**Electoral Manipulations and Fraud Political Contestation: The Case of Regional Head Election**

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**ABSTRACT**

This study questions why anomalies in the form of political banality occur, marked by fraud and money politics practices so that the Pilkada tends to be bungled or flawed in accountability. This research uses a qualitative approach based on case studies. This research takes the case of the East Kalimantan Pilkada as the study locus, which was held in 2015 and 2018, especially in the election of Regents, Mayors, and Governors. The results of this study show the East Kalimantan Pilkada contestation, and it is undeniable how vital the role of capital is to improve the bargaining position of candidates. Candidates can arrange any strategy that is most likely to improve their bargaining position because it is not regulated in the Pilkada legislation. This study result also indicates that regional heads control political parties, which are known to have the strong financial capital to support the party. As a result, all party policies are almost always determined by the regional general chairman. There is no exception in determining the candidate that the party will carry in the Pilkada contestation.

*Keywords: Electoral Manipulations; Fraud Political Contestation; Pilkada*