

## THE APPLICATION OF E-VOTING IN ELECTION: WILL IT BE POSSIBLE?

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*Submitted: 15 October 2022, Reviewed: 22 December 2022, Published: 28 December 2022*

### ABSTRACT

SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) aim to realize transparency and accountability of government performance, clean and accountable bureaucracy, and practical, efficient, and organized public services with good quality. E-voting has a strategic position in realizing the SDGs indicators, especially when looking at the potential of the KPU, ranging from the use of technology, human resources, and relationships with a wide range of stakeholders. This research uses a qualitative research design. Data were collected through in-depth interviews, documentation studies, and observation. The research findings show that the SDGs indicators, especially in the field of governance and law, have been implemented by KPU through the practice of transparency, accountability of government performance, clean and accountable bureaucracy, effective and efficient public services, and quality through the optimal utilization of information technology. The practical implication is the recommendation to implement e-voting based on the results of the potential analysis conducted by KPU. The social interest arising from applying SDGs in the electoral field is the opening of optimal public participation space in the electoral stages. This research has successfully provided recommendations for the implementation of the Election to be held in 2024.

**Keywords:** SDGs, E-government, Election, E-voting, civil liberties

### ABSTRAK (in Bahasa)

Tujuan penyelenggaraan SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) adalah untuk mewujudkan transparansi dan akuntabilitas kinerja pemerintah, birokrasi yang bersih dan akuntabel, serta pelayanan publik yang efektif, efisien, dan terorganisir dengan kualitas yang baik. E-voting memiliki posisi strategis dalam mewujudkan indikator SDGs tersebut, terutama jika melihat potensi yang dimiliki KPU, mulai dari pemanfaatan teknologi, sumber daya manusia, dan hubungan dengan pemangku kepentingan yang luas. Penelitian ini menggunakan desain penelitian kualitatif. Pengumpulan data dilakukan melalui wawancara mendalam, studi dokumentasi dan observasi. Temuan penelitian menunjukkan bahwa indikator SDGs, khususnya di bidang tata kelola pemerintahan dan hukum, telah diimplementasikan oleh KPU melalui praktik transparansi, akuntabilitas kinerja pemerintah, birokrasi yang bersih dan akuntabel, serta pelayanan publik yang efektif dan efisien, berkualitas melalui pemanfaatan teknologi informasi yang optimal. Implikasi praktisnya adalah rekomendasi penerapan e-voting berdasarkan hasil analisis potensi yang dilakukan oleh KPU. Kepentingan sosial yang timbul dari penerapan SDGs di bidang pemilihan adalah terbukanya ruang partisipasi publik yang optimal dalam tahapan pemilu. Penelitian ini berhasil memberikan rekomendasi untuk pelaksanaan Pemilu yang akan dilaksanakan pada tahun 2024.

**Kata kunci:** SDGs, E-government, pemilihan umum, E-voting, kebebasan masyarakat sipil

### BACKGROUND

The global agreement of world leaders from various countries, including Indonesia, has been stated in the Sustainable

Development Goals (SDGs), which are the reference for the activities in social, economic, environmental, legal, and governance fields. Specifically, the SDGs

aim to develop effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels. Not only focused on environmental and economic aspects, as in the research conducted by Owusu-Manu et al. (2021), which emphasizes public and private sector partnerships on economic challenges, opportunities, and strategies. Issues related to democracy and social equality will bring up the new practice of government organizations. The principles of sustainable development can be integrated into governance management as a strategic plan with a multidimensional perspective, outlined in the goals of sustainable development (Celone et al., 2021; Guarini et al., 2021; Filho, 2000). Several countries such as Italy, Australia, and Germany recommend the practice of SDGs through massive information dissemination (Meschede, 2019; Francis & Nair, 2020; Abhayawansa et al., 2021) to increase awareness of the government, the private sector, and the community, the importance of transparency, stakeholder participation, and the realization of accountability. Grover et al. (2021) emphasized the urgency of partnerships to achieve the goals of peace, justice, and strong institutions. The Indonesian government followed up on the SDGs in several strategic issues related to this research topic. The relevant target is to ensure a responsive, inclusive, participatory decision-making process at each level of the elections. The derived indicators include the index of democratic institutions, the index of civil liberties, and the index of political rights.

One institution that plays a vital role in ensuring the realization of political rights through implementing the Election (Pemilu)

is the KPU (Election Commission). As a very strategic institution, the place where people's representatives are printed who will occupy legislative and executive positions. Ideally, the KPU is faced with demands to organize electoral activities that refer to the SDGs goals, namely building transparency and accountability of government performance, clean and accountable bureaucracy, effective and efficient, and managing a good quality of public services. In the ways of realizing this, optimizing the utilization of technology is a demand that the KPU must carry out. These various information systems include SIPOL (Political Party Information System), SIDAPIL (Electoral District Information System), SIDALIH (Voter List Information System), SILON (Nomination Information System), SILOG (Logistics and Distribution Information System), SIPAW (PAW Information System), SIREKAP (Recapitulation Information System), SIDAKAM (Campaign Funding System), Digital Archive Information System, Personnel Information System, and Election Organizers, SIMAK BMN (Archive and Property Management Information System).

Based on the preliminary studies that have been carried out, the resources owned by the KPU are possible to implement an e-voting system. Data related to human resources at the KPU, specifically those of a permanent aspect, such as 8,789 employees with an education level of 60%, are strata 1, with a total of 549 work units consisting of regency/city and provincial KPUs. Moreover, as a strategic institution, the KPU can collaborate with various independent institutions that have

competence in the management of information technology, such as BPPT (Agency for the Assessment and Application of Technology), BRIN (National Research and Innovation Agency), and various universities, as it has been carried out in the procurement of diverse existing systems.

Citing the opinion of Shahib et al. (2020), there are three critical notes on the utilization of information technology by government institutions, namely, based on regulations, practice, and accountability. Thus, the various information systems managed by the KPU have become practical as an election organizer. To realize the responsibility, speed, and accuracy in providing services to eligible participants and the public. The KPU has implemented these various systems, but E-voting has yet to be realized. In multiple countries, e-voting has been implemented, such as in Kazakhstan; it was called a global trend that can describe the political and socio-economic risks; over time, Kazakhstan re-implements the conventional way by using ballot papers (Kassen, 2020). This is due to a lack of trust from the non-government sector and a lack of public sector capacity to ensure the integrity of the e-voting platform. Therefore, by formulating a comprehensive policy, the emphasis on public trust is the keyword.

Meanwhile, Mohd Suki & Mohd Suki (2017) observed e-voting as a mode of decision-making amid further education. Voters feel assured of their involvement in making decisions. E-voting is also being implemented in the Middle East, as Jordan has successfully changed traditional voting methods to interactive web-based voting.

Alomari's research (2016) found that e-voting success is manifested by trust in the government, perceived usefulness, and solutions to the complexities of traditional voting system problems. Concerning the scientific realm, e-voting includes the implementation of e-government, namely using information technology in government practice to provide effective, efficient, and transparent services. It is a transformation to support the realization of government policies in optimizing better public services. E-Government involves the government in managing the internet based on communication technology, various institutions, and the community to realize more effective and efficient benefits in multiple domains (Kompella, 2020; Subawa et al., 2020; Subawa et al., 2021).

Meanwhile, judging from the urgency of implementing e-voting in Indonesia, it is very strongly convincing, with Indonesia's geographical condition as an archipelago, with a population of 273.87 million people, most of whom are productive age. Indonesia's electoral history notes that human resources are always involved in every election, and a huge budget is required. The KPU must serve 190 million voters during the 2019 Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections and Legislative Elections spread across 34 provinces, 514 regencies/cities, and 7,230 sub-districts. The 2019 Simultaneous Elections, which combined the implementation of the Presidential and Legislative Elections, resulted in the deaths of 894 officers and 5,175 people who were sick due to fatigue on duty (Source data: KPU Republic of Indonesia). Besides, suppose it is associated with empirical

aspects. Several things negate the importance of implementing information technology systems in electoral activities through vertical elements applied to the KPU's internal environment. For various institutional levels from the center to the village, they are presenting information, searching for data, accelerating decision making, data processing, and the potential for discovering new electoral knowledge.

Horizontal aspects overshadow the relationship between KPU and various institutions, including ease of activity, the flow of activity processes, distribution of information, system integration, and transformation of physical entities. As for the diagonal aspect, which shows the interaction of horizontal and vertical elements carried out by the KPU through this digital transformation, it will facilitate the multi-way communication process, disseminate more dynamic information, produce a multimedia synthesis, facilitate public interaction, and widen the discourse network. Observing this phenomenon, this study is objected to contributing ideas related to the urgency of implementing e-voting in the implementation of elections in Indonesia. In particular, the 2024 Election will simultaneously hold the Legislative Election and the Presidential Election. In addition, e-voting is a must for realizing the SDGs in developing practical, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels.

The problem in this research is the urgency of implementing e-voting in the 2024 Election. The research's speed lies in applying e-voting to implement SDG targets, particularly the fourth pillar, governance. That as a very strategic institution, the KPU should build complete

transparency; it is necessary to realize effectiveness and efficiency in the implementation of elections, the need to reduce the involvement of human resources in the current era of digitalization and disruption, as well as emphasize the readiness to change the mindset and culture of the KPU apparatus at once community election stakeholders.

Several research results have relevance to the research conducted; the first is a research topic related to the urgency of e-voting. Field Sharma (2020) and Field Abdennadher & Cheffi (2020) studied the relationship between people's skills in utilizing technology, the quality of the internet network, the strategic role of media, and trust in government in the success of e-voting. The results of the study indicate that the security of the e-voting system is an important thing that is the primary driver of the community in exercising their right to vote. The other research findings from Ntale & Ngoma (2021) showed that regarding e-voting in Africa, election organizers encourage political parties, prospective voters, and other stakeholders to use technology-oriented systems to realize their political rights. Meanwhile, Krivosova (2021) found the use of voting technology as an innovation to increase voter participation in elections and democracy; besides, it has the potential to reduce the complexity of the electoral administrator's role.

E-voting has also revived the confidence of most Nigerian voters and international partners against electoral fraud in the country (Nwangwu et al., 2018). How is this method implemented in Indonesia? This article aims to discuss it more. If it is related to the condition of Indonesia, the use

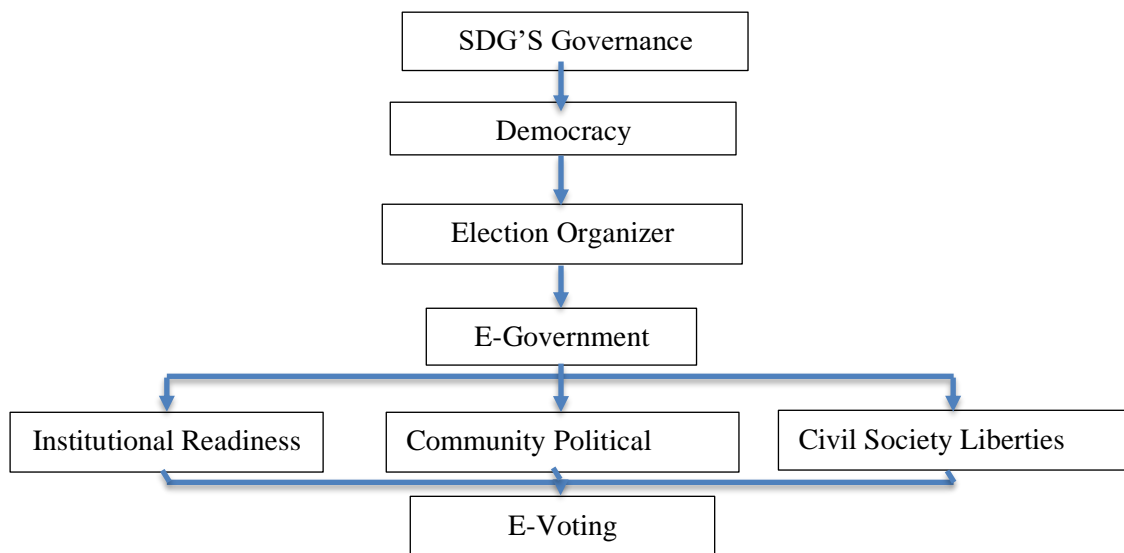
Vol.8, No.2, 2022  
Doi: 10.24198/cosmogov.v8i2.42443  
<http://jurnal.unpad.ac.id/cosmogov/index>

of e-voting reduces the administrative workload that has so far involved election officials at various levels. The practice of e-voting is part of e-government, namely the application of information technology in government operations. Thus, government performance becomes more optimal. Furthermore, e-governance shows the utilization of information technology to transform the functions and structures of government. Through e-government, government agencies can assess the allocation of resources needed in the e-voting (Arias et al., 2019).

Collaboration among public organizations is the keyword of the e-governance (Pandey & Suri, 2020). To realize an e-voting system, Lee-Geiller & Lee (2019) emphasized the importance of implementing information systems, business sector participation, public administration, and applying democratic theory within the e-government framework. After that, it is necessary to examine the acceptance of citizens and the totality of their involvement as government agents in

democratic practice. Hereafter, more effective public choices are realized. Studies conducted by Jain Gupta & Suri (2017) and Vaidya (2020) on the Indian government showed that there had been an extraordinary effort in pursuing the use of information and communication technology for good governance, resulting in easy, transparent, cost-effective access to public services. There is an increase in general value and positive attitudes among the public toward the Situation-Actor-Process framework in terms of saving time, money, and energy. Soni et al. (2017) confirmed the progress of e-governance in various sectors in India, especially after exploring the relationship among perceptions of accountability, responsiveness and transparency, and public trust in government (Hartanto et al., 2021). The research gap that emerged after tracing several research results was to look at the relationship between e-voting and the SDGs as the realization of sustainable development in information technology-based governance

**Figure 1.** Research Framework



From Figure 1, it can be explained that one of the points in the SDGs is the realization of a transparent, accountable, effective, and efficient government providing quality public services. KPU as the election organizer in carrying out democratic activities, integrates the SDG's principles in electoral management by implementing e-government. KPU's readiness from the aspect of resources, application of technology, the breadth of the scope of tasks, the political rights of the

people, and the freedom of civil society can be ideally accommodated if e-voting can be applied to the 2024 election.

## METHOD

In general, the research was conducted using descriptive qualitative methods. The research location is in the Province of Bali with several considerations; namely, the voter participation rate is always high in every election.

**Table 1. Indonesia Presidential Election Participation Recapitulation 2004 - 2019 in Bali Province**

No	Year	Voters	Valid Voters	%
1	2004	2.196.710	2.001.953	91,13
2	2009	2.696.625	1.912.337	70,92
3	2014	2.942.282	2.149.351	73,05
4	2019	3.130.288	2.564.472	81,92

Source: BPS, 2022; KPU Bali, 2022

The geographical conditions of Bali are heterogeneous. Therefore, they represent the characteristics of urban and rural areas, each of which has the ease and difficulty of accessing information technology, which is difficult to reach, and the urban regions. Bali is also a success barometer of the election in its position as an international tourist destination.

Furthermore, the data was collected using in-depth interviews with some relevant people who are well-known about this topic, documentation studies, and observations. Besides, the informants in this

study included election organizers, political parties, and community leaders from several segments of voters who were determined purposively based on their expertise in the electoral field. The data sources in this study include primary and secondary data sources, with types of qualitative data as the primary data and types of quantitative data as supporting data. All collected data were analyzed using the stages of data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing. This study also used source triangulation and researchers' persistence in observing the data's validity.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### **The Reality of Democratic Institutions in the Disruptive Era**

The disruptive era has brought significant changes in various life fields, including politics. The utilization of information technology is a marker of the disruption era in the political field that demands the implementation of disruptive leaders, mindsets, bureaucracies, and innovation. These four things are interrelated with each other. Digitalization has become a necessity, particularly with the Covid-19 Pandemic, which has changed the whole order of people's lives, giving rise to new habits in various activities. The KPU has made multiple breakthroughs. The researchers' observation showed that all stages of the election had been based on information technology systems, from preparation and implementation to evaluation. One of SIDALIH's developments to protect people's voting rights is the innovation of the mobile application, namely "Lindungihakmu." Several things that voters can do independently are conducting self-data collection as voters, changing personal data, and crossing out data that do not meet the requirements.

The public can download the "Lindungihakmu" mobile application on the Play Store for Android Users. Before this innovation emerged, voters could not make changes independently; however, officers could only do it. Informant III from the KPU stated that the electoral services are in the hands of the community. Moreover, it can even be carried out independently. Furthermore, informant IV added that the "Lindungihakmu" application could reduce

or even eliminate the need for PPDP (Voter Data Update Officers), which numbered millions of people. This will further reduce the use of labor in implementing Elections.

Theoretically, this can be explained by the disruptive leader, mindset, bureaucracy, and innovation. Thus, the initiative of a leader to utilize the information technology systems has taken place at the KPU as a democratic institution. Indeed, with the awareness that services will be faster, more effective, and more efficient if utilizing technology, this mindset must also be had by KPU employees as the organization's driving force. They must be sincere if the space for movement in carrying out bureaucratic functions and serving electoral stakeholders will replace the voting community with technology. Furthermore, at this point, the KPU ranks must make a breakthrough, focusing on e-government-based innovations, specifically to realize an e-voting system in the Election in 2024. The realization of e-government as an application of information technology in government operations has been recognized to optimize government performance at the KPU. If it is observed from the implementation of various systems used by the KPU, as contained in the research background, then the condition of the KPU as a democratic institution is already prepared to implement e-voting. As a vertical agency, the Bali Provincial KPU implements policies by the Indonesian KPU's directions and the readiness to implement e-voting. The willingness of the stakeholders at Bali Provincial KPU, Regency/City KPU, PPK and PPS in the village is shown by their ability to use

various applications that have been successfully operationalized lately.

In the 2020 election, the latest application that was launched and greatly facilitated the performance of the election administration was “SIREKAP.” Informant IV stated that “SIREKAP” is a tool for *KPU* in carrying out their duties, helping to accelerate the work of the *KPU* and being able to publish the results of the vote count, which emphasizes the principles of transparency and accountability, minimizes errors, and capable of being accessed by community stakeholders. Furthermore, it was added that the official results of the calculation and recapitulation of votes on the Regional Election, or “PILKADA” in 2020, were still based on the meeting minutes and certificates as the results of manual calculations and recapitulation.

Capturing the expressions from informants and the reality that has occurred at the *KPU* about e-government is understood as the application of information technology to operationalize government sector performance. It is objected to producing a more optimal government performance, which can be implemented through e-voting. Moreover, the readiness of the *KPU* stakeholders can be observed in terms of infrastructure and resources. The infrastructure in question consists of network readiness, security, application servers, data and content and application management facilities, hardware, operation, and system management. Let us look closely at the strategic side of the e-government plan. It can be stated that the *KPU* has implemented a strategy with clear, realistic goals, accompanied by certainty of

financial resources dan coordination among government agencies.

Meanwhile, from the legal and policy barriers aspect, the direction of implementing e-voting has met the legality aspect, which is fulfilled through the issuance mechanism of the *PKPU* (Election Commission Regulation), preceded by discussions involving the government and the legislature (DPR). Maphunye (2017) emphasized the importance of increasing the capacity of election organizers so thus they can plan and realize elections effectively and efficiently. African governments begin by emphasizing ongoing training to ensure their performance. Likewise, the Indonesian *KPU*, particularly *KPU* Bali Province. The results of the researcher's observations and interviews show that technical guidance in stages up to the level of the organizers is always held on an ongoing basis.

### **The Realization of Political Rights**

One of the realities in the 2020 Simultaneous Elections was the shift in the form of campaigns, which mostly switched digitally through social media. The eligible participants have abandoned movements in conventional forms, such as general meetings, limited meetings, citizen visits, sports activities, arts, and bazaars. Likewise, campaigns through the installation of props, distribution of campaign materials, and campaigns in printed media are increasingly being left. The new trend of campaign behavior on social media has become a habit of election participants, increasingly in demand by voters, and ultimately demands the *KPU*'s readiness to facilitate it. This also allows social media page providers, content



creators, photographers, and managers to build new economic synergy. The following is an excerpt of Informant I from the interview session, *"In doing the campaign, we follow the prevailing trends in society, and Covid-19 has limited the space for people to move. They do not want to be visited and are also prohibited from gathering. The most appropriate campaign space is through social media"*. Informant II added, *"Through social media, the campaign materials that we convey are directly in the hands of prospective voters; they can see anytime, anywhere, not limited in time. We can update the content anytime, adapting to the candidate's current activities and issues."* Other informants from the campaign team also shared the same opinion regarding the reason for choosing social media as the leading choice in doing the campaign. This reality is in line with Raekstad's (2020) opinion, which stated that there had been significant changes in a democracy based on politics and economics. Susila et al. (2020) research showed the urgency of political communication to carry out political mobilization and build the trust of political actors, the community, and the government to increase political participation. This conception provides an understanding of the importance of proper branding related to the political activities of policymakers and political actors in developing democratic countries such as Indonesia.

Other data showed that the changes faced by election participants in realizing their political rights also occurred in the nomination process, which up to now still requires them to collect hardcopy files. For instance, evidence of administrative

requirements in the form of diplomas, certificates from the police, free of drugs, free letters of crime, ID Cards, and recap of signatures from supporters; in the end, it comes to the vast number of documents. In the 2024 Elections, all these things will be transferred in an integrated, paperless form. The following is the statement of Informant V, *"In the 2024 Elections, the nomination documents which were previously in the form of hardcopy, which parties and individual candidates usually deposit, will turn to paperless and integrated mode, such as the public support document, it is enough to scan their NIK (Population Identification Number), and other requirements are enough to be uploaded in the provided system."* In the researcher's analysis, this is very interesting. So far, in every nomination process, candidates who register for various elections must attend the KPU directly by collecting many files. They usually come with a large crowd as evidence of support, a show of strength, and are often accompanied by various artistic attractions such as dance and gamelan.

Meanwhile, from the KPU side, an actualization process must be carried out at this nomination stage. KPU must ensure the validity of the administrative requirements that have been deposited, such as checking diplomas and ensuring synchronization of community support by visiting addresses one by one from the ID cards collected by supporters. If it has not been found, then the PPS (Voting Committee) on duty in the village must return to the address. The euphoria of the election was felt at this stage, it required much workforce, a gradual coordination process, and a long time, and the potential for fraud was relatively high.

Because in this process, there is an interaction between entities, each of which has an interest.

The nomination process that switches to paperless will also force other government institutions to produce paperless documents, such as a certificate of physical and mental health issued by a government hospital, a non-criminal acquittal from the Court, a certificate from the police, a diploma issued by an educational institution and various other administrative requirements. Consequently, *KPU* must implement integrated technology with the various government agencies involved. The research results of Sharma can explain this Abdennadher & Cheffi (2020), the importance of community skills in utilizing technology, which makes people more active in using their political rights (voting and being elected) and reducing the complexity of election administration. The skills referred to in this case include the ability to upload and integrate the necessary digital data in fulfilling the requirements. The optimal utilization of information technology is also the realization of the Situation-Actor-Process in terms of saving time, money, and energy.

### **Civil Society Liberties**

The political rights of citizens (civil rights) and civil rights are expressions of civil society's freedom to be realized in elections, namely the right to vote and the right to be elected. Civil society shows the ability to survive various regime changes; they actively encourage the acceleration of the democratic agenda. This condition also occurs in Indonesia (Bell, 2022;

Sombatpoonsiri, 2020). In the Indonesian context, the legality of civil society liberties is quite influential; its implementation is guaranteed by the 1945 Constitution, particularly in Article 28, which includes: the right to life, equality in law, government and citizenship, freedom of religion, freedom of association, assembly, expression, communication, and obtaining information, a sense of security, freedom from threats, torture, political asylum, not being enslaved, being recognized as a person before the law, and not being discriminated against.

Meanwhile, in the international scope, the freedom of civil society is guaranteed in Law no. 12 of 2005 concerning the ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). Indonesia has ratified the ICCPR; hence, it must guarantee citizens' freedom and civil rights. Regarding this research, to realize political rights, both the right to vote and to be elected, *KPU* as the election organizer, must facilitate the rights of citizens, individually and in groups. Febriansyah et al. (2020) emphasized the importance of civil society participation in the context of the Indonesian electoral system in the corridor of democratic consolidation in Indonesia.

As a reference, Haute et al. (2021) stated that voter data for the 2020 French elections changed due to the Covid-19 pandemic, especially in age participation rates. A decrease in participation rates due to socioeconomic status showed that the health crisis has consequences for patterns of social inequality in political representation. The same phenomenon also occurs in Indonesia and Bali; the restoration of voter data

accuracy carried out by the *KPU* through continuous updating of voter data is a manifestation of the *KPU*'s commitment to guarantee the implementation of civil society freedoms in a democracy. The public can actively improve their data through the access provided, after which the government will finalize it through the civil registry office. In these conditions, the ability of human resources plays a crucial role, namely the power of the community to utilize information technology. Even Rana et al. (2017) argued that human resource development is closely related to political, sociocultural, and economic conditions and a country's formal and informal education systems. In realizing its political rights through the Social Capital Theory initiated by Bourdieu, civil society uses social capital through network structures, cultural capital in knowledge and skills, economic prosperity, and symbolic wealth (Mellquist, 2022).

Grahn & Lührmann (2021) introduced the term Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) as 'schools of democracy' whose existence is essential in encouraging the consolidation of democracy. In Indonesia and Bali, civil society organizations that become institutions to form democratic actors are very diverse, such as political parties, social organizations, community communities on a regional basis, and others. People gather because of the similarity of ideas, ideologies, and ideals. They are bound to the prevailing norms about the existence of disabilities and their freedom as part of civil society. Atkinson et al. (2017) outlined that the political participation of persons with disabilities, who account for around 15% of

the world's population, needs attention, predominantly increasing their access to the political process. Their political activities need special attention; *KPU*, the election organizer, must facilitate their limitations. Hereafter, they can be involved optimally in elections. For example, ensuring their registration on the voter list and the availability of infrastructure that provides access for people with disabilities. In addition, the reality of political implementation also needs to be emphasized on the participation based on equality, social justice, and recognition as a form of awareness of inclusion to strengthen the importance of civil society participation in the context of the Indonesian electoral system in the corridor of democratic consolidation in Indonesia (Zilla, 2022; Febriansyah et al., 2020). This attention to the Indonesian election confirms the implementation of a very competitive electoral democracy (Aspinall & Mietzner, 2019). This situation will repeat itself in the upcoming 2024 Elections, which will be held simultaneously, namely the Presidential, Legislative, and Regional Elections.

### **SDGs Democratic Government**

In general, the goals of the SDGs are to build transparency and accountability in government performance, clean and accountable, effective and efficient bureaucracy, and to organize a good quality of public services. This goal becomes a reference for the *KPU* as an institution that organizes and facilitates the democratic process in Indonesia. Nowack & Leininger (2022) stated that there had been a trend of global autocracy, which strengthens the

position of a single ruler. This condition certainly hinders the realization of the ideal and sustainable practice of democracy. The importance of democracy is not only making decisions and choosing policies, but the involvement of various elements in making these decisions emphasizes democratic inclusion, referring to the extent of deliberation and consensus in an ideal democracy. Disagreements in a democracy are resolved by democratic decisions (Arlen & Rossi, 2022; Rosenberg, 2020). Clear regulations and systems must protect optimal community involvement in the democratic process. Thus, *KPU* has disrupted itself institutionally. One of them is applying the utilization of information technology at various stages. This reality can be explained by Leiviskä (2020), which emphasizes the relationship between democracy and education. It stated that democracy had been disrupted; education is a subjective process to improve democratic and educational institutions. The principles of sustainable development have been integrated into the management of *KPU*.

The SDGs indicators in the field of governance have been implemented well by *KPU* as part of government agencies. The data at the research location showed that *KPU* had implemented transparency through various systems in every election stage, information services through e-PPID, expected delivery of *KPU* performance information, and other things. The accountability side is shown through the use and accountability of the budget openly, by government regulations governing spending, and the use of state finances. As a public institution that uses funds from the state in its activities, *KPU* must convey the

activities carried out as a form of accountability to the public. In addition, the procurement process for goods and services is carried out in an open system-based through the LPSE (Electronic Procurement Service) and complies with the regulations for the procurement of goods and services. *KPU*'s readiness to implement e-voting can be seen from its track record in utilizing information technology tools, the enthusiasm of human resources, and the optimal involvement of community stakeholders according to their capacity.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the description of the research results, it can be concluded that the Election Commission, well-known as *KPU*, is ready to use e-voting as one of the SDGs realizations in organizing various elections. *KPU* has proven the practice of SDGs, especially in the field of governance, through transparency and accountability of government performance, a clean and accountable bureaucracy, effective and efficiency, and organizing a good quality service of quality public services.

The theoretical implication of this research is the application of E-Government Theory optimally in the practice of organizing elections and institutional governance by the *KPU* optimally. Using information technology, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Big data, the Internet of Things (IoT), and Cloud Computing to build a good relationship with stakeholders of the wider community and other government agencies in implementing elections.

However, this study has limitations from the aspect of the research location,

Vol.8, No.2, 2022  
Doi: 10.24198/cosmogov.v8i2.42443  
<http://jurnal.unpad.ac.id/cosmogov/index>

considering that the scope of the KPU's work area is not only the Bali Provincial KPU. In addition, the consistency of the realization of the SDGs indicators needs to be observed over a more extended research

period. Therefore, it can expand the research from the aspect of the locus and research time to get more comprehensive research results.

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