

## ABSTRAK

Fenomena kekosongan jabatan Wakil Bupati Kabupaten Ciamis periode 2024–2029 terjadi setelah wafatnya calon Wakil Bupati, H. Yana D. Putra, dua hari sebelum pelaksanaan Pilkada 2024. Kondisi tersebut menimbulkan ketidakpastian mengenai mekanisme pengisian jabatan serta memunculkan dinamika politik di tingkat lokal. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis bagaimana dan mengapa kekosongan jabatan Wakil Bupati Kabupaten Ciamis dapat terjadi dan bertahan dengan meninjau aspek yuridis, dinamika internal partai pengusung, peran DPRD, serta kebijakan kepala daerah. Penelitian menggunakan metode kualitatif dengan pendekatan studi kasus dan teknik process tracing. Data diperoleh melalui wawancara mendalam, studi dokumentasi, dan penelusuran arsip media. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa bertahannya kekosongan jabatan Wakil Bupati Kabupaten Ciamis disebabkan oleh interaksi antara faktor kelembagaan dan faktor politik. Dari aspek yuridis, regulasi yang mengatur pengisian jabatan belum memberikan batas waktu dan mekanisme yang tegas sehingga membuka ruang interpretasi bagi para aktor politik. Dari sisi partai pengusung, terdapat perbedaan kepentingan dan kontestasi internal mengenai figur pengganti yang menghambat tercapainya kesepakatan. Sementara itu, DPRD cenderung mengambil posisi menunggu kepastian usulan dari partai pengusung sehingga proses pengisian tidak berjalan efektif. Di sisi lain, kepala daerah memiliki posisi strategis dalam menentukan arah pengisian jabatan, namun keputusan yang diambil lebih mempertimbangkan kalkulasi politik dibandingkan urgensi kelembagaan. Kondisi tersebut menyebabkan proses pengisian jabatan mengalami stagnasi dan kekosongan jabatan terus berlangsung. Penelitian ini menyimpulkan bahwa kekosongan jabatan Wakil Bupati Kabupaten Ciamis bukan semata-mata akibat keterbatasan regulasi, melainkan merupakan hasil interaksi antara ambiguitas aturan, dinamika internal partai, peran kelembagaan DPRD, dan kalkulasi politik kepala daerah dalam konteks distribusi kekuasaan politik lokal.

**Kata kunci:** Kekosongan Jabatan; Vakansi; Studi Kasus; Pengisian Wakil Kepala Daerah; Process Tracing.

## ***ABSTRACT***

*The vacancy of the Vice Regent position in Ciamis Regency for the 2024–2029 period emerged following the death of the vice-regent candidate, H. Yana D. Putra, two days before the 2024 Regional Head Election (Pilkada). This situation created uncertainty regarding the mechanism for filling the position and generated political dynamics at the local level. This study aims to analyze how and why the vacancy of the Vice Regent position in Ciamis Regency occurred and persisted by examining juridical aspects, the internal dynamics of the supporting political parties, the role of the Regional House of Representatives (DPRD), and the policies of the regional head. The research employs a qualitative method using a case study approach combined with process tracing techniques. Data were collected through in-depth interviews, document analysis, and media archive reviews. The findings reveal that the persistence of the Vice Regent vacancy in Ciamis Regency resulted from the interaction between institutional and political factors. From a juridical perspective, the existing regulations governing the filling of the position do not provide clear deadlines or definitive mechanisms, thereby creating room for interpretation among political actors. Within the supporting political parties, competing interests and internal contestation over potential replacement candidates hindered the achievement of consensus. Meanwhile, the DPRD tended to adopt a waiting position pending formal nominations from the supporting parties, resulting in an ineffective appointment process. At the executive level, the regional head held a strategic position in determining the direction of the appointment process; however, political calculations were prioritized over institutional urgency. Consequently, the appointment process experienced stagnation, allowing the vacancy to persist. This study concludes that the vacancy of the Vice Regent position in Ciamis Regency was not solely the result of regulatory limitations but rather the outcome of an interaction between ambiguous regulations, internal party dynamics, the institutional role of the DPRD, and the political calculations of the regional head within the context of local power distribution.*

***Kata kunci:*** Position Vacancy; Institutional Vacancy; Case Study; Filling of Vice Regional Head Position; Process Tracing.