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HOAX IN DEMOCRACY STATE AND ITS PREVENTION WAY IN INDONESIAN 2019 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

The celebration of 2019 presidential election will soon be held in Indonesia. The step has begun based on the General Election Commission's schedule involving campaign to improve electability opinion of each candidate. However, the campaign has been performed before the schedule even started. Moreover, it is not in accordance with the appropriate purposes; rather it used to spread untruth news or hoaxes to defame the opponents. Therefore, the implementation of the presidential election in Indonesia which held once in 5 years will be out of order by its society. The aim of this study is to indicate the efforts that held by the government as well as other institutes to prevent hoaxes while the campaign held. The method used is descriptive qualitative. Thus, the result shows that hoax's spread should be avoided by all the stakeholders as well as the society itself. There have been many legal efforts obtained whether persuasive, preventive, or even repressive to actualize the 2019 presidential election which is fair and square.

Keywords: hoax, news, 2019 presidential election, Indonesia.

Introduction

The information issued from an individual or even institution through social and electronic media will influence the emotions, feelings, thoughts, and action of its individual and community¹. It is unfortunate if the delivered information is inaccurate or even as hoaxes and using a provocative title to made a bad assumption to the reader. The bad opinion/assumption, defamation, hatred which is purposed to attack individual so they will feel afraid and threatened are able to destroy the reputation and material disadvantageous (Abner et al, 2017).

CNN Indonesia has noted that the data given by the Ministry of Communication and Informatics said that it is about 800 thousand sites in Indonesia which indicate as hoaxes spreader and hate speech². Ministry of Communication and Informatics along 2016 has been blocked 773 thousand sites based on 10 groups. Those 10 groups have porn, ethnicity, religion, race, and intergroup relations contents, illegal trading, drugs, radicalism, children violence, internet safety, and intellectual property rights. Yet, porn is considered as the most element found³.

Nowadays, the development of communication and information technology does not only served positive impacts, but also a negative impact. The information has spread rapidly to the all over individual element through several media as like Facebook, Twitter, or phone messengers as like Whatsapp and others which cannot be filtered (Abner et al, 2017).

Indonesian presidential election 2019-2024 periods became hot news and trending issues in politics that emerged war among citizens and political elite. The political war happened because the citizens and the political elite regularly spread opinion towards their competitors. They spread issues whether it is true or a hoax. The politic war happened because they want to defeat their competitor or another candidate. This situation emerged great political war in the nation. The war became unstoppable when people spreading hoaxes or fake news through social media.

Indonesian citizens regularly use social media as their news sources to share news, personal information, pictures, videos, stories, etc. Furthermore, people can access all shared contents in social

¹ Ramadhan, Iqbal M. (2017). *Bijak Mengonsumsi Informasi*. <<http://opiniartikel.kampung-media.com/2017/10/20/bijak-mengonsumsi-informasi-20824>>. (2019, February, 28).

² Aulia Bintang, Pratama (2016). *Ada 800 Situs Penyebar Hoax di Indonesia*. <<https://www.cnnIndonesia.com/teknologi/20161229170130-185-182956/ada-800-ribu-situs-penyebar-hoax-di-Indonesia>>. (2019, February, 28).

³ Mubary, Halim A. (2018). *Kanibalisme Hoax*. Aceh Tribunnews. <<http://aceh.tribunnews.com/2018/10/10/kanibalisme-hoax?>>. (2019, February, 28).

media as they open their social media accounts. This situation emerged war issues between candidates' followers. Citizens frequently shared hoaxes and information to show their support for candidates. Further, both candidates have online armies of cyber troopers to share hoaxes intentionally to persuade readers or social media users.

News websites established a special rubric to detect hoax. Press department creates barcode to verify 74 credible and professional online news broadcasters. Recently, Facebook opened an office in Jakarta with a rapid and direct communication path to the Indonesian government. However, it was not effective to prevent hoaxes.

The emerged of "Hoax News" is a reflection of democracy's failure in the long term. In this case, democracy agencies should conduct political honestly and not fooling the society, so therefore government along with the society should strengthen information sources independently and trusted.

According to the explanation above, the problems that rise in this article are including 1) the influences of hoax toward 2019 President's General Election, and 2) the preventing way to overcome the hoax news.

Literature Review

Hoax

Internet technology, which is inherently cyber technology, has opened up a new space known as digital space; all types of representation (various forms of information) can be spread quickly and globally¹. It has two opposite side in which one side provide positive impacts but on the contrary, it gives negative impacts once individuals cannot use it appropriately. Digital media has allowed all of the media in the form of sound, writing, symbol, or even video can be conveyed and uploaded to others. This media rapidly spread the news or event to be commented and discussed through mass, radio, and television media since digital media does not limit by the area, time, and place. However, it is a necessary collaborative action to reduce hoax so that it will not give a bad impact on the young generation².

Hoax is not an abbreviation rather it is one unity word from English which has its own meaning. According to the Astuti (2017)³, a hoax is defined as fake news which intentionally made to hidden the true meaning. Thus, hoax can be in a form:

1. False idea
2. Offence principle
3. Media manipulation
4. Balancing
5. Objectivity
6. Against moral neutrality (Raphael Cohen-Almagor, 2013).

The element of a hoax is considered as the element of "deception." The individual who spread hoax does not always have clear purposes and therefore it includes criminal law. The reason why hoax can be spread rapidly is due to the careless of an individual who does not investigate the news first. Hence, in the Electronic Information and Transaction Constitution, the individual which is forward the hoax message will assume as fake news spreader. However, in several conditions, a hoax is intentionally made so that the readers or the listeners would believe the fake news.

The issue of hoaxes is also very problematic in Indonesia. There are several issues about how to identify news or information called "hoaxes". One type of misinformation spread rapidly in public spaces (especially on the internet) is information or news that questions the Indonesian people's memories of nation, religions, ethnic groups, or history. Hoaxes are considered to cause and accused of causing, various conflicts, divisions, and even fights in various parts of Indonesia⁴.

¹ Salam, Aprinus (2018). The Hoax Phenomenon in Indonesian Society: Observing Anti-Diversity Memes Since 2014. *Humaniora*, 30 (3), 315-324.

² Astuti, Yanti Dwi (2017). Peperangan Generasi Digital Natives Melawan Digital Hoax Melalui Kompetitif Kreatif. *INFORMASI Kajian Ilmu Komunikasi*, 47(2), 229-242.

³ Astuti, Yanti Dwi (2017). Peperangan Generasi Digital Natives Melawan Digital Hoax Melalui Kompetitif Kreatif. *INFORMASI Kajian Ilmu Komunikasi*, 47(2), 229-242.

⁴ Salam, Aprinus (2018). The Hoax Phenomenon in Indonesian Society: Observing Anti-Diversity Memes Since 2014. *Humaniora*, 30 (3), 315-324.

Democracy

Democracy is a concept in state life that generally chosen by countries worldwide. Democracy emerged from the demand of western society for equity in law. It happened because of America and France declaration that previously postulated that every citizen was differentiated both in social position and in law.

Democracy was derived from “demos” and “cratos” which meant a government from people by people and for people. It is a state organization based on people’s demand because people control authority.

Democracy placed citizens as the policy determiner of a nation. It shifted because of the state’s role that restricted people’s rights and demands in state administration. Those steps could be achieved through an amendment on the constitution or the regulations created by the authorized regime.

Democracy is a key concept in the political world. Democracy is deemed as the indicator of political development in a country. It is a vital position in authority sharing that is obtained from citizens, dedicated to citizens’ prosperity. This principle of *trias politica* is important when historical facts noted government’ achievements that became harder and in fact, could not transform society to be absolute and justice. Further, governmental authority sometime emerged a human rights violation.

Method

The method used in this article is qualitative. According to Flick (2002) in Gunawan¹ states that descriptive qualitative is specific interrelation in the social relationship study which is also related to the facts from life pluralism. This method is aimed to understand the subject and object of the research which is involving people, and agencies based on the fact as it is. Through this approach, it will be revealed the description of actualization, social reality, and research target perception. The researcher, in this case, is trying to understand and describe the subject of the research. Afterward, qualitative research is based on the effort in building perspective in detail, form in words, holistic description and complicated.

Arikunto² assert that the research subject is a subject that is aimed to conduct research by the researcher. Hence, the research subject can be defined as source information which excavated to reveal the facts exist in the research field. The subject of this research is the researcher which is come to observe directly regarding the presidential general election in 2019.

The kind of data that is used is involving primary data and secondary data. According to Sugiyono³, primary data is a direct data source which gives the data to the collector. Meanwhile, secondary data is a data source which is indirectly giving the data to the third party.

Further, according to Sugiyono⁴ there are three kinds of data collecting techniques, including:

a. Observation

It is depicted as ϕ study which is intentional and systematic about ϕ social phenomenon and physical indications by observing and noting (Kartono, 1980: 142) in Gunawan⁵.

b. Interview

It is known as dialogue which is directed to a certain problem. The process is involving a verbal question and answer (Kartono, 1980: 171) in Gunawan⁶.

c. Documentation

It can be defined as a note of the past event in a form of article, figure or graph, and other monumental works⁷. In this research, the researcher documented the research result by explaining through writing.

Discussion and Results

There are several influences which cause hoax in the 2019 presidential general election, including:

1. Trust Deficit

The level of trust in professional journalism in Indonesia is still low. In the survey in 2017 about trust and large institution, the low rank is a political party (45%), parliament (55%), justice court (65%) and

¹ Gunawan, Imam (2014). *Metode Penelitian Kualitatif. Teori dan Praktik*. Jakarta: Bumi Aksara, 81.

² Arikunto, Suharsimi (2006). *Prosedur Penelitian Suatu Pendekatan Praktik*. Jakarta: Rineka Cipta, 145.

³ Sugiyono (2014). *Metode Penelitian Manajemen*. Bandung: Alfabeta, 137.

⁴ Sugiyono (2014). *Metode Penelitian Manajemen*. Bandung: Alfabeta, 42.

⁵ Gunawan, Imam (2014). *Metode Penelitian Kualitatif. Teori dan Praktik*. Jakarta: Bumi Aksara, 143.

⁶ Gunawan, Imam (2014). *Metode Penelitian Kualitatif. Teori dan Praktik*. Jakarta: Bumi Aksara, 160.

⁷ Sugiyono (2014). *Metode Penelitian Manajemen*. Bandung: Alfabeta, 396.

mass media (67%). Even, the rank of Indonesian police which is known as corrupt (70%) still beat the level of press.

The result can be understood while observing the products that are offered by popular news information. The most important news in Indonesia is television which the content is influenced by the oligarchy concern. It can be seen from Metro TV which belongs to Surya Paloh as the Chief of Nasdem Party is tending to Jokowi side. Meanwhile, the media platforms owned by Jokowi's opponent show a reverse bias, with the news coverage, tends to criticize the government.

The Indonesian Democracy's Maturity in the 2019 Presidential General Election

Indonesia is a state known as the biggest population of democratic Muslim in the world, deservedly to be role model for another country. Moeldoko (3/7), the chief of president staff, as he stated to the interviewer, has given an opinion that there will be no horizontal conflict in Indonesia concern with 2019 general election. However, he stated that there are still several political parties in society. Moeldoko also adds that while talking about democracy, it is common when facing hoax, untrusted news, as well as slander. It is a warning for elite politic so that it will not sacrifice the democracy in this Indonesia since the democracy in Indonesia is already mature.

At the time while representing President Joko Widodo in the global summit Open Government Partnership in Georgia, Moeldoko has mentioned that Indonesia has been successfully held the election of regional government in 171 regions, simultaneously. He hopes that Indonesia's achievement can be a role model for another country in the world. Especially, in the conductivity, while the general election is held.

2. Hoax Prevention in Indonesian Presidential Election 2019

Hoax is dangerous, especially in the presidential election. Therefore, there must prevention as one of the solutions to stop Hoaxes. There are several ways to prevent hoax, they are:

1. Managing and improving the main media as a dominant news broadcaster. This prevention can be done if the media founders and editors had a strict policy for non-participants journalist. The policy can prevent ordinary people to spread hoaxes because the hoaxes broadcaster can be sentenced to trial if they spread hoaxes because they do not have the credibility to spread the news. Further, there must a regulation to apply objectivity standard because the objectivity standard will enable wrong news that can be identified through objectivity identification. These preventions enable credible news from the trusted broadcasters.

2. The second step is obtained by overcoming the obstacles and the internet slow access, which will lead to hoax news supply for a consumer who already relies on Facebook and Whatsapp for the political information intake. The most important is, a digital literacy program should be preferred by Joko Widodo government. Besides that, another thing should be preferred is to expand and develop the information technology education as well as digital literacy in the national curriculum.

Government Role in Hoax Prevention

The government attitude in preventing hoax phenomenon is presented in Article including Criminal Code, Constitution Number 11 year 2008 about Information and Electronic Transaction (ITE), Constitution Number 40 year 2008 about the elimination of discrimination and ethnic. Besides that, the hoax spreader should subject Article dealing with hate speech and regulate in Criminal Code and other constitution outside the Criminal Code.

From the law that is obtained by the government, the amount of hoax spreader is bigger and do not stand in line with the amount of justice. Since the government does not optimal yet in accusing the hoax spreader, the effort that is obtained merely blocking several hoax sites. Meanwhile, the hoax maker still creates a threat by spreading hoax continuously.

In against and prevent hoax, the government basically having appropriate legal protection. Article 28 verse 1 and 2, Constitution Number 11 year 2008 about Information and Electronic Transaction (ITE), Article 14 and 15 Constitution Number 1 year 1946, Article 311 and 378 Criminal Code, and Constitution Number 40 year 2008 about elimination of race and ethnic discrimination are the law products that can be used to against hoax spreading.

Besides the law product, the government has to reform the national cyber agency which can be the front guard in fight against misleading information. The government also have been issuing the QR code in every journalistic product, including news and articles that can be used to identify the validity of the information. So, therefore, an article can be traced to its main source.

From the aspect of education, the government can actually fight hoaxes by increasing reading interest, based on the study of “most littered nation in the world” conducted by the Central Connecticut State University, Indonesia is declared ranked 60 of 61 countries are interested in reading. This is quite dangerous because it is combined with the fact that Indonesia is a country with the highest social networking activities in Asia, which means it is very easy for Indonesians to spread hoax information without examining the information disseminated further.

Conclusion

Hoax news in Indonesia is a way too much in 2019 Presidential Election. The influence on hoax existence is trust deficit in which the low trust level in journalism.

The spreading of hoax news in the presidential election will be injured the democracy itself. Hence, it should be avoided by all the stakeholders and society. Actually, there are several legal efforts whether in persuasive, preventive, or even repressive. It can be seen in the Article 28 verse 1 and 2 Constitution Number 11 year 2008 about Information and Electronic Transaction, Article 14 and 15 Constitution Number 1 year 1946, Article 311 and 378 Criminal Code, as well as Constitution Number 40 year 2008 about the elimination discrimination race and ethnic. The government is also reforming the national cyber agency as a frontline in combating the dissemination misleading information.

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