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## Assessing the Effectiveness of Gakkumdu in Handling Electoral Crimes in the 2024 Regional Head Election in South Bolaang Mongondow Regency

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### ABSTRACT

*Electoral criminal law enforcement is a crucial element in maintaining the integrity and legitimacy of local democracy, particularly in the 2024 Simultaneous Regional Head Elections. The Integrated Law Enforcement Center (Sentra Gakkumdu) was established as a coordination mechanism among Bawaslu, the Police, and the Public Prosecutor's Office to ensure effective and integrated handling of electoral violations. This study aims to analyze the effectiveness of Gakkumdu in resolving electoral criminal offenses in South Bolaang Mongondow Regency and to identify the factors influencing its effectiveness. This research employs an empirical legal research method with a socio-legal approach. Data were collected through interviews, observations, and literature studies and analyzed using qualitative descriptive techniques. The findings indicate that Gakkumdu has functioned in identifying and assessing alleged electoral crimes; however, its effectiveness is constrained by regulatory challenges, particularly strict procedural time limits for case handling. Furthermore, inter-agency coordination, human resource capacity, availability of evidence, local socio-political dynamics, and public legal culture significantly affect the enforcement process. This study concludes that regulatory strengthening, institutional capacity building, and policy reformulation in electoral criminal law enforcement are necessary to enhance the effectiveness of Gakkumdu in ensuring democratic and fair elections.*

**Keywords:** Gakkumdu, electoral crimes, 2024 regional elections, law enforcement effectiveness, electoral law.

### ABSTRAK

*Penegakan hukum tindak pidana pemilihan merupakan elemen penting dalam menjaga integritas dan legitimasi demokrasi lokal, khususnya dalam pelaksanaan Pilkada Serentak 2024. Sentra Penegakan Hukum Terpadu (Gakkumdu) dibentuk sebagai mekanisme koordinatif antara Bawaslu, Kepolisian, dan Kejaksaan untuk memastikan penanganan pelanggaran pemilihan berjalan efektif dan terintegrasi. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis efektivitas peran Gakkumdu dalam penyelesaian tindak pidana pemilihan kepala daerah di Kabupaten Bolaang Mongondow Selatan serta mengidentifikasi faktor-faktor yang memengaruhi efektivitas tersebut. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode penelitian hukum empiris dengan pendekatan sosiologis-yuridis. Data diperoleh melalui wawancara, observasi, dan studi kepustakaan, serta dianalisis secara kualitatif deskriptif. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa Gakkumdu telah berfungsi dalam mengidentifikasi dan mengkaji dugaan tindak pidana pemilihan, namun efektivitasnya masih terbatas oleh kendala regulatif, khususnya batas waktu penanganan perkara yang sangat ketat. Selain itu,*

*koordinasi antar lembaga, kapasitas sumber daya manusia, ketersediaan alat bukti, dinamika sosial-politik lokal, serta budaya hukum masyarakat turut memengaruhi keberhasilan penegakan hukum pemilihan. Penelitian ini menyimpulkan bahwa penguatan regulasi, peningkatan kapasitas kelembagaan, dan reformulasi kebijakan penanganan tindak pidana pemilihan diperlukan untuk meningkatkan efektivitas Gakkumdu dalam menjamin pemilihan yang demokratis dan berkeadilan.*

**Kata Kunci:** Gakkumdu, Tindak Pidana Pemilihan, Pilkada 2024, Efektivitas Penegakan Hukum, Hukum Pemilu.

## INTRODUCTION

The Simultaneous Regional Head Elections (Pilkada Serentak) 2024 constitute a strategic agenda in consolidating democracy at the local level. The implementation of the Pilkada is not only intended to elect Governors, Regents, and Mayors, but also to strengthen the legitimacy of local governments based on democratic principles. Constitutionally, the implementation of democratic elections is rooted in Article 1 paragraph (2) of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, which affirms that sovereignty resides in the hands of the people. This principle is further reinforced in Article 22E paragraph (1) of the 1945 Constitution, which stipulates that general elections must be conducted directly, publicly, freely, confidentially, honestly, and fairly. In addition, Article 18 paragraph (4) of the 1945 Constitution mandates that Governors, Regents, and Mayors are elected democratically, so that the implementation of Pilkada must be free from the intervention of power (Suryani et al., 2024).

To realize these democratic principles, the neutrality of state officials, regional officials, civil servants (ASN), members of the Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI) and the Indonesian National Police (POLRI), as well as Village Heads/Lurah, is mandatory in the implementation of Pilkada. This neutrality is important to ensure that the competition among candidate pairs takes place fairly without the use of public resources, power, or authority to benefit certain candidates. The regulation concerning this prohibition is explicitly stated in Article 71 paragraph (1) of Law Number 10 of 2016, which stipulates that state officials, regional officials, ASN, TNI/POLRI, and village heads or other designations/lurah are prohibited from making decisions or taking actions that benefit or disadvantage any candidate pair. This norm implies that the state and all its apparatus must maintain distance from practical political activities, so that the will of the people can be conveyed purely without structural pressure (Wardhana, 2018).

Specifically, the Village Head becomes an important concern in the context of the 2024 Simultaneous Pilkada. Village Heads have social proximity and administrative authority that can be politically exploited. Therefore, in addition to being subject to the prohibition under Article 71 paragraph (1) of Law No. 10 of 2016, the position of Village Head is also regulated in Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages, which prohibits Village Heads from participating in campaigns and prohibits actions that may favor or disadvantage certain parties in political contests. This regulation aims to prevent the politicization of village offices that could unnaturally alter the political preferences of the community (Jupri et al., 2023).

From the perspective of law enforcement, Law Number 10 of 2016 concerning the Second Amendment to Law Number 1 of 2015 on the Stipulation of Government Regulation in Lieu of Law Number 1 of 2014 on the Election of Governors, Regents, and Mayors into Law has established strict sanction mechanisms for violations of Article 71 paragraph (1). One of the most severe consequences is stipulated in Article 188, which states that any state official, regional official, ASN official, TNI/POLRI member, and Village Head or other designation/Lurah who intentionally violates the provisions as referred to in Article 71 shall be punished with imprisonment of at least one (1) month and at most six (6) months and/or a fine of at least IDR 600,000.00 (six hundred thousand rupiah) and at most IDR 6,000,000.00 (six million rupiah)(BeritaNasional.ID, 2024).

The mechanism for handling violations is carried out through the supervision process of Bawaslu, assessment, and evidence. This process is strengthened by technical regulations, namely Bawaslu Regulation Number 9 of 2024 concerning Amendments to Bawaslu Regulation Number 8 of 2020 on the Handling of Violations in the Election of Governors, Regents, and Mayors. This regulation governs procedures for handling administrative violations, election criminal violations, and violations of the code of ethics and discipline of ASN related to actions that benefit or disadvantage candidate pairs(Ananingsih, 2016).

Through this layered legal framework, from the Constitution to technical regulations, it is evident that the state places great importance on the neutrality of state apparatus in the implementation of Pilkada. This regulation is not merely a restriction on public officials, but an effort to guarantee the integrity, fairness, and purity of the democratic process. The 2024 Simultaneous Pilkada can only take place with full legitimacy if all parties with governmental authority maintain professionalism and do not intervene in the political preferences of the community. Thus, enforcement of the prohibition on actions that benefit or disadvantage candidate pairs becomes a fundamental pillar in realizing a democratic, accountable, and fair Pilkada.(Ersan & Erliyana, 2018)

The 2024 Simultaneous Pilkada in South Bolaang Mongondow Regency was contested by two candidate pairs, namely: (1) Arsalan Makalalag – Hartina S. Badu, supported by the Golkar Party and the NasDem Party; and (2) Iskandar Kamaru – Deddy Abdul Hamid, nominated by PDI-P, PAN, PKS, Gerindra, and PKB. The constellation of these two candidate pairs made the political contest dynamics highly competitive, so that the potential for violations and alleged election crimes became more sensitive and required intensive supervision from Bawaslu of South Bolaang Mongondow Regency.

As an election supervisory institution, Bawaslu of South Bolaang Mongondow through the Integrated Law Enforcement Center (Gakkumdu) has a strategic role in ensuring that every alleged election criminal violation is processed professionally, quickly, and in accordance with legal provisions. Based on data on violation handling, there were 14 alleged election crime cases handled. Of these, 1 was a finding, while 13 were public reports. After verification and initial assessment, 12

cases were registered, while 2 cases did not meet formal/material requirements and were therefore not registered (Putusan et al., 2025).

Of the 12 registered cases, the results of the Gakkumdu Center deliberations showed that 10 cases did not fulfill the elements of election crimes and were not legally proven. This indicates that not all alleged violations can be followed up as criminal acts, considering that the elements of election crimes must be strictly fulfilled, in accordance with the principle of *nullum crimen sine lege* and the principle of *in dubio pro reo*. In contrast to these 10 cases, there were 2 alleged election crime cases involving Village Heads.

The first report submitted by the public to Bawaslu was registered under Number: 002/Reg/LP/PB/Kab/25.07/XI/2024, stating that 6 village heads declared their support for one of the candidate pairs for Regent and Vice Regent. The second report submitted by the public to Bawaslu was registered under Number: 003/Reg/LP/PB/Kab/25.07/XI/2024, stating that one village head clearly and openly attended a campaign and went on stage while raising a finger symbol representing the serial number of one candidate pair.

Based on these actions, the village heads were suspected of violating Article 71 paragraph (1) of Law No. 10 of 2016, because Village Heads are clearly prohibited from making decisions or taking actions that benefit or disadvantage any candidate pair. Both cases underwent the First Deliberation (Pembahasan 1) and then the Second Deliberation (Pembahasan 2) at the Gakkumdu Center of Bawaslu South Bolaang Mongondow, involving elements of Bawaslu, the Police, and the Prosecutor's Office.

The results of the Gakkumdu Center deliberations concluded that both cases "fulfilled the elements of alleged election crimes," so the cases were forwarded to the investigation stage. However, although substantively the acts fulfilled the elements of election crimes, the investigation process in both cases had to be terminated and an SP3 was issued by the investigators due to the expiration of the statute of limitations for handling election crimes, where the Regional Head Election Law provides a very strict time limit, namely a maximum of 14 days at the investigation stage. This time limit provision is imperative; if the investigation exceeds the time limit, the case must be terminated in accordance with the *lex stricta* principle in election law (Pardede, 2014).

The object of this research is Article 188 of the Election Law. The said article states that: "Every state official, ASN official, and Village Head or other designation/Lurah who intentionally violates the provisions as referred to in Article 71 shall be punished with imprisonment of at least one (1) month and at most six (6) months and/or a fine of at least IDR 600,000.00 (six hundred thousand rupiah) and at most IDR 6,000,000.00 (six million rupiah)."

This condition illustrates a serious challenge in election law enforcement. On the one hand, the Gakkumdu Center successfully identified and assessed cases quickly and found criminal elements in two cases. On the other hand, the very limited investigation time resulted in the cases not being completed to the prosecution stage in court. This becomes a critical note in evaluating the implementation of Pilkada,

especially regarding the effectiveness of law enforcement against violations committed by village government officials. This situation also shows that the neutrality of public officials, especially Village Heads, remains a challenge in the 2024 Simultaneous Pilkada. In addition, the very strict time limits for handling election crimes often become structural obstacles for investigators to uncover and resolve cases comprehensively. This phenomenon indicates the need to strengthen capacity, rapid coordination, and reformulation of policies on time limits for handling election crimes to be more adaptive to field conditions(Hidayat, 2020).

Thus, the experience of handling violations in South Bolaang Mongondow Regency provides an important picture of how complex election law enforcement is, especially when it involves government officials who have social and administrative influence. This again confirms that the implementation of a democratic Pilkada can only be realized if all legal instruments are consistently implemented and all government actors maintain their neutrality throughout the election process.

On that basis, the researcher considers it important to conduct an in-depth study on how effective the role of Gakkumdu is in resolving election crimes in practice, not only at the normative level. The author's interest is further strengthened by the phenomenon of case handling in South Bolaang Mongondow Regency during the 2024 Pilkada.

## METHODS

This study employs an empirical legal research (socio-legal research) approach to examine how legal norms operate in social practice, particularly in the context of supervision and law enforcement of electoral crimes(Agustapa, 2024). This approach is chosen because the issues examined are not only related to written legal norms but also to the behavior of actors, institutional practices, levels of compliance, and the dynamics of law enforcement in the implementation of the 2024 Simultaneous Regional Elections in South Bolaang Mongondow Regency. The research was conducted at the Office of the Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu) of South Bolaang Mongondow Regency as the institution authorized to handle electoral violations under Law Number 10 of 2016. The research data consist of primary data obtained through in-depth interviews with Bawaslu members, investigators of the Integrated Law Enforcement Center (Sentra Gakkumdu), public prosecutors, and legal staff, as well as observations of the supervision and violation-handling processes. Secondary data were collected from primary, secondary, and tertiary legal materials, including statutory regulations, academic literature, scientific journals, institutional reports, and official documents related to electoral case handling(Sahar et al., 2025). The research population includes all parties, institutions, and documents related to electoral law enforcement in South Bolaang Mongondow Regency, with samples determined through purposive sampling, namely parties directly involved in the process of handling electoral violations, such as Bawaslu members, Gakkumdu investigators, prosecutors, and official case documents. Data collection techniques include semi-structured in-depth interviews, field observations, and literature studies to obtain comprehensive empirical and normative data. The data were

analyzed using qualitative descriptive analysis through data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing stages by linking empirical findings with legal provisions and theories of law enforcement effectiveness, thereby producing systematic, valid, and academically accountable conclusions(Ali, 2021).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### *What is the effectiveness of Gakkumdu in handling electoral criminal offenses in the 2024 Regional Head Election in South Bolaang Mongondow Regency?*

The effectiveness of electoral law enforcement constitutes a fundamental indicator of the quality of electoral democracy. In the context of the 2024 Regional Head Election in South Bolaang Mongondow Regency, the role of the Integrated Law Enforcement Center (Sentra Penegakan Hukum Terpadu/Gakkumdu) became crucial as an institutional mechanism that integrates supervisory, investigative, and prosecutorial functions within a coordinated framework. Gakkumdu was established to overcome institutional fragmentation between the Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu), the Police, and the Public Prosecutor's Office, thereby ensuring that electoral criminal offenses are handled in a timely, professional, and legally accountable manner(Sholihin & Wibawa, 2023).

Normatively, the effectiveness of Gakkumdu can be assessed based on its capacity to identify, process, and resolve alleged electoral criminal offenses in accordance with Law Number 10 of 2016 on Regional Head Elections and its implementing regulations. Within this framework, Gakkumdu functions not merely as a coordination forum, but also as an instrument of law enforcement reflecting the principles of an integrated criminal justice system in electoral law. Thus, the effectiveness of Gakkumdu should not only be measured by the number of cases adjudicated by the courts, but also by the quality of procedural compliance, institutional coordination, and its ability to safeguard the integrity of the electoral process from abuses of power(Anam, 2024).

Empirical data on the handling of violations during the 2024 Regional Head Election in South Bolaang Mongondow Regency indicate that 14 alleged cases of electoral criminal offenses were processed by Bawaslu. Among these cases, one was initiated through Bawaslu's own findings, while 13 were reported by the public. After preliminary verification of the formal and material requirements, 12 cases were registered, while two cases did not meet the requirements for registration. This initial registration stage demonstrates that the screening mechanism applied by Bawaslu adhered to the principle of due process of law, ensuring that only legally qualified reports proceeded to further stages of handling(Permata & Ghoni, 2021).

However, from the 12 registered cases, discussions within Gakkumdu concluded that 10 cases did not fulfill the elements of electoral criminal offenses and were not legally proven. This condition indicates that the standards of proof in electoral criminal law were applied strictly by Gakkumdu. The principles of *nullum crimen sine lege* and *in dubio pro reo* served as the primary guidelines in determining whether an act could be classified as an electoral criminal offense. In this regard, Gakkumdu's effectiveness is reflected in its prudence in assessing criminal

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elements, thereby preventing excessive criminalization of political activities that fall within the administrative or ethical domains rather than criminal law.

On the other hand, two alleged cases involving village heads were declared to meet the elements of electoral criminal offenses and were subsequently forwarded to the investigation stage. These cases were related to violations of village head neutrality, including public statements supporting a candidate pair and attendance at campaign events while displaying campaign symbols. Normatively, such acts fulfill the prohibition under Article 71 paragraph (1) of Law Number 10 of 2016, which prohibits public officials, including village heads, from taking actions that benefit or disadvantage candidate pairs.

Gakkumdu's decision to proceed with the investigation of these cases demonstrates institutional courage in enforcing the law against public officials who possess significant social and administrative influence. In many regional election contexts in Indonesia, violations involving village heads are difficult to prosecute due to local political dynamics, power relations, and social pressures. Therefore, Gakkumdu's ability to identify criminal elements and advance the cases to the investigation stage can be regarded as a positive indicator of electoral law enforcement effectiveness at the local level.

Nevertheless, the effectiveness of Gakkumdu should not be evaluated solely based on the initiation of investigations, but also on its ability to bring cases to prosecution and judicial decisions. In the 2024 Regional Head Election in South Bolaang Mongondow Regency, both cases involving village heads could not proceed to prosecution due to statutory limitations on the time frame for handling electoral criminal offenses. The Regional Head Election Law stipulates very strict deadlines, particularly for the investigation stage, which is limited to a maximum of 14 days. This time limitation is imperative in nature, meaning that if the investigation exceeds the prescribed time limit, the case must be terminated through the issuance of an Order for Termination of Investigation (SP3).

The termination of investigations due to time constraints reveals a structural problem in the design of Indonesia's electoral legal framework. On the one hand, strict time limits are intended to ensure legal certainty and prevent the politicization of law enforcement after electoral stages have concluded. On the other hand, overly rigid deadlines can hinder effective law enforcement, especially in cases involving public officials with complex evidentiary requirements. In this context, Gakkumdu's effectiveness is constrained by normative factors beyond its institutional control, namely the rigid statutory framework governing electoral criminal procedures.

However, the termination of cases due to statutory deadlines does not necessarily indicate institutional failure on the part of Gakkumdu. From the perspective of legal effectiveness theory, a law enforcement institution can be considered effective if it has exercised its authority in accordance with established legal procedures. In this case, Gakkumdu carried out all stages of case handling, including registration, preliminary assessment, Gakkumdu discussions, and investigation. The termination of the cases was not caused by institutional negligence but by binding legal constraints. Therefore, Gakkumdu can be considered

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procedurally effective, although its substantive effectiveness in achieving material justice remains limited(Anam, 2024).

In addition to time constraints, Gakkumdu's effectiveness is influenced by the coordination among institutions within the Gakkumdu framework. Gakkumdu integrates Bawaslu, the Police, and the Public Prosecutor's Office in a joint case discussion forum. In practice, the effectiveness of this forum depends on shared legal interpretations, commitment to law enforcement, and the speed of decision-making processes. Data from case handling in South Bolaang Mongondow Regency indicate that the first and second Gakkumdu discussions were conducted systematically with the involvement of all Gakkumdu elements. This demonstrates that inter-institutional coordination functioned operationally, although challenges remain in harmonizing interpretations of electoral criminal law.

The effectiveness of Gakkumdu can also be analyzed from the perspective of public participation. The high number of public reports (13 out of 14 alleged cases) indicates public awareness of electoral violations and trust in the supervisory mechanisms of Bawaslu. Public participation is a crucial element in electoral law enforcement, as Bawaslu has limited resources to monitor all stages of the election process. Through public reporting, Gakkumdu obtains preliminary information that can be used as a basis for enforcement actions. In this sense, Gakkumdu's effectiveness is influenced not only by institutional capacity but also by the participatory democratic ecosystem(Buntu et al., 2022).

Nevertheless, the fact that most reports did not meet the elements of electoral criminal offenses also indicates a gap in legal understanding among the public. Many political activities reported as criminal offenses actually fall within the administrative or ethical violation domains. This highlights the need for more comprehensive electoral legal education to ensure that public reporting is more targeted and efficient. Such education is also important to prevent unwarranted political criminalization and to enhance the quality of participatory oversight.

From a sociological perspective, Gakkumdu's effectiveness in addressing violations committed by village heads has significant implications for local democratic consolidation. Village heads are strategic actors within rural social structures and exert considerable influence on political preferences. Non-neutrality by village heads can distort electoral competition through administrative pressure, resource mobilization, and social influence. Therefore, Gakkumdu's ability to identify violations by village heads demonstrates the presence of a control mechanism against the politicization of village bureaucracy.

However, the inability to bring these cases to court due to time constraints indicates that such control mechanisms are not yet fully effective in substantive terms. This condition raises the risk of impunity, where perpetrators do not receive proportional criminal sanctions despite fulfilling the elements of an offense. In the long term, this situation may weaken the deterrent effect and encourage the recurrence of similar violations in future elections. Consequently, the effectiveness of Gakkumdu should be assessed not only procedurally but also in terms of its preventive and repressive impact on legal compliance.

From the perspective of legal system theory, Gakkumdu's effectiveness can be analyzed through Lawrence M. Friedman's framework, which includes legal structure, legal substance, and legal culture. The legal structure in this context refers to Gakkumdu's integrated institutional framework with clearly defined roles and authorities. The legal substance refers to the norms in the Regional Head Election Law governing electoral criminal offenses and procedural deadlines. Legal culture refers to the attitudes of law enforcement officials and society toward electoral law. In South Bolaang Mongondow Regency, the legal structure appears to function adequately, legal culture demonstrates public participation, but legal substance still contains structural weaknesses, particularly overly strict procedural deadlines.

Therefore, the effectiveness of Gakkumdu in resolving electoral criminal offenses in the 2024 Regional Head Election in South Bolaang Mongondow Regency can be categorized as procedurally and institutionally effective, but not yet fully substantively effective. Gakkumdu performed its functions in identifying, assessing, and investigating cases in accordance with legal provisions, but normative constraints such as investigation time limits hindered the completion of cases through prosecution. This finding indicates that the effectiveness of electoral law enforcement is determined not only by institutional performance but also by the regulatory design governing electoral criminal procedures.

The implications of these findings suggest the need for legal policy reform, particularly regarding procedural time limits for handling electoral criminal offenses. Overly strict deadlines should be reviewed to ensure greater adaptability to complex evidentiary processes, especially in cases involving public officials and local power structures. Furthermore, strengthening Gakkumdu's institutional capacity through training, enhanced coordination, and resource support is essential to improve electoral law enforcement effectiveness in the future.

Overall, the experience of handling electoral criminal offenses in South Bolaang Mongondow Regency provides an empirical illustration of the dynamics of electoral law enforcement at the local level. Gakkumdu has played a strategic role in safeguarding the integrity of the 2024 Regional Head Election, but it still faces structural and normative challenges that require regulatory reform and institutional strengthening. Ultimately, the effectiveness of Gakkumdu should not only be measured by the number of cases decided by courts, but also by its ability to uphold justice, legal certainty, and substantive democracy throughout the electoral process.

### ***Factors Affecting the Effectiveness of the Integrated Law Enforcement Center (Gakkumdu) in Handling Electoral Criminal Offenses in South Bolaang Mongondow Regency?***

The effectiveness of the Integrated Law Enforcement Center (Sentra Gakkumdu) in handling electoral criminal offenses in regional head elections is not determined solely by the existence of a normative legal framework, but is also influenced by various structural, institutional, procedural, and socio-political factors. Sentra Gakkumdu, as a coordination forum involving the Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu), the Police, and the Public Prosecutor's Office, is designed to ensure a

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shared understanding, rapid coordination, and integrated enforcement of electoral law. However, empirical findings in South Bolaang Mongondow Regency indicate that several factors significantly affect the effectiveness of Gakkumdu in resolving electoral criminal cases.

First, the regulatory framework and procedural time limits constitute a critical determinant of effectiveness. Law Number 10 of 2016 imposes strict deadlines at every stage of handling electoral criminal cases, including investigation, inquiry, and prosecution. The investigation stage, which is limited to a maximum of 14 days, creates intense procedural pressure on law enforcement officers. In the context of cases in South Bolaang Mongondow Regency, although the elements of electoral crimes were fulfilled and discussed in the Gakkumdu forum, the investigation had to be terminated due to the expiration of the statutory time limit. This condition demonstrates that overly rigid procedural regulations can hinder the effectiveness of electoral law enforcement, particularly when cases involve actors with strong social and administrative influence, such as village heads.

Second, inter-agency coordination and institutional synergy within Sentra Gakkumdu significantly influence the handling of cases. Gakkumdu relies on collaborative work among Bawaslu as the supervisory body, the Police as investigators, and the Prosecutor's Office as public prosecutors. In practice, differences in institutional perspectives, organizational culture, and legal interpretation often result in divergent assessments of legal incidents. Although the Gakkumdu forum is designed to harmonize perceptions, internal deliberations frequently require substantial time to reach consensus, thereby reducing the effectiveness of case handling under strict procedural deadlines. Therefore, the quality of coordination and shared legal understanding among Gakkumdu members is crucial in determining whether a case can proceed to prosecution.

Third, the capacity and competence of human resources (law enforcement personnel) play a decisive role in determining effectiveness. Handling electoral crimes requires comprehensive knowledge of electoral law, criminal law, criminal procedure law, and local socio-political dynamics. Limitations in the number of personnel, insufficient specialized training, and high workloads during election periods often hinder optimal performance. In regions such as South Bolaang Mongondow Regency, limited human resource capacity affects the speed and quality of evidence collection, witness examination, and case file preparation.

Fourth, the availability and quality of evidence strongly affect the effectiveness of electoral criminal law enforcement. Electoral crime cases must meet the strict standards of proof under criminal law, including witness testimony, documents, recordings, and electronic evidence. In cases involving public officials such as village heads, it is often difficult to obtain witnesses willing to testify due to social relations, political pressure, or fear of social repercussions. Furthermore, violations are frequently not systematically documented, which complicates the legal proof process.

Fifth, local socio-political conditions significantly influence the effectiveness of electoral law enforcement. South Bolaang Mongondow Regency has a relatively

communal social structure, where kinship relations, political patronage, and social proximity between village officials and communities are strong. This condition affects the willingness of the public to report violations and the readiness of witnesses to provide testimony. Additionally, the position of village heads as authoritative local figures often leads to social tolerance of their violations, thereby reducing public pressure for strict law enforcement.

Sixth, institutional support and infrastructure constitute important elements affecting effectiveness. The performance of Gakkumdu depends on the availability of facilities and infrastructure, including documentation tools, information technology systems, and case management mechanisms. Limitations in infrastructure can slow administrative processes, coordination, and reporting. In regional contexts, budgetary constraints also affect the intensity of supervision and enforcement activities.

Seventh, legal culture and public legal awareness influence the effectiveness of Sentra Gakkumdu. The level of public legal literacy regarding electoral crimes remains relatively low, resulting in many violations being unreported or perceived as normal political practices. This low level of legal awareness reduces public participation in election supervision, even though public involvement is a key component of participatory oversight systems.

Eighth, political commitment and institutional independence of law enforcement agencies are crucial determinants of effectiveness. The effectiveness of Gakkumdu largely depends on the integrity and independence of law enforcement officers in enforcing the law without political interference. In regional elections, political pressure from candidates, local elites, or political actors can affect the objectivity of case handling. Therefore, guarantees of institutional independence and protection for law enforcement personnel are essential prerequisites for effective electoral law enforcement.

Ninth, the institutional design of Sentra Gakkumdu itself must be critically examined. Sentra Gakkumdu is not a permanent institution with unified authority, but rather a coordination forum among institutions that each retain their respective institutional powers. This coordination model offers advantages in terms of collaboration but also presents weaknesses in terms of rapid decision-making and unified accountability. In some cases, differences in institutional stances can lead to stagnation in case handling.

Tenth, policy evaluation and regulatory reform are key determinants of the sustainability of Gakkumdu's effectiveness. The experience of handling electoral violations in South Bolaang Mongondow Regency demonstrates the need to reformulate procedural time limits for electoral criminal cases to make them more adaptive to field complexities. In addition, strengthening regulations on witness protection, digital evidence utilization, and inter-agency coordination mechanisms is necessary to enhance the effectiveness of electoral law enforcement.

Overall, the effectiveness of Sentra Gakkumdu in handling electoral criminal offenses in South Bolaang Mongondow Regency is influenced by normative, institutional, procedural, resource-related, social, and political factors. The complex

interaction among these factors determines the extent to which Sentra Gakkumdu can optimally perform its function in safeguarding the integrity of regional head elections. Therefore, strengthening Sentra Gakkumdu requires not only regulatory reform but also institutional capacity building, enhancement of public legal culture, and responsive policy reform in electoral law enforcement that reflects empirical realities in the field.

## CONCLUSION

This study concludes that the effectiveness of the Integrated Law Enforcement Center (Sentra Gakkumdu) in handling electoral criminal offenses in the 2024 Regional Head Election in South Bolaang Mongondow Regency demonstrates both functional achievements and structural limitations. On the one hand, Sentra Gakkumdu has performed its institutional role in identifying, reviewing, and processing allegations of electoral crimes in accordance with the prevailing legal framework. The mechanism of coordination among Bawaslu, the Police, and the Public Prosecutor's Office has enabled the classification of cases, the assessment of legal elements, and the initiation of investigative procedures, thereby reflecting the operational functionality of Gakkumdu as an integrated law enforcement forum. However, the empirical findings indicate that the effectiveness of Gakkumdu remains constrained by procedural and institutional challenges, particularly the strict statutory time limits that hinder the completion of investigations and prosecution stages. Furthermore, the study finds that several interrelated factors significantly influence the effectiveness of Sentra Gakkumdu in handling electoral criminal cases. These factors include rigid regulatory time constraints, the quality of inter-agency coordination, the capacity and competence of human resources, the availability and quality of evidence, local socio-political dynamics, institutional infrastructure, public legal awareness, political independence, and the institutional design of Gakkumdu itself. The interaction of these factors shapes the practical performance of Gakkumdu and determines whether electoral violations can be effectively processed through the criminal justice system. Overall, the findings suggest that while Sentra Gakkumdu serves as a crucial institutional instrument for safeguarding electoral integrity, its effectiveness requires continuous strengthening through regulatory reform, institutional capacity building, enhanced inter-agency coordination, and increased public legal awareness. Strengthening these aspects is essential to ensure that electoral criminal law enforcement not only functions normatively but also operates effectively in practice to uphold democratic principles, legal certainty, and justice in regional elections.

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