POLITICAL CLIQUES AND THE FORMATION OF POLITICAL PARTY COALITIONS: A Study Of The "Banten Maju" Coalition In The 2024 Banten Gubernatorial Election

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ABSTRACT

This study analyzes how the practice of political cliques influences the formation process of the Banten Maju Coalition in the context of the 2024 Banten gubernatorial election. The researcher employs the concept of political cliques and utilizes a qualitative research method, with primary data supported by secondary data through a literature review to analyze the role of political cliques in the coalition's formation. The study finds that the formation of the Banten Maju Coalition in the 2024 gubernatorial election is not based on ideological similarity or shared political platforms among the participating political parties. Instead, the coalition is predominantly influenced by pragmatic interests rooted in the power of political cliques at the national level. Key figures within the coalition parties hold significant influence in determining the coalition's direction, with most decisions made by the parties' central executive boards (DPP).

Keywords: Banten, Political Clique, Banten Maju Coalition

INTRODUCTION

Regional elections represent an authentic form of direct democracy, allowing citizens to elect their regional leaders (Anggoro et al., 2020). In practice, political parties actively participate in regional elections to assert their presence, which is an integral aspect of the democratic process (Anggoro et al., 2020). One of the critical decisions made by political parties during these elections is the formation of coalitions.

In the context of gubernatorial elections (Pilgub), party coalitions play a highly strategic role, as they enable parties to pool their voter bases, resources, and political networks (Tomsa, 2008). The size of a coalition and the number of parties involved influence the diversity of interests represented in decision-making. Within these coalitions, dominant and subordinate groups often emerge, leading to the formation of political cliques.

Political cliques is a small groups within parties with specific interests and agendas, act as key players in coalition formation. These cliques can significantly shape political processes and decision-making (Bensman & Vidich, 1962). According to Boissevain (1974), two main indicators signal the emergence of a clique: first, the objective interconnection among clique members; and second, the shared recognition of a common identity by both members and non-members.

In gubernatorial elections, political cliques can influence a party's decision to join a coalition, select candidates, and develop campaign strategies (Chalik, 2017). The presence of political cliques can result in the emergence of informal power structures that operate outside formal mechanisms, with influential individuals often acting behind the scenes.

The province of Banten, for instance, exhibits unique political characteristics shaped by the strong influence of political dynasties, fragmentation among political parties, and local issues that dominate voter concerns (Mietzner, 2013). In the 2024 Banten gubernatorial election, two candidate pairs are competing: Andra Soni–Dimyati Natakusumah and Airin Rachmy Diany–Ade Sumardi. Airin–Ade were nominated by two parties, namely the Partai Demokrasi Indonesia Perjuangan (PDIP) and the Golkar Party. In addition, this pair also received support from non-parliamentary parties such as the Labor Party, PKN, Gelora Party, and Ummat Party (Tim detikcom, 2024). The Airin–Ade coalition, known as the "Banten Maju Bersama" coalition, holds a total of 28 seats in the Banten Regional House of Representatives (DPRD), consisting of 14 seats from PDIP and 14 seats from the Golkar Party (Tim detikcom, 2024).

On the other hand, the Andra–Dimyati ticket is backed by the "Banten Maju" coalition, which comprises ten political parties: Gerindra, PKS, Demokrat, NasDem, PKB, PAN, PPP, PSI, Garuda, and Prima. Together, these parties control 72 percent of the seats in the Banten's Regional House of Representative (Anggrainy, 2024). The dominance of the Andra–Dimyati coalition is expected to provide a stable foundation for the incoming government, as the majority of parties are part of the governing coalition (Indrayana, 2008).

However, this large coalition also brings potential drawbacks. Such coalitions do not necessarily reflect loyalty to the leader, even though leaders may share power with coalition partners as a form of reciprocity. Moreover, within a grand coalition, there is often competition over power-sharing arrangements, with ongoing negotiations over who receives power and in what proportion (Slater, 2018).

Previous studies have shown that in Indonesia, coalitions are often based on pragmatic power-sharing interests rather than ideological alignment (Slater, 2018). This leads to frequent changes in coalition composition with each election cycle. Ideally, coalitions should be more permanent to ensure effective checks and balances within government.

Furthermore, the formation of coalitions based on shared party ideology would better align policy programs with the coalition's ideological goals and reduce friction among parties and between regional leaders and their deputies (Muhajir et al., 2021).

Other research highlights the significant influence of political dynasties and oligarchies on local political decisions (Susanti, 2017), while additional studies emphasize the importance of candidate resources, leadership, campaign strategy, and funding in coalition formation (Caswell, 2009). Building on these findings, this study focuses on how political cliques influence coalition formation in gubernatorial elections, particularly in Banten. It aims to explore how these small groups within parties make coalition-building decisions.

Based on the issues and previous studies outlined earlier, this research assumes that the formation of the Banten Maju Coalition in the 2024 Banten gubernatorial election is not based on ideological similarity or political platforms, but rather influenced by elite political cliques, such as Prabowo Subianto through Sufmi Dasco Ahmad, Jokowi through Kaesang Pangarep, and Jazuli Juwaini. The formation of the Banten Maju Coalition in the 2024 gubernatorial election is more driven by pragmatic factors such as power interests, access to resources, and elite political cliques.

Therefore, it is crucial to study the role of political cliques and the formation of the Banten Maju Coalition in the 2024 Banten gubernatorial election. Based on the background described above, there has been no prior research specifically addressing the influence of political cliques on the formation of political party coalitions, particularly in Banten. Hence, the researcher proposes the following research question: How do the practices of political cliques influence the coalition formation process of Banten Maju in the context of the 2024 Banten gubernatorial election?

RESEARCH METHOD

The research method employed in this study is a qualitative approach. Qualitative research is a type of study that explores and seeks to understand the meanings held by individuals or groups arising from social issues (Creswell, 2014). Since this study aims to examine the form of party coalitions formed based on political cliques in the 2024 Banten gubernatorial election, the qualitative approach is considered the most appropriate.

In this study, the unit of analysis is the group. Specifically, the groups analyzed are the Banten Maju Coalition and the political parties involved, such as Gerindra, PKS, PAN, and PSI. These political parties are regarded as representatives of the Banten Maju Coalition. Gerindra and PKS serve as the main supporting parties in the coalition, while PAN and PSI act as supporting parties.

The primary data sources for this research are the chairpersons of the Regional Leadership Councils (DPD) or Regional Leadership Boards (DPW) of the political parties (Gerindra, PKS, PAN, and PSI) based at the provincial level in Banten.

To complement the primary data, secondary data sources are also utilized. These include scholarly books on political cliques and party coalitions, academic journals, journalistic reports, the statutes and bylaws (AD/ART) of the political parties involved, documents related to the Banten Maju Coalition, and other relevant secondary sources. The integration of these secondary data enriches the research by providing contextual background, theoretical frameworks, and empirical evidence that support and triangulate the findings derived from primary data.

The data reduction process begins immediately after data collection. This involves systematically selecting, focusing, and simplifying the vast amount of raw data to highlight only the information that is relevant to the research objectives. Irrelevant or redundant data are filtered out to enhance clarity and focus. The researcher carefully reviews transcripts, documents, and notes, identifying key themes, patterns, and concepts related to political

cliques and coalition formation. This step is crucial to manage the volume of data and prepare it for further analysis.

Following data reduction, the researcher employs coding techniques to categorize and organize the data. Coding involves assigning labels or codes to segments of data that represent specific ideas or themes. These codes can be descriptive, interpretive, or analytical, depending on the nature of the data. The researcher groups similar codes into broader categories or themes that capture the essence of the phenomena under study. This thematic organization facilitates a deeper understanding of how political cliques influence coalition dynamics and decision-making processes.

The analytical phase involves interpreting the coded and grouped data to uncover relationships, patterns, and insights. The researcher applies qualitative data analysis methods such as thematic analysis, content analysis, or narrative analysis to explore how political cliques operate within the coalition formation process. This step includes comparing findings across different data sources, identifying contradictions or consistencies, and contextualizing the results within existing theories and literature.

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Finally, the processed and analyzed data are synthesized into a coherent narrative that addresses the research questions. This narrative integrates empirical findings with theoretical insights to provide a comprehensive explanation of the role of political cliques in shaping the Banten Maju Coalition. The narrative approach allows the researcher to present complex social and political processes in a structured and accessible manner, highlighting key findings, implications, and potential areas for further research.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION
The Dynamics of Political Coalitions in the Gubernatorial Election

Before the formation of coalitions in the 2024 gubernatorial election, each political party and individual political actor expressed their interest in the candidacy process as prospective candidates for the 2024 Banten Governor election. This interest generally arose from public attitudes toward the track records of the prospective candidates, as well as the party figures deemed suitable to fill the candidate positions in the 2024 Banten gubernatorial election. Among the prospective candidates, there were individuals who had previously held leadership roles either in Banten or in regions within the Banten province.

At least eight prospective candidates were rumored to be contesting in the candidacy process for the 2024 Banten gubernatorial election. These names were compiled by Litbang Kompas, which conducted an electability survey of the potential candidates for the 2024 Banten gubernatorial election. First, there is Airin Rachmy, who emerged as the strongest

candidate in the 2024 gubernatorial race. Airin Rachmy served as the Mayor of South Tangerang from 2011 to 2021 and initially enjoyed high electability, reaching 38.3 percent (Suryaningtyas, 2024).

The next prospective candidate is Wahidin Halim, the former Governor of Banten from 2017 to 2022. Wahidin Halim was initially supported by the Nasdem Party and was elected as a member of the House of Representatives in the 2024 legislative election after contesting in the Banten III electoral district (CNN Indonesia, 2024). According to the survey results compiled by Litbang Kompas, Wahidin Halim ranked second with an electability percentage of 18.1 percent. This figure is below that of Rano Karno, who was Wahidin Halim's opponent in the 2017 Banten gubernatorial election, but higher than Airin Rachmy's score (Suryaningtyas, 2024). Wahidin Halim's strong position as a prospective candidate is attributed to his status as the former governor, making him a familiar figure to the people of Banten.

Another strong prospective candidate in the 2024 gubernatorial election is Rano Karno. Rano Karno has held several key positions in Banten, including Deputy Regent of Tangerang, Deputy Governor of Banten, and later Governor of Banten, succeeding Ratu Atut Choisiyah. As a cadre of the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDIP), Rano Karno also participated in the 2017 Banten gubernatorial election but was defeated by Wahidin Halim (CNN Indonesia, 2024).

Another candidate entering the race for the 2024 Banten gubernatorial election is Achmad Dimyati Natakusumah. Achmad Dimyati Natakusumah served as the Regent of Pandeglang from 2000 to 2009. Additionally, he has been a member of the Indonesian House of Representatives (DPR-RI) representing the Prosperous Justice Party (PKS) faction since 2009. Owing to this experience, Achmad Dimyati Natakusumah was initially expected to be nominated by PKS as a prospective candidate for the 2024 Banten gubernatorial election. Furthermore, he also registered his candidacy with the PDIP, PKB, and NasDem parties (CNN Indonesia, 2024). According to the Litbang Kompas survey conducted in mid-2024, Achmad's electability stood at 2.7 percent (Suryaningtyas, 2024).

Other names emerging as prospective candidates for the 2024 Banten gubernatorial election include Arief Wismansyah from the Democratic Party, who participated in the candidate selection processes of PAN, NasDem, and PDIP (CNN Indonesia, 2024). Next is Irma Narulita, who has served as the Regent of Pandeglang since 2016. Following her is Iti Jayabaya, a Democratic Party cadre who held the position of Regent of Lebak from 2014 to 2023. Lastly, there is Ahmed Zaki Iskandar, who was nominated by Golkar and served as the Regent of Tangerang for the 2018–2023 (CNN Indonesia, 2024).

The political dynamics in the 2024 Banten gubernatorial election have been marked by a significant shift in the political landscape, primarily triggered by the actions of the Golkar Party. Airin emerged as one of the strongest prospective candidates in the 2024 Banten gubernatorial election. This strength is underscored by the fact that the Golkar Party officially endorsed her candidacy. Golkar's support not only solidifies Airin's position within the electoral race but also significantly shapes the coalition dynamics in the region. The alliance

between Airin and Golkar is expected to be a central focus of political maneuvering and coalition-building efforts leading up to the election. Initially, Golkar endorsed Airin; however, on August 26, 2024, this support shifted to the Andra–Dimyati pair. This change was formalized through a decree issued directly by the Golkar Party Chairman, Bahlil Lahadalia. Airin, a Golkar cadre who is part of the Indonesia Maju Coalition in the 2024 Presidential Election and also serves as the Chairperson of the Prabowo-Gibran winning team in Banten, surprisingly did not receive support from the parties within the Indonesia Maju Coalition. Despite Airin's popularity, with an electability rate of 38.3 percent—the highest among Banten gubernatorial candidates (Hutajulu, 2024). The coalition parties chose to back Andra–Dimyati, whose electability was considerably lower.

On August 27, 2024, in a surprising move, Golkar withdrew its support from Andra–Dimyati and issued a recommendation letter endorsing the Airin–Ade pair. This event took place at the Golkar Party Central Executive Board (DPP) office. As a member of the Indonesia Maju Coalition, Golkar then formed a political alliance with PDIP for the 2024 Banten gubernatorial contest, jointly endorsing Airin–Ade as the candidates for governor and deputy governor. The shift in Golkar's support from Andra Soni–Dimyati to Airin–Ade was influenced by pressure from senior Golkar figures. The Secretary-General of DPW PSI Banten stated that Jusuf Kalla, Aburizal Bakrie, and other Golkar seniors did not want Airin to be "hijacked" by PDIP. Initially, PDIP had supported Airin by pairing her with Ade as the deputy gubernatorial candidate. However, their plan was hindered by Article 40 of the 2016 Regional Election Law, which sets a nomination threshold of 20 percent of DPRD seats or 25 percent of the valid votes from the previous legislative election. Political dynamics shifted following the Constitutional Court's ruling No. 60/PUU-XXII/2024 on August 20, 2024, which allowed PDIP to nominate Airin–Ade independently in the 2024 Banten gubernatorial election (Tempo.Co, 2024).

Before the issuance of this Constitutional Court decision, which enabled PDIP to field its own candidates, PDIP and PKS were at risk of being sidelined and forced to join the Banten Maju Coalition. However, after the ruling, PDIP confidently nominated Airin–Ade in the election. This development triggered a realignment in Banten's political landscape ahead of the gubernatorial election, as evidenced by Golkar's shift in support from Andra–Dimyati to Airin–Ade (Tim detikcom, 2024).

Several political parties initially intended to nominate their own cadres as gubernatorial candidates. For example, the Democrat Party sought to advance former Tangerang Mayor Arief Wismansyah, while PKS aimed to nominate Dimyati Natakusumah. However, the political map changed following intense lobbying by the central executive boards (DPP) of the respective parties after the Constitutional Court's ruling on the nomination threshold. This triggered responses from political parties that altered their strategies based on various considerations and discussions, including the issuance of candidate selection forms within the parties (Nababan, 2024).

For instance, PSI initially intended to support Airin in the Banten gubernatorial election and to nominate a PSI cadre as her running mate. However, political lobbying

conducted by Dimyati Natakusumah in coordination with Kaesang Pangarep, the PSI Chairman, led to a shift. Despite ideological differences between Dimyati and PSI, shared political interests ultimately resulted in PSI fully supporting Dimyati as the deputy gubernatorial candidate for Banten.

The Influence of Political Cliques in the Formation of the Banten Maju Coalition 2024

It is undeniable that the formation of the large Banten Maju Coalition was driven by the involvement of political cliques at both the national and local levels. This involvement is evident from the political endorsement given by Prabowo Subianto, the Chairman of the Gerindra Party and also the President of Indonesia, to the Andra–Dimyati pair (Hakim, 2024). Additionally, the Gerindra Party clique, as the main supporter, through Sufmi Dasco Ahmad (Gerindra's Chairman of the Committee), directly appointed Raffi Ahmad as the head of the Andra–Dimyati campaign team (Hakim, 2024).

The appointment of Raffi Ahmad by Sufmi Dasco was confirmed by the Chairman of PKS Banten Regional Leadership Board (DPW), H. Gembong Sumedi. The rationale behind appointing Raffi Ahmad as the head of the Andra Soni–Dimyati campaign team was to attract female voters. Although Raffi Ahmad did not determine the political strategies used to win the election, his popularity served as a magnet to garner votes. This was also acknowledged by Andra Soni, who stated that Raffi Ahmad's fame as a senior celebrity and founder of the entertainment business group RANS Entertainment positively influenced the popularity of the Andra Soni–Dimyati pair, which had previously lagged far behind the Airin–Ade pair. Moreover, Raffi Ahmad's celebrity status and his business ventures through RANS Entertainment made it easier for the public to recognize both Raffi Ahmad and the candidates he supported. Raffi Ahmad's involvement significantly contributed to increasing the electability and acceptability of the Andra Soni–Dimyati pair.

Strategic decisions within the Banten Maju Coalition are made by only a few elites, with Sufmi Dasco being the most dominant figure in determining the coalition's political strategy. As the right hand of President Prabowo, Dasco plays a crucial role in directing the coalition's course. Andra Soni and Dimyati do not have full authority in making strategic political decisions. This was conveyed by PSI, stating that the gubernatorial and deputy gubernatorial candidates only receive directives from a Special Team tasked with designing the winning strategy for Andra Soni–Dimyati. Not all political parties within the Banten Maju Coalition are involved in this team; only a select few elites, including Sufmi Dasco Ahmad and Jazuli Juwaini, determine the coalition's political strategy.

In a written response, Andra Soni revealed that the Banten Maju Coalition is a derivative of the Indonesia Maju Coalition. The correlation between Banten Maju and Indonesia Maju Plus is very close, grounded in the history of Prabowo Subianto's consistent victories in Banten across three presidential elections. Furthermore, PKS, PSI, and PAN explained that the formation of the Banten Maju Coalition aims to align central government programs with regional governance.

H. Gembong Sumedi explained that the 2024 Banten gubernatorial contest is an agenda set by Sufmi Dasco. From PKS's perspective, the Banten Maju Coalition is inseparable from the current central government led by Prabowo Subianto. Specifically, PKS joined the coalition not based on the figure of Andra Soni but rather on who currently holds the most power. At present, the most powerful party is Gerindra.

Similarly, PAN joined the Banten Maju Coalition due to historical factors. According to Syamsuddin Idris, Deputy Chair for Organization of DPW PAN Banten, PAN has supported Prabowo Subianto for 25 years and claims to be the political party most trusted by Prabowo in current political dynamics. PAN's entry into the coalition is based on the trust Prabowo has placed in PAN to manage the central government.

In contrast to PAN and PKS, PSI views the formation of the Banten Maju Coalition as heavily influenced by Jokowi's intervention. PSI considers Jokowi's change of the direct regional election system before the presidential election as a key factor in the coalition's formation. According to PSI Banten Secretary-General Heyneken Pandapotan Purba, PSI represents Jokowi within the Banten Maju Coalition. Although PSI holds only three seats in the Banten DPRD, it wields considerable influence within the coalition. This influence is evidenced by certain commitments made between Dimyati as the gubernatorial candidate and Kaesang Pangarep, PSI's Chairman. PSI even regards Dimyati as a "PSI member dressed in PKS attire." These claims demonstrate PSI's strong bargaining power, showing that ideological differences among political parties do not hinder the formation of the Banten Maju Coalition.

The influence of political cliques in shaping the coalition is also inseparable from the internal party system. The mechanisms within political parties support the formation of the Banten Maju Coalition in the 2024 gubernatorial election. Andra Soni stated that ideological differences among coalition parties do not pose an obstacle because political goals have already been resolved at the central level of each party. Furthermore, consolidation among parties in the coalition is facilitated by shared electoral strategies in Banten. The coalition was formed by various parties to defeat the electoral dominance of Golkar and PDIP, which have strong electoral bases in Banten. Moreover, the coalition was initiated by Gerindra, which performed strongly in the 2024 Legislative and Presidential Elections, making it crucial for Gerindra to maintain its electability in Banten (Akbar, 2024).

As a main supporting party, PKS also explained that its political direction is determined at the central level. The PKS DPW only conducts candidate selection and cannot decide the political direction at the local level; all decisions are centralized at the PKS DPP. This is similar to PAN. In determining gubernatorial and deputy gubernatorial candidates, the PAN DPW has no authority and only follows instructions from the PAN DPP, which are then passed down to the regional level. PAN DPW only conducts candidate screening. However, unlike PKS DPW, which initially wanted to nominate Dimyati as deputy governor, PAN DPW directly supports Andra Soni without regard to the deputy candidate. This reflects PAN's loyalty to Prabowo Subianto, with PAN considering itself always in coalition with Gerindra.

The same applies to PSI. The PSI DPW also lacks authority to determine candidates and only screens candidates to propose to the PSI DPP. PSI Chairman Kaesang Pangarep determines PSI's direction to join the Banten Maju Coalition. PSI DPW merely implements direct instructions from Kaesang Pangarep. PSI DPW stated that Kaesang's political decisions in Banten were made under the guidance and knowledge of Jokowi.

The Impact of Political Cliques on the Banten Maju Coalition in Banten Gubernatorial Election 2024

Several factors related to political cliques and the formation of the Banten Maju Coalition significantly influenced both the conduct and outcome of the 2024 Banten gubernatorial election. These influences were felt not only within the coalition itself but also by the gubernatorial candidates endorsed by the Banten Maju Coalition. One of the most notable impacts was the victory of the Andra–Dimyati pair, who secured 55.88 percent of the total votes.

The Andra–Dimyati candidacy, which emerged as a direct result of the political clique dynamics underpinning the coalition, also garnered substantial support and positive responses from the people of Banten. This widespread backing is evidenced by public declarations of support from various community groups and civil society organizations, which openly endorsed the candidates backed by the Banten Maju Coalition.

This phenomenon highlights how political cliques, as informal networks of elite actors, can shape electoral coalitions by strategically mobilizing resources, coordinating party interests, and influencing voter perceptions. The consolidation of power within these cliques enabled the coalition to present a unified front, effectively navigating the competitive political landscape of Banten. Furthermore, the ability of the coalition to attract grassroots support through community endorsements illustrates the interplay between elite-driven political strategies and popular legitimacy (Iqbal et al., 2025)

The influence of political cliques has resulted in significant changes in the political landscape of Banten. The Banten Maju Coalition, composed of seven parties including Gerindra, succeeded in winning the regional election, which had previously been dominated by parties affiliated with Golkar and PDIP (Nurfaisal & Sari Inrinofita, 2025). The existence of political cliques in the formation of the Banten Maju Coalition has generated political optimism due to the emergence of candidate pairs originating from outside the previously established political dynasties. The rise of the Andra–Dimyati candidates, endorsed by the Banten Maju Coalition, has fostered the perception among the public that it is possible to elect leaders who come from beyond entrenched dynastic circles.

Furthermore, the presence of parties joining the Banten Maju Coalition has contributed to the impression that this coalition brings a fresh breeze to democracy in Banten. This is evident in how the coalition was formed by Gerindra, which performed strongly in the Legislative Elections, combined with parties that hold the majority of seats in the Banten Regional House of Representatives (DPRD). This shift has led to a decline in the influence of political dynasties in Banten, particularly those supported by the Golkar Party. This

situation has created a more democratic political map by filling the power vacuum that was formerly occupied by parties endorsing political dynasties.

The role of political cliques in forming the Banten Maju Coalition has also influenced how the people of Banten perceive regional elections as an effective means of realizing democracy. This is reflected in the increased voter participation in the 2024 Banten regional election, which reached 66.19 percent, up from 62.78 percent in 2017. This improvement is attributed to the consolidation of power within the Banten Maju Coalition, which has contributed to enhancing public trust in the available political options (Mahmud & Supriyadi, 2025).

CONCLUSION

This study finds that the formation of the Banten Maju Coalition in the 2024 Banten gubernatorial election was not based on ideological similarity or shared political platforms among the participating political parties. Instead, the coalition was predominantly influenced by pragmatic interests rooted in the power of political cliques at the national level. These political cliques refer to small groups of political elites who have access to political resources, power networks, and the authority to make strategic decisions without engaging in open, participatory mechanisms.

In this context, key figures within the coalition parties hold significant influence in determining the coalition's direction, with most decisions made by the parties' central executive boards (DPP). This indicates a tendency for personal loyalty to dominate over broader national considerations. These political cliques have been able to consolidate coalition dominance in the regional head elections in Banten Province by reinforcing the existing political dynasty's influence. However, the coalition's formation does not reflect democratic consolidation; rather, it demonstrates how informal structures such as political cliques continue to dominate local political processes.

Therefore, there is a pressing need to strengthen internal party democracy and to encourage the development of coalitions based on shared programs and ideological alignment. Such efforts are essential to ensure more transparent, participatory governance that prioritizes public interest at the regional level.

This research does not yet comprehensively address the impact of political clique practices on the performance of the elected governor and deputy governor, nor the dynamics these practices may generate in local politics, considering that the pair endorsed by the Banten Maju Coalition will be inaugurated in 2025. Hence, further research is necessary to examine the political dynamics among coalition member parties and how these dynamics influence governance in Banten.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT