PDIP's Internal Dynamics After the 2024 Presidential Election: Between the Opposition and the Coalition

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Abstract: This study examines the internal dynamics of the PDIP following the 2024 presidential election, focusing on the contrasting political orientations of Megawati Soekarnoputri and Puan Maharani. The defeat of the Ganjar Pranowo–Mahfud MD ticket not only shifted PDIP's position within the national political arena but also revived longstanding debates regarding leadership authority, strategic direction, and the party's future in an evolving democratic landscape. Employing a descriptive qualitative approach, the research analyzes political statements, organizational documents, expert commentary, and media reports to capture the meanings, narratives, and symbolic gestures expressed by key party figures. Findings indicate a significant divergence in how Megawati and Puan interpret PDIP's role after the election. Megawati underscores the necessity of maintaining robust oversight over the newly elected Prabowo-Gibran administration, while Puan signals a more flexible attitude toward potential cooperation. These differences influence not only internal cohesion but also PDIP's strategic positioning as Indonesia enters a new phase of political consolidation. The study argues that the party's trajectory will depend heavily on its ability to manage internal disagreements while adapting to broader shifts in power relations. Overall, this research provides deeper insight into how elite-level disagreements shape party stability and contribute to the broader quality and resilience of Indonesia's democratic process.

Keywords: PDIP, internal dynamics, post-election politics, coalition, opposition.

Introduction

The presidential election to be held in Indonesia in 2024 marks an important moment in political history in Indonesia. The implementation of presidential elections in Indonesia reflects democratic principles, especially in guaranteeing individual freedom and political equality. These direct elections are considered a formal part of the democratic process, which secures political rights. Therefore, the presidential election is not just an ordinary democratic event, but has become an integral part of efforts to deepen democracy at the national level. Thus, the presidential election is a means to form a more effective government after the election takes place (Fatiha et al., 2022: 347-348). Elections held by the state are considered successful if they can reflect the democratic system well, ensure the smooth election process, choose candidates transparently, and have a regulatory institution that is responsible and obeys all applicable regulations. In its implementation, there are principles that must be adhered to, including freedom, equality, neutral organizational involvement, confidentiality, honesty, and justice. Successful elections are expected to play a role in improving people's welfare. Therefore, the implementation of elections must be based on these principles to strengthen democracy as a whole. In addition, there are four other reasons that support the need for elections to adhere to these principles, namely ensuring legitimacy, preventing internal and external conflicts, forming quality leadership, and gaining international recognition for Indonesia. Quality and moral elections are expected to result in strong democracy and effective governance (Fatiha et al., 2022: 349).

The running of the democratic process in Indonesia cannot be separated from the active participation of political parties. Where in this case, political parties have a very close relationship with democratic life. The presence of political parties is even one of the main requirements in the democratic system. Wherever democracy is built, we must recognize that political parties are important institutions in the development of democracy. Political parties function as an institutional framework in the process of representation and government. Overall, political parties will continue to play an important role in helping the country develop a democratic system for the welfare of the people. In the context of democracy, political parties are considered the main pillars of democracy enforcement. This means that the quality of life of our nation and state is highly dependent on the quality of political parties in carrying out the mandate of the community. To realize people's expectations, political parties must strive to be better. They must be committed to being pillars that truly bring prosperity and progress to the nation and state (Aji & Indrawan, 2020: 214), (Efriza & Indrawan, 2019).

One of the major parties that has significant influence in Indonesia is the Partai Demokrasi Indonesia Perjuangan (PDIP). In Indonesia itself, the PDIP party has a fairly long history since the old order era. PDIP's journey began with the merger of five political parties: the Partai Nasional Indonesia (PNI), Partai Kristen Indonesia (Parkindo), Partai Katolik, Partai Murba, dan Ikatan Pendukung Kemerdekaan Indonesia (IPKI). The first three parties have nationalistsecular-progressive-populist tendencies, while the last two parties are religiously oriented, namely Christians and Catholics. Despite their differences in background, social base, ideology, and historical developments, these five parties joined on January 10, 1973, which is now commemorated as the anniversary of PDIP. Throughout its journey, the PDI has experienced various turmoil in the organization that reflects the internal political dynamics of the party (Safrudiningsih et al., 2024), (Annisa, 2023). One of them is the momentum of the 2024 presidential-vice presidential election. In the 2024 election, PDIP will carry the pair of Ganjar Pranowo and Mahfud MD as presidential and vice presidential candidates. However, unlike the 2014 and 2019 presidential elections, in the 2024 presidential election, PDIP suffered defeat. The Ganjar-Mahfud pair only managed to win around 16 percent of the votes. This vote gain is far adrift from Prabowo-Gibran who received more than 50 percent of the vote (Munandar, 2024).

PDIP's defeat in the 2024 presidential election will not only have an impact on the party's position in government but also create tension within the party itself. There was a debate about the political strategy to be implemented and the policies that had been taken by party officials. At least, there are two party officials who seem to have different views regarding the continuation of PDIP's position on the Prabowo-Gibran government. First, Megawati Soekarnoputri who looks firm to be outside the Prabowo-Gibran government. This statement can be seen from Megawati's speech at the opening of the National Working Meeting (Rakernas), Friday (24/05/2024), in Ancol, Jakarta. Here, in contrast to Megawati Soekarnoputri, Puan Maharani actually stated that there was an opportunity for PDIP to join the Prabowo-Gibran government. This can be seen from Puan's response when asked by the media on Thursday (28/03/2024). Where at that time, Puan smiled and answered' (Setuningsih, 2024). *God willing'* when asked about the opportunity for PDIP to join the Prabowo-Gibran government (Novita, 2024).

This research will discuss the internal dynamics of the PDIP Party after the 2024 Presidential Election, especially in the context of the option to be in the opposition or join the Prabowo-Gibran government coalition. This is relevant to discuss because PDIP is one of the largest political parties in Indonesia that has a significant influence in national politics. Their defeat in the 2024 presidential election and differences of opinion between important figures such as Megawati Soekarnoputri and Puan Maharani created internal political dynamics that influenced the party's direction and policies going forward. This research will outline the strategic consequences of the choices made by PDIP on national political stability and the future of the party itself.

Based on the background described in the previous section, this study focuses on observing the internal dynamics of PDIP after the 2024 election by asking a number of key questions, namely how the views between Megawati Soekarnoputri and Puan Maharani differ regarding the political direction of PDIP after the 2024 presidential election; how the impact of these differences of views on the internal dynamics of the party; what are the political challenges faced by PDIP in the post-2024 Presidential Election period; how the strategy taken by PDIP to respond to these various challenges; and how the implications of the party's political strategy choices affect the national political constellation more broadly.

Research Methods

This study uses a descriptive qualitative approach to examine the internal dynamics of PDIP after the 2024 Presidential Election, especially related to the differences in political attitudes between Megawati Soekarnoputri and Puan Maharani. This approach was chosen because the object of study is political, contextual, and full of meaning, so a thorough reading of the narratives, symbols, and political actions of the party elite is needed. Qualitative models allow researchers to unravel political reality as it is understood and produced by these actors, so that analysis can capture the humanist and relational dimensions in more depth (Efriza & Indrawan, 2019).

The data collection process is carried out through literature studies by utilizing academic literature, official party documents, national media reports, speech transcripts, and expert analysis. These sources of information were selected based on relevance to PDIP's internal issues, especially those related to the party's attitude towards the Prabowo-Gibran government and the political relations between Megawati, Puan, President Jokowi, and other actors (Guritno & Farisa, 2024). In addition, this research also refers to a scientific article that provides a conceptual framework on the function of political parties in Indonesian democracy (Aji & Indrawan, 2020).

The collected data was analyzed using thematic analysis, which is a technique to find patterns, categories, and main issues in political statements, elite gestures, and organizational dynamics. Thematic analysis is carried out through the process of rereading data in layers, codifying, grouping issues, and building interpretations that are able to explain the relationship between the differences in elite views and their implications for internal solidity and the direction of party strategy. This technique was chosen because it is effective in mapping the complexity of political issues that are not always linear.

To maintain accuracy, the study applied source triangulation, which is comparing information from the media, official documents, and academic literature so that the

interpretation remains accurate and free from a single bias (BBC Indonesia, 2024). This approach also ensures that the analysis does not simply rely on the narrative of one political faction, but reflects a comprehensive understanding of PDIP's challenges after the 2024 presidential election. With this method, the research is expected to be able to present a complete, humanistic, and analytical picture of the internal dynamics of PDIP in the contemporary Indonesian political landscape.

Results and Discussion

a. Differences in Views Between Megawati Soekarnoputri and Puan Maharani on the Political Direction of PDIP After the 2024 Presidential Election

Puan Maharani and Megawati Soekarnoputri, as Chairmen of the Central Leadership Council (DPP) and Chairman of PDIP, each have different views on the political direction of the party after the 2024 Presidential Election. This difference is evident in some of the statements and actions they take.

Megawati Soekarnoputri, who has been the Chairperson of PDIP since 1993, has a more consistent and firm view of the party's political direction. At the Fifth PDIP National Meeting, Megawati conveyed several important points that showed the party's political direction in the future. Megawati expressed her gratitude to the Indonesian people who supported PDIP in the 2024 election, which made the party remain the winner. Megawati also alluded to Jokowi's alleged intervention in the election process that allowed her son, Gibran Rakabuming Raka, to run as Vice President Prabowo Subianto. Megawati stated that PDIP will position itself to prioritize "checks and balances" in Indonesia's democratic system, especially in cooperation with the newly elected Prabowo Subianto government (Izdihar, 2024). In addition, Megawati also underlined the need for political balance and collaboration with the government to face increasingly complex global challenges. He emphasized that democracy requires strong and well-structured political parties, as well as a truly fair legal system. Megawati also highlighted the injustice in the election process and criticized the Constitutional Court Bill and the Broadcasting Bill because she considered it to be hiding something (Izdihar, 2024).

Puan Maharani as the Chairman of the PDIP Central Leadership Council (DPP), has a more progressive and inclusive view of the party's political direction. At the Fifth PDIP National Meeting, Puan conveyed recommendations for Megawati to return to serve as Chairperson of PDIP for the 2025-2030 period. This recommendation is based on the evaluation of PDIP regional leaders who consider the importance of party leadership stability in facing the transition period of government in the future. However, according to Refly Harun, there is a difference in approach between Megawati and Puan Maharani within the PDIP. Refly noted that the party's internal solidity is currently questioned due to the difference in attitudes between the two. He also highlighted Puan's interaction with Prabowo Subianto, while Megawati seems to have a more ambiguous view on some political issues. This suggests that Puan may be more inclined to forge coalitions with other parties, while Megawati tends to be more consistent in PDIP's political stance and direction (Rahmawati, 2024), (Guritno & Farisa, 2024).

The difference of views between Megawati and Puan Maharani can be seen in several aspects. *First,* related to the consistency and firmness of both. Megawati is known as a persistent and firm figure in criticizing the government and maintaining her party's political

consistency. With his long history in Indonesian politics, he has gone through various phases of democracy in the country. His criticisms of the government, especially during the leadership of President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono (SBY), made PDIP an opposition party for a decade (Buku, 2024). Second, Puan Maharani shows a dynamic and inclusive attitude, in contrast to Megawati who tends to be consistent with PDIP's political attitude and direction. Her interaction with Prabowo Subianto suggests that Puan may be more inclined to forge coalitions with other parties, showing her readiness and openness in political interactions. Farisa, 2024) Third, Megawati emphasized the importance of courage in party leadership in facing the transition of government in the future. According to him, the decision regarding the political direction of PDIP is entirely in his hands as Chairman, while taking input from various levels of the party's DPP and various figures involved (Sucipto, 2024). Fourth, Megawati also highlighted the existence of fraud in the election process and criticized the Constitutional Court Bill and the Broadcasting Bill. In addition, he emphasized the importance of maintaining political balance and building cooperation with governments to face increasingly complex global challenges. Thus, Megawati showed her focus on political balance and justice in Indonesia's democratic system (Izdihar, 2024).

From the analysis that has been carried out above, it can be concluded that Puan Maharani and Megawati Soekarnoputri have different views on the political direction of PDIP after the 2024 election. Megawati showed consistency and firmness in her criticism of the government and maintained the party's political direction. On the other hand, Puan Maharani has shown openness to interact with other parties and may be more ready to form a coalition with the government. This difference illustrates that PDIP's internal affairs are currently not solid, with differences in attitudes between Megawati and Puan.

b. The Impact of Megawati and Puan's Differing Views on PDIP's Internal Dynamics

The difference of views between Megawati Soekarnoputri and Puan Maharani after the 2024 Presidential Election has a major impact on the internal dynamics of the PDIP. These impacts include:

First, the difference of views between Megawati and Puan affects PDIP's attitude towards Jokowi. Megawati Soekarnoputri, as the General Chairperson of PDIP, is known to have a firm and firm attitude towards the Jokowi government. He often issued statements that affirmed PDIP's position as an opposition and criticized various issues that he considered not in accordance with the party's views. For example, on several occasions, Megawati criticized Jokowi and his family, including Gibran Rakabuming Raka, whom she considered to have an unhealthy relationship with the government. On the contrary, Puan Maharani, as the Chairman of the PDIP Central Leadership Council (DPP), showed a softer and more open attitude towards the Jokowi government. Puan often clarifies statements that are considered offensive to Jokowi and avoids confrontations that could worsen relations between PDIP and the government. This can be seen from her statement in the House of Representatives Plenary Session, where she said that losing and winning in elections is a natural thing, showing a more moderate attitude compared to Megawati (Smart Politics, 2024), (Smart Politics, 2024).

Second, the difference of opinion between Megawati and Puan will also have an impact on PDIP's relationship with Prabowo Subianto. The relationship between Megawati and Prabowo Subianto is an interesting concern. Although previously Megawati's relationship with Prabowo was not good, now it seems that Megawati is more open. In fact, there is a possibility

that he will meet with Prabowo after the Constitutional Court's ruling on the 2024 presidential election dispute, which shows an effort for reconciliation. On the other hand, Puan Maharani showed a friendlier attitude to Prabowo. For example, Puan once met with Prabowo in Solo, which is considered an effort to maintain good relations with the Jokowi family. This shows that Puan is trying to improve relations with various parties, including the Jokowi and Prabowo families, which can strengthen PDIP's position both inside and outside parliament (Saputra, 2024).

Third, the difference of views between Megawati and Puan will also certainly affect the internal conditions and solidarity of the PDIP party. The difference in attitude between Megawati and Puan has raised concerns about the internal solidity of PDIP. Refly Harun, an expert on constitutional law, suspects that this instability occurred due to differences of opinion between Megawati, Puan, and PDI-P Secretary General, Hasto Kristiyanto. According to Refly, the different views between them make PDIP not have a consistent message. This can also be seen from Megawati's unclear statement regarding support for Prabowo, which is considered an indication that PDIP does not have a clear direction in dealing with the Jokowi government. This situation shows that PDIP is experiencing internal divisions that could affect its ability to play a strong opposition role (Guritno & Farisa, 2024).

Fourth, the difference of views between Megawati and Puan also has an impact on PDI's potential to become a strong opposition. In the 2024 presidential election, PDIP suffered a defeat in the election, which was seen by some as a failure of the Soekarno family. This defeat indicates that PDIP may no longer have enough power to maintain the executive position. Nevertheless, Puan Maharani's role is considered a factor that can help PDIP reconcile with Jokowi and enter the government coalition in the future (Smart Politics, 2024).

After being explained, it can be seen that the difference of views between Megawati and Puan after the 2024 Presidential Election has caused a striking internal split in the PDIP. Megawati reiterated her stance on the Jokowi administration, while Puan sought to improve relations and show a more moderate attitude. This difference has the potential to affect PDIP's ability as a strong opposition and its internal dynamics. Puan, who is often considered a more lenient figure (good cop) in the PDIP, may be able to help the party to reconcile with Jokowi and possibly join a government coalition in the future. However, this difference also shows that PDIP still faces great challenges in maintaining its internal integrity and strengthening its position both inside and outside parliament.

c. PDIP Challenges After the 2024 Presidential Election

PDIP's challenges after the 2024 Presidential Election (Pilpres) are various factors that affect the party's political decisions. Here is a detailed explanation of the challenges facing PDIP:

First, related to involvement in the Prabowo-Gibran government. PDIP is still considering getting involved in the government after the 2024 presidential election. Although there are strong indications that the party will become the opposition force to the Prabowo-Gibran government, PDIP has not officially made its political decision. This is due to various considerations that must be considered, including internal disappointment with the implementation of the 2024 election which is considered bad by some party members. PDIP also apologized for the behavior of cadres that were considered unethical, while emphasizing the importance of control and balance to improve the quality of democracy (BBC Indonesia,

2024). Second, related to PDIP's relationship with Prabowo and Jokowi in the future, which is unclear. The harmony between Megawati Soekarnoputri, as the General Chairperson of PDIP, with Prabowo Subianto and Joko Widodo (Jokowi) is the main factor in PDIP's political decisions. Megawati's interaction with the two could affect the party's attitude towards involvement in the upcoming government. However, PDIP needs to consider the consequences of the difference in political views between Prabowo and Jokowi in the structure of the upcoming government (BBC Indonesia, 2024).

Third, related to coalitions and political interests. Considerations of political interests at both the national and regional levels influence PDIP's decisions. The coalition formed after the 2024 presidential election will greatly determine the political direction of Indonesia. PDIP needs to consider ways to collaborate with other parties to achieve its political goals. This is crucial, especially in facing the 2024 Regional Elections, where the right coalition can support PDIP in achieving its political goals (BBC Indonesia, 2024). Fourth, challenges related to policies and reforms. PDIP needs to think about how they can play a role in the reforms and policies that will be implemented by the next government. The party must consider how they can improve the quality of democracy in Indonesia, including by more effectively supervising the implementation of elections and governance. This is very important given the democratic challenges facing Indonesia, such as technical issues, transparency, and accountable governance in the implementation of elections (BBC Indonesia, 2024).

d. PDIP's Strategy After the 2024 Presidential Election

PDIP faced many problems after losing the 2024 presidential election. After the 2024 Presidential Election, PDIP has taken the following strategic actions:

First, PDIP would like to thank all Indonesians who enthusiastically attended the polling station and ensured that the election process ran smoothly. This shows the party's commitment to the participation of the people in democracy (Feisal, 2024). Second, PDIP carried out all vote counting steps in accordance with the law, conducting a gradual recapitulation starting from the polling station to a higher level. According to Feisal (2024), this action shows the party's commitment to respecting the democratic process and respecting election results. Third, PDIP pays attention to every aspect of the extensive election fraud plan. They work with other political parties to expose fraudulent practices in elections by collecting evidence from the field. This effort shows PDIP's commitment to improving election integrity and stopping unfair practices (Feisal, 2024). Fourth, PDIP asked Ganjar Pranowo-Mahfud Md from the National Victory Team (TPN) to form a special team to deal with problems that arose after the election. This shows the party's efforts to improve coordination and strategy to deal with post-election challenges (Feisal, 2024).

Fifth, Hasto Kristiyanto, Secretary General of PDIP, stated that PDIP must remain committed to the interests of the people, both inside and outside the government. This shows that the party puts the interests of the people first in every decision (Fadilah, 2024). Sixth, PDIP emphasizes the importance of being responsible to the people in every aspect of its movement. This partition affirms that the general welfare should be the top priority of any change of government, especially when faced with issues such as rising prices of basic necessities and the financial deficit of the middle class. This shows the party's commitment to providing solutions that put the needs of the community first (Fadilah, 2024). Seventh, PDIP collaborates with other political parties, such as PPP, Perindo, and Hanura, to conduct surveys in the field

to find violations in the election process. This shows the party's efforts to increase alliances and cooperation to address the problem (Feisal, 2024. By implementing these strategies, PDIP seeks to strengthen its position both inside and outside the government, and prioritize the interests of the people in every decision.

e. Implications of PDIP's Choice of Political Strategy on the National Political Constellation

There are several perspectives that can be used to analyze the impact of PDIP's choice of political strategy on the national political constellation. *First*, PDIP's political communication approach that focuses on social division and identity can have an impact on cooperation with other political parties. One example is PDIP's political communication approach which focuses on social division and identity. This could increase PDIP's efforts to collaborate with parties with the same agenda as Gerindra and Golkar (Hutomo, 2015).

Second, after the election, PDIP faced various problems, including a large number of election violations. This shows the party's commitment to improving election integrity and eliminating fraud. *Third*, PDIP collaborates with PPP, Perindo, and Hanura to collect field data and find election violations. This shows the party's commitment to enhancing alliances and cooperation to address the issue (Feisal, 2024).

Conclusion

This research found many internal dynamics in PDIP after the 2024 Presidential Election. This is mainly related to the difference of opinion between Megawati Soekarnoputri and Puan Maharani about the political direction of the party. When it comes to the election results that will determine the future of the party, these two main players of PDIP have very different perspectives and strategies. PDIP Chairperson Megawati Soekarnoputri remains firm and firm against the government, especially in her criticism of the Jokowi government and the party's decision to remain a strong opposition force. Megawati believes that PDIP should perform a check and balance function in the new Prabowo-Gibran government, emphasizing the importance of a strong democracy and overseeing government decisions that she considers not transparent. On the other hand, the impression of Puan Maharani is more lively and friendly. As Chairman of the PDIP DPP, it seems that you are more prepared to cooperate with the Prabowo-Gibran government. Although Puan may remain in opposition, she may be more inclined to maintain good relations with the government and seek opportunities to contribute to national policy. The internal dynamics of PDIP are complicated because of these different perspectives. The party faces significant challenges when figuring out what political steps it will take after losing its election victory. Whether PDIP will remain in opposition or try to cooperate with the new government will have a major impact on the party's stability and its role in national politics.

The party's relationship with other important politicians, such as Prabowo Subianto and Jokowi, is affected by the differences in approaches between Megawati and Puan. With her firmer attitude towards Jokowi, Megawati asked PDIP to maintain distance from the incumbent government. Meanwhile, Puan's more balanced attitude shows that PDIP is ready to talk and cooperate with various organizations, including Prabowo and Jokowi. In addition, these internal dynamics show the struggle to maintain the party's strength and revival. The

differences of opinion between important figures of PDIP, such as Megawati and Puan, show that the party must try harder to bring its ranks closer and unite its political vision. This issue is very important because the future of PDIP depends on the party's ability to adapt to political developments in Indonesia.

In addition, PDIP's post-election plan must consider external and internal variables that influence political decisions. Factors such as political coalitions, national policies carried, and how the party handles controversial issues such as electoral reform are important strategic focuses for the party. Overall, this study shows that PDIP faces significant difficulties in determining its political path after the 2024 presidential election. The internal dynamics of the party and national political stability are influenced by the differences of opinion between Megawati and Puan regarding the relationship with the Prabowo-Gibran government and the opposition's strategy rather than collaboration. In the next few years, the strategic decisions taken by PDIP will greatly determine its role and influence in the Indonesian political system as a whole. Therefore, to ensure that PDIP remains relevant and effective as one of the major political forces in Indonesia, internal strength, consistency in political attitudes, and the ability to adapt to political changes are all important.

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