

Internal Conflict and Electoral Performance in the Sultanate of Ternate

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Abstract

After 1998, the 47th Sultan of Ternate, Mudaffar Sjah, has always won in every electoral competition he participated. However, these electoral successes have not been followed by his sons and daughters, they lost not only at the national arena but also at the local level. His fourth wife, Boki Nita, won a seat in DPD and DPR in 2004 and 2009 respectively, but lost her DPR's seat in 2014. This paper explains factors that contribute to electoral performances among the family members of Ternate Sultanate in electoral competition since the fall of Suharto. Based on extensive fieldwork in 2014, I argue that their electoral performances depend on their capacity to manage internal conflict. The royal family members won election when the tension is low but lost the election when the internal conflict is high. However, without any campaign, Sultan has always won legislative seat that shows the supreme loyalty of the North Maluku people to him.

Short Bio

Bayu Dardias began his PhD studies at the ANU in December 2012 and is a lecturer in the Dept. of Politics and Government, UGM, Yogyakarta. He completed his Master of Public Policy at ANU in 2009, MA at UIN Yogyakarta-McGill in 2007 and BA in politics from UGM in 2002. Bayu is working on the revival of aristocrats in Indonesian politics. Since 1998, aristocrats have resurfaced in politics, and through traditional support, they have gained key positions in modern political institutions. His thesis concentrates on aristocrats in Gowa, Ternate, Gianyar, Yogyakarta and Palembang. During his fieldwork in 2014 and 2015 he has interviewed no less than 23 royal houses throughout Indonesia.

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