

## Comparison of DPD Muslim Electoral Districts of Bali, North Sulawesi, and East Nusa Tenggara in the Perspective of the Powercube Theory

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**Abstract:** This study aims to analyse the comparison of the Muslim DPD in the electoral districts of Bali, North Sulawesi, and East Nusa Tenggara from the Perspective of the Powercube Theory. General election (Pemilu) is the process by which voters elect people to fill certain political positions. Elections are one of the characteristics of a democracy, in which the people are directly involved in selecting leaders and determining the direction of political policies in the next five years. This research method is included in the category of normative research or library research, namely research conducted by examining library materials or secondary data consisting of online media, social media, and journals related to this research by tracing how the explanation of the comparison of the victory of the DPD Muslim Electoral District of Bali, North Sulawesi and East Nusa Tenggara in the Perspective of the Powercube Theory. The analysis technique uses the NVivo 12 plus data processing application, a qualitative document analysis tool with the help of a computer. Their tools are easy to use and can process words and explore word frequencies, attributes, and cases from big data. The results of this study show that the victory of the DPR RI Muslims in the electoral districts of Bali, North Sulawesi, and East Nusa Tenggara is very closely related to the Powercube Theory, where they already have the power of office, both coming from political families and being active in various organisations and have long served the community so they can become members of parliament. As well as having differences and similarities from the background of the actors before serving members of the DPD RI.

**Keyword:** Election, DPD RI, Powercube Theory.

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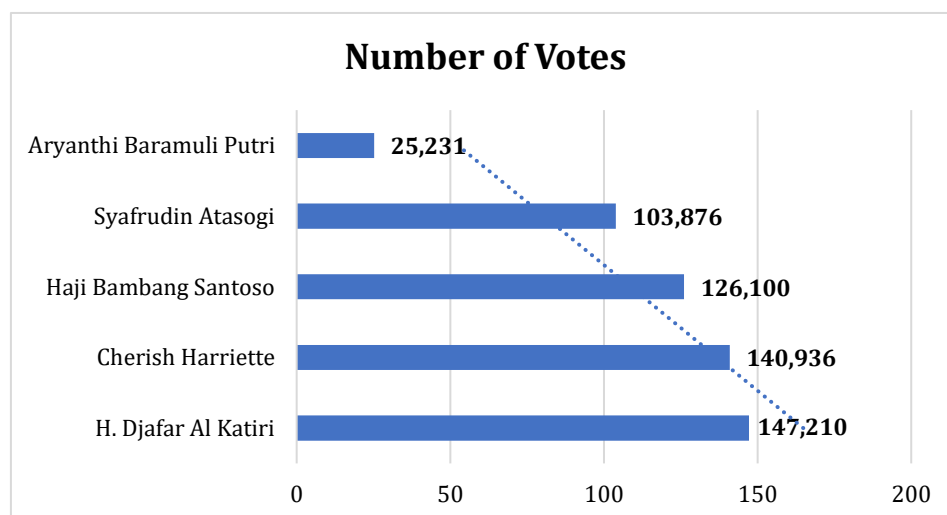
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## INTRODUCTION

The Regional Representative Council of the Republic of Indonesia (DPD RI) was formed on October 1, 2004; the purpose of establishing the DPD RI is to accommodate regional aspirations and, at the same time, give a more significant role to the regions in the process of making political decisions, especially those directly related to regional interests (Africa, 2021). Referring to the provisions of Article 22D of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia DPD Rules of Procedure, the DPD RI has legislative, supervisory, and budgeting functions (Suroto, 2018). At the

same time, the duties and authorities of the DPD RI are submitting proposals for draft laws, discussing draft laws, considering draft laws, selecting BPK members, and supervising the implementation of regulations (Riwukore et al., 2019).

General election (Pemilu) is the process by which voters elect people to fill certain political positions. Elections are one of the characteristics of a democracy, where the people are directly involved in selecting leaders and determining the direction of political policies for the next five years (Pile Tukan & Tyesta ALW, 2018). Elections are one form of fulfilling the rights of citizens in the political field. Elections are held to realise people's sovereignty (Endah Permatasari & Juwono, 2022). In 2004, elections were held democratically for the first time in which the highest power lies in the hands of the people and has opened up a vast space of opportunity for citizens to participate in politics. With the electoral system, people can freely choose the president and vice president, DPR (People's Representative Council), DPD, Provincial DPRD (Regional People's Representative Council), and district/city DPRD which are held in general, free, secret, honest and fair manner. The Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia in 1945 (Article 1 of Law Number 7 of 2017) (Diamantina, 2018).



**Figure 1.** Comparison Of The Total Muslim DPD RI Votes  
*Source: (Author Analyse,2023)*

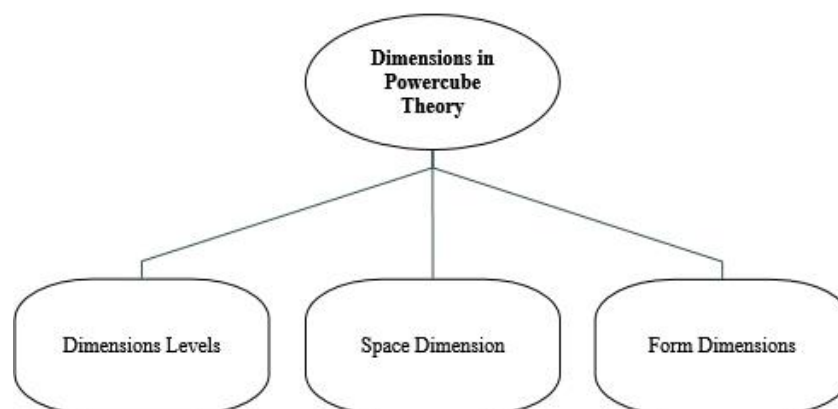
**Figure 1.** explains the ranking of differences in the vote acquisition for the Bali Regional Election DPD RI, north Sulawesi, and East Nusa Tenggara, who was elected in 2014 and 2019. Not only are contestants who enliven the election, but being selected as members of the DPD RI Muslim Province by beating other contestants is a fortune for them (Putra, 2022). The comparison of the vote acquisition of the 5 Muslim DPD RI members above shows that the one with the highest and lowest total votes was from North Sulawesi Province, namely H. Djafar Al Katiri, with the most increased acquisition of 147,210 votes; Cherish Harriette obtained the second highest vote with 140,936 votes and the lowest vote acquisition from the same Province, namely Aryanthi Baramuli Putri with purchase of 25,231. Furthermore, the third highest vote acquisition was from the Bali Electoral District, with 126,100 votes, and the fourth highest was from East Nusa Tenggara. Syafrudin Atasogi with 103,876 votes (Khair Wasahua, 2020).

The victory of the DPD RI members above is exciting to study from various theoretical perspectives. One of the interesting theoretical perspectives to elaborate on the triumph of the DPD RI members above is the theory *powercube* of the power cube. Theory *powercube* (cube theory) is a relatively new theory of power in political science (Bourdieu et al., 2023). This power cube theory is also often referred to as a complement to the three-dimensional energy approach. It is a refinement of previous methods, namely, one and two dimensions of power (Al-Hamdi et al., 2022). John Gaventa formulated this theory to refine the three-dimensional view of power from his teacher, Steven Lukes (Bourdieu et al., 2023).

In his book entitled "Local Politics: Patterns, Actors and Dramaturgical Flow," Halim (2010) explains at length how the cube theory of power works (Wardhani, 2020). Generally, the *power cube theory* is understood as the "control of a person or group over another person or group" (Ayuningsih et al., 2019). Furthermore, it is explained that the power cube theory is a framework for proposing an analysis of the three dimensions of power, namely level, space, and form, and where the relationship between the three theories is established. The victory of the Muslim DPD RI in the electoral districts of Bali, North Sulawesi, and East Nusa Tenggara is exciting to study from this theoretical perspective. Dimensions *level*, dimensions *space*, and dimensions *form* the struggle for the DPD RI seats of Muslims from the three Provinces provide a comprehensive analytical view to elaborate on their victory (Ayuningsih et al., 2019). Therefore, based on the explanation above, the formulation of the problem posed in this study is: How to explain the Comparison of the Winnings of the DPD Muslim Electoral Districts of Bali, North Sulawesi, and East Nusa Tenggara from the Perspective of the Powercube Theory.

## POWERCUBE THEORY

Powercube is a framework for analysing the level, space, and form of power (Taufiq et al., 2022). This aims to see people exploring various aspects of power and interacting with one another (Gaventa, 2019). The involvement of actors with other actors, relations with energy and movement, mobilisation, and change. The form dimension in power cube theory refers to how power manifests itself in this case, namely the form of power (Al-Hamdi et al., 2022).



**Figure 2.** Various Dimensions in Powercube Theory  
*Source: : (Author Analyse,2023). Modifed with Nvivo 12 Plus*

**Figure 2.** explains the dimensions of form in the cube theory of power; these three dimensions of control with various types do not stand alone but interrelate with one another and even influence each other (Answer & Misbah, 2018). *First*, the level dimension or level Dimension talks about the Level or Level of power to be studied, which consists of global, national and local (Putra Adela, 2019). Analysing this level of control cannot be separated, so power on a regional scale must include analysis at the national and even global Levels. For example, when the political economy aspects of local government become the focus of discussion, it is not enough to read only local political realities but also global and national political constellations (Dewanti et al., 2022).

*Second*, dimensions space or spatial dimensions talk about spaces consisting of (1) closed spaces, (2) permitted spaces, and (3) created spaces or claimed spaces. What is meant by closed space is that hidden actors inhabit a space. The second is the allowed space, which is regulated for local community participation in regional political processes. Finally, space is created. This space is outside the local government and is inspired by the local people. It is an organisation or social movement in the area to hold debates, discussions, advocacy, and resistance (Answer & Misbah, 2018).

*Third*, dimensions from or forms that talk about (1) visible forms, (2) hidden forms (3) invisible forms. The visible forms of power are contestation seen in the public space. The public can witness the contestation of power and the formulation of policies in plain view. Then what is meant by hidden power is power or authority used for personal gain (Tampomuri & Tampomuri,

2022). To maintain the continuity of management, obstacles and distractions are needed that can impede community participation. Meanwhile, invisible forces cause the loss of public awareness because they are drugged by values and ideology (Khene et al., 2021).

All dimensions can be carried out simultaneously depending on the actors' ability, networks, and other parties' support. At the level domain, local power is heavily influenced by national power, and global power heavily influences federal capacity. In some instances in several third-world countries, every local and national problem is always related to global issues. There are times when these issues originate at the Local level, and international matters also spread to local problems (Harris et al., 2022). Realising what happens at all levels is potentially significant in a power cube to consider the relationship between them. Therefore, the power cube refers to the various layers of decision-making and authority that are exercised on a vertical scale, particularly global, national and local (Harris et al., 2022).

(1) Global Level, Globalization and new forms of global governance have created a variety of formal and informal, state and non-state spaces for participation and influence at levels beyond the nation-state. At the international level, this includes traditional institutions such as those associated with the United Nations (UN) and World Bank (IMF) (Gaventa, 2021). (2) National Level, the national government is still an important entry point for change. National governments formally represent citizens in the arena of global governance or can decide whether or not to implement international agreements. While many activists and campaigners in recent years have focused on global forms of citizen action, a growing number of actors recognise the importance of change at the national level as well, including a focus on parliaments, executive bodies, national political parties, courts, and the like (Taufiq et al., 2022). (3) Local Level In many contexts, the local decision-making arena is a critical point of influence for holding and challenging power (Alam, 2019). In federal systems such as the United States or India, state-level governments are significant actors in their decision-making. In the last two decades, the decentralisation program has also made the regional level very important, both through local government programs, and a number of other structures for participation in development projects (Kagwanja, 2022).

## **THE CONCEPT OF ELECTIONS IN INDONESIA**

The general election is a process to elect people who will occupy government seats. General elections create a democratic country where leaders are selected based on a majority vote (Arifin & Hidayat, 2019). According to the Law of the Republic of Indonesia Article 1 Paragraph 1 No. 7 of 2017 concerning General Elections is a means of people's sovereignty which is to elect members of the People's Legislative Assembly, members of the Regional Representatives Council, President and Vice President, and to elect members of the Regional People's Legislative Assembly which are carried out directly, publicly, freely, confidentially, honestly and justice in the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia based on Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia (Aminah et al., 2020).

Elections have a close relationship with democratic principles and legal principles as fundamental principles that are widely used in modern countries. Elections are closely related to democracy because elections are one way of implementing democracy (Wartoyo & Tungga, 2019). In the principle of a rule of law state, through elections, the people can elect representatives his representatives who have the right to make legal products and supervise or implement the wishes of the people outlined by the people's representatives (Wardhani, 2020). The meaning of general elections must first interpret the democratic system, which is the background; the connection between the two is very close, namely departing from the government from the people, by the people and for the people (Wutoy et al., 2022).

This meaning implies that the power is in the hands of the people and must act on behalf of the people. For this reason, elections are used to elevate the people's existence as the holder of the highest sovereignty in the state (Satrio, 2019). Elections are indeed an important tradition that is almost used by democratic systems around the world. Explain that elections are essential in exercising power because it is there that the authorities gain legitimacy for this power (Jandevi, 2019). Suppose the people are said to be the possessors of the highest authority in a country, then as owners and holders of power. In that case, the people have the right to determine how to administer the government and the goals to achieve in a country (Al-Fatih, 2020). Of course, it

becomes difficult if, in practice, the implementation of state administration, all the people express their will individually to determine the policies to be carried out in the government.

Let's look at the number of Indonesian people in the millions, consisting of various ethnic, religious, and ethnic groups. Individuals can undoubtedly not carry out their policies purely within the government (Darmayanti, 2019). Elections are an essential part of a country that adheres to democracy. Through general elections, the people have the authority to exercise state sovereignty (Purwaningsih & Widodo, 2021). Indonesia, as a democratic country, also pays special attention to the implementation of elections. Because elections are the primary tool for implementing people's sovereignty. The election is determined by the people themselves sovereign. Therefore, every general election always involves the people as the central element in the implementation of the election. However, the involvement of people is not fully involved; several criteria must be met to be able to vote in elections that are held (Widhiasthini, 2020).

## RESEARCH METHOD

This research method is included in the category of normative research or library research, which is research conducted by examining library materials or secondary data consisting of online media, social media, and journals related to research by tracing the explanation of the Comparison of Victory of the DPD Muslim Electoral District of Bali, North Sulawesi and East Nusa Tenggara in the Perspective of the Powercube Theory (Bourdieu et al., 2023). The literature review study approach is carried out by reviewing journals related to the object under study. This research was conducted from December 2022 to January 2023 in Indonesia to study how to explain the comparative wins of the Muslim DPD in the Bali, North Sulawesi and East Nusa Tenggara electoral districts from the perspective of the Powercube Theory. The analysis technique uses the NVivo 12 plus data processing application, a qualitative document analysis tool with the help of a computer. Their tools are easy to use and can process words and explore word frequencies, attributes, and cases from big data. They also generate categories of factors or sub-factors in journalistic and research applications related to the research topic (Sundari et al., 2022).

The victory of the DPD RI Muslims in the electoral districts of Bali, North Sulawesi and East Nusa Tenggara have exciting differences and similarities to study. So that the results of this study can find out and explain the Victory of the Muslim Republic of Indonesia DPD through perspective *Powercube Theory* (Answer & Misbah, 2018), o make it easier for researchers, social media data is processed on the Nvivo 12 Plus analysis tool to display data which is then narrated by researchers (Sundari, 2022). The focus of the problem in this study is to see how to explain the comparative wins of the Muslim DPD in the Bali, North Sulawesi and East Nusa Tenggara electoral districts from the perspective of the Powercube Theory.

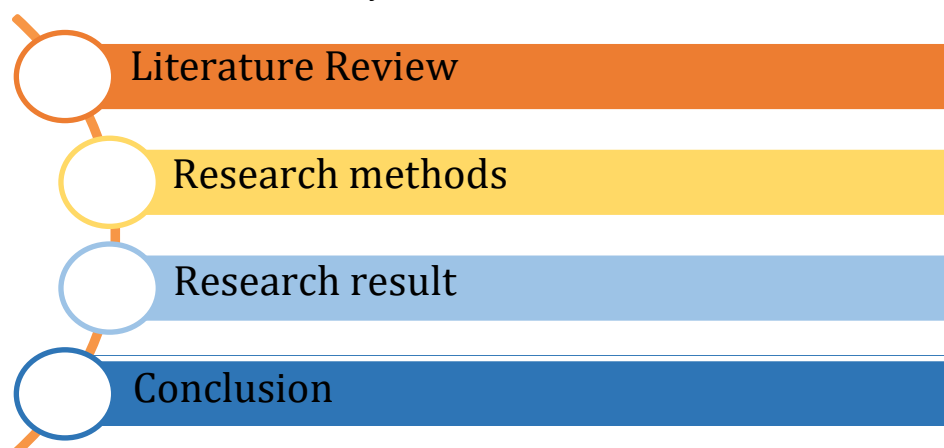


Figure 3. Research Framework

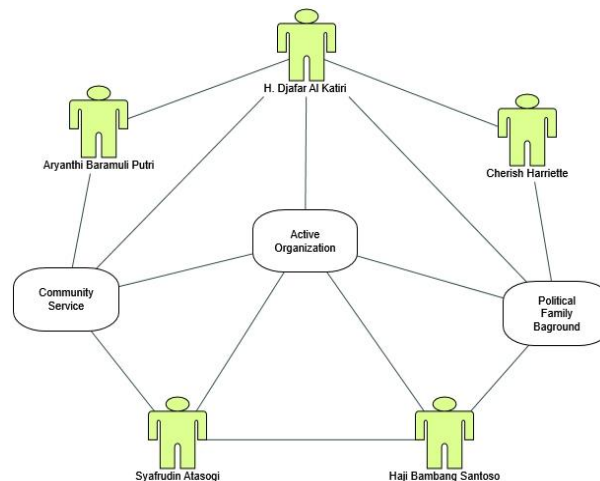
## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

Theory Powercube or power cube, according to John Gaventa, is very closely related to power which is relatively new in political science. In his book, "Local Politics: Patterns, Actors and Dramaturgical Flow", he explains how the cube theory of power works (Gaventa, 2019). A power analysis approach can examine the various forms, levels and spheres of power and their interactions. It builds on previous work on management and is elaborated and popularised in collaboration with other groups (Nurhandjati, 2019). The cube theory of energy can make it easier for us to see and map the things that play a role in management, the actors in it, the problems, and the underlying situation, and even make it possible to make changes appropriately and evolutionarily (Kagwanja, 2022).

Based on John Gaventa's theory, it is very closely related to the victory of the DPD RI Muslims in the electoral districts of Bali, North Sulawesi (North Sulawesi) and East Nusa Tenggara have differences and similarities to study (Bourdieu et al., 2023). The power of the political stage is filled with layers in every Dimension. Because we know that muscle that looks factual is not necessarily the same as the actual conditions, some things are kept secret in control (Bourdieu et al., 2023). It should be noted that the shape of this cube symbolises power; each side of the cube is interconnected. In cube theory, power is understood as the control of a person or a group over another person or group and a framework for analysing the three dimensions of power. Namely level (areas of interaction), space and form (dimensions of management) (Apriani & Gelgel, 2020). It can be seen from the victory of the Muslim DPD RI before being proposed to occupy this position and having differences and similarities, (1) H. Djafar Alkatiri has been involved in various organisations in the North Sulawesi Provision and is known as a vocal person, especially when dealing with the interests of society.

(2) Cherish Harris is the figure of a beautiful girl who graduated from the universities of Northumbria, United Kingdom and Coventry University London; she is young, energetic, and understanding of what the people need. Cherries are known to be very close to the people and cares about what the people want, and is the niece of the Bolaang Mongondow Regent Yasti Soepredjo Mokoagow. (3) Haji Bambang Santoso, before being proposed by the Bali Province MUI as a candidate for DPD-RI representing the people of Bali in 2018, Bambang Santoso had already served and worked hard for the people of Bali (Bourdieu et al., 2023). (4) Syafrudin Atasogi is a former member of the Social and Cultural Department of PB HMI for the 2008-2010 period, Chair of the Entrepreneurship and Professional Development (KPP) Division of PB HMI for the 2010-2012 period, General Chairperson of the Center for the Russia Arts and Culture Community in 2012-2016. Apart from being a politician, Syafrudin Atasoge is also known as a singer who has won various awards, including Champion I in the 2012 MNC TV Dangdut Fight. (5) Aryanthi Baramuli Putri was born into a family of politicians. His father, Dr Arnold A Baramuli, is a former chairman of the Supreme Advisory Council (DPA) and once served as Governor of North Sulawesi, proving that ABP is no stranger to the world of politics. He has also established himself by being active in various outreach activities to help sick people, especially cancer patients, from children to adults (tribunnews, 2018).

**Figure 4.** displays the results of data processing and data analysis that the researchers carried out based on the formulation of the problem (RQ2) in the research; the results show a model of differences and similarities in the background of Muslim DPD Actors in the Dapil of Bali, North Sulawesi and East Nusa Tenggara in the Powercube Theory Perspective (Kamahi, 2016). The collaboration model shows the differences and similarities in the background of the actors before serving as members of the DPD RI; the wins of these actors are not far from the pros and cons of the community because some of them are members of the DPD RI who are still very young. Some serve in areas where the majority are non-Muslims (Elishar-Malka et al., 2020).



**Figure 4.** Muslim DPD RI members and their backgrounds

*Source: (Author Analyse,2023)*

The victory of the DPD RI is very closely related to the Powercube Theory, where they already have the power of office either from politicians' families or are active in various organisations and have long served the community so that they can become members of parliament.

**Table 1.** Term of Office of DPD RI Muslim

The names of the DPD RI in the Bali Electoral District of North Sulawesi and East Nusa Tenggara	Year
H. Djafar Al Kateri	2019-2024
Cherish Harriette	2019-2024
Haji Bambang Santoso	2019-2024
Syafrudin Atasogi	2014-2019
Aryanthi Baramuli Putri	2004-2009

*Source: (Author Analyse,2023)*

**Table 1.** Explaining the Term of Office of the DPD RI Muslim, the 2019 Election is not the first time Muslims have sent their candidates to take part in legislative elections; in 2004, representatives of the Muslim community represented by Mrs Aryanthi Baramuli Putri took part in the legislative elections for the DPD RI in North Sulawesi Province with a term of office from 2004 to 2009, then H. Djafar Al Katiri also took part in the legislative elections for the DPD RI in North Sulawesi Province with a term of office from 2014 to 2019 and Cherish Harriette a young DPD RI member from North Sulawesi Province with a time of office from 2014 to 2019 (Haryono et al., 2022). Next was Haji Bambang Santoso, who represented the Bali Dapil and was elected a member of the DPD RI with a term of office from 2014 to 2019 and finally, Syafrudin Atasogi, who represented East Nusa Tenggara with a time of office from 2014 to 2019 (Tampomuri & Tampomuri, 2022).

The victory of the Muslim DPD RI from regional representatives cannot be separated from his experience and achievements before becoming a member of parliament. Even though some have no experience in politics, they meet the criteria for a leader with a good image (Wardhani, 2020). Activities carried out by DPD Muslims in their candidacy as DPD RI are a form of implementing political participation. They become candidates in general elections and carry out campaigns to attract community support with the aim of getting the desired election results, namely winning the DPD RI legislative election (Bourdieu et al., 2023). With the experience of the

organisation, he participated in, he formed his identity and became a respected Muslim figure. According to Frederich Barth, ethnicity refers to specific groups which, due to similarities in race, religion, national origin or a combination of these categories, are bound by their cultural value system (Khene et al., 2021).

Regarding the ethnic concept with what the DPD RI Muslims did in the 2004 and 2019 elections, they took advantage of the similarities in religion and achievements to attract public sympathy to jointly support them as representatives of the Muslim community (Widhiastini et al., 2019). By having the same race, customs, religion, language, descent and history, they have social ties to create a cultural system and are bound by it (Szulecki et al., 2021). Taking advantage of the similarity in religion, achievement and family background of politicians, they attract sympathisers from the public to become their supporters to become members of parliament first, now and in the future.

## **CONCLUSION**

Based on the results of the research and discussion described earlier, it can be concluded that based on John Gaventa's theory is closely related to the victory of the DPD RI Muslims in the electoral districts of Bali, North Sulawesi (North Sulawesi) and East Nusa Tenggara, which have differences and similarities to be studied. The power of the political stage is filled with layers in every Dimension. Because we know that muscle that looks factual is not necessarily the same as the actual condition, some things are kept secret in power. It should be noted that the shape of this cube symbolises power; each side of the cube is interconnected. In cube theory, power is understood as the control of a person or a group over another person or group and a framework for analysing the three dimensions of power. Namely level (areas of interaction), space and form (dimensions of power).

It can be seen from the victory of the Muslim DPD RI before being proposed to occupy this position (1) H. Djafar Alkatiri was involved in various organisations in the North Sulawesi Province and was known as a vocal person, especially when dealing with the interests of the community. (2) Cherish Harriette is a beautiful girl who graduated from Northumbria, United Kingdom and Coventry University London; she is young, energetic and understands what the people need. Cherries are known to be very close to the people and cares about what the people want, and is the niece of the Bolaang Mongondow Regent Yasti Soepredjo Mokoagow. (3) Haji Bambang Santoso, before being proposed by the Bali Province MUI as a candidate for the DPD-RI representing the Balinese people in 2018, Bambang Santoso had already served and worked hard for the Balinese people.

(4) Syafrudin Atasogi is a former member of the Social and Cultural Department of PB HMI for the 2008-2010 period, Chair of the Entrepreneurship and Professional Development (KPP) Division of PB HMI for the 2010-2012 period, General Chairperson of the Center for the Russia Arts and Culture Community in 2012-2016. Apart from being a politician, Syafrudin Atasoge is also known as a singer who has won various awards, including Champion I in the 2012 MNC TV Dangdut Fight. (5) Aryanthi Baramuli Putri was born into a family of politicians. His father, Dr Arnold A Baramuli, is a former chairman of the Supreme Advisory Council (DPA) and once served as Governor of North Sulawesi, proving that ABP is no stranger to the world of politics. He has also proved himself by being active in various outreach activities to help sick people, especially cancer patients, from children to adults.

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