A Political Perspective of the Rise Of Open Data in Building an Open Government in Indonesia

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Open Data?

- Digital / machine-readable
- Freely accessible
- Modifiable
- Shareable

- http://opendefinition.org
Why is ‘Open Government’ important?
Background: The 2014 National Elections

Joko Widodo

Prabowo Subianto
The Politics of 2014 National Elections:

- Democracy ‘in danger’ (Aspinall 2014)

- Oligarchic politics vs Volunteer grassroots movements (Mietzner 2014)

- Rise of divisive populism: Authoritarianism strikes back?
**Victory at last?**

**UNOFFICIAL QUICK COUNT RESULTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CSIS-CYRUS NETWORK</th>
<th>Jokowi</th>
<th>Prabowo</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SYAIFUL MUJANI</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INDIKATOR POLITIK</td>
<td>52.65%</td>
<td>47.35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LITBANG KOMPAS</td>
<td>52.4%</td>
<td>47.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RADIO REPUBLIK INDONESIA</td>
<td>52.5%</td>
<td>47.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INDONESIA SURVEY CIRCLE (LSI)</td>
<td>53.28%</td>
<td>46.72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JARINGAN SUARA INDONESIA (JSI)</td>
<td>49.61%</td>
<td>50.39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUSKAPITIS</td>
<td>48.55%</td>
<td>51.42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEMBAGA SURVEI NASIONAL (LSN)</td>
<td>49.32%</td>
<td>50.68%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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*As of 5pm, July 9, 2014*
Enter: Open Data

- Grassroots initiatives - e.g. KawalPemilu (Election Guard): http://www.kawalpemilu.org/#0

Ok, that was cool. Now what?
Indonesia’s Open Data “Boom”

- Chairman of Open Government Partnership (2011)
- National Elections (2014)
- Jokowi’s ‘progressive’ administration
- Influx of highly skilled citizens from diaspora
- Popularity of Social Media
Research questions:

1. Who?
2. What?
3. How?
Aim: to map the digital initiatives using Open Data building towards an Open Government
Who are the ‘leaders’?
What are they doing? What’s the trend like?

Hypotheses:

- Competing institutional interests = ↓ development

- Most of the digital governance initiatives remain largely a donor-driven movement
How is this development influencing the Indonesian political scene?

- No legal basis = national framework?

- Lack of capacity to implement digital governance initiatives = ‘rise’ of technocrats in decision-making?

- (Implication: ↓ oligarchy)
Conclusion: Open Data is promising, but...

- It needs strong overt support from the government
- The players are still hacking their way through bureaucracy, technology, and geography
- Political capacity is still lacking
- Too early to tell?