

Internal Democratization of Political Parties and Limitation of the Power of the General Chairperson in the Indonesian Party System

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Abstract

The dominance of political party chairmen in the process of formulating public policy in Indonesia indicates a serious problem in democratic practices. The common fact that every draft law discussed in parliament must be approved by the party chairmen indicates an excessive centralization of power in the hands of political party chairmen. This condition creates a paradox, where political parties, as a means of articulating and aggregating public interests, actually become instruments of the interests of a handful of elite parties. This study aims to determine the level of democracy within political parties and examine how to constitutionally limit the term of office of political party chairmen. This study uses a normative legal research method with a statute approach. The legal sources used are primary legal sources, namely legal materials that include provisions of applicable laws and regulations and secondary legal materials that support primary legal sources, namely scientific journals related to public office and justice. Data collection techniques use legal interpretation and are analyzed using analytical descriptive techniques. The results of this study indicate that the general chairperson of a political party still holds absolute power without adequate control mechanisms, including the absence of term limits which allows for the emergence of a prolonged political oligarchy. Reconstruction of the political party system can be carried out by conducting a judicial review of Article 23 paragraph (1) of the political party law or by revising the political party law organically through the legislative body.

Keyword: Internal Party Democracy, Leadership Power Limitation, Indonesian Party System

Abstrak

Dominasi ketua umum partai politik dalam proses pembentukan kebijakan publik di Indonesia menunjukkan adanya problem serius dalam praktik demokrasi. Fakta bahwa setiap rancangan undang-undang yang dibahas di parlemen harus

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melalui persetujuan ketua umum partai politik yang mengindikasikan adanya sentralisasi kekuasaan yang berlebihan pada ketua umum partai politik. Kondisi ini menimbulkan paradoks, dimana partai politik sebagai sarana artikulasi dan agregasi kepentingan rakyat justru menjadi instrumen kepentingan segelintir elit partai. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui bagaimana tingkat demokrasi di internal partai politik dan melihat bagaimana cara membatasi masa jabatan ketua umum partai politik secara konstitusional. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode penelitian hukum normatif dengan pendekatan peraturan perundang-undangan (*statute approach*). Sumber hukum yang digunakan sumber hukum primer yakni bahan hukum yang mencakup ketentuan peraturan perundang-undangan yang berlaku dan bahan hukum sekunder yang mendukung sumber hukum primer yakni jurnal ilmiah yang berhubungan dengan jabatan publik, dan keadilan. Teknik pengumpulan data menggunakan interpretasi hukum dan dianalisa dengan teknik deskriptif analitis. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa ketua umum partai politik masih memegang kekuasaan absolut tanpa mekanisme kontrol yang memadai, termasuk tidak adanya pembatasan masa jabatan yang memungkinkan terjadinya oligarki politik yang berkepanjangan. Rekonstruksi sistem partai politik dapat dilakukan dengan cara melakukan judicial review pasal 23 ayat (1) undang-undang partai politik atau melakukan revisi undang-undang partai politik secara organik melalui lembaga legislatif.

Kata Kunci: Demokrasi Internal Partai, Pembatasan Kekuasaan Kepemimpinan, Sistem Partai Indonesia

A. Introduction

Political parties in Indonesia have existed since before independence and have contributed significantly to the formation of national leaders. However, these parties still face numerous internal challenges. Tracing the issues that occurred in Indonesia, including the massive political retentions that occurred in various cities at the end of August 2025, one of the causes was the failure of internal party cadre development. This is one of the reasons political parties failed to provide political education to their cadres.¹

Practical politics in Indonesia is still rampant. As elections approach, parties tend to recruit members from artists/celebrities who already have a strong following among the public, as they are already widely known. Rather than nominating genuine party members who clearly possess the capacity and

¹ Deki R. Abdillah, "Pemilu 2019: Bukti Kegagalan Kaderisasi Partai Politik," *Universitas Jambi*, August 9, 2018, <https://www.unja.ac.id/pemilu-2019-bukti-kegagalan-kaderisasi-partai-politik/>.

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capability to hold parliamentary positions as representatives of the people, but lack public popularity, they are less likely to be nominated.²

Parties that rely on the popularity of celebrity cadres can indeed garner a large number of votes. Therefore, political parties prefer the quick method of recruiting legislative candidates from celebrity circles rather than nominating party cadres who have developed organically. Based on what was conveyed by Lucius Karus, a researcher at the Indonesian Parliamentary Concern Community Forum, he assessed that political parties tend to be interested in nominating legislative candidates from among artists who already have popularity compared to nominating their own cadres who are not widely known by the public.³

The impact we will feel is a decline in legislative output, both in quality and quantity. If we refer to the DPR's performance assessment during its fourth session in 2022-2023, the results were dismal, with only one bill passed.⁴ Indeed, every citizen is given the right to vote and be elected (right to vote and right to be a candidate) regardless of their professional background, including those with a background as artists.

However, if the legislative body is filled with individuals lacking competence in terms of both political and practical experience, it will hamper the DPR's ability to formulate quality laws. The purpose of political parties is to convey public aspirations, playing a key role in determining the success or failure of Indonesia's democratic political process.⁵ The numerous demonstrations that have occurred in Indonesia recently are due to the fact that many political parties no longer respect democratic values, thus tainting the continuity of the political process in Indonesia. After basic political rights were institutionalized and the public was granted freedom of expression, and their opinions were heard based on interest groups, the democratic process must actually accommodate the diversity of Indonesian society and have its own rules.⁶

The Political Party Law serves as a foundation for majority consensus across various existing interests and values. This then becomes the political

² Diva Syabilla, "Transformasi Artis Menjadi Politisi: Fenomena Keterlibatan Artis Pada Kontestasi Politik," *Journal of Politic and Government Studies* 14, no. 2 (2025): hlm. 369.

³ "Pemilu 2024 bertabur caleg artis, pengamat: 'Kemampuan mereka nyanyi, main film, ngelawak, baik. Tapi kapasitas sebagai legislator kurang,'" BBC News Indonesia, May 13, 2023, <https://www.bbc.com/indonesia/articles/c511qn7ndllo>.

⁴ BBC News Indonesia, "Pemilu 2024 bertabur caleg artis, pengamat."

⁵ Miriam Budiardjo, *Dasar-Dasar Ilmu Politik* (PT Gramedia Pustaka, 2008), hlm. 49.

⁶ Tobias Böhmelt et al., "Populism and Intra-Party Democracy," *European Journal of Political Research* 61, no. 4 (2022): hlm. 1150, <https://doi.org/10.1111/1475-6765.12509>.

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process in a democratic society. The fundamental function of a political party is to articulate societal interests, direct them toward the common good, and formulate these interests within the framework of legislation and policy, thereby establishing an agenda that can garner public support during elections.⁷

For political parties to function optimally internally, restrictions are necessary, as Indonesia operates a democratic system, not an authoritarian one. Holding power for life is impossible in a democratic country, as one of the characteristics of a democratic state is the existence of restrictions. These restrictions include the length of office, which must be expressly stipulated in law, not the respective party's articles of association (AD/ART).⁸ Political parties themselves are part of the modern democratic system. The challenges they face are also increasingly complex. This research then raises several key questions to explore normatively how to limit the term of office of political party chairmen, including: how to reconstruct the party system in Indonesia? How to limit the term of office of political party chairmen in Indonesia?

B. Research Methodology

This research is a normative legal research and uses a statute approach. There are two types of legal materials used in this research: primary legal materials and secondary legal materials. Primary legal materials include current laws and regulations, including political party laws, general election laws, and regional head election laws, as well as several relevant legal doctrines. Secondary legal materials include books, articles, journals, papers, and other legal sources relevant to the topic of discussion. The legal material collection technique is descriptive, namely describing, analyzing, and assessing legal sources and materials related to the research discussion. The legal analysis technique used is to assess positive law and legal facts using legal science. The use of appropriate interpretation is necessary to answer each legal issue by analyzing the law related to the research objectives.

C. Discussion dan Research Results

The Concept of Political Party Oligarchy

One of the pillars of democracy in Indonesia is the existence of political parties, which bridge the aspirations of the people with leaders. Political parties

⁷ Jimly Asshiddiqie, *Pengantar Ilmu Hukum Tata Negara* (Rajawali Pers, 2015), hlm. 82.

⁸ Jamaludin Ghafur, "Pembatasan Masa Jabatan Ketua Umum Partai Politik: Tinjauan Negara Hukum dan Demokrasi," *Jurnal Litigasi* 25, no. 2 (2024): hlm. 410, <https://doi.org/10.23969/litigasi.v25i2.19327>.

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also serve as a place for cadre development, political education, and a platform for every citizen to develop themselves. The more democratic a country is, the better its governance should be.⁹

The problem that occurs is that political parties are only controlled by one person who is considered to have great influence, this could be the founder, his child, or the family of the founder of the political party who is still related. This means that it is dominated by charismatic figures, founders of political parties, or conglomerates whose wealth is considered to be able to support the party's life. A party controlled by only one person without involving its cadres can be considered a political party oligarchy.¹⁰

The etymological meaning of oligarchy comes from the Greek *oligos* (few) and *arkhein* (to rule), which means that power is in the hands of only a handful of people.¹¹ Meanwhile, according to the KBBI, the definition of oligarchy is a government run by several powerful people from a certain class or group.¹² In classical political theory, oligarchy is seen as a deviation from aristocracy, where power that should be exercised for the benefit of the people is instead used for the benefit of a small group of people in power.¹³

The theory of oligarchy has been widely put forward by philosophers and experts, for example the concept of oligarchy from Plato's ideas. Plato's theory states that a form of government has declined from an aristocratic government, a government led by intellectuals, to one led by a small group that rules for the benefit of that group itself.¹⁴

Not much different from what was put forward by the philosopher Polybius who saw that oligarchy was born as a result of an aristocracy acting

⁹ Jenli Maarotong, "Fungsi Partai Politik Sebagai Sarana Komunikasi Politik," *Journal UNSRAT* (Manado) 1, no. 1 (Manado): hlm. 4.

¹⁰ Hendrik Kurniawan et al., *Arah Demokrasi di Tangan Ketua Umum Partai Politik* (Madza Media, 2024), hlm. 8.

¹¹ Sugeng Sugeng, "Gagasan Pembatasan Kekuasaan dan Pengendalian Oligarki," *JDPL: Jurnal Demokrasi dan Politik Lokal* 5, no. 5 (2023): hlm. 2721.

¹² Kompas Cyber Media, "Arti Istilah Oligarki dalam Politik," KOMPAS.com, December 20, 2021, <https://nasional.kompas.com/read/2021/12/20/18341511/arti-istilah-oligarki-dalam-politik>.

¹³ Elviandri Elviandri et al., "Pembatasan Masa Jabatan Ketua Umum Partai Politik: Pilar Demokrasi dan Penguatan Pelembagaan Parpol Dari Conflict of Interest dan Abuse of Power," *JURNAL RETENTUM* 6, no. 2 (2024): hlm. 193, <https://doi.org/10.46930/retentum.v6i2.5030>.

¹⁴ "Oligarki Adalah: Pengertian, Tipe, Ciri-Ciri Dan Contohnya - Gramedia Literasi," accessed September 22, 2025, https://www.gramedia.com/literasi/oligarki/?srsltid=AfmBOopaVrUrVclBMeRFETnS_Sc5dX5mikPwrTYm3rTsJ7lHkGV2yPvy.

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arbitrarily which then encouraged the birth of a government led by a handful of oligarchic elites to improve the arbitrary conditions of the aristocracy.¹⁵

If we relate it to several issues occurring in Indonesia, the root of the problem actually lies within the management of political parties themselves. As long as there is no space for democracy within political parties, it will forever be difficult to improve our national governance. The question then becomes, how can a country be democratic if its political parties still cannot practice democracy within their own bodies?

The urgency of internal democratization of political parties lies in their role as training centers for recruiting future national leaders and producing nations with strong leadership qualities and organic cadres. If political parties are not internally democratic, the output of prospective leaders and policymakers will also be undemocratic. Democratization is crucial for political parties to ensure that prospective leaders are led based on capacity and integrity, not on proximity to elites, financial capital, or political dynasties. Failure to implement internal democratization of political parties will result in dowry politics, the exclusion of potential cadres, and the political party being dominated by a handful of elites.¹⁶

Decision-making within political parties still tends to be determined by just a handful of people or the general chairman (centralization).¹⁷ For example, the recruitment of regional head candidates is still largely dominated by regional political party leaders who are close to the party chairman. Without the chairman's blessing, it's difficult to run for regional head, while other officials aren't given a chance if they aren't close to the party chairman.

Not to mention the lack of clarity on the reasons why a candidate was nominated as a legislative member. Political parties, both at the central and regional levels, tend to act practically. They realistically examine the candidate: does he or she possess the necessary popularity, or sufficient logistical resources?

The characteristics of oligarchy in political parties are as follows:

a. Centralization of power

Strategic decisions, such as determining legislative candidates, regional head candidates, and the direction of political coalitions, are

¹⁵ "Oligarki Adalah: Pengertian, Tipe, Ciri-Ciri Dan Contohnya – Gramedia Literasi."

¹⁶ Elviandri et al., "Pembatasan Masa Jabatan Ketua Umum Partai Politik," hlm. 192.

¹⁷ Muhammad Al Kautsar, "Pembatasan Perodesasi Masa Jabatan Anggota Legislatif," *Jurnal Ilmiah Mahasiswa Bidang Hukum Kenegaraan (Aceh)* 3, no. 3 (Agustus): hlm. 365.

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determined by the general chairman or certain elites within the political party.

b. Dominance of charismatic figures

Larger, more established political parties tend to rely more on a single leader or founder than on democratic organizational mechanisms. This is because people will more easily recognize a party's identity if its leader is charismatic and a national figure.

c. Minimal internal democracy

The decision-making process within political parties, through deliberation or voting, tends to be a mere formality. However, the final decision is made by political elites before the forum is held.

d. Patrimonialism

There is a patron-client relationship, where member loyalty is based on personal closeness to the elite rather than through institutional mechanisms.

Dynamics of the Party System in Indonesia

Indonesia, as a diverse nation with diverse ethnicities, religions, races, and cultures, ultimately led to Indonesia opting for a multi-party system, as political parties carry diverse ideologies that represent various societal groups. It's certainly not easy for political parties to survive in a democracy with such a diverse society.¹⁸ As a country that has only just implemented real democracy since the New Order, the challenges are also getting bigger.

The ideological battle between political parties for positions in the legislative and executive branches necessitates various means to win the national political contest. The dynamics of political parties in Indonesia are influenced by several factors that could be described as highly complex and interconnected. Some of these factors include the following:¹⁹

a. Social and Cultural Factors

The dynamics of social and cultural change in society can influence the support base for political parties and their policy orientation. This is because social and cultural change determine how political parties must adapt to evolving societal values.

¹⁸ Fatni Erlina, "Dinamika Sistem Pemilu dan Demokratisasi Partai Politik di Indonesia Pasca Reformasi," *Kosmik Hukum* 23, no. 2 (2023): hlm. 203, <https://doi.org/10.30595/kosmikhukum.v23i3.16640>.

¹⁹ "[GEODATA] Dinamika Partai Politik Di Indonesia," accessed September 20, 2025, https://geo.mapid.io/blog_read/geodata-dinamika-partai-politik-di-indonesia.

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b. Economic Factors

Political party's approach based on resources and economic development reflects its economic policies. Economic inequality can create tensions, which become a primary focus for determining a party's political agenda.

c. Political and Legal Factors

The electoral system and internal rules of political parties have a tremendous impact on their structure and behavior. These internal party regulations can play a role in limiting and thwarting party actions on the political stage.

d. Party Leadership, Ideology and Political Platform

Political party leadership has a significant impact on the direction and policies of political parties. Political ideologies and platforms serve as the basis for policymaking and are used to garner public support.

e. External Party Factors

In addition to internal factors, parties are also influenced by external factors, including pressure from interest groups, typically labor, business, and civil society organizations. Mass media, social media, and public opinion contribute to shaping the public's image and perception of the party.

The above factors can shape the dynamics of political parties. Parties must adapt and must keep up with the times to remain relevant in the Indonesian political system.²⁰

Reconstruction of a Democratic Party System

Indonesia's democratic journey is still young and requires a restructuring of its political party system. Various trials have been conducted to find the ideal format for politics in a democratic country. Political parties are regulated by Law Number 2 of 2011 concerning Amendments to Law Number 2 of 2008 concerning Political Parties. The existence of political parties is also guaranteed by the 1945 Constitution to strengthen institutions and enhance their functions and roles.²¹

The success of a country's democracy can also be measured by the level of public participation in politics. Based on the simultaneous general and regional

²⁰ Udiyo Basuki, "Parpol, Pemilu dan Demokrasi: Dinamika Partai Politik dalam Sistem Pemilihan Umum di Indonesia Perspektif Demokrasi," *Kosmik Hukum* 20, no. 2 (2020): hlm. 81, <https://doi.org/10.30595/kosmikhukum.v20i2.8321>.

²¹ Feri Amsari, *Pembaruan Partai Politik di Indonesia (Demokrasi Internal Partai Politik)* (Intrast Publishing, 2020), hlm. 72.

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elections in 2024, much remains to be done, particularly the political party system in Indonesia.

Ideally, political parties should be organizations that can bridge the gap between the will of the people and those in power. However, what happens is that political parties undermine the existing system, for example, a statement issued by Bambang Pacul, a political party cadre, during a meeting in Commission III with Mahfud MD. Mahfud, as a government representative, asked for the immediate ratification of the Asset Confiscation Law, but Bambang Pacul said, "... Maybe asset confiscation is possible, but we have to talk to the party chairmen first. We can't do it here, sir".²² This is the current situation, that political party cadres must submit to the orders of the general chairman of the political party.

If the wishes of the general chairmen of political parties are to defend the interests of the people, but if they only want personal interests, then it can be said that the internal affairs of political parties are only held and controlled by the elites of political parties.²³

A democratic country is characterized by the existence of freedom of assembly, which is mandated in Article 28E paragraph (3) of the 1945 Constitution, which states: "*Everyone has the right to freedom of association, assembly, and expression of opinion.*"

It's no wonder, then, that post-New Order democracy was opened as wide as possible, and political parties proliferated in society. Every citizen was given the right to assemble and form political parties to express their aspirations.

Indonesia's broken political party system must be addressed, first by improving its own. Political parties are the ones who will ultimately serve as political education for the public and contribute their best cadres as leaders in both the executive and legislative branches.

The government must be firm and obligated to regulate the terms of office of political party chairmen in law, rather than leaving them to the respective parties' respective articles of association and bylaws. Ideally, it should at least follow the presidential term stipulated in the 1945 Constitution, which is five years, with the possibility of re-election for one further term.

²² Muhammad Faturrachman Sy et al., "Pembatasan Masa Jabatan Ketua Umum Partai Politik Dalam Rangka Meredam Fenomna Personalisasi Partai Politik," *Jurnal Nomokrasi* 1, no. 2 (2023): hlm. 71, <https://journal.unhas.ac.id/index.php/jnomokrasi/article/view/30016>.

²³ Sy et al., "Pembatasan Masa Jabatan Ketua Umum Partai Politik Dalam Rangka Meredam Fenomna Personalisasi Partai Politik," hlm. 70.

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It's undeniable that political parties began as private entities, but the position of party chairman has had a tremendous impact on state policy. The introduction of term limits for party chairmen will open up opportunities for potential candidates to hold the position of party chairman.

Recruitment of prospective political party cadres must also be clear, and cadre development must be organic and hierarchical. The large number of celebrities exploiting their popularity to enter politics must be stopped immediately. Celebrities may enter politics as long as they have been members of a political party for a long time and have undergone cadre training.²⁴ Cadre formation in political parties is currently considered premature because celebrities serving as legislators and regional heads lack sufficient capacity and capability, and lack experience in government. We can see this in the current decline in the quality of our legislation.²⁵

As Roscoe Pound's theory states, "Law is a tool of social engineering," meaning that law as a tool of social engineering must be implemented. Pound stated that law is not simply a set of rules, but rather a tool to balance various interests and needs in society to create harmony, progress, and social justice. Pound argued that law as a tool of social engineering must be designed to fulfill as many human desires as possible with as little conflict as possible. It must also adapt to changes in society.²⁶ Based on the theory put forward by Roscoe Pound, the government may use legal instruments to create social justice in society by explicitly regulating the term of office limits for general chairmen of political parties in Law Number 2 of 2011 concerning Political Parties.

Term Limitation for General Chairpersons of Political Parties

The term of office of the chairperson of a political party in Indonesia is not regulated by law, but only by the respective party's articles of association. We need to first examine whether political parties can be equated with public office?

According to Jimly Asshiddiqie, political parties are indeed private organizations, but in the process of running them they are public in nature so they can be controlled by public legal mechanisms.²⁷ Political parties are indeed

²⁴ Wasisto Raharjo Jati, "Fenomena Kemunduran Demokrasi Indonesia 2021," *THC Insight* 1, no. 27 (2021): hlm. 5.

²⁵ Basuki, "Parpol, Pemilu dan Demokrasi," hlm. 81.

²⁶ Gisa Inggit Maulidia et al., "Hukum Dan Perubahan Masyarakat : Pendekatan Filsafat Roscoe Pound," *Praxis: Jurnal Filsafat Terapan* 1, no. 2 (2022): hlm. 6.

²⁷ Mohammad Mahmudi, "Partai Politik Sebagai Badan Hukum dalam Sistem Kepartaian di Indonesia," *Negara dan Keadilan* 9, no. 1 (2020): hlm. 17, <https://doi.org/10.33474/hukum.v9i1.5046>.

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private entities founded by a group of citizens through a deed of incorporation, articles of association, and registration with the Ministry of Law and Human Rights. Therefore, their internal activities are private, such as the election of the general chairman and internal meetings. While the results of the election of the general chairman of a political party are entirely up to the internal party, we need to understand that because parties can also determine the public's interests, the term of office of the general chairman of a political party must be strictly limited by the state.²⁸

We also need to understand the public legal aspect. Although political parties emerged from the private sphere, they nonetheless have constitutional functions related to the public interest. For example, in determining presidential and vice-presidential candidates or regional head candidates. Article 22E of the 1945 Constitution defines political parties as election participants and political recruitment vehicles. Furthermore, parties receive funding from the state and regional budgets, thus providing an element of public accountability.

If we refer to Montesquieu's theory of limiting power, any position must have limits or limitations so that arbitrariness does not arise and there must be other institutions to supervise each other (checks and balances).²⁹ In fact, what's currently happening in Indonesia is that there are no statutory restrictions on the general chairperson of a political party. As a result, political parties often choose only one person to serve as a symbol for the party, such as its founder or a figure considered charismatic.

The following is data on the longest-serving general chairmen in Indonesia, as follows:

No.	Party Name	Chairman	Length of service	Information
1	PDIP	Megawati Soekarno Putri	1999 - Present	26 Years
2	PKB	Muhaimin Iskandar	2005 - Present	20 Years
3	PBB	Yusril Ihza Mahendra	1998 - 2005 2015 - 2024	16 Years

²⁸ Arif Sobirin Wibowo et al., "Dinamika Politik Indonesia," *Tahta Media Group* (Sukoharjo), 2025, hlm. 5.

²⁹ Ahmad Siboy, "Implikasi Pola Koalisi Partai Politik Terhadap Dinamika Penyelenggaraan Pemilihan Presiden Indonesia," *Jurnal Perspektif Hukum* 21, no. 1 (2021): hlm. 44.

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4	Gerindra	Prabowo Subiyanto	2014 - Present	11 Years
5	PPP	Djaelani Naro	1978 - 1989	11 Years
6	Golkar	Amir Murtono	1973 -1983	10 Years
7	Demokrat	Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono (SBY)	2013 - 2020	7 Years
8	Nasdem	Surya Paloh	2013 - Present	12 Years

Source: processed by the author

From the table, we can see that the longest-serving chairmanship was held by Megawati Soekarno Putri, followed by Muhaimin Iskandar as chairman of the National Awakening Party (PKB), both of whom remain central figures in their respective parties. A political party dominated by only a handful of political elites can be interpreted as a failure to implement internal democratic processes, and the impact will be felt in the form of a halt in cadre development, which will have an unhealthy impact on party cadres. As a result, party cadres are reluctant to aspire to become chairman and will certainly only be stopped as party secretary general. In general, there are both positive and negative impacts if there are no term limits for party chairmen. However, the negative impacts far outweigh the positive ones. One example is that party cadres lack equal rights to become chairmen, leading to undemocratic decisions. The positive impact is that political parties are more stable due to a single instruction from the chairperson. Having a single instruction from the chairperson for multiple decisions tends to stifle internal party democracy.³⁰

Implications for Democracy in Indonesia

Political parties play a crucial role in the democratic process. Miriam Budiardjo argues that the existence of political parties in democratic, authoritarian, and developing countries has different implications. In democratic countries, political parties tend to function in accordance with their inherent dignity, serving as a vehicle for citizens to express their aspirations and manage national life, and advocating for their interests with those in power. Conversely, in authoritarian

³⁰ Amsari, *Pembaruan Partai Politik di Indonesia (Demokrasi Internal Partai Politik)*, hlm. 73.

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countries, parties fail to demonstrate their dignity in state governance and instead rely more on carrying out the will of those in power.³¹

The more internally democratic a political party is, the more positive its impact on the growth of democracy in a country. Miriam Budiardjo stated that political parties in a democratic country function as a means of political communication, political socialization, political recruitment, and conflict resolution. Meanwhile, political parties in an authoritarian state tend to function only as implementers of the ruling power.³²

D. Conclusion

Political parties in Indonesia are considered necessary to be reorganized. Because political parties, as one of the central role holders of democracy, must run their political party organizations according to democratic principles. The importance of internal democratization of political parties is to produce a regeneration of fairer party leadership. Excessive political positions contradict the theory of power, where if someone holds power for too long, they will act authoritarian and tend to be arbitrary (abuse of power). Therefore, the author proposes that the term of office of the general chairman of a political party needs to be equalized with the existing public term of office in Indonesia, which is sufficient for 5 (five) years and can be re-elected for 1 (one) similar term. One way to limit the term of office of the general chairman of a political party is to regulate it directly in the political party law. There are at least two mechanisms for this limitation that can be implemented. First, can use a judicial review in the Constitutional Court to test Article 23 paragraph (1) which regulates the transfer of the term of office of the general chairman of the party. Second, through organic changes to the law with procedures applicable in Indonesia, namely can be proposed by the DPR or the Government to change the norms regarding the position of general chairman in the political party law.

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³¹ Budiardjo, *Dasar-Dasar Ilmu Politik*, hlm. 19.

³² Budiardjo, *Dasar-Dasar Ilmu Politik*, hlm. 20.

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