisory Agency, referred to as Bawaslu of Bandar Lampung City, had a role as the intermediary between KPU and the political parties (Apriyani & Rona, 2023). The mechanism of general election disputes needs to be handled transparently and fairly by official procedures between KPU and the parties (Erick & Ikhwan, 2022).

Electoral process disputes can also arise from dissatisfaction with the KPU's decision regarding the rejection of registration documents (Mahpudin, 2020). Another study pointed to alleged violations regarding the determination of permanent candidates in the 2019 election, but the findings concluded that no violations occurred in the process (Sanusi, 2021).

C. METHOD

This research uses qualitative methods to understand and explore the conflict. Simon Fisher's conflict theory was used together with the indicators of the conflict wheel to support this research (Fisher, 2001). The research data were obtained from interviews and documentation. The interviews were conducted with the representatives of Bawaslu RI and KPU at the buildings of both institutions. The informants are from the Bureau for the Facilitation of General Election Dispute Resolution of Bawaslu RI, the Bureau for the Facilitation of General Election Supervision of Bawaslu RI, the Technical Bureau for General Election Organization of KPU, and the Legal Advocacy Bureau for Dispute Settlement of KPU. The documents for reference are regulations, documents obtained from the research locations, and news and journals regarding the dispute between Ummat Party and the National KPU. The informants of this study were selected using purposive sampling, considering the suitability of the data (Raco, 2010).

The data analyses were conducted based on Miles et al., (2014); they consist of the following: (1) data condensation; (2) data presentation; and (3) conclusion drawing. Data condensation is a stage that involves identifying data aligned with the problem's focus and topic. In this stage, the interview data were sorted according to the legislation and other documentation data (Miles et al., 2014). Data presentation is a stage that involves presenting data in several forms, e.g., tables and descriptions, that highlight differences in arguments

from both parties and the analysis of conflict dynamics. Conclusion drawing is a stage in which conclusions are drawn from analysis and data presentation. The section is a crucial component that provides a detailed description of the experimental design, procedures, and techniques used to conduct the research.

D. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Actors in the Dispute of Ummat Party's Affirmation as one of the 2024 General Election Participants

Simon Fisher (2001) noted that actors are parties in conflict, directly or indirectly involved. This indicator highlights the position and role of each involved party (Langford et al., 2021). In this research, the involved actors are those related, either directly or indirectly, to the general election process, and the disputes raised by Ummat Party at the stage of determining the political parties participating in the 2024 General Elections. In the general election process, the parties are the applicant, the application recipient, and the respondent, as provided in Regulation No. 9 of 2022 of the Bawaslu concerning Procedures for the Resolution of General Election Process Disputes. The Article discusses the roles of the parties, the application recipient, and the respondent under Articles 17, 20, and 22.

Article 17 state that “political parties participating in the general election as referred in Article 16 letter a number 1 and Political Parties Participating in the general election as referred in article 16 letter b, letter c number 1, and letter d represented by: (1) the chairman and the secretary general or other equivalent titles, for political parties that can participating as the general election participants and political parties that are election participants at the national level; (2) the chairman and the secretary or other equivalent titles, for political parties that can participating as the general election participants and political parties that are election participants at the provincial level; and (3) the chairman and the secretary or other equivalent titles, for political parties that can participating as the general election participants and political parties that are election participants at the regency/municipal level.

Article 20 states that “The respondent in dispute resolution with Election organizers, as referred in Article 12, consists of KPU, the Provincial KPU, and the Regency/Municipal KPU.”

Article 22 state that “The applicant as referred in Article 16, the respondent as referred in Article 20, and related parties as referred in Article 21 can appoint a legal representative based on special power of attorney.” and “The presence of legal representative as referred in verse (1) to accompany or represent the applicant, the respondent, and/or related parties in the stages of dispute resolution between election participants and the election organizers.”

Direct and indirect involvement is attached to parties who become respondents in the dispute process and to parties that provide administrative and technical assistance in general election process disputes. Based on the research results, these actors can be classified into two groups as follows.

Table 1. Actors Involved in the General Election Process Disputes

Actors Involved in the Mediation, the Trial, and the Dispute Application	Actors Involved in Administrative and Technical Matters
Chairman and the Commissioners of the National KPU	the Legal Advocacy Bureau for Dispute Settlement of the National KPU
Chairman and Members of Bawaslu RI	the Bureau for the Facilitation of General Election Dispute Resolution of Bawaslu RI
Chairman and General Secretary of Ummat Party	-
28 legal advisors of Ummat Party in the trial	-

Source: Based on interview results by the researchers (2024)

Issues in the Dispute of Ummat Party's Affirmation as One of the 2024 General Election Participants

In general, issues are things highlighted in an argument. Working with Conflict (2001) stated that Issues are the main debated things in a conflict (Fisher, 2001). The matter in dispute in Ummat Party's application for the general election process is Decree Number 518 of 2022 issued by KPU. Ummat Party application was received, given the register number 006/PS.REG/BAWASLU/XII/2022. The application, which challenged the National KPU's decision after the party alleged irregularities and fraud, was publicized via mass media.

The decree in question was KPU's official statement that Ummat Party could not participate in the 2024 General Elections. It stated that only 17 national and 6 local political parties can compete in elections for executive and legislative bodies, as they have fulfilled the requirements. The decree was issued based on the results of the final recapitulation of the factual verification conducted from October 15th, 2022, to November 4th, 2022. In fact, the Ummat Party did not qualify to participate in the general election because it did not meet one of the main requirements. The decision was strengthened by Article 7 points b to d of KPU Regulation Number 4 of 2022, as well as Article 173 Section (2) of the General Election Law.

However, the Ummat Party did not accept this decision. They asked KPU to prioritize the principles of honesty and justice to prove Ummat Party has the right to become one of the election participants. They also brought 57 evidence to the Bawaslu RI (Mantalean & Rastika, 2022). Bawaslu RI stated that what had been stated and decided by the National KPU was correct, as it could not confirm the publicly proliferated fraud allegations because there was no solid evidence to support the accusations. Bawaslu's stance is in line with Article 94 of Law Number 7 of 2017, which provides that indications of fraud can be processed and confirmed upon receipt of an application and a violation report submitted to Bawaslu RI. However, this indication of fraud was supported by a YouTube recording and by CNN Indonesia's broadcast. The recording contains a conversation between a member of East Nusa Tenggara KPU and one of the bureau heads of KPU.

Furthermore, the recording contains directions from the people mentioned in it, identified as the leader, to administer a factual verification and to prevent certain political parties from participating in the general election. The recording indicated intervention in the implementation of factual verification in the province. However, Lodowyk, who was on the recording and made a voice call with one of the KPU bureau heads, denied this. In an interview with CNN Indonesia, Lodowyk stated that there was no such fraud as reported by other mass media and that the recording was not evidence of fraud indications as alleged by Ummat Party. Lodowyk also stated that the conversation was about instructions for carrying out factual verification in East Nusa Tenggara, specifically action scenarios, particularly the remedial verification should a party be declared unqualified. It was not about qualifying or disqualifying any political parties, as it did not specifically mention any of them.

Table 2. Statements by Ummat Party, the National KPU, and Bawaslu RI Regarding the Fraud Indication

The National KPU	Ummat Party	Bawaslu RI
KPU did not admit the indications of fraud or obstruction directed to Ummat Party. KPU emphasized that its actions were always based on the applicable regulations	Ummat Party stated that they found obstruction carried out by persons who had great power, so that KPU did not pass the party in the affirmation of General Election Participants	Bawaslu RI could not confirm whether the obstruction and indications of fraud are true because the disadvantaged parties have filed no reports. Bawaslu RI considered that this issue increases virality, so law enforcement efforts must be made as early as possible

Source: Analyzed by researchers based on interview results (2024)

However, the Ummat Party did not accept the decree because they considered that their party had fulfilled all the criteria and requirements. They felt that the results of the factual verification recapitulation, which determined which political parties could participate in the 2024 General Election, were rigged.

The Dynamics in the Dispute of Ummat Party's Affirmation as One of the 2024 General Election Participants

Simon Fisher stated that dynamics is a level of intensity, energy, and escalation of a conflict. The dynamics between the involved parties began with a statement by the Ummat Party in the mass media on December 13, 2022, that there were indications of fraud against the Ummat Party. After Decree number 518 of 2022 was issued on December 14th, 2022, Ummat Party filed general election process disputes with Bawaslu RI on December 16th, 2022. Bawaslu accepted the application in accordance with Article 467 of Law Number 7 of 2017. The conflict intensity began to increase since the Ummat Party revealed to the public that there were many irregularities during the factual verification process, especially in East Nusa Tenggara.

Ummat Party brought evidence in the form of the party's legal documents and proof of their membership (CNN Indonesia, 2022b). After the application was registered, Bawaslu RI had the authority to carry out mediation, as stated in Article 42 of Bawaslu Regulation number 9 of 2022, which states that Bawaslu has the right to bring together the parties involved in a dispute through mediation no later than two days after the application. The mediation was carried out from December 19th to 20th, 2022. The mediation was carried out behind closed doors (Mantalean & Santosa, 2022) in accordance with Article 43 Section (1). After the mediation process, Bawaslu issued a decision that included an agreement to resolve the general election-related disputes. In this case, the Ummat Party was able to fight back by reaching an agreement to make improvements to fulfill the membership requirements in East Nusa Tenggara and North Sulawesi from December 21st to 23rd, 2022.

Based on Bawaslu's decision, KPU carried out corrective administrative verification and corrective factual verification for Ummat Party. This is in accordance with Article 469 of the General Election Law, which states that the KPU is obliged to carry out re-verification of applicants in general election process disputes. Representatives from KPU and Bawaslu also said that there were no obstacles during the resolution of the general election process disputes (Pryatama, 2022). Based on the results of the remedial verification by KPU for Ummat Party on December 30th, 2022, KPU affirmed Ummat Party as one of the participants in the 2024 General Election by issuing Decree number 528 of 2022, as Ummat Party had fulfilled all required documents. The results of the remedial verification were processed and re-examined

by KPU from December 23rd to 28th, 2022. With this, the Ummat Party was officially affirmed as a participant in the 2024 General Elections. The conflict dynamics can be classified into tables based on the indicators.

Table 3. Analysis of the Conflict Dynamics

Dynamic Indicators	Date	Description
Pre-conflict	13-15 December 2022	Statement regarding discrepancies in the implementation of factual verification by one member of the Ummat Party in East Nusa Tenggara
Confrontation	15-16 December 2022	Ummat Party published to the public that KPU committed fraud and would apply for general election process disputes to Bawaslu if they were not passed as the 2024 General Election participant
Crisis	16-18 December 2022	The application of the general election process disputes was officially submitted to Bawaslu RI.
Consequences	1) 19-20 December 2022	1) The achievement of negotiations and agreements in the mediation between Ummat Party and KPU by Bawaslu RI
	2) 21-29 December 2022	2) KPU must provide Ummat Party with the opportunity to carry out corrective factual verification in the two problematic provinces.
Post-conflict	30 December 2022	The end of tensions and differences in arguments between the National KPU and Ummat Party after the inauguration of the party as one of the participants in the 2024 General Election participants

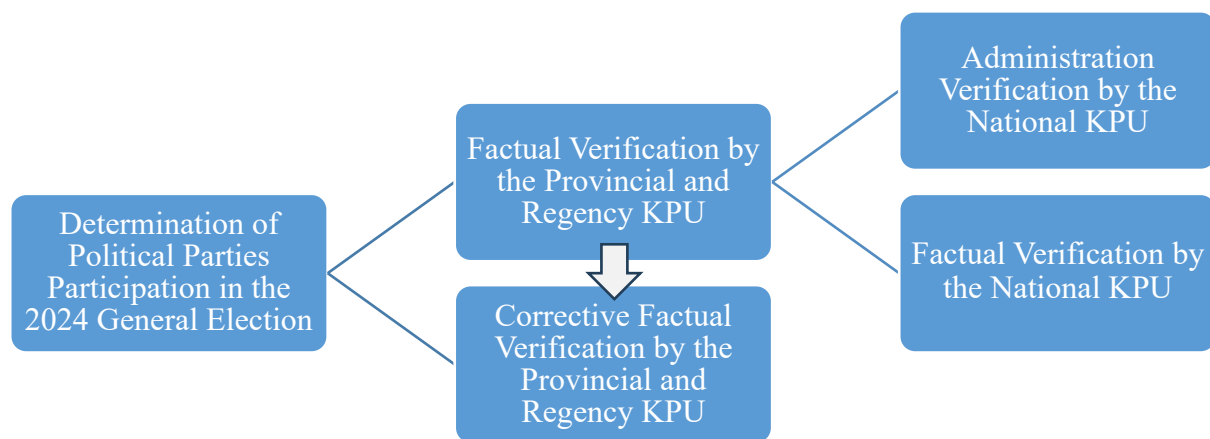
Source: Analyzed by researchers (2024)

The Context of the Dispute of Ummat Party's Affirmation as One of the 2024 General Election Participants

In terms of conflict, context is the structural factor that provides the background for a conflict, as [Simon Fisher](#) notes in his book *Working with Conflict* (2001). The structural factors that can be highlighted are the verification process carried out by the National KPU and the stage supervision process conducted by Bawaslu RI before the Ummat Party filed general election process disputes. The initial stage is administrative verification. This stage was carried out by examining several documents required through SIPOL. These documents are (1) the official gazette of political parties as legal entities in Indonesia, (2) copies of the Articles of Association and Bylaws, (3) the decisions of the political party leaders regarding the fulfillment

of management requirements at all levels and the representation of women of at least 30%, (4) the profile of the political party administrators at all levels, (5) certificate for the permanent office of political party management, (6) certificate for the official registration of the political party's name and symbol, and (7) bank account numbers in the names of the political party at the national, provincial, and regency and city levels. The administrative verification was carried out directly by KPU in accordance with the rules in Chapter V of KPU Regulation Number 4 of 2022.

The next stage is factual verification. In conducting factual verification of the Ummat Party at the provincial, regency, and city levels, the Regional Representatives of KPU worked in accordance with Articles 69, 79, and 84 of KPU Regulation Number 4 of 2022. These articles state that Provincial KPU and the Regency and Municipal KPU are authorized to conduct examinations of the political party's management and membership by reviewing three types of requirements. There are: (1) the management of the political party pursuing general election participant status at the provincial, district, and city levels, (2) the representation of women of at least 30%, and (3) permanent office domicile. The procedures of factual verification were carried out in stages, starting from the district and city levels to the national level.



(Source: Based on KPU Regulation Number 4 of 2022)

Figure 1. Illustration of the Verification Flow for the General Election

The factual verification for the Ummat Party has been carried out on schedule, in stages, and in accordance with KPU Regulation Number 4 of 2022. Then, Bawaslu RI used Law Number 7 of 2017 and Perbawaslu Number 5 of 2022 as technical references in carrying out supervision during the 2024 General Election. This supervision has certain limitations because the KPU enforces the protection of personal data entered via SIPOL. KPU strengthens its argument by stating that these restrictions aim to limit Bawaslu's authority, which serves only a supervisory function. The KPU's personal data protection enforcement is considered difficult for Bawaslu because the supervision attached to the administrative and factual verification stages is limited. For example, when Bawaslu conducts direct supervision to observe political party management data, It cannot ask questions directly or view the complete information contained in SIPOL. Thus, Bawaslu considers that this limitation prevents optimal results in the monitoring stages. Based on the description, the structural factor that caused the conflict between Ummat Party and KPU was the reality of the verification procedures and the supervision stages.

The Cause of the Dispute of Ummat Party's Affirmation as One of the 2024 General Election Participants

Fisher stated that the causes of the conflict wheel include several factors that encourage conflict. The factor that prompted the conflict was disagreement over the recapitulation results of the factual verification conducted in 33 provinces in Indonesia. Ummat Party believes the KPU's factual verification results have been rigged. Amien Rais stated in the mass media that there was an element of deliberate intent in preventing Ummat Party from participating in the 2024 General Election, and that this action was masterminded by persons with great power. Ummat Party also stated that there was one region where the factual verification recapitulation results were empty, and whose data was not included by the Regional KPU, namely North Sulawesi. Further, Ummat Party stated that they had experienced previous attempts to thwart them, namely during the factual verification process, and that a political game was being played against one of their members.

The political game, as mentioned by Ummat Party, was that one of its members was asked by two people claiming to be KPU verifiers to provide his signature for data entry. Ummat Party alleged that the two people were from Nusantara Awakening Party (Febryan A. & Saubani, 2022). Ridho Rahmadi, the chairman of Ummat Party, said their suspicions stemmed from the fact that the data that had been signed was entered as that of Nusantara Awakening Party. Ummat Party accused the KPU of involvement in this fraudulent action against Ummat Party. However, this research does not see any gaps in the data in the documents obtained from KPU. KPU stated that the differences in the factual verification results were not based on fraudulent intent, as Ummat Party's failure to pass was due to insufficient data on its management.

This was supported by Bawaslu RI's Decision Number 006/PS.REG/BAWASLU/XII/2022, which states that Ummat Party must address this insufficiency. This strengthens the allegation that the data held by KPU indeed proves the insufficiency of Ummat Party's membership in the two provinces in question, even though KPU could not confirm Ummat Party's statement that KPU had obstructed them in the factual verification process. This research considers that KPU should present data transparently to assess Ummat Party's statements.

Table 4. Membership Insufficiency of Ummat Party According to the Decision of Bawaslu RI

East Nusa Tenggara Timur Province	Member Deficiency
Kupang Regency	327
South Timor Tengah Regency	470
Alor Regency	148
West Sumba Regency	149
Lembata Regency	130
East Manggarai Regency	277
Sabu Raijua Regency	55
North Sulawesi Province	Member Deficiency
Bolaang Mongondow Regency	209
Minahasa Regency	307
North Minahasa Regency	80
	93
North Bolaang Mongondow Regency	77
East Bolaang Mongondow Regency	60
South Bolaang Mongondow Regency	70
Manado Regency	128
Bitung Regency	209
Tomohon Regency	87

Source: The Decision of Bawaslu RI (2022)

Based on the table above, Ummat Party needed to add 1,556 members in East Nusa Tenggara and 1,433 in North Sulawesi. According to KPU, Ummat Party must meet the minimum requirement of 1/1000 to pass the factual verification. Still, the party has requested qualification with 103 in North Sulawesi and 818 in East Nusa Tenggara. Therefore, Bawaslu requested that the KPU reverify the Ummat Party to confirm its insufficiency. Hence, it can be concluded that the factors that caused the conflict between KPU and the Ummat Party were the lack of membership data registered by Ummat Party to KPU, the different arguments between them regarding the implementation of factual verification, and the decree of KPU, which had stated that Ummat Party did not qualify to become an election participant. Due to limited information from Ummat Party, this research finds that the factual verification results issued by KPU have been legally valid. This was proven by the Ummat Party's approval to complete the corrective factual verification documents attached to the Bawaslu decision. This is in line with the implementation of KPU Regulation Number 4 of 2022, which regulates factual verification and corrective factual verification.

The Strategies in the Dispute of Ummat Party's Affirmation as One of the 2024 General Election Participants

According to [Simon Fisher \(2001\)](#), strategy is a method used to achieve specific goals and to manage and resolve conflict. [Simon Fisher](#) also stated that a strategy contains plans for effective steps to carry out resistance or intervention. In this research, strategy is discussed differently in two perspectives: the general election organizers' strategy and the Ummat Party's strategy.

The Strategy of KPU & Bawaslu in Resolving the General Election Process Disputes

The strategy of the general election organizers to resolve the conflict over the general election process disputes raised by Ummat Party focused on the disputed matters that had led to a lawsuit against KPU. This was done by mapping the problem and preparing answers before making the resolution steps. This is relevant to the preparatory rules set out in Chapter II of Decree No. 528 of 2022 issued by the KPU. In this case, KPU has the right to analyze the application and coordinate the technical bureaus of the general election. Meanwhile, Bawaslu has the right to undertake efforts to resolve general election process disputes by providing follow-ups and conducting mediation as the initial step, in accordance with Perbawaslu number 9 of 2022.

Bawaslu RI also carried out socialization through the mass media regarding the dispute involving Ummat Party. This is evidenced by the press release from Rahmat Bagja, the chairman of Bawaslu RI, who stated that the dispute application submitted by Ummat Party had been received and would be processed. Then, KPU also disseminated information through the mass media, via its representatives, regarding the problems between Ummat Party and the National KPU. One of the methods the organizer used to show the public the truth and resolve the conflict was evident in the statement of Idham Holik, a member of the National KPU, who said the alleged intervention was nonexistent because the results of the national recapitulation had not been released. Based on this explanation, the strategy used by Bawaslu RI and KPU is to use mass media for clarification, disseminate information via the infopemilu website, and keep up with all aspects of the general election dispute process. Meanwhile, Bawaslu RI used

mass media to clarify issues and implemented additional measures to address disputes in the general election process.

The Strategy of Ummat Party in Settling the Conflict with the National KPU

The strategy run by Ummat Party to overcome its conflict with the National KPU used communication media to disseminate information to the public as the main vehicle for conveying its disappointment or rejection of the KPU's decision not to affirm it as one in the 2024 General Election. This can be seen in the video uploaded to one of Ummat Party's official social media channels, namely YouTube. Several uploaded videos contain statements and views from the party's management and founders regarding the KPU's factual verification, as shown in the following YouTube thumbnail.

Further, the administrators of Ummat Party have been responsive to questions from mass media journalists regarding the party's ineligibility. The interviews with the journalists were shown in the news, both on television and the internet; one of them can be seen on Kompas.com. The interviews narrated their protest against the decision to disqualify the Ummat Party from the 2024 General Elections. These measures show that the Ummat Party has been making good use of social media and mass media to achieve its goal: making itself eligible for the 2024 General Election contest and convincing the public that it is worthy of passing.



(Source: Ummat Party's Official YouTube (2022))

Picture 1. *Ummat Party's Strategy via YouTube*

Then, Ummat Party filed a dispute with Bawaslu as its legal recourse. The acceptance of their application shows that the strategies used by Ummat Party to qualify and their efforts to convince the general election organizers that they have a strong argument for their resistance to KPU's decision have been successful. Their strategy of taking legal action also achieved its

goal, as this step led to a mediation agreement that created the opportunity to improve the management and membership documents in the two provinces at issue. Using this strategy, KPU affirmed Ummat Party's participation in the 2024 General Elections.

E. CONCLUSION

Disputes over the general election process are indeed an essential part of the election process. The conflict between Ummat Party and KPU can be attributed to disparate data and information held by the National KPU and Ummat Party's disappointment over its disqualification as a political party participating in the 2024 General Elections. The study found that KPU had evidence that the Ummat Party's data was insufficient. As a result, the KPU RI implemented transparency measures in line with electoral principles, enabling an objective assessment of its operations.

In this conflict, the most debated issue is KPU's decision number 518 of 2022. The dynamics were started by the statement from Ummat Party of not accepting the decision of KPU, and the intensity of the conflict began to increase when Ummat Party published their suspicions, namely fraud and obstruction of its general election participation, to the mass media. This dynamic continued in the dispute lawsuit filed by Ummat Party against KPU. The conflict ended when the Ummat Party was declared eligible to contest the 2024 General Election.

Based on the findings above, this research offers the following suggestions to improve conflict management and prevention during the implementation of general elections. It is recommended that KPU provide a summary or brief statistics on the management and membership of the political parties that register as general election participants. For Bawaslu RI, it is advised to publish a summary of the chronology of the general election process dispute resolution carried out through SIPS (Dispute Resolution Information System). Future studies can achieve greater success by conducting interviews with Ummat Party, as this research has a limitation in obtaining actual data.

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Contributorship

Pravita Mutiara, as the first author, was responsible for conducting field research, analyzing and synthesizing data, and compiling the research from inception to completion. Ruth Agnesia Sembiring, as the second author, served as a mentor by guiding the theoretical framework, ensuring its relevance to the study, and overseeing the research process to ensure its successful execution.

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