

Development of Democracy in Indonesia From an International Law Perspective

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Abstract

Since the 1998 Reformation, Indonesia's democratic development has gained significant attention in global discussions on political change in developing countries. These reforms have reshaped Indonesia's political landscape and highlighted its efforts to implement democratic principles according to international law. As a large and culturally diverse nation, Indonesia faces the challenge of maintaining political stability while meeting international standards for human rights and good governance. This article examines how Indonesia has integrated democratic principles into its revised constitution and the impact on its political system. It also reviews the protection of human rights, the role of democratic institutions, and the challenges posed by globalization and international politics. Using a comparative approach and legal analysis, the study aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of Indonesia's progress toward a transparent, accountable, and law-based government. This research contributes to the understanding of democracy in developing countries and the importance of international law in building a fair and just society in Indonesia.

Keywords

Indonesian Democracy; International Law; Constitutional Amendments

Introduction

The development of democracy in Indonesia since the 1998 Reformation has become a major highlight in the global debate regarding political transformation in developing countries. These reforms not only changed the domestic political landscape, but also drew attention to the implementation of democratic principles in the context of international law. As a country with the world's fourth largest population and diverse cultural riches, Indonesia faces complex challenges in maintaining political stability while meeting universal standards on human rights and good governance.

This article aims to explore the evolution of democracy in Indonesia from an international law perspective. The main focus is on how Indonesia has adapted democratic principles within the revised constitutional framework and the relevance of its implementation to international legal norms. The significant changes in political structures and legislative processes post-Reform provide a deep understanding of how the country is moving towards a more



transparent, accountable and law-based government. In this context, a review of the protection of human rights, the role of democratic institutions such as parliament, and challenges in facing globalization and the dynamics of international politics are important parts of assessing the development of Indonesian democracy. This research uses a comparative approach and legal analysis to describe Indonesia's journey towards a stable and inclusive democracy in the context of an increasingly connected international legal community.

Thus, this article not only provides an overview of Indonesia's political progress since the Reformation, but also highlights the challenges faced in implementing democratic principles in an ever-changing global context. It is hoped that this analysis can contribute to a better understanding of the dynamics of democracy in developing countries, as well as the relevance of the application of international law in building a just and civilized society in Indonesia.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

1. How does the development of constitutional amendments affect the implementation of democratic principles in Indonesia from an international law perspective?
2. What are the main challenges facing Indonesia in complying with international legal standards related to democracy, human rights and good governance?

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

1. To analyze the implementation and impact of constitutional amendments on the development of democracy in Indonesia, with a focus on an international legal perspective?
2. To explore the main challenges facing Indonesia in meeting international legal standards related to democracy, human rights and good governance?

RESEARCH BENEFITS

1. academics about political transformation in developing countries, especially in the context of implementing democracy from an international law perspective.
2. Deeper Understanding: Provides a deeper understanding of how constitutional amendments and other political policies influence the development of democracy in Indonesia, as well as their relevance to international standards.

Literature Review

Constitutional Amendments and the Implementation of Democracy: Amendments to the Indonesian constitution, especially after the 1998 Reformation, have played a crucial role in strengthening the country's democratic foundations. According to Kurniawan (2020), these constitutional changes not only include increasing protection of human rights, but also strengthening democratic institutions such as parliament and the judicial system. Challenges to the Implementation of Democracy: Even though constitutional amendments have been made, Indonesia still faces various challenges in implementing democratic principles in accordance with international legal standards. According to Dewi (2019), these challenges include managing corruption, freedom of opinion, and protecting minority rights.

Methodology

This research employs a qualitative approach with a descriptive-analytical method to describe and analyze the development of democracy in Indonesia from the perspective of international law. Primary data is obtained through in-depth interviews with international law experts and practitioners in the fields of politics and law in Indonesia, while secondary data is collected from relevant literature such as books, journal articles, and official documents. Data collection techniques include in-depth interviews, literature review, and documentation, which are then analyzed using thematic analysis techniques. The validity and reliability of the research are ensured through data source triangulation, peer review, and an audit trail. This methodology aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of how democratic principles are implemented and the challenges faced by Indonesia in the context of international law.

Discussion

1. Analyzing the Implementation and Impact of Constitutional Amendments on the Development of Democracy in Indonesia from an International Law Perspective

Identify the main changes in the post-amendment Indonesian constitution and how these changes adopt democratic principles regulated in international law. Assess the effectiveness of implementing constitutional amendments in strengthening democratic institutions in Indonesia, including law enforcement, free and fair elections, and protection of human rights. Analyze the real impact of constitutional amendments on community political participation, transparency and government accountability. Assess the compatibility of newly adopted national laws with international legal standards related to democracy and human rights, and identify any gaps or inconsistencies. Provide recommendations to increase the effectiveness of constitutional implementation and strengthen democracy in Indonesia in accordance with the principles of international law.

2. Explore the main challenges facing Indonesia in meeting international legal standards related to democracy, human rights and good governance

Identify and categorize the main challenges that hinder Indonesia from meeting international standards regarding democracy, such as corruption, political instability, and limited public political education. Evaluate the extent to which Indonesia has succeeded in upholding human rights in accordance with international standards, and identify cases of significant violations and the factors causing them. Analyze obstacles to achieving good governance, including slow bureaucracy, lack of accountability of public officials, and obstacles to law enforcement. Provides insight into how these challenges affect Indonesia's efforts to strengthen its democratic system and human rights at the national level. Suggest strategies and concrete steps to overcome these challenges, as well as improve conformity with international standards through legal reform, improving political education, and strengthening supervisory institutions.

Conclusion

The development of democracy in Indonesia since the 1998 Reformation has shown significant progress, especially in the context of implementing democratic principles from an international law perspective. Constitutional amendments have strengthened the legal foundation for the protection of human rights, expanded the space for political democracy, and



strengthened democratic institutions. However, significant challenges remain in the journey to building a strong and sustainable democracy in Indonesia. Key challenges include managing corruption, promoting broader public participation in the political process, and ensuring government transparency and accountability in accordance with international legal standards.

Evaluations by international institutions such as the UN and ASEAN have provided valuable feedback on Indonesia's progress in complying with international legal norms related to democracy and human rights. This evaluation not only reflects Indonesia's global image, but can also influence the country's diplomatic relations and international cooperation. Prospectively, the future of democracy in Indonesia depends on the country's ability to continue to respond wisely to internal and external challenges. In the context of globalization and rapidly changing international political dynamics, Indonesia must remain committed to strengthening its democratic governance, increasing public participation, and ensuring that its national policies are in line with universal democratic principles and human rights. Thus, while challenging, the development of democracy in Indonesia from an international law perspective shows significant possibilities for building a more inclusive, just and civilized society in the future. Thoughtful and measured steps are needed to ensure that Indonesia remains on track with widely accepted international standards in global democratic practice.

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