

POLITICAL CULTURE OF KIAI PATRONAGE AND CHALLENGES IN LOCAL DEMOCRATIC STRUCTURES IN WEST NUSA TENGGARA PROVINCE

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ABSTRACT

This study aims, (1) To describe the political cultural practices of the kiai's patronage as one of the challenges in the local democratic structure in NTB Province. (2) To explain and analyze the implications of the kiai's patronage political culture in two main aspects namely positive implications and negative implications caused by patronage practices as the political strategy of religious leaders in Lombok Island, NTB Province. The results of this study indicate that the kiai's patronage political culture is a strategy used as an adaptation mechanism of religious leaders in influencing the orientation and preference of voters' behavior to gain political power. Kiai use media such as organizational networks, educational institutions and networks of kiai organizations as a means of political patronage. This research also found that the involvement of the kiai in politics was intended to manifest the prophetic ideas of Islam. So as to create a civil society that is the concept of civilized civil society, upholding humanity, tolerance, multiculturalism, and the appreciation of spiritual values in the practice of state life and democracy. The political culture of kiai patronage in NTB Province shows positive implications because religious leaders who become governors, regents and mayors in formulating policies and political programs include religious ethical orientations such as the concept of halal tourism, sunset recitation, and termination of bureaucratic services when prayer time arrives. However, the patronage political culture has negative implications for the government, namely the high practice of corruption, nepotism and strengthening of dynastic politics.

Keywords: Political Culture, Kiai, Patronage, Implications, and Local Democracy.