Preparation and Placement Strategy for the 2024 Election in Batu Bara

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Abstract

This paper delves into the intricate strategy employed in the preparation and execution of the 2024 election in Batu Bara. The research utilizes a descriptive qualitative approach, facilitating the acquisition of comprehensive and lucid data, offering detailed and accurate insights into the reasons behind the unfolding events. The primary focus of this study rests on the Election Commission (KPU) of Batu Bara Regency as its object of analysis. The findings reveal a commendable and well-executed strategy in preparing and conducting the 2024 election in Batu Bara, in strict adherence to existing regulations and established timelines. The principles governing electoral arrangements are upheld, primarily supported by an information system designed to facilitate this process. However, this study also identifies areas where optimization remains incomplete. Notably, an obstacle encountered during the election preparation and placement strategy pertains to disparities between the geographical data presented in the information system and the real-world ground realities in Batu Bara Regency. These disparities warrant attention, as they introduce challenges to the seamless execution of electoral procedures.

Keyword: Preparation; Election; Batu Bara


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INTRODUCTION

General elections in Indonesia as one of the democratic instruments of a nation state, have been held no less than 12 times national elections since the first election in 1955 (Widianingsih, 2017). The 2004 election was the second election after the reform era, but in this election a different system and procedures were used from the New Order era. The proportional system of open lists for the election of members of the DPR, Provincial DPRD and Regency / City DPRD, and the district system has many representatives for the election of DPD members. Two types of legislative election systems and two types of electoral systems combined in one moment of elections, this not only made the 2004 Legislative Election one of the largest, but also the most complex elections in the world. Where the use of the open list proportional system is still half-hearted, so the technical voting and counting of votes becomes very complicated (Sardini, 2011).

Since the 1955 elections, during the six New Order elections, and the 1999 elections, constituencies have always been synonymous with government administrative areas. To elect members of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia the constituency is the province, to elect members of the Provincial DPRD the constituency is the regency / city, and to elect members of the Regency / City DPRD the constituency is the sub-district (Subiyanto, 2020). However, since the enactment of Law number 12 of 2003 which states that the electoral area for DPR members is a province or part of a province, the electoral area for members of the Provincial DPRD is a regency / city area or a combination of districts / cities, and the electoral area for members of the Regency / City DPRD is a sub-district area or a combination of sub-districts. And so on until the enactment of Law Number 7 of 2017 for the implementation of the 2019 Election (Amin, 2013).

(Brunell, 2010) who emphasized that constituencies are a contiguous unit so that in the process of structuring must pay attention to aspects of regional unity; equal population so as to create equal price of seats in each electoral district with other electoral districts; Pay attention to the interests of the community by taking into account the similarities in social conditions of the community in one constituency (preserving interest communities); preserving subdivision politics by maintaining the integrity of political/administrative areas; Protecting the incumbent; and district compactness.

In a proportional electoral system where the available representative seats are plural (multi-member constituency), the issue of forming constituencies is not only the determination of regional boundaries but also the number of representative seats provided or the size of the constituency (district magnitude). This seat allocation is also used as a basis for submitting candidates by political party leaders and determining elected candidates for legislative members (Pamungkas, 2009). The scope and size of the electoral district chosen will have far-reaching implications not only on the degree of people’s representation (proportionality) and accountability of people’s representatives, but also on the party system and the people's representative system that will be formed. The greater the scope and size of the constituency, the higher the degree of people's representation but the lower the degree of accountability of people's representatives (A.R. Surbakti et al., 2008).

In Batu Bara Regency itself, 3 (three) legislative elections have been held to elect members of the Batu Bara Regency DPRD, namely in the 2009, 2014 and 2019 elections. In the 3 (three) elections, Batu Bara Regency was divided into 5 (five) electoral districts with 35 (thirty-five) seat allocations. The following is a table of seat allocation with electoral areas for the 2019 General Election based on KPU Decree Number 265/PL.01.3- Kpt/06/KPU/IV/2018 challenging the Determination of Electoral Areas and Allocation of Seats for Members of the Provincial People's Representative Council and District/City People's Representative Councils in the North Sumatra Province Region can be seen in the following table 1.

The high price of seats in the principle of equal value of votes, Dapil as much as possible to equally represent the population to avoid malapportionment, namely the condition of Dapil that is unequal between the allocation of seats and the number of residents / voters, both over rerepresentation and under (under representation) (Handley, 2007). Equality of votes is also represented as one person, one vote, one value or commonly abbreviated as OPOVOV, this principle is known as equality of population with equal representation which means one person, one vote, and one value. This means equality for all voters more than just...
everyone has the same right to vote in elections, everyone's vote is of equal value which means that no voter's vote is worth more than the votes of other voters (Labolo & Ilham, 2015).

Table 1.1 Electoral Roll and Seat Allocation for the 2019 Election

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>DAERAH PEMEDELAN</th>
<th>JUMLAH PENGIUDEK</th>
<th>ALGOMASH KURSI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>DP BATU BARA 1 mukupel Kecamatan</td>
<td>62,031</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>DP BATU BARA 2 mukupei Kecamatan</td>
<td>52,470</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>DP BATU BARA 3 mukupei Kecamatan</td>
<td>25,942</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>DP BATU BARA 4 mukupei Kecamatan</td>
<td>49,524</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>DP BATU BARA 5 mukupei Kecamatan</td>
<td>44,907</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUMLAH</td>
<td>358,031</td>
<td>35</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The right to have an equal voice in law and government is the foundation of democracy. Without equal suffrage, democracy does not exist. The constitution of a democratic country guarantees the right of every citizen to be represented equally in government. A democratic constitution guarantees all adult citizens an equal voice. Without equality of representation, there can be no guarantee that the laws that will be made contain the common good. Without equality of representation, the laws made will only benefit the interests of those represented. Without equal representation, there is no guarantee that the constitution, which guarantees the rights of citizens, will not be violated. The guarantee of equality of representation requires that votes be viewed based on the proportion of the number of votes, not on the basis of wealth or on the basis of legal shrewdness (R. Surbakti et al., 2011).

In a proportional electoral system where the available representative seats are plural (multi-member constituency), the issue of forming constituencies is not only the determination of regional boundaries but also the number of representative seats provided or the size of the constituency (district magnitude). This seat allocation is also used as a basis for submitting candidates by political party leaders and determining elected candidates for legislative members. The choice about the scope and size of constituencies will have far-reaching implications not only on the degree of people's representation (proportionality) and accountability of the people's representatives but also on the party system and the people's representative system that will be formed. The greater the scope and size of the constituency, the higher the degree of people's representation but the lower the degree of accountability of people's representatives (ruslam Idrus, 2019). The formation of Dapil as much as possible to equally represent the population to avoid malapportionment, namely the condition of Dapil that is unequal between the allocation of seats and the number of residents / voters, both over rerepresentation and under (under representation) (Hanley, 2007) and the importance of avoiding the formation of Dapil that tends to benefit certain political forces or gerrymandering (Winburn, 2008).

The size of constituencies is grouped into three types, namely the size of constituencies between 10 and above; the size of the constituency is between 6 to 10 seats and finally the size of the constituency is small between 2 to 5 seats (R. Surbakti et al., 2011). What is meant by District Magnitude or the size of the constituency is the number of representatives to be elected from one constituency. The size of the constituency is the number of seats allocated to one constituency, or bias is interpreted, the determination of the number of people's representatives to represent a number of residents / voters in one constituency.

RESEARCH METHODS

According to Bogdan and Taylor quoted by Lexy J. Moleong, qualitative methodology is a research procedure that produces descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words of people and observable behavior (Moleong, 2000). Research methods used in discussing and solving research problems are carried out with normative and empirical approaches. The normative approach is carried out by studying and reviewing laws or regulations related to the preparation of electoral districts. Meanwhile, the empirical approach is carried out by observing the process at the stage of preparing electoral areas and seat allocation carried out by the Batu Bara Regency KPU, as well as conducting in-depth interviews and interviews with research subjects. This type of research is qualitative with the presentation of descriptive
data, carried out by considering the suitability between the research subjects and the research objectives. By using this method, researchers will get complete data and can be described clearly so that the results of this study are really in accordance with existing field conditions (Sugiyono, 2013).

The data collected in the form of direct interviews in the form of words and indirect interviews in the form of text, observations carried out by researchers are outlined in the text of the minutes. Related to the analysis and focus on research problems regarding the process of preparing electoral district proposals carried out by the KPU of Batu Bara Regency, which was carried out using direct observation techniques, interviews, in-depth interviews and documentation. Conducted using purposive techniques based on subjective considerations to select resource persons. Observations were carried out with researchers directly participating in the process of preparing constituency proposals. In this study, the stages of analysis use the theory of Miles, Huberman (Miles & Huberman, 1992)

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Result

Batu Bara is a regency in North Sumatra Province. This regency was officially formed based on Law Number 5 of 2007 which was passed on January 2, 2007. Batu Bara Regency is a division of the Asahan Regency area which is directly adjacent to the Strait of Malacca, Serdang Bedagai Regency, Simalungun Regency and Asahan Regency (Nurfansyah, 2017). At the time of its official formation, Batu Bara Regency consisted of 7 (seven) sub-districts, namely Fifty District, Talawi District, Tanjung Tiram District, Sei Balai District, Medang Deras District, Sei Suka District and Air Putih District. Furthermore, based on the Regulation of the Minister of Home Affairs Number 72 of 2017 concerning Amendments to the Regulation of the Minister of Home Affairs Number 9 of 2017 concerning the Establishment of Subdistricts within the Batu Bara Regency area and Regulation of the Minister of Home Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia Number 72 of 2019 concerning Amendments to the Regulation of the Minister of Home Affairs Number 137 of 2017 concerning Codes and Data of Administrative Areas of the Batu Bara Regency area into 12 (twelve) Districts which will become electoral areas. The Batu Bara Regency KPU prepared a preliminary draft of the electoral district and seat allocation which was prepared internally by the Batu Bara Regency KPU without involving other parties in accordance with interviews with the commissioner of the Technical division of the election organizer.

The Batu Bara Regency KPU determines the design of electoral areas and the allocation of seats for members of the Batu Bara Regency DPRD for the 2024 Election in accordance with the Minutes of the Plenary Meeting dated November 21, 2022 Number 127/RANCANGANAWAL-PL01.3-BA/1219/2022 concerning the Design of Electoral Areas and the Allocation of Seats for Members of the Batu Bara Regional People's Representative Council in the 2024 Elections.

In the 2019 election, Batu Bara Regency consisted of 7 (seven) sub-districts divided into 5 (five) constituencies. In the 2024 election, after the division of sub-districts based on the Regional Regulation of Batu Bara Regency Number 9 of 2017 concerning the Establishment of Subdistricts within the Batu Bara Regency area and Regulation of the Minister of Home Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia Number 72 of 2019 concerning Amendments to the Regulation of the Minister of Home Affairs Number 137 of 2017 concerning Codes and Data of Administrative Areas of the Batu Bara Regency area into 12 (twelve) Districts which will become electoral areas. The Batu Bara Regency KPU prepared a preliminary draft of the electoral district and seat allocation which was prepared internally by the Batu Bara Regency KPU without involving other parties in accordance with interviews with the commissioner of the Technical division of the election organizer.

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Furthermore, the Batu Bara Regency KPU announced the results of the electoral area design and seat allocation to obtain public input and responses with announcements issued by the Batu Bara Regency KPU Number 1094/PL.01.3-Pu/1219/2022 concerning the Electoral Area Design and Allocation of Seats for Members of the Batu Bara Regional People's Representative Council in the 2024 General Election on November 23, 2022.

In accordance with the stages stated in KPU Regulation Number 6 of 2022, the announcement period for the Electoral Area Design and Allocation of Seats for Members of the Regional People's Representative Council of Batu Bara Regency in the 2024 Election will be held for 7 (seven) days, starting from November 23, 2022 to November 29, 2022. The announcement was made through the notice board, website and social media of the KPU of Batu Bara Regency. The public can provide input and feedback from November 23, 2022 to December 6, 2022. Community feedback and input is made in writing in accordance with the format provided on the helpdesk.kpu.go.id/tanggapan page. Submission of community feedback and input must be accompanied by an official cover letter for Institutions/Agencies/Community Organizations/Political Parties or identity in the form of e-ID cards for individuals. Input and feedback can be sent directly to the KPU office of Batu Bara Regency or through the helpdesk.kpu.go.id/tanggapan website.

During the announcement of the electoral district design and seat allocation, political conditions were indeed quite high in the community, the preparation of electoral areas and seat allocation was indeed full of interests in it, so for many parties it became very important to be able to submit their proposals to the Batu Bara Regency KPU so that they could be included in the draft made. Many parties disagree with the initial draft of the electoral district and seat allocation that has been prepared and announced by the Batu Bara Regency Election Commission. For this reason, at this time many political parties, district governments, community organizations and individuals were present to directly submit their proposals and ask how to provide official input so that it could be input for the Batu Bara Regency KPU in rearranging the electoral district design and seat allocation for the 2024 election.

Discussion

1. Preparation and Placement Strategy for the 2024 Election in Batu Bara

The KPU of Batu Bara Regency has prepared a draft of the 2024 Batu Bara Regency electoral area, the design preparation process is based on KPU Regulation Number 6 of 2022 concerning the Arrangement of Electoral Areas and the Allocation of Seats for Members of the People's Representative Council of District/City Areas in General Elections, KPU Decree Number 457 of 2022 concerning the Number of Seats for Members of the People's Representative Council of Districts/Municipalities in the 2024 General Election and KPU Decree Number 488 of 2022 concerning Guidelines Technical arrangement of electoral areas and allocation of seats for members of the People's Representative Council of Districts / Municipalities in general elections.

The first analysis of the preparation process based on the above regulations is that the Batu Bara Regency KPU must carry out the preparation steps as stated in KPU Regulation Number 6 of 2022 and described in KPU Decree Number 488 of 2022 concerning technical guidelines for electoral preparation and seat allocation. Based on the population and seat allocation contained in KPU Decree Number 457 of 2022, it can be calculated that the Number of Population Divisors / BPPd for Batu Bara Regency is 443,816 people / 40 seats = 11,095.4 according to Decree Number 488 of 2022, the fraction must be eliminated so that the BPPd of Batu Bara Regency for the 2024 election is 11,095.

The principle of equal value of votes is applied by taking into account the distribution of seats in Dapil. The distribution of seats in Dapil is said to be equivalent if the Dapil BPPd is still in the range of approximately or more than 10% of the District/City BPPd. That is, if the comparison between BPPd Dapil and BPPd District/City is still in the range of 90% to 110%, then it can still be called equivalent, the closer to 100%, the more equal. Furthermore, the principle of equality of vote value can be assessed by calculating the comparison of BPPd Dapil with BPPd District/City. Dapil that has a BPPd value more than the Regency / City BPPd value means that residents in Dapil have a higher vote value than they should (over represented). Meanwhile, Dapil with a BPPd value less than the Regency / City BPPd value means that the population in the Dapil concerned has a lower voting value than it
should be (under represented). Both conditions reflect the inequality between the number of Residents and the seats allocated, based on KPU Decree Number 488 of 2022.

### Table 2. Percentage of BPPd Dapil against BPPd District Draft draft I

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Election Scene</th>
<th>Number of Population of Each Constituency</th>
<th>BPPd for Each Constituency</th>
<th>Percentage of BPPd Constituencies against BPPd Regency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Batu Bara 1</td>
<td>103,803</td>
<td>11.533</td>
<td>103.04%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Batu Bara 2</td>
<td>130,812</td>
<td>11.401</td>
<td>102.76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Batu Bara 3</td>
<td>30,442</td>
<td>10.147</td>
<td>91.48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Batu Bara 4</td>
<td>117,108</td>
<td>10.646</td>
<td>95.90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Batu Bara 5</td>
<td>55,651</td>
<td>11.130</td>
<td>100.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Data processed by the author

From the provisions above, the Equality of Sound Value in the preparation of this Constituencies can still be called equivalent because it is still in the range of 90%-110%. If calculated using seat price bias based on (Aji, 2021) it can be calculated by the formula:

$$\text{Seat price} = \frac{\text{Dapil Set Price} - \text{BPPd}}{\text{Dapil Set Price}} \times 100$$

### Table 3. Seat Price Bias

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Constituencies</th>
<th>Dapil Seat Price</th>
<th>Seat Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Batu Bara 1</td>
<td>11.533</td>
<td>3.80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Batu Bara 2</td>
<td>11.401</td>
<td>2.69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Batu Bara 3</td>
<td>10.147</td>
<td>-8.54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Batu Bara 4</td>
<td>10.646</td>
<td>-4.22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Batu Bara 5</td>
<td>11.130</td>
<td>0.01%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Data processed by the author

The range of seat price bias that is still acceptable based on (Aji, 2021) is +/- 10%, so the equality of vote values in the preparation of the electoral roll above is still considered equal.

The principle of adherence to the Proportional Election system is the principle of electoral arrangement by paying attention to and prioritizing a large number of seats so that the percentage of the number of seats obtained by each political party can be equivalent to the percentage of valid votes obtained, in this principle it encourages each Dapil to have a seat by striving to be at intervals of 3-12 seats, based on KPU Decree Number 488 of 2022. Therefore, the preparation of electoral votes and seat allocation in this draft still meet the principle of adherence to a proportional electoral system. The size of the DAPIL greatly influences the level of proportionality / disproportionality and the level of competition between political parties (Lijphart, 1994). Therefore, the KPU strongly encourages the District/City KPU to set the seat allocation close to 12 (twelve), because the higher the seat allocation will reduce the level of disproportionality.

This constituency is arranged based on the electoral district used in the 2019 election, with the sub-district pemekarnya, based on the map issued by the sidapil, there will be one area of the Batu Bara 3 electoral district which is in the Batu Bara 2 area. Previously, because the use of the sidapil information system was decisive, this became a problem and had to be clarified to local governments. So that in the preparation of Constituencies in draft draft I, all regions meet the principle of regional integrity.

In the election of members of the North Sumatra Provincial DPRD, all areas of Batu Bara Regency are in one Dapil, namely North Sumatra V in the 2019 Election. So that the fulfillment of this principle has been fulfilled in the preparation of this draft draft I.

Fulfillment of the principle of cohesiveness by taking into account history, socio-cultural conditions, customs, and minority groups. In this case, the preparation of Dapil in one region is sought to cover the same socio-cultural, customary and historical conditions. This aims to avoid conflicts in society. Based on the DAPIL in the 2019 election, the cohesiveness of the DAPIL is still suitable, but along with the sub-district expansion in Batu Bara Regency, there was turmoil in the community who wanted the former incorporated DAPIL to be able to stand alone because the character of the community was quite different, such as Medang Deras and Sei Suka sub-districts used to be the same district, now the community wants the majority of fishing communities in Medang Deras sub-district to have their own representatives not incorporated with Sei Suka sub-district which is more dominated by private workers. This principle is not fulfilled because of the sub-district division in Batu Bara Regency so that the sub-district that makes up the electoral district will be different from the previous election. Despite the unstable political situation during the Japanese era, as well as the existence of military bases to strengthen Japanese power.
at the village level (Seikedan), it was not strong enough to implement the traditional system of government since the beginning of independence. Fortunately, the Law that regulates villages since the beginning of independence through Law No. 22 of 1948 on Local Government and Law No. 1 of 1957 on the Principles of Local Government does not specifically regulate villages even though it uses the term "small town".

Determination of Electoral Roll and Allocation of Seats for Members of the Batu Bara Regency DPRD In the 2024 election, the Batu Bara Regency KPU includes the results of public input and responses and the results of public tests that have been reviewed in accordance with the principles of electoral arrangement. (ruslam Idrus, 2019) have reviewed the dynamics that occur in the formulation of electoral arrangements in Selayar Islands Regency as a representation of the problems of electoral district arrangement that geographically have mainland districts and island districts so that special policies are needed in the preparation of the Selayar Islands Regency DPRD electoral area. Furthermore, (Amalia, 2022) explained, tested and evaluated the process of determining the electoral area for Pasuruan City DPRD members carried out by the Pasuruan City KPU in the 2019 Election. In Batu Bara Regency itself, it also faces its own problems in electoral arrangement.

The Batu Bara Regency KPU has carried out the stages of the process of preparing the electoral arrangement and allocation of seats for the 2024 Batu Bara Regency DPRD Members in accordance with applicable regulations. The application of the principles of electoral arrangement and seat allocation in each design preparation is carried out using a sidapil information system. In its use, there is a sequence of preparation of Constituencies, which in technical instructions must be combined with other sub-districts, but in sidapil it is stated to meet even though it only stands alone.

The use of information technology as a tool is regulated in the KPU Regulations but does not eliminate the work procedure process based on KPU regulations and KPU Decrees on technical guidelines for electoral arrangement and seat allocation. Dapil prepared by the KPU of Batu Bara Regency is based on the principle of preparing Constituencies. In some principles cannot be done accurately by the sidapil information system, such as in the principle of Cohesiveness where the fulfillment of the principle of cohesiveness by taking into account history, socio-cultural conditions, customs, and minority groups. In this case, the preparation of Dapil in one region is sought to cover the same socio-cultural, customary and historical conditions. This aims to avoid conflicts in society. Furthermore, the principle of regional integrity, fulfillment of the principle of regional integrity by taking into account the integrity and integration of the region, geographical conditions, means of transportation, and aspects of ease of transportation in arranging several sub-districts into 1 (one) Dapil. In the preparation of 1 (one) Dapil consisting of several sub-districts, the sub-districts must be in the same geographical area, to ensure this, it is necessary to pay attention to carefully map the area along with the boundary lines, in this case the regional map data is important because it is the basis to be used, but the actual facts on the ground about geographical conditions, transportation facilities, and aspects of ease of transportation must also be considered directly by the District / City KPU as a drafter of the proposal for electoral arrangement and seat allocation. So that the use of the sidapil information system as a tool needs improvement, the KPU as a policy maker needs to determine a tolerable limit that is measurable for each principle of electoral district arrangement.

2. The influence of related parties in the Strategy for Preparation and Placement of the 2024 Elections in Batu Bara

In the KPU Regulation on the preparation of electoral districts, it is not regulated to involve other parties in the preparation process, but in the KPU Regulation, it is also stated that there is a period of public input and response as well as public testing, where the community and parties related to the preparation of electoral districts can provide input and criticism as well as suggestions to the Batu Bara Regency KPU in the process of preparing electoral rolls and allocating seats for members of the Batu Bara Regency DPRD for the 2024 election. Related parties such as political parties and government stakeholders cannot interfere with any draft decisions that will later be submitted to the KPU RI through the KPU North Sumatra Province. However, in the process in Batu Bara Regency itself, there was turmoil from political parties, government stakeholders and the community regarding the
initial draft of the election and seat allocation announced by the Batu Bara Regency KPU through announcement Number 127/PRELIMINARY DRAFT-PI.01.3-BA/1219/2022.

So in Batu Bara Regency one of the reasons the community, political parties and stakeholders want to increase the electoral roll is because in the previous election there was a dominant area in a Dapil that controlled seats in the local parliament. From the recap of the results of community input and responses, there were 16 (sixteen) community inputs and responses submitted through the helpdesk.kpu.go.id/tanggapan website and as many as 31 (thirty-one) community responses submitted through letters delivered directly to the Batu Bara Regency KPU office. Where the incoming input requested that the electoral district in Batu Bara Regency be made into 6 (six) or 7 (seven) electoral districts, while in the initial draft made by the Batu Bara Regency KPU, the three designs in total only contained 5 (five) constituencies.

The administrators of the PAN, PDIP and Golkar parties at the Batu Bara Regency level in interviews during the public test stated the importance of the public test being carried out to hear the aspirations of the regions in the process of preparing the electoral roll where the authority to determine the electoral roll is in the KPU RI while the District/City KPU in its preparation is needed to get input from related parties, both political parties as election participants as well as stakeholders and communities in the area.

3. Obstacles in the Strategy Process for Preparing and Placing the 2024 Elections in Batu Bara

In the process of preparing electoral districts and seat allocation, the District/City KPU uses a sidapil information system as a tool for the process to be carried out in accordance with the principles of electoral arrangement and seat allocation. In accordance with the mandate of KPU Regulation Number 6 of 2022, article 1 "The Electoral Area Information System, hereinafter referred to as Sidapil, is an information system and technology used to assist in compiling and managing the arrangement of the Electoral Council and Seat Allocation." and article 19 paragraph 3 "The District/City KPU shall submit the minutes as referred to in paragraph (2) to the KPU through the Provincial KPU, in the form of a digital copy through Sidapil." In the process, the preparation of electoral districts and seat allocation in Batu Bara Regency experienced problems in the regional map in the Sidapil application that did not match the actual facts on the ground.

In accordance with the technical guidelines of KPU decision number 488 of 2022 in Chapter II Arrangement and Determination of Electoral Areas and Allocation of Seats letter A Determination of Population Point 1 Preparation of letter c The KPU requests data on maps of government administrative areas at the sub-district level and village level to the agency that carries out government duties in the field of geospatial information in writing. The letter e examines by checking and synchronizing the suitability of population data and government administrative area data with maps of government administrative areas. There is an area of Sei Balai District which is within the Datuk Tanah Datar District, this becomes very hampering because if these two areas are not united in one Dapil, there will be an area that is not connected to the Dapilnya, so it will violate the principle of regional integrity.

According to Nurush Shobahah and Much Anam rifai, the regulation of election information systems using KPU regulations without any legal basis from the Election Law has the potential to be questioned for legal validity. Regarding the use of information systems in elections, the direction of policy can be divided into 2 types, namely the direction and policy of the framer of the law (legislature) and the direction and policy of the KPU. From the side of the framer of the law, the policy direction is that the use of information systems in elections is designed to be limited. So that the design of holding elections in general is still conventional or manual. Meanwhile, the KPU policy direction for the use of election information systems is comprehensive at every stage of the election. The goal is to make the work of the government run more effectively, efficiently, transparently and accountably. (Shobahah & Rifai, 2021).

Based on the results of the research that has been conducted and described by the author above, the thing that is an update in this thesis compared to research that has previously been carried out by other researchers is where the author sees the process of preparing electoral areas and seat allocation for the 2024 election carried out by the Batu Bara Regency KPU analyzed based on
the principle of electoral arrangement in accordance with Law Number 7 Article 185 as explained in KPU Regulation Number 6 Year 2022 and KPU Decree Number 488 of 2022 as well as how the process of using the sidapil information system used as a tool by the KPU to ensure the fulfillment of the principles of Constituencies structuring where according to the author in its use there are still parts that are not optimal.

CONCLUSION
The stages of the strategy for preparing and placing the 2024 elections in Batu Bara are running well and smoothly. Although in the process there was turmoil in the community, this indicates that the democratic process is going well in Batu Bara Regency. The KPU of Batu Bara Regency has carried out every stage of the preparation and arrangement of Constituencies in accordance with existing regulations and the specified time and in accordance with the principle of Constituencies arrangement based on the sidapil information system which is used as a tool where in its use there are still parts that are not optimal.

The obstacle in the strategy for preparing and placing the 2024 election in Batu Bara is the difference in the map of the area contained in the information system with facts on the ground that do not match the map of the Batu Bara Regency area, but this can soon be solved by making map improvements in collaboration with the Batu Bara Regency government.

REFERENCES