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POLITICAL PARTICIPATION OF LOCAL ISLAMIC ORGANIZATIONS IN REGIONAL HEAD ELECTIONS (A CASE STUDY IN WEST NUSA TENGGARA, INDONESIA)

Fathurrijal¹, Suwandi Sumartias², Soeganda Priyatna³, Dadang Sugiana⁴

¹Faculty of Islam Religion, Universitas Muhammadiyah Mataram, Indonesia

^{2,3,4}Faculty of Communication Science, Universitas Padjadjaran, Bandung, Indonesia

Email: ¹fathurrijal9@gmail.com, ²suwandi.sumartias@unpad.ac.id,

³soeganda_priyatna@yahoo.com, ⁴dadang.sugiana@unpad.ac.id

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ABSTRACT

Background: Political participation of local organizations is more progressive and objective in terms of regeneration and organizational commitment. **Objective:** This paper examines the political participation of *Nahdlatul Wathan* (NW) as a local Islamic organization in regional head elections in Indonesia. **Methods:** This study was a qualitative study based on Max Weber's theory of social action. Data were obtained by direct observation, interviews with regional head candidates supported by the Islamic organization of NW, and documentation of political activities. **Results:** The involvement of the Islamic organization (NW) in regional head elections was conducted by selecting the best candidates for the regional head. The political participation of the Islamic organization (NW) in regional head elections was conducted by the formation of political coalitions with political parties and participating in campaigns. **Conclusion:** Further studies are needed to investigate the consistency of other local Islamic organizations in political participation.

INTRODUCTION

Direct regional head elections are a realization of the principles of democracy for individual freedom and equality, particularly in political rights. The general election affirms the highest power to govern the people. Society has an opportunity to choose the leader and their representative by direct election.

Furthermore, the implementation of direct regional elections had been conducted through their representatives in the Regional People's Representative Council. The implementation of regional elections impacts the quality of democracy for local political elites (political party elites, social elites, and religious elites). Society chooses their leaders directly through regional elections, as well as provide legitimacy to the regional leader (Zuhro et al, 2011; Hanafi, 2016; Agustino, 2009; Romli, 2007).

Regional autonomy supports the implementation of direct elections. Several economic capitals and local strongman networks compete in the direct elections. Decentralization has opened a broader political platform for a local political leader to interact and determine their regions. Activists and religious organizations, such as *Nahdlatul Ulama* (NU), *Muhammadiyah*, Indonesian Tarbiyah Association, *Nahdlatul Wathan* (NW), also have the opportunity in direct elections. The existence of these Islamic organizations ..., including their involvement in regional elections in all regions, contributes to the changes in the Indonesian political system (Agustino, 2014; Nurhasim, 2005; R. Zuhro: 2011; Azhari, 2012).

Civil Islam plays an important role in democratization after the reformation in 1998. Political participation of religious organizations encourages democratization through a democratic election system, law enforcement, anti-corruption fatwas, and encourages good governance. Furthermore, it impacts social life through the establishment of educational, health, and social facilities. The political roles of Islamic organizations such as NU and Muhammadiyah in maintaining democracy must be supported for democracy in Indonesia (Muhtadi, 2008; Eunsook, 2014; Sholikin, 2018). The public also affects the political participation of Islamic organizations in regional head elections. These religious/Islamic organizations support supports who they perceive as the best candidate to compete. Muhammadiyah members and Tarbiyah Islamiyah residents have different political attitudes in the regional head elections for the Kampar Regency, Sumatra in 2010. The involvement of the Islamic organization (NU) impacts the regional election in Sumenep, East Java (Muhtadi, 2004; Tuti, 2012; Nurfaizin, 2017; Wardan, 2019; Dwijayanti, 2018).

These studies reveal that the political role of Islamic groups affects democracy. Interestingly, Islamic groups in Indonesia compete openly with non-Muslim groups in several political parties. In fact, they go to religious groups and social organizations to get political support before the general election (Carnegie, 2008; Pepinsky et al., 2018).

The involvement of Islamic groups in practical politics does not only occur in Indonesia, but also in several Muslim-majority countries, such as Turkey, Tunisia, Iran, and Malaysia. The Islamic group in Turkey has succeeded to create many new actors, intellectuals, businessmen, and artists. The major impacts of democratic opportunities in Turkey are the emergence of personal identity, commitment, and lifestyle in public. The new public and new have opened up Islam for public discussion (Yavuz. 2003; Koni, Rosli, & Zin 2015;

Jourgensmeyer, 2019; Dagi, 2005). The political participation of religious groups has become a phenomenon in almost all Muslim countries, including Indonesia. Islamic organizations have been involved in democratic participations in regional head elections such as in West Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia. The chairman of NW has led the government of West Nusa Tenggara /has governed West Nusa Tenggara for more than 10 years. Moreover, several city districts in West Nusa Tenggara have also been led by the NW organization since 2008.

This paper aims to analyze and conceptualize the political participation of the Islamic organization (NW) during regional head elections process in West Nusa Tenggara Province. We focus on the recruitment of regional head candidates, the political participation in a political campaign, and the formation of a political coalition between NW and parties.

This study is expected to be a role model for political participation, which has been used as vote getters and supporters for the interests of elites, political parties, or other religious organizations. This study also related to the involvement of religious organizations in practical politics. Islamic mass-based religious organizations cannot only provide political support to the election participants but also have political roles in the regional head election in West Nusa Tenggara Province.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Islamic organizations such as NW grew and developed in Lombok island, Indonesia. It was established by Muhammad Zainuddin Abdul Majid in Pancor Village, East Lombok, West Nusa Tenggara Province in 1953. This Islamic organization was established for the gathering of potential people. It has two branches, namely the NW *Diniyah Islamiyah* madrasah and the *Nahdlatul Banat Diniyah Islamiyah*. NW is proposed to build a prosperous society by *Allah Subhanahu wa taala* through educational, social, Islamic preaching, and economic development activities. The purpose of establishing NW is to *li'llai sentenceillah wa izzil Islam Wal Muslimin*, which means to achieve safety and happiness in the Republic of Indonesia (Fattah A, 2017). NW cooperates with the government, Islamic organizations, and other parties as long as it does not harm NW.

The strengthening of the political role in religious communities is inevitable after 1966. NW is the largest religious organization in West Nusa Tenggara Province. This organization has succeeded to represent the best governors, regents, mayors, and legislators in West Nusa Tenggara Province. Thus, the political attitude of NW is different from the practice. The political support from NW's elites for one political party is difficult to distinguish, between personal support and organizational support. Therefore, NW has an important role in the political campaign during the general elections (regional head elections, legislative members, the Regional Representative Council, and the President).

NW's model of political participation is dynamic and changes according to the changes in the political system. Interestingly, their (NW) political affiliation to political parties is more dynamic. The political identity of NW is a strategic position in their political participation in West Nusa Tenggara because of their social capital and strong organizational networks.

Islamic organizations in regional head elections are political participation by society who are members of religious groups. It is a part of democracy. Political participation is related to the participation of citizens in determining all decisions concerning the nation and state. Political participation can be individual or collective, organized or spontaneous, peaceful or violent, legal or illegal, and effective or ineffective.

Political participation involves voluntary activities of community members through the process of direct or indirect election and public policies issued by the government (Budiardjo, 2008: 367). Milbarth and Goel divided it into several categories:

1. Apathy is defined as people who do not participate and withdraw from the political process.
2. The spectator is defined as people who have never participated in elections.
3. Gladiator is defined as people who are actively involved in the political process.

These various interpretations emphasize that political participation is the activity or participation of citizens in the government process (Budiardjo, 2008; Milbrath LW., & Goel ML, 1977).

In a general election process, a political party or political organization has the initiative to choose a cadre process. It is performed based on the guidelines and decisions within the organization or political party. Political parties provide several additional requirements beyond those determined by the state. State regulations usually lay down basic requirements for individuals who can nominate themselves, including age requirements, citizenship, place of residence, literacy qualifications, limits on money deposits, amount of support, etc. (Pamungkas, 2012).

There are the election and the appointment models in understanding candidate selection. Candidate nomination is through selection, including selectors (the election model). All candidates are selected through an election procedure without a selector who can change the composition list. This method can be called a democratic method. Meanwhile, in the appointment system, the determination of candidates does not use election. Candidates are appointed without requiring approval by other party agencies except in the nomination of the party leader. It is called an authoritarian method (Pamungkas, 2012).

In general elections, each pair of candidates for the regional head is given the same time to perform a political campaign. Article 3, paragraph 2 states that a pair of candidates has the right, opportunity, and equal treatment in the

campaign. Furthermore, Article 4, paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 emphasize that political campaigns carried out by the regional head candidate must be conducted by the principles of honesty, openness, and dialogue.

The campaign material must contain the vision, mission, and work program based on the long-term development plan for the province and the regency/city. It is based on the regulations of the Indonesian general election commission to campaign in Article 13, paragraph 1. This material can be performed orally or in writing to get public votes from the public.

Furthermore, Article 18, paragraph 1 states that all campaign messages are conducted politely by using appropriate sentences; does not interfere with public interests; provides useful information and enlightening voters; does not attack individuals, groups, or other candidate pairs; and not provocative. The political campaign must uphold the implementation of Pancasila and the Constitution in 1945, enhance morality, religious values, and national identity and increase legal awareness and responsible information as part of the political education for the community based on Article 17.

METHOD

This research was conducted during the regional head elections in 2018, West Nusa Tenggara province. There were regional head candidates recommended by NW. The political participation of local Islamic organizations in regional head elections in the province of West Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia was chosen because of studies on the political participation of Islamic organizations is limited. The political participation of religious organizations at the local level is progressive in political participation in regional head elections.

The social action theory initiated by Weber (1864–1920) shows that the involvement of NW in the regional head elections can be interpreted as democracy implementation. Social action is a human action to influence other individuals in society. People do things because they decide to and to achieve what they want. After choosing their goals, they considered the circumstances and then chose actions. There are four types of social action, according to Weber, as follows:

- 1.) Rational action is performed regularly and is hereditary.
- 2.) Affective action is performed directly based only on judgment.
- 3.) Value-oriented action is performed based on fundamental values in society.
- 4.) Goal-oriented action is performed following the goals to be achieved (Mulyana, 2006; Jones, 2010).

This study used a qualitative method. This qualitative research reveals the meaning of the behavioral phenomena of human life, as individuals, groups and the community. Qualitative research must evaluate study objects in their natural context to understand or interpret phenomena (Creswell, 1998; Denzin and Lincoln, 2009).

Data were obtained by interviews, observations, and documentation studies. Interviews were conducted with Hasanain Juaini (Secretary of the NW Executive Board and West Lombok Regent candidate from NW), Sulhan Muhlis (West Lombok Deputy Regent Candidate supported by NW), Najamuddin Musthofa (Candidate for Vice-Regent of East Lombok 2018), Prof. Dr. Fahrurrazi (Secretary of the Regional Leadership of NW, West Nusa Tenggara Province), Abdul Latif (Member of the success team for regional head candidates from the NW academics), and Abdul Kadir Jaelani (Chairperson of North Lombok NW Youth and the success team of candidates for the Governor of West Nusa Tenggara) to gain primary data. The information was explored and focused on things related to the political participation of NW in the regional head elections of the NTB Province.

RESULTS

NW has an impact on the political recruitment of regional head candidates, political coalitions with political parties, and political campaigns to promote NW candidates for the regional head position.

NW And the Recruitment of Regional Head Candidates

The recruitment process of NW cadres as regional head candidates is not easy. The candidates for the regional head position must fulfill internal consolidation with NW congregations and the voting community. Furthermore, they must have the capacity, leadership capabilities, and organizational loyalty. However, not all NW cadres are able to have these requirements. There are considerations of *a'laniyah* (rationality) as well as of *waqiyah* (reality).

The chairman of PBNW HM. Zainul Majdi explained that the requirements for NW cadres must have a level of leadership in the organization, contribute to organizational development, a good track record, and networking at all levels of the organization.

In the same way, H. Fahrurrozi Dahlan (Secretary of the Regional Leadership of NW) explained the must-have skills for NW cadres, such as integrity, economic abilities, intellectual abilities, physical health, honesty, and accountability according to the *Al-Qur'an*. These criteria can be used as a normative basis in determining the eligibility of a NW cadre as a leader.

After the requirements for the NW cadre was fulfilled, a selection was performed by the NW elite in the regional head elections. The candidates of NW are supported by the internal and external founders of NW, such as Sitti Rohmi Djalilah, TGH, Lalu Gede Muhammad Ali Wiraksakti Amir Murni, HM, Syamsul Luthfi, Lale Yakuutunnafis, TGH, Hasanain Juaini, and Muhammad Rum.

The names of the NW cadres were announced to the members and sympathizers at the official NW forums. The NWcadres who have the capacity, leadership capabilities, and organizational loyalty were selected.

Furthermore, the nominated regional head candidates were registered as regional head candidates through several political parties.

NW's Political Coalition with Political Parties

The NW organization built a coalition with political parties led by the chairman of the regional leadership. The organizational leadership at the regional level was given the mandate to establish political communication with political parties in West Nusa Tenggara Province.

There were several structural names for the NW, including H. Rosiady H. Sayuti, H. Najmul Ahyar, Nasihudin Badri, H. Khairul Rizal, and TGH. Mahalli Fikri, Irzani. They are in charge of establishing political communication to coalitions with political parties.

Although the political communication team could not convince all political parties, it was the beginning of political communication in building a coalition with political parties. The members of NW have not been able to convince all political parties to give their recommendations to the regional head candidates. The case of a regional head election in 2018, the largest local Islamic organization, only has a coalition with the Democratic Party and the Prosperous Justice Party in the gubernatorial election. Meanwhile, a coalition with the Party of *Demorkat-Partai Kebangkitan Bangsa* for the election of the regent and deputy regent in the regional head elections, West Lombok. There was no political coalition with political parties supported by NW.

The political dynamics reveals that the coalition is not linear. A coalition is different from a coalition for regent and mayor. NW Candidates found it difficult to get political support from political parties, except from the Democratic Party. Seeing such political dynamics, the PKB Chair was pleased to build a coalition with the NW cadres to compete in the regent election in East Lombok. In the end, a political coalition for regional head elections is very difficult. It needs a socio-political capital and a lot of financial capital.

The Involvement of NW In Political Campaigns

NW elites and religious leaders were present at the campaign location, and they were on the stage of honor. TGH Najamuddin Musthofa, a candidate for deputy regent for East Lombok and supported by the NW confirmed that they were actively supporting the political campaign.

The political campaign for regional head candidates was also supported by the presence of autonomous NW organizations, such as youths, students, Muslim groups, and teachers. They have an awareness to participate in a political campaign. The same information was stated by Abdul Latif, cadres of NW and Hamzanwadi Pancor University, East Lombok. NW's cadres and their congregations were actively involved in political campaigns.

The political campaign for regional head candidates mostly from the NW congregation was crowded. It was emphasized by the emergence of NW organizational symbols, flags, religious figures, and other NW organizational attributes (Figure 1. NW elites at a political campaign venue).

	
<p>Symbol and logo of <i>Nahdlatul Wathan</i> for regional head candidates.</p> <p>Photo source: Lombok Post</p>	<p>Symbol and logo of <i>Nahdlatul Wathan</i> on the batik clothes during the campaign for regional head candidates.</p> <p>Photo Source: Taken by the Author</p>

Figure 1. Political CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES FOR REGIONAL HEAD CANDIDATES OF *Nahdlatul Wathan*

DISCUSSION

NW Candidates Recruitment for Regional Heads in West Nusa Tenggara

The political participation of NW has an important role in democracy at the local level after the reformation in 1998. NW was directly involved in changing the leadership of the regional head. The involvement of this Islamic boarding school mass-based organization was according to the spirit of *himayatuddin* (upholding Islam) and *ri'âsah syu'ûn al-ummah* (realizing the welfare of the people).

Politics is crucial to realize the organization’s goal “*Izzul Islaam Wal Muslimin*” and to serve the nation and religion for NW (Source: Interview with West Lombok regent candidate TGH. Hasanain at the Nurul Haramain Ponpes, Narmada, West Lombok, 2018).

The involvement of NW in politics was performed by the political recruitment of cadres from the NW. It was conducted simultaneously with the regional head elections in West Nusa Tenggara Province. The political recruitment by the NW can be described in Figure 2.

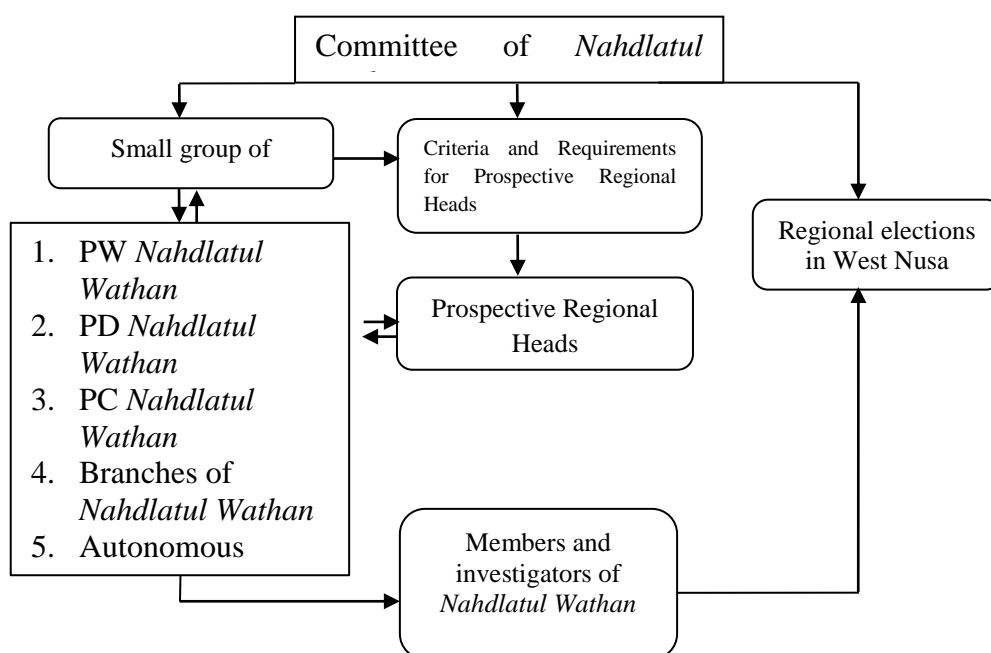


Figure 2. The Recruitment of Nahdlatul Wathan Cadres as Candidates for The Regional Head Position in West Nusa Tenggara Province

Source: Political Orator of The Chair of the PBNW, AD/ART of *Nahdlatul Wathan*

The political recruitment of NW candidates was done simultaneously with the regional elections in West Nusa Tenggara province. The terms and criteria were determined by the central leadership of the organization. The political recruitment of NW has not been found in any other Islamic organization in the West Nusa Tenggara Province. Political recruitment of NW was a confirmation of the political on democracy at the local level.

The involvement of Islamic organizations in politics comes from the interpretation of *Dinun Wadaulah's* Islamic rule (Islam as a religion). It indicates that the unity between religion and politics is critical and cannot be negotiated. Political aims in Islam avoid personal and group pragmatism. Politics must benefit religion and people (Hikam, 2000; Jati, 2016).

NW Coalition and Pragmatism

The fundamental difference of NW is their openness to an affiliation with one of the political parties in Indonesia, which is impossible to find in other Islamic organizations. Political affiliation with one of these political parties can be used as a political by cadres and members of NW in the regional head elections. NW is affiliated with the Democratic Party, a party founded by

President Soesilo Bambang Yudhoyono. It has been used as a political by NW since 2011 until now.

The political coalition with other political parties is needed in regional elections. NW is already affiliated with the Democrat party. Political coalitions between political parties choose a representative in the parliamentary or legislative seats. NW has formed a small team of political communicators to establish political communication with political parties. The purpose of the communicator team is to emphasize a political coalition between the Democratic Party and other political parties.

The political actions of NW are commonly performed by political forces in all multiparty countries. A political coalition is needed to win a democratic contestation. Coalitions are temporary cooperations of various individuals, groups, or political parties to achieve common goals, either long-term or short-term. Political coalitions are widely applied in democratic countries, including one in Indonesia. The coalition formation is based on pragmatic political interests or momentary interests. Political parties in Indonesia have not been able to independently fund parties. Political coalitions can also be created by political forces in society (Aritonang DM., 2016; Sumadinata, 2016; Hertanto H & Sulaiman NA., 2013).

The NW team has tried to build political coalitions with political parties in the regional head elections in West Nusa Tenggara. However, it was not easy because there is no guarantee from political parties. This condition occurs because of several factors: NW is not distributed across all existing political parties and the pragmatism of political parties.

NW has a strong political capital. Furthermore, NW did not anticipate the pragmatism of political parties in 2018. All political lobbying with the party leads to the financial capacity of the candidate contestant.

“The face of our political parties during the regional elections is similar to traders. They sell recommendation letters to prospective regional head candidates. We also buy recommendation letters at an expensive price, but other regional head candidates provide a higher price than the price we can afford “

(Source: Interview with Sulhan Muhlis, the candidate for deputy regent of West Lombok, January 10th, 2019).

Such information is a common phenomenon in democratic practices in Indonesia. The practice of political party pragmatism (buying and selling of recommendations of political parties) exists at every moment of the general elections. Political parties in the regional elections are more concerned with finances than the capacity of the candidate. Therefore, the budget has to be issued, and must cost up to tens of billions for a regional head candidate (Fitriyah, 2012; Hadinatha, 2018; Ananingsih, 2016).

Political coalitions with political parties are also balanced with coalitions between activists of other religious organizations. The background of each candidate for the regional head was very easy to identify through the organizational affiliation such as NW, NU, and *Muhammadiyah*. Political coalitions can be seen in the combination of political pairs for regional head candidates in West Lombok regency and between NW cadres with NU cadres.

“I directly felt the political support from the Nahdlatul Wathan organization. Nahdlatul Wathan is a major factor in any local political contestation. In fact, in our combination yesterday, the representation affiliation of religious organizations is suitable. I am a representative of young NU politicians and young Nahdlatul Wathan politicians” (Interview: Sulhan Muhlis, January 10th, 2019).

This is an interesting finding in the practice of democracy at the local level. Islamic organizations, such as NW, NU, and *Muhammadiyah*, have an important role in political communication. Political parties are only a political factor for election administration in the regional head elections.

NW And the Political Campaign

Political campaigns are performed in regional head elections. The campaign stages for regional head elections are regulated through the General Election Commission regulations (PKPU) (concerning the election campaign for governors, deputy governors, and regents and deputy regents, as well as mayors and deputy mayors). Article 3, paragraph 2 explains that candidate pairs have the right, opportunity, and equal treatment in the campaign. Article 4, paragraphs 2 and 3 explain that the campaign is a community political education to increase voter participation in elections. Political campaigns can be performed by regional head candidate meetings, face-to-face meetings and dialogs, disseminating campaign materials to the public, installing campaign props; and other activities that do not violate the campaign prohibition and the provision of regulations.

The political campaign in Dan Nimmo's perspective is an attempt to propagate potential voters. Political campaigns are an important part of political communication. Political campaigns influence voters to have the insight, attitude, and behavior according to the candidate wishes. The campaign is intended to mobilize political support for a candidate. A political campaign is a persuasive effort to persuade other people. Therefore, voters are willing to support them. In political campaigns, political communication is developed by candidates, such as political agitation, political propaganda, and political rhetoric. There is always competition between candidates or political parties. In political campaigns, candidates raise the spirit of their supporters and convince the voters in the election (Nimmo D, 2000; Wahid, 2016; Cangara, 2016; Arifin, 2011).

The campaign begins from a competition between society groups for public support. Political campaigns have an important role in public and related to

work programs. These campaigns persuade supporters and promote the recognition of others. Moreover, political campaigns increase the political awareness of the voters to choose candidates who are campaigned (Lilleker, 2006). The elite NW organization persuades supporters to elect the regional head candidates. The political campaign persuades the voters and the NW congregation to support NW in the regional head elections in West Nusa Tenggara.

NW was able to lead Sitti Rohmi Djalilah as the elected Governor of West Nusa Tenggara in 2018. The total votes were 811,945 (31.80%) in the regional head election. The candidate for governor of West Nusa Tenggara attracts the voter's sympathy. The number of voters was 2,637,963. Furthermore, the number of compulsory voters was 3,574,214 spread across 10 regencies and cities throughout the Province of West Nusa Tenggara. The lack of support from political parties is not an obstacle for NW cadres in West Nusa Tenggara elections.

Strength of NW In the Electoral Political

NW is an Islamic socio-religious organization that is engaged with education, social affairs, and *da'wah*. The aim of the NW is *Lii'la'i Kalimatillah wa 'Izzil Islam wal Muslimin* in order to achieve safety and happiness. The organization goals are achieved according to *Ahlussunnah wal Jama'ah 'ala Mazhabil Imamusy Syafi'i r.a radliyallahu' anhu*. It includes service in the political field. NW builds a coalition with one of the political parties. It is useful in general elections or regional head elections. The development aspects for *da'wah* by NW can be hampered if NW does not have representatives in the government. Therefore, NW supports cadres who have a high loyalty to organizational sustainability. Cadres must support the vision and mission.

Cultural preaching of NW is performed by cultural and structural. NW cadres were given the mandate as political leaders at the executive and legislative levels. The political type of NW can be categorized as the political gladiator type. The political gladiator type is involved in political communication and making face-to-face communication to negotiate political decisions (Milbrath LW & Goel ML, 1977). NW leadership always told the NW congregation to unite in regional head elections in West Nusa Tenggara.

Interestingly, the political participation of NW in the West Nusa Tenggara Province was not found in other religious organizations. NU and *Muhammadiyah* elites compete in general elections. All organizational structures, assemblies, and All organizational structures and assemblies of NW was mobilized to win over the elite and its cadres. It is in line with the theory of social action by Weber (Mulyana, 2006; Jones, 2010). NW conducts political recruitment for regional head candidates, political coalitions with political parties, and being directly involved in political campaigns. NW's political choices in regional head elections are affective actions to ongoing social situations. NW reveals the existence of cadres, members, and congregations. Moreover, it affects education and social fields.

NW has sufficient social capital from political power in the West Nusa Tenggara Province. Social capital is related to the capacity of individuals to obtain material or symbolic goods. It is based on social relationships to enjoy the benefits, social participation, and trust in institutions (Ritzer G, 2004). The socio-political capital of NW is a structural network of organizations, especially in Lombok island, and is active in performing organizational activities. This social network has become NW's main force to win political contestation at the local level in West Nusa Tenggara province.

NW's organization has an organizational structure and broadcast in various aspects and sectors of public life, including politics. Based on the Articles of Association (AD) of the management structure

The management structure according to the AD in West Nusa Tenggara province are as follows:

Table 1. Management Structure of the Nahdlatul Wathan

Number	Management Structure of the Nahdlatul Wathan	
1	Committee Board: Central Level	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Daily Management of Mustasyar Council 2. Complete Management Board of Mustasyar 3. Daily Executive Board of Tanfidziyah 4. Complete Management of Tanfidziyah Council 5. Plenary Executive Board
2	Regional Management: Provincial level	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Daily Board of Executive Advisory 2. Complete Management of Advisory Board 3. Daily Management of Tanfidziyah Council 4. Complete Management of Tanfidziyah Council 5. Plenary Regional Board
3	Regional Administrators : District level	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Daily Board of Executive Advisory 2. Complete Management of Advisory Board 3. Daily Executive Board of Tanfidziyah 4. Complete Management of Tanfidziyah 5. Plenary Regional Administrators
4	Branch Manager (PC): District level	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Daily Board of Advisory Board 2. Complete Board of Advisory Board 3. Daily Executive Board of Tanfidziyah 4. Complete Management of Tanfidziyah Board 5. Plenary Branch Management
5	Branch	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Daily Board of Advisory Board

	Manager: Village/Subdistrict Level	2. Complete Board of Advisory Board 3. Daily Management of Tanfidziyah Council 4. Complete Management of Tanfidziyah Board 5. Plenary Branch Manager
6	Branch Manager (PR) Hamlet Level	1. Advisory Board of Branch Management 2. Branch Management Board of Tanfidziyah 3. Plenary branch administrator
7	Representative Board Overseas Representative	1. Advisory Board of Representative Executive 2. Tanfidziyah Board of representatives 3. Plenary representative board

Source: *Nahdlatul Wathan's* Articles of Association

NW builds an organizational device to maximize the achievement of organizational goals. There are autonomous assemblies, *lajnahs*, and bodies and bodies in the NW organization. The executors of NW's policies include the education council, the social council, the Islamic Da'wah council and the Ummah economic council.

NW has *Lajnahs* who conduct programs in certain fields to support the achievement of the goals such as Lajnah Nahdlatul Wathan Islamic Boarding School, Islamic arts and culture study program, Lajnah guidance for *Qori-Qori'ah* and *Huffadz* (*jam'iyatul Qurro wal hufadz*).

The capital of NW's political contestation is the spirituality of goodness. It is known as *Nahdlatul Wathan fil Khair*, *Nahdlatul Wathan Fastabiqul Khairat* (*Nahdlatul Wathan* in kindness, *Nahdlatul Wathan* competes for good). In the regional head election, NW cadres are fully supported by the NW. These spiritual values are strengthened by all organizational structures, citizens, and congregations to obey all decisions of the organization's leadership. The mission of NW includes their political participation in the regional head elections in West Nusa Tenggara Province.

CONCLUSION

The involvement of NW in practical politics reveals that the relationship between religion and politics in Indonesia has a long tradition. Islam is not only a universal doctrine but is also reflected in social institutions that are influenced by social conditions, space, and time. This paper confirms the involvement of NW in regional head elections in West Nusa Tenggara Province. The involvement of NW in performing political recruitment for the best candidate for the regional head. This political recruitment was conducted by the general election in the West Nusa Tenggara Province.

Political participation involves the NW's political coalitions with political parties in the regional head elections. In the regional head election system in

Indonesia, candidates for the regional head were selected independently. Political parties promoted candidates for the regional head position. NW is affiliated with the Democratic Party.

Open or closed political campaigns are conducted with the political participation of NW. At this stage, the structure of NW used organizational uniforms and organization logo. Congregations and sympathizers of NW attended the structural elite of NW in the political campaign.

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