
POLITICAL DYNAMICS IN THE SELECTION OF JUDGES OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT OF INDONESIA: A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF INTEGRITY AND INDEPENDENCE

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to examine the influence of political dynamics on the selection process of Constitutional Court (MK) judges in Indonesia and its implications for the integrity and independence of the institution. The research method used is the normative juridical method with reference to Law No. 24/2003 on the Constitutional Court as amended by Law No. 7/2020. Analysis was conducted on relevant regulations and legal documents through literature studies and interviews with legal experts. The results show that in the selection of Constitutional Court judges, political factors often dominate over the principle of meritocracy, which threatens the principle of constitutional justice and reduces public trust in the Constitutional Court. The findings highlight the urgent need for transparency and accountability in the selection process of judges to strengthen the integrity and independence of the Constitutional Court. A transparent selection process will allow the public to understand and assess the process, while accountability will ensure that the selection of judges is based on objective criteria. The implication of this research is the need to strengthen public oversight mechanisms to maintain the Constitutional Court as a guardian of the constitution with integrity and independence. These measures are also expected to strengthen public trust and constitutional justice in Indonesia.

Keywords: Political Dynamics, Integrity and Independence, Constitutional Court, Judge Selection Process.

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INTRODUCTION

The political dynamics in Indonesia have had a significant impact on various aspects of life, including the country's judicial system (Anggara, 2013). The Constitutional Court (MK), as an important pillar in Indonesia's legal system, plays a crucial role in upholding the constitution and ensuring the implementation of justice based on the law (Nawas, 2021). As an institution that has the authority to test laws against the Constitution, hear disputes over the authority of state institutions, and decide on the dissolution of political parties, the Constitutional Court is at the intersection of law and politics. The power possessed by the Constitutional Court should be balanced with a transparent and meritocracy-based judge selection system, as stipulated in Law Number 24 of 2003 concerning the Constitutional Court, which has been amended by Law Number 7 of 2020 ((Law (UU) Number 7 of 2020 concerning the Third Amendment to Law Number 24 of 2003 concerning the Constitutional Court, 2020)) (Koswara et al., 2023).

However, practice often shows that the appointment of Constitutional Court judges is not always free from the influence of political forces. Article 18 of the Law stipulates that Constitutional Court judges are selected through a process involving the three pillars of power: the Supreme Court, the House of Representatives (DPR), and the President. This mechanism is intended to reflect the

principle of the trials politika. However, in its implementation, there are often negotiations and compromises based on political interests rather than the competence and integrity of the candidates.

Political influence in the selection of MK judges raises concerns about the independence and integrity of the Constitutional Court as a judicial institution (Sumadi, 2016). The independence of the judiciary is the main prerequisite for the implementation of fair and impartial justice (Rumadan, 2017). Without independence, decisions can be questioned for their legitimacy, which in turn will erode public trust in the judiciary.

Public trust is an important asset in the justice system. When people believe that the judiciary operates independently and fairly, compliance with the law increases. Conversely, loss of trust can lead to disobedience and social instability. Ensuring the integrity and independence of Constitutional Court judges is, therefore, not only an internal matter for the judiciary but also in the broader national interest.

Given the importance of this issue, the researcher intends to delve deeper into how political dynamics affect the selection of Constitutional Court judges in Indonesia. Through this research, it is hoped that constructive recommendations can be found to improve transparency and accountability in the selection process of Constitutional Court judges, which will ultimately contribute to strengthening the integrity and independence of the Constitutional Court as one of the pillars of democracy in Indonesia.

Indonesia's Constitutional Court (MK) plays a fundamental role in the country's legal and political architecture. As the guardian of the constitution, the Constitutional Court is given broad authority to test the constitutionality of laws, which is enshrined in Law Number 24 of 2003 concerning the Constitutional Court. This authority was strengthened by an amendment through Law Number 7 of 2020, which added a new dimension to law enforcement and constitutional justice in Indonesia.

The role of the Constitutional Court is not limited to testing the constitutionality of laws but also extends to resolving disputes over authority between state institutions, as well as the dissolution of political parties that are contrary to democratic principles. This emphasizes the Constitutional Court's position as an important pillar in maintaining the balance and separation of powers among state institutions.

In carrying out its duties, the independence and integrity of the Constitutional Court are absolute prerequisites to ensure that decisions are made based on justice and legal truth, without influence or pressure from any party (Fahmiron, 2016). This is in accordance with the basic principles mandated by the constitution and applicable law, as well as international standards related to the independence of judicial institutions.

However, the selection process of Constitutional Court judges, which is regulated in Article 18 of the Law on the Constitutional Court, is often in the spotlight. The process, which involves the Supreme Court, the House of Representatives and the President, although expected to reflect the principle of the trias politica, is in practice vulnerable to political intervention and influence.

Political influence in the selection of judges could threaten the independence of the Constitutional Court and erode public trust in the institution. This concern is not without reason, given the importance of the Court's decisions in determining the direction of law and public policy in Indonesia.

Therefore, it is important to examine closely how political dynamics affect the selection process of Constitutional Court judges and its implications for the integrity and independence of this institution. This study aims to provide a critical analysis of the process and propose recommendations to strengthen the Constitutional Court's independence and integrity.

Indonesia's Constitutional Court (MK) has a crucial role in maintaining the supremacy of the constitution and ensuring constitutional justice. As a constitutional guardian institution, the Constitutional Court is authorized to test the constitutionality of laws, decide disputes over authority between state institutions, and decide cases related to general elections. This authority is regulated in Law Number 24 of 2003 concerning the Constitutional Court, which has been amended by Law Number 7 of 2020 (Asmara & Purnomo, 2023).

In practice, the process of selecting Constitutional Court judges has often caused controversy. Article 18 of the Law on the Constitutional Court stipulates that MK judges are elected by three parties: The President, the House of Representatives (DPR), and the Supreme Court. Each party is responsible for nominating three candidates. While this regulation is intended to ensure a balanced representation of the various pillars of power, in practice, the process is often influenced by political considerations.

This tendency to influence the selection of judges by political interests raises serious questions about the Constitutional Court's integrity and independence. Integrity and independence are the two main pillars that every judicial institution must uphold to ensure justice and public trust in the legal system (Sianipar & Sembiring, 2024).

This research is inspired by the growing concern that political dynamics in the selection of Constitutional Court judges can erode the basic principles of integrity and independence. The allegation that the political background of its judges may influence the Court's decisions is an issue that is relevant not only to academics but also to the wider community, who expect constitutional justice (Aritonang, 2013).

Given the Constitutional Court's importance in Indonesia's legal and political system, this issue requires in-depth and critical analysis. This study aims to examine the extent to which political dynamics influence the selection process of MK judges and its impact on the institution's integrity and independence.

By using a normative juridical approach, this research will examine the relevant statutory provisions, as well as the ongoing practice of selecting Constitutional Court judges. This analysis is expected to provide a clear picture of the challenges faced by the Constitutional Court in maintaining its integrity and independence amidst political pressure.

This research is expected to provide meaningful recommendations to strengthen the mechanism for selecting MK judges. These recommendations are important to ensure that the Constitutional Court can continue to carry out its constitutional functions with unwavering integrity and independence.

This study aims to examine in depth the influence of political dynamics in the selection process of judges of Indonesia's Constitutional Court (MK) and how this influence impacts the integrity and independence of judges. By understanding this context, the research seeks to identify the factors that drive the dominance of political interests in the selection of MK judges, as well as evaluate the consequences for public trust and the implementation of constitutional justice. The focus of this

research rests on the assumption that constitutional justice and the rule of law are highly dependent on the independence and integrity of judicial institutions, including the Constitutional Court.

Based on the above background, the purpose of this study is to analyze and examine the Political Dynamics in the Selection of Judges of the Indonesian Constitutional Court. Thus, this analysis seeks to reveal whether there is a consistent pattern indicating that the decisions of the Constitutional Court tend to be influenced by political factors that can erode the principles of constitutional justice and judicial independence. The benefits of this research are expected to provide new insights into the challenges faced by the Constitutional Court in maintaining its independence and integrity amidst political pressure. Furthermore, the findings of this research are expected to provide recommendations for policy makers, legal practitioners, and the academic community on how to strengthen the selection process of Constitutional Court judges to support a fairer and more independent constitutional court in Indonesia. This research is important for understanding the interaction between law and politics in the Indonesian context, particularly in relation to the selection of Constitutional Court judges. By exploring this relationship, this research aims to contribute to the broader discussion on how the judiciary can be protected from political influence to ensure that constitutional justice and the rule of law are maintained.

METHOD

This research uses a normative juridical method that aims to understand and evaluate legal norms related to the selection of Constitutional Court (MK) judges in Indonesia and the impact of political dynamics on the integrity and independence of judges (Maiyestati, 2022). This approach involves analyzing laws and regulations, legal documents, and academic literature relevant to the research topic. Through the normative juridical approach, the research aims to build a comprehensive understanding of the legal framework governing the selection process of Constitutional Court judges and the principles of constitutional justice that should be upheld.

The source of legal materials in this research is obtained through an in-depth literature study, which includes an analysis of legal documents such as Law Number 24 of 2003 concerning the Constitutional Court and its amendments, implementing regulations, and relevant Constitutional Court decisions. In addition, this research also examines reputable legal journals and scientific publications that discuss the selection of Constitutional Court judges, integrity, and judicial independence (Solikin, 2021). To gain a broader perspective, this research also explored insights from legal experts through structured interviews. Interviews with legal experts and practitioners in the field of constitutional justice are expected to provide a practical perspective on the implementation of legal norms and the challenges faced in maintaining the independence of the Constitutional Court.

The analysis technique in this research was carried out by identifying, reviewing, and evaluating legal sources related to the research topic. The researcher categorizes and compares various legal sources to identify the compatibility between existing legal norms and the principles of constitutional justice. From this analytical process, the research aims to uncover findings on how political dynamics can influence the selection of Constitutional Court judges and its implications for the independence and integrity of the institution. The findings are expected to provide constructive recommendations to strengthen the selection mechanism of Constitutional Court judges in Indonesia.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Analysis of the Legal Framework for the Selection of Constitutional Court Judges

The analysis of the legal framework related to the selection of judges of the Indonesian Constitutional Court (MK) refers to Law Number 24 of 2003 concerning the Constitutional Court, which was later amended by Law Number 7 of 2020. This legal framework is the foundation that regulates the establishment, authority, and procedures for selecting Constitutional Court judges, which is key in understanding the integrity and independence of this institution (Law Number 7 of 2020 concerning the Third Amendment to Law Number 24 of 2003 concerning the Constitutional Court, 2020).

Article 18 of the Law on the Constitutional Court stipulates that Constitutional Court judges are elected and appointed by the President with the approval of the DPR. The selection of Constitutional Court judges involves three institutions: The Supreme Court, the DPR, and the President, each of which nominates three candidates. This mechanism is expected to create a system of checks and balances in the selection of MK judges. However, in practice, it often raises questions about the independence and integrity of the selected candidates.

The article also emphasizes the criteria that must be met by candidates for Constitutional Court judges, which include legal expertise, integrity, impeccable personality, and experience in the field of law. These criteria are intended to ensure that only the best-qualified individuals are selected to become MK judges; however, in practice, the interpretation and application of these criteria are often subjective and influenced by political considerations.

In addition, the selection process stipulated in the relevant articles demands transparency and accountability. However, the openness of the selection process to the public is still a challenge, given the important role of the Constitutional Court in Indonesia's legal system and democracy. Transparency of the selection process is key to building public trust in the integrity and independence of MK judges (Wijayanti & Quraini, 2015).

Further analysis of the changes brought about by Law No. 7/2020 shows an attempt to increase rigor in the selection of MK judges. These changes reflect a response to criticism and suggestions from various stakeholders on the need for reforms in the selection of MK judges to strengthen their integrity and independence.

An in-depth understanding of the articles in the Constitutional Court Law and its amendments allows researchers to identify potential loopholes and challenges in the selection system of Constitutional Court judges. This analysis is important to understand how political dynamics can affect the selection process and its outcome, which in turn impacts the independence and integrity of the Constitutional Court.

The analysis of the legal framework for the selection of MK judges not only reveals the existing structures and mechanisms but also highlights the importance of principles such as transparency, accountability and meritocracy in the selection process. Ensuring that these principles are properly implemented in the selection of Constitutional Court judges is key to maintaining the integrity and independence of the Constitutional Court, which is an important pillar in Indonesia's democratic and legal system.

The Impact of Political Dynamics on the Selection of Constitutional Court Judges

In the context of Indonesia's selection of Constitutional Court (MK) judges, political dynamics often raise questions about the integrity of the selection process. Law No. 24/2003 on the

Constitutional Court, as amended by Law No. 7/2020, regulates the selection mechanism of Constitutional Court judges, involving three pillars of power: The President, the Parliament, and the Supreme Court. Each party is responsible for nominating three judicial candidates, reflecting the principle of *trias politica*. However, selection practices are often influenced by political considerations rather than meritocracy.

Analysis of specific cases shows the influence of politics in the selection of Constitutional Court judges. Specific examples of controversial cases can be identified in which the political background of judicial candidates appears to play a more dominant role than their legal qualifications. This situation raises concerns about the independence and objectivity of the Court's decisions, which should be free from political influence.

Political influence in the selection process of judges not only has the potential to erode public trust in the Constitutional Court but also to question the legitimacy of decisions made by this institution (Wantu et al., 2017). Public trust is an important asset in the judicial system. When there is a perception that MK judges are selected based on their political affiliations, this can undermine public confidence in MK decisions (Indramayu et al., 2017).

In conducting the analysis, it is important to consider the background and track record of judicial candidates nominated by each pillar of power (Indonesia, 2018). This evaluation will assist in identifying whether the selection criteria have been followed in accordance with applicable legal norms or if there are indications of significant political influence.

Case studies in this context could include a review of past nomination and selection processes for Constitutional Court judges, focusing on public discourse, media reports, and analysis from legal experts. The collection and analysis of this data provide insight into the extent to which political dynamics influence the selection of judges.

Furthermore, this study also explores how selected judicial candidates interact with politically charged cases after they take office. It is important to assess whether there is a change in their approach to constitutional cases after becoming part of the Constitutional Court, which may provide further indication of the influence of politics in the selection process.

The Effect of Judge Selection on the Independence of the Constitutional Court

The selection process of Constitutional Court (MK) judges in Indonesia, which is regulated in Law Number 24/2003 on the Constitutional Court and its amendment through Law Number 7/2020, has become a central point in the discourse on the independence of this institution. Article 18 of the Law specifically mentions the mechanism for submitting candidates for MK judges by three institutions: The President, the House of Representatives (DPR), and the Supreme Court, which ideally reflects the principle of checks and balances. However, in practice, this mechanism often raises questions about the extent to which the independence of the Constitutional Court can be maintained.

An analysis of the selection process shows that political dynamics play a significant role, with decisions often influenced by political considerations rather than meritocracy. Although the law provides for a selection process that should maintain the independence of the Constitutional Court, the political reality often deviates from this ideal. This raises concerns about the possibility that the selected judges represent political interests rather than principles of justice and constitutionality.

The active involvement of political institutions in the selection process of Constitutional Court judges has the potential to create conflicts of interest, especially if the candidates have political

affiliations or are considered close to certain parties (Constitution, 2010). While the law sets out criteria and procedures that must be followed, the interpretation and implementation of these criteria can be highly subjective, depending on the political views of voters in the DPR, the President and the Supreme Court.

Political influence in the selection of judges can undermine public perceptions of the Constitutional Court's independence. Public credibility and trust in the Constitutional Court rely heavily on the belief that its judges act independently and impartially, free from external influences, especially political influences (Constitutional Court of the Republic of Indonesia, 2021). When the selection process is suspected to be influenced by political considerations, this can reduce public confidence in the decisions made by the Constitutional Court.

Certain case studies show that the Court's controversial decisions are often followed by public speculation about possible political influence in the selection process of its judges. This raises serious questions about the extent to which the Court's decisions are purely based on legal and constitutional considerations without being influenced by political considerations.

In order to maintain the independence of the Constitutional Court, it is very important to ensure that the selection process of judges is carried out with high transparency and accountability. The selection mechanism must be designed in such a way as to reduce the potential for political influence so as to produce judges who are truly independent and able to decide cases based on the law and the constitution, not based on political pressure or interests (Qamar, 2015).

Further research is needed to examine the long-term impact of the Court's judge selection process on its decisions. This analysis is important to understand better how the independence of the institution can be maintained amidst the complex political dynamics in Indonesia.

Overall, the analysis of the selection process of Constitutional Court judges and its effect on the institution's independence suggests that reforms in the selection mechanism may be necessary to ensure that the Constitutional Court can carry out its role as guardian of the Constitution with unwavering integrity and independence.

Evaluation of the Integrity of Constitutional Court Judges after Selection and Comparison with International Practices

In order to evaluate the integrity of post-selection Constitutional Court (MK) judges, this study adopts an approach that considers the background, track record, and behavior of judges after taking office. This analysis is important given that Law No. 24/2003 on the Constitutional Court, as amended by Law No. 7/2020, demands that Constitutional Court judges must have integrity and impeccable personalities and be able to act fairly. This study examines how elected Constitutional Court judges perform their duties and obligations, particularly in handling controversial cases that may test their independence and objectivity.

Further analysis was conducted on several controversial cases decided by the Constitutional Court to understand how the judges applied legal and constitutional principles in their decision-making. This research examines whether there are indications of external influences, both political and non-political, that could signal a decline in integrity or independence.

Meanwhile, in an effort to provide a comparative perspective, this study also compares the selection process of Constitutional Court judges in Indonesia with the practices in several other countries. Various selection systems in countries such as Germany, South Korea and the United

States are used as comparative materials, given that they have strict supervisory mechanisms and selection criteria to ensure the integrity and independence of their constitutional judges.

This comparison reveals that some countries implement more transparent and participatory selection mechanisms, involving various elements of society in the selection process (Rauta, 2014). This aims to reduce political influence and increase public confidence in the integrity and independence of constitutional courts.

In the Indonesian context, these findings indicate that there is room for improvement in the selection process of Constitutional Court judges, particularly in relation to transparency and the involvement of stakeholders. A comparison of international practices shows the importance of having mechanisms that strengthen judges' independence from political influence to maintain the integrity of legal decisions.

Overall, the analysis of the integrity of post-selection Constitutional Court judges and comparison with international practice offers insights into how the selection process can be modified to prioritize meritocracy, integrity, and independence (Satriawan & Lailam, 2021). This research underscores the importance of a robust selection mechanism in building and maintaining public trust in the constitutional justice system.

In a global context that increasingly demands transparency and accountability, this analysis's findings make an important contribution to the discussion on reforming Indonesia's constitutional justice system. A revamped selection mechanism aligned with international best practices could be a significant step in ensuring that Indonesia's Constitutional Court continues to fulfill its constitutional role with unwavering integrity and independence (Satriawan & Lailam, 2021).

Expert and Stakeholder Perspectives

In this study, in-depth interviews were conducted with legal experts, academics, and relevant stakeholders to obtain their views on the selection process of Constitutional Court (MK) judges and how the process may affect the integrity and independence of the institution. The respondents emphasized the importance of ensuring a transparent and merit-based selection process to maintain the integrity and independence of the Constitutional Court. They referred to Law No. 24/2003 on the Constitutional Court, as amended by Law No. 7/2020, as the legal basis governing the selection of MK judges.

Analysis of the interviews revealed a general concern regarding political influence in the selection of judges. Most respondents recognized that although the law regulates the selection process, its implementation is often inseparable from political considerations. This, they argued, could threaten the principle of independence on which the judiciary operates.

A number of respondents suggested that the selection process should involve more participation from civil society and independent institutions to increase transparency and objectivity. They argued that this would reduce the possibility of political interference and ensure that the selected judges truly have competence and integrity.

Another view that emerged from the interviews was the need for a clear performance assessment system for post-selection MK judges. Respondents emphasized that such a system could help ensure that MK judges maintain high standards of integrity and independence throughout their tenure.

In addition, several legal experts interviewed highlighted the importance of continuing education and training for Constitutional Court judges. They argued that continuing education can

help MK judges maintain a strong understanding of the principles of law and judicial ethics, which is crucial to maintaining integrity and independence (Regulation of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Indonesia Number 09/Pmk/2006 on the Enforcement of the Declaration of the Code of Ethics and Conduct of Constitutional Judges, 2006).

The analysis of the interviews also revealed a strong desire for improvements to the complaints mechanism and supervision of MK judges. Respondents stated that an effective and transparent complaints mechanism is key to maintaining the accountability of judges and strengthening public trust in the institution.

Overall, there was agreement that the Constitutional Court's integrity and independence are important aspects that must be maintained to ensure constitutional justice. Experts and stakeholders emphasized that without strong integrity and independence, the decisions made by the Constitutional Court could be questioned, which in turn could erode public confidence in the institution.

Overall, interviews with legal experts and relevant stakeholders provided valuable insights into the challenges faced in the selection process of MK judges. Their views emphasized the need for reform to ensure that the Constitutional Court can perform its function as guardian of the Constitution with unwavering integrity and independence.

Recommendations to Strengthen the Integrity and Independence of the Constitutional Court

In order to strengthen the integrity and independence of Indonesia's Constitutional Court (MK), an analysis of the judge selection process demonstrates the need for significant reform. These reforms should be designed to reduce the political influence that often surrounds the selection process of MK judges, as stipulated in Law No. 24/2003 on the Constitutional Court and its amendment, Law No. 7/2020. Articles in these laws relating to the selection process of judges should be re-analyzed and adjusted to ensure a more transparent and merit-based selection process.

- a. Transparency in the selection process of MK judges can be improved through public announcements regarding the selection criteria and qualifications that prospective judges must meet. This allows the public to understand and oversee the selection process, thereby reducing the room for political intervention. This transparency also includes an explanation of the reasons for selecting or rejecting a particular candidate, which must be based on objective and accountable criteria.
- b. Civil society and the legal community must be strengthened in their participation in the selection process of MK judges. This participation can take the form of open forums or discussion panels involving various stakeholders in providing input or recommendations on prospective judges. The involvement of civil society can increase the credibility of the selection process and strengthen public trust in the Constitutional Court institution.
- c. Further regulation of the selection process of Constitutional Court judges should consider the use of an independent panel or selection commission consisting of legal and community leaders who have integrity and are not affiliated with any political force. This commission is tasked with evaluating prospective judges based on competence, experience, and integrity without political influence.
- d. The development and implementation of a code of ethics for MK judges should be a priority to ensure that they adhere to the highest standards of behavior. This code should include provisions

- on conflicts of interest and ensure that judges can act independently and not be influenced by external forces, including politics.
- e. The selection process should include a comprehensive evaluation of candidates' track records, including their legal experience, contributions to the development of constitutional law, and commitment to the principles of justice and liberty. This ensures that only the most qualified judicial candidates are selected.
 - f. Regulatory reforms related to the selection process of Constitutional Court judges should include better mechanisms for post-selection oversight and accountability. This includes arrangements for the evaluation of judges' performance and mechanisms for public complaints against judges' behavior that does not comply with ethical standards.
 - g. To enhance independence, term limits for Constitutional Court judges should be considered. These limits aim to prevent the accumulation of power and ensure periodic refreshment in the institution's composition. Term limits can strengthen the principle of independence and minimize the risk of judges' dependence on political forces.
 - h. Continuing education and training for prospective and current MK judges are essential to enhancing their understanding of the judiciary's constitutional, legal, and ethical values. These programs should be designed to strengthen their commitment to judicial independence and respect for the rule of law.

Implications for Public Trust and Constitutional Justice

Public trust in the Constitutional Court (MK) is a fundamental pillar in the maintenance of constitutional justice and the rule of law in Indonesia. The results of this study show that political dynamics in the selection process of MK judges have the potential to have a significant impact on public perceptions of the integrity and independence of this institution. According to Law No. 24/2003 on the Constitutional Court, as amended by Law No. 7/2020, the Constitutional Court is mandated to play an important role in Indonesia's legal system, including testing the constitutionality of laws and resolving constitutional disputes.

Analysis of the findings shows that when political interests influence the selection process of judges, there is a tendency for the public to doubt the decisions made by the Constitutional Court. This can reduce public trust in the institution and question the legitimacy of the decisions it produces. The long-term implications of this phenomenon could be very damaging, not only for MK as an institution but also for the entire constitutional justice system in Indonesia.

The influence of political dynamics on the selection of Constitutional Court judges also has the potential to affect the way the public perceives the principle of constitutional justice. If the public perceives that the Court's decisions are colored more by political considerations than law and justice, then this could erode the basis of trust in the legal system as a whole. This, in turn, could lead to decreased compliance with the law and constitutional norms.

Furthermore, this study found that transparency and accountability in the selection process of Constitutional Court judges are two important aspects that can increase public trust. Without transparency, it is difficult for the public to understand the basis for judicial selection decisions and to assess whether the process has been fair and objective.

In addition, the research shows that maintaining the integrity and independence of Constitutional Court judges is not only limited to legal aspects but also to moral and ethical aspects.

Constitutional Court judges who are independent and have integrity are the main key to implementing fair and impartial constitutional justice.

Further analysis suggests that strengthening the oversight mechanism and performance assessment of MK judges could be a proactive step in strengthening public trust. This would allow for ongoing evaluation of judges' performance, which in turn could enhance the court's credibility and legitimacy.

From a long-term perspective, this study's findings suggest that the stability and integrity of the Constitutional Court as a constitutional institution are highly dependent on public trust. Therefore, maintaining the independence and integrity of MK judges is important, not only important not only for constitutional justice today but also to ensure the sustainability of democratic and legal principles in the future.

Thus, the findings' implications for public trust and constitutional justice in Indonesia underscore the importance of strengthening the selection process of MK judges to ensure the integrity and independence of the institution. This is an important step to maintain public trust in the Constitutional Court and ensure the fair and impartial delivery of constitutional justice.

CONCLUSION

This research has examined the impact of political dynamics on the selection process of Indonesian Constitutional Court (MK) judges and its implications for the integrity and independence of the institution. From the analysis conducted, political dynamics do have a significant influence on the selection process of MK judges. This often causes the selection process to be dominated by political considerations rather than the principles of meritocracy, integrity and independence that should guide it. Political influence in the selection of judges has the potential to erode public trust in the Constitutional Court and threaten the principle of constitutional justice. Furthermore, the findings of this study suggest that in order to maintain public trust and ensure the impartial implementation of constitutional justice, the selection process of MK judges must be strengthened with a more transparent and accountable mechanism. Transparency in the selection of judges will allow the public to understand and assess the selection process. At the same time, accountability can ensure that the selected judges are indeed the best and most qualified, based on objective criteria and not political interests. In terms of applications and suggestions related to the research findings, the main recommendation is the expansion and strengthening of public oversight mechanisms for the selection process of MK judges. This includes the development and implementation of stricter selection standards that truly prioritize meritocracy, integrity and independence as the main criteria. Through the strengthening of these mechanisms, the Constitutional Court can continue to carry out its role as guardian of the constitution with unwavering integrity and independence while strengthening public trust and constitutional justice in Indonesia.

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