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Conflict Mitigation Strategy for Village Head Elections in Tonala Village, Posigadan District, South Bolaang Mongondow Regency, 2022

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ABSTRACT
This study aims to analyze the connection between John Dewe,s concept of experience and multimodality in language and literature education. It seeks to explain the interaction with multimodal environments as a form of reflective experience and to formulate a conceptual framework for reflective multimodality. The study employs a qualitative approach based on library research. Primary data is drawn from John Dewey's Democracy and Education, while secondary data sources include scholarly articles on multimodality, poetry instruction, learning experiences, language and literature education, and Dewey's philosophy of education. Data collection was conducted through document study, involving the reading, examination, and recording of relevant documents. Data analysis utilized a qualitative-conceptual content analysis method, incorporating reduction, categorization, interpretation, and the synthesis of concepts. The analysis reveals four key findings. First, discussions regarding multimodality in language and literature education have thus far been limited to its role as a medium for instructional materials or as teaching strategy; the mere use of varied instructional media fails to fully articulate or realize the quality of the learning experience. Second, Dewey's concept of experience helps distinguish between mere technical engagement and an educational experience that links actions with their consequences. Third, the concept of growth elucidates that learning experiences must possess continuity and serve as a foundation for subsequences. Fourth, reflective multimodality is conceptualized as a process of experiencing, observing, interpreting, questioning, and reconstructing meaning.

Keywords: conflict, mitigation strategy, village head elections

Strategi Mitigasi Konflik Pemilihan Kepala Desa di Desa Tonala, Kecamatan Posigadan, Kabupaten Bolaang Mongondow Selatan Tahun 2022

ABSTRAK
Pemilihan Kepala Desa (Pilkades) di Desa Tonala tahun 2022 berpotensi memicu konflik sosial akibat kuatnya ikatan kekerabatan, budaya politik parokial, serta perbedaan pilihan politik yang berujung pada ketegangan antarmasyarakat. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis strategi mitigasi konflik serta faktor-faktor yang menghambat penyelesaian konflik Pilkades di Desa Tonala. Metode: Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif deskriptif. Pengumpulan data dilakukan melalui wawancara mendalam, observasi, dan studi dokumentasi. Informan meliputi pemerintah desa, panitia Pilkades, tokoh masyarakat, tokoh pemuda, serta perwakilan tim sukses. Hasil: Strategi mitigasi konflik yang diterapkan meliputi tiga pendekatan resolusi konflik menurut Johan Galtung, yaitu mediasi, negosiasi, dan arbitrasi. Ketiga pendekatan tersebut dijalankan melalui musyawarah dan pendekatan kekeluargaan yang menjadi nilai budaya dominan masyarakat Desa Tonala. Sementara itu, faktor penghambat dianalisis menggunakan teori sistem hukum Lawrence M. Friedman, yang mencakup aspek substansi hukum, struktur hukum, dan budaya hukum. Kesimpulan: Strategi mitigasi konflik melalui mediasi, negosiasi, dan arbitrasi efektif meredakan ketegangan sosial, namun belum optimal karena hambatan berupa belum jelasnya mekanisme penyelesaian sengketa, kurang optimalnya koordinasi antarlembaga, serta kuatnya pengaruh kekerabatan dan fanatisme politik masyarakat.

Kata kunci: strategi, mitigasi konflik, pemilihan kepala desa

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INTRODUCTION

A village is a legal community unit authorized to regulate and manage its own governmental affairs and the interests of its local population, based on the community's own initiative and its original, customary rights. This is reinforced by Law Number 3 of 2024, which serves as the second amendment to Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages; this legislation also stipulates that the term of office for a village head is now eight years, with a maximum limit of two terms. As an autonomous entity, a village is empowered to carry out governance, implement development, foster community life, and facilitate community empowerment. The village head, as the leader, is elected directly by the residents through a Village Head Election (*Pilkades*) process, which reflects the principle of popular sovereignty (Mili & Muhaimin, 2025:12).

The *Pilkades* is not merely an administrative formality; it is an arena for political contestation that encompasses the social, cultural, and economic dynamics of the community. In Tonala Village, Posigadan District, South Bolaang Mongondow Regency, the 2022 *Pilkades* featured four candidates: Dikson Atuna, Jery Arifin Urumi, Kirman Lapatu, and Yamin Tangahu. A voter turnout of 95.4% demonstrated high public enthusiasm, yet it also triggered significant social tension. The political culture in Tonala Village—which tends to be parochial, with political choices heavily influenced by heads of households, respected elders, kinship ties, and patron-client relationships—increases the potential for conflict whenever election results fail to meet the expectations of certain groups (Djibalu et al., 2023:45).

Conflicts arising in the aftermath of the *Pilkades* have manifested as family rifts caused by differing political allegiances, the politicization of government aid, and allegations of electoral fraud and the manipulation of election results. If not mitigated promptly, this conflict has the potential to hinder village governance, impede development, and erode public trust in village institutions. Therefore, an appropriate and comprehensive conflict mitigation strategy—rooted in local socio-cultural values—is essential to ensure that the democratic process at the village level remains peaceful and sustainable (Praja, 2024:29).

Based on this background, the research questions are as follows: (1) What are the conflict mitigation strategies for village head elections in Tonala Village, Posigadan District, South Bolaang Mongondow Regency? (2) What factors hinder the conflict mitigation strategies for village head elections in Tonala Village, Posigadan District, South Bolaang Mongondow Regency?

The objective of this research is to describe the conflict mitigation strategies and identify the factors that impede the resolution of conflicts arising from the 2022 village head election in Tonala Village. This objective aligns with the stated research questions, which seek to examine the mitigation efforts and the obstacles encountered in resolving conflicts related to the village head election at the research site.

Theoretically, this research is expected to contribute to the study of local political conflict resolution, specifically by applying Galtung's (1996) conflict resolution theory and Friedman's (1975) legal system theory within the context of village head elections. Practically, the findings will serve as a reference for local governments, village authorities, and the community in developing policies and mechanisms for the prevention and resolution of conflicts in future village head elections.

Theoretically, conflict mitigation refers to systematic efforts to prevent, reduce, and control the potential for conflict, ensuring it does not escalate into a larger confrontation. According to Galtung (1996:42), conflict resolution encompasses three primary approaches: mediation, negotiation, and arbitration. These approaches can be implemented through deliberation and dialogue involving a neutral third party. Meanwhile, factors that hinder conflict resolution can be explained through Friedman's (1975:19) legal system theory,

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which posits that the effectiveness of law depends on three components: legal substance, legal structure, and legal culture.

Several relevant studies serve as the foundation for this research. First, a study by Djibalu et al. (2023) on the political culture of the Tonala Village community found that patron-client patterns and kinship ties significantly influence the political behavior of the residents. Second, Pratama et al. (2024) demonstrated that post-village head election (Pilkades) conflicts can lead to the formation of "pseudo" social groups, which may impede village development if not managed effectively. Third, Fajriani & Tenripadang (2022) emphasize that differing political choices can affect familial relationships and social harmony within a village community. Collectively, these studies underscore the urgent need to analyze conflict mitigation strategies within the context of village head elections.

METHOD

This study employs a qualitative approach and is descriptive in nature. A qualitative approach was selected because the researcher aims to provide an in-depth description of conflict mitigation strategies as they manifest in the research setting, based on empirical field evidence, rather than through statistical, numerical measurements. Moleong (2005:4) defines qualitative research as an inquiry aimed at holistically understanding the experiences of research subjects—including their behaviors, perceptions, motivations, and actions—through descriptive accounts using words and language, within a specific, natural context and by utilizing various naturalistic methods. In line with this, this study describes the conflict mitigation strategies and the hindering factors encountered during the village head election process in Tonala Village, presenting them as they occurred.

The research employs a field research design, in which the researcher engages directly with the research site to obtain accurate and relevant data. The researcher serves as the primary instrument, responsible for planning, collecting, processing, and analyzing the data. This design allows the researcher to interact directly with informants to gain an in-depth understanding of how conflict mitigation is implemented—encompassing the stages of prevention, management, and resolution of conflicts that arise during and after the village head election.

This study is conducted in Tonala Village, Posigadan District, South Bolaang Mongondow Regency. This location was selected because it experienced a significant social conflict following the 2022 village head election, making it a highly relevant subject for study. The research will be carried out over a period of three months, from April to June 2026. This timeframe was determined based on the researcher's readiness and the conditions at the research site, which allow for access to necessary data and informants.

The data sources for this study consist of primary and secondary data. Primary data were obtained directly from informants through in-depth interviews. Informants were selected using purposive sampling—a technique for choosing participants based on specific criteria—ensuring they possessed in-depth knowledge regarding the issues under investigation. These informants included village government officials, members of the village head election (*Pilkades*) organizing committee, community leaders, youth representatives, and members of the campaign teams for the village head candidates. Meanwhile, secondary data were gathered from official documents, such as regulations concerning the village head election, village demographic data, election minutes, and other relevant records.

The data collection methods employed in this study include interviews, observation, and document analysis. First, in-depth, open-ended interviews were conducted with informants to gather information on conflict mitigation strategies and the challenges encountered in resolving conflicts related to the village head election. Second, observation was used to directly examine the social conditions of the community, the post-election atmosphere, and the efforts made by

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authorities to de-escalate tensions. Third, document analysis involved reviewing materials related to the village head election in Tonala Village, such as village regulations, committee reports, and other supporting data.

The data analysis technique for this qualitative study was conducted in an interactive and continuous manner until completion. Miles and Huberman (1994:10–12) suggest that qualitative data analysis follows a sequential process consisting of four stages: data collection, data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing. First, data reduction involves selecting, focusing, simplifying, abstracting, and transforming raw data derived from field notes. Second, data display consists of narrative descriptions organized to facilitate an understanding of the research context and to support the drawing of conclusions. Third, drawing conclusions and verification—that is, constructing meaning from the presented data by identifying emerging patterns, relationships, similarities, and differences, followed by verifying their accuracy to ensure the resulting conclusions are robust and substantiated.

RESULTS

1. Conflict Mitigation Strategies for the Village Head Election in Tonala Village

Based on the research findings, several conflict mitigation strategies were implemented by the organizing committee, village government, community leaders, and relevant authorities to prevent and de-escalate social tensions arising from the 2022 Village Head Election (Pilkades). These strategies encompass three primary approaches, as outlined below.

1.1 Conflict Resolution Methods and Legal Compliance

The organizers and the village government prioritize resolving conflicts through deliberation and consensus, in accordance with prevailing legal norms and statutory regulations—specifically those governing the village head election (*Pilkades*) process. Every stage of the election—from candidate registration and verification to campaigning and the final vote—is conducted according to standardized procedures established by the Regent of South Bolaang Mongondow (Bolaang Mongondow Selatan), ensuring clarity and preventing public uncertainty. A formal mechanism for lodging objections has also been communicated; aggrieved parties may submit written complaints to the committee within a specified timeframe. If a resolution is not reached, the objection can be escalated to the Regent/Mayor, following the procedures stipulated in local regulations. This framework serves as a formal basis intended to be accepted by all disputing parties. Furthermore, the committee emphasizes strict adherence to prohibitions against "money politics" and negative campaigning, both of which could incite tension among the supporters of various candidates.

1.2 Resolution Actors and Committee Effectiveness

Conflict resolution involves various stakeholders—actors deemed to possess legitimacy within the community. The village head election committee, established through village-level deliberation, acts as both the organizer and the body responsible for receiving and addressing formal objections from residents. Beyond the committee, traditional leaders, religious figures, and respected community elders play a crucial role in mediating tensions between opposing camps. The influence of traditional leaders is particularly significant when disputes arise between families supporting different candidates; they bring the conflicting parties together to deliberate and find a solution rooted in the traditional values upheld by the community. The village and sub-district (kecamatan) governments also participate in reconciliation efforts, especially when tensions escalate and begin to involve a broader segment of the population. The effectiveness of these actors is evidenced by a peace agreement signed by the campaign teams of all four candidates prior to the

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election. The agreement included commitments to maintain order, accept the election results graciously, and refrain from any actions that could divide the community. Closed-door meetings held after the election also succeeded in easing some of the tensions that arose following the announcement of the results.

1.3 Resolution Strategies and Oversight Systems

Mitigation efforts also involved strengthening oversight systems throughout the village head election (*Pilkades*) process. Internal oversight was carried out by a supervisory committee—composed of neutral community members—while external oversight involved the participation of the broader public, community leaders, and security personnel stationed at each polling station. Every stage of the election was documented transparently and communicated to the public via village notice boards. Vote counting was conducted openly in the presence of witnesses for each candidate and announced immediately at the polling station. Any violations identified were addressed promptly in accordance with established regulations. Furthermore, the dispute resolution strategy employed consisted of consultative meetings involving the conflicting parties, aimed at finding a mutually acceptable middle ground rather than prioritizing a "win" for any single side. This approach was rooted in the principle of *kekeluargaan* (a familial or communal spirit), where those who felt aggrieved were given the space to voice their concerns, while the other parties were encouraged to listen with a cool head until a consensus was reached.

2. Factors Hindering Conflict Mitigation Strategies for Village Head Elections in Tonala Village

In addition to the strategies already implemented, the research identified various obstacles that hinder the effectiveness of conflict mitigation. These hindering factors are categorized into three aspects.

2.1 Substance and Legal Regulations

A primary obstacle is the lack of clarity in technical regulations regarding the mechanism for resolving disputes over Village Head Election (*Pilkades*) results. Existing provisions merely state that the Regent/Mayor has the authority to resolve disputes, without detailing the procedures, timeframes, or the nature of the decisions that can be issued. Consequently, when a dispute arises, aggrieved parties lack a clear reference for the resolution process to follow; as a result, some residents choose to resolve matters informally among themselves, while others allow tensions to escalate. Furthermore, the absence of village-level regulations specifically governing the resolution of Pilkades disputes leaves the election committee without a solid legal basis to make binding decisions. Weak sanctions for violations of election rules also lead some parties to feel less bound by the established provisions. Infractions such as negative campaigning or the politicization of government aid are difficult to address due to a lack of sufficient evidence to impose sanctions, causing these violations to recur and further exacerbate the situation.

2.2 Structure and Institutional Framework

Another obstacle is the limited role of village and sub-district (kecamatan) authorities in mediating conflicts. The established Pilkades committee is often perceived by some residents as lacking full neutrality, as certain committee members may have kinship ties to one of the candidates; consequently, the decisions reached are not always well-received by all parties. Moreover, coordination among relevant institutions—such as the election committee, village government, security forces, and sub-district authorities—has yet to function optimally. Delays in the flow of information between parties often occur, meaning that complaints raised by residents to the committee only reach security authorities once tensions have already escalated significantly. Limited human resources and a lack of managerial capacity among committee members also act as

obstacles; some members lack a deep understanding of dispute-resolution procedures, leading them to either postpone decision-making or defer entirely to the sub-district government when conflicts arise. This delay in responding to residents' grievances causes tensions—which could have been defused early on—to instead evolve into more widespread conflict.

2.3 Social and Cultural Factors

The socio-cultural landscape of Tonala Village serves as the most dominant obstacle. A parochial political culture means that political choices are heavily influenced by kinship ties, family relationships, and the influence of respected community elders. Families typically follow the lead of the household head, so when differences in political preference emerge within an extended family, it easily triggers friction between families. This fosters intense, fanatical loyalty among a candidate's supporters, who feel compelled to defend their chosen candidate by any means necessary—including the dissemination of information intended to damage the reputation of opposing candidates. When election results are announced, the losing side often struggles to accept defeat, questioning the fairness of the process and assuming that their opponent's victory must have been secured through foul play. Furthermore, the politicization of government aid and development programs exacerbates social divisions, as such assistance is perceived as a campaign tool designed to garner voter sympathy.

Differences in political choices have also led to rifts within family relationships, where relatives with opposing political preferences become reluctant to interact with one another—a situation that often takes a long time to mend, even after reconciliation efforts have been made.

DISCUSSION

The research findings indicate that the conflict mitigation strategies implemented in Tonala Village encompass three primary approaches: conflict resolution methods and legal compliance; the role of resolution actors and the effectiveness of the organizing committee; and resolution strategies combined with oversight systems. These three approaches align with the conflict resolution theory proposed by Galtung (1996:42), which suggests that conflict resolution can be pursued through three channels: negotiation, mediation, and arbitration. The negotiation channel is evidenced by the deliberative efforts made by the disputing parties to reach a mutual agreement without external pressure. The mediation channel is reflected in the role of community, traditional, and religious leaders, who act as neutral third parties to bridge the gaps between supporters of different candidates; rather than taking sides, they seek to reconcile the interests of both parties to achieve a mutually beneficial agreement. Meanwhile, the arbitration channel is represented by the role of the village head election (Pilkades) committee and the village government, which are authorized to issue binding decisions on disputes should negotiation and mediation fail to produce an agreement.

From a legal perspective, mitigation strategies rooted in compliance with prevailing laws and regulations serve as an appropriate measure to ensure legal certainty in the conduct of village head elections. This is consistent with the view of Friedman (1975:19), who emphasizes that clear legal substance serves as the fundamental basis for the enforcement of rules within a society. Adherence to election procedures—from the registration phase through to the announcement of results—demonstrates that both the community and the election organizers have endeavored to follow formal requirements as prescribed. Nevertheless, from a sociological perspective, the enforcement of formal rules alone is not sufficiently effective unless supported by the sociocultural values ??that exist within a society. The practice of resolving disputes through deliberation and a familial approach—as observed in Tonala Village—demonstrates that a cultural approach is often more effective at easing tensions

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than a rigid legalistic one. This is supported by the findings of Djibalu et al. (2023:48), who note that communities in the South Bolaang Mongondow Regency still place a high priority on familial and kinship values ??when resolving conflicts. A familial approach ensures that the conflicting parties feel valued and heard, making them more receptive to the resulting decisions than they would be if such decisions were imposed unilaterally based solely on formal regulations.

The role of conflict-resolution actors—including community leaders and relevant authorities—further strengthens the effectiveness of mitigation efforts. This aligns with research by Pratama et al. (2024:62), which found that the involvement of respected community leaders can significantly reduce the escalation of conflict. Such leaders possess high social legitimacy in the eyes of residents, making their advice and decisions more readily accepted than those originating from less familiar external parties. The peace agreement signed by the campaign teams of all four candidates prior to the election serves as evidence that early preventive measures are crucial for maintaining a stable environment throughout the village head election (Pilkades) process. This agreement demonstrates that the stakeholders share an awareness of the importance of preserving social harmony—an awareness that must be continuously nurtured through ongoing dialogue. Nevertheless, the effectiveness of the organizing committee could still be improved, as some residents remain skeptical regarding the committee's neutrality in decision-making. This skepticism stems from kinship ties between certain committee members and specific candidates, which in turn undermines public trust in the electoral process. This underscores the necessity of prioritizing the principle of neutrality when forming the election committee, ensuring that the final results are accepted by all parties without reservation.

Factors Hindering Conflict Mitigation Strategies

The obstacles identified in this study can be explained through Friedman's (1975:19) legal system theory, which comprises three components: legal substance, legal structure, and legal culture. These components are interconnected and determine whether a given rule can function effectively within a society. Regarding legal substance, the lack of a clear mechanism for resolving disputes at the village level creates legal uncertainty whenever conflicts arise. Existing provisions merely delegate authority to the Regent or Mayor without establishing operational procedures that are accessible to the community at the village level. Consequently, when disputes arise, residents are often unsure of where to turn or which rules should govern the resolution process. This aligns with findings by Fikri (2020:15), who notes that the absence of detailed regulations regarding the resolution of village head election (Pilkades) disputes is a primary cause of prolonged conflict in many regions. In the absence of clear guidelines, disputing parties tend to apply their own subjective standards to determine what is "right," making it difficult to reach a mutually acceptable agreement.

From the perspective of legal structure, the limited institutional capacity of the village election committee and the village government to manage conflicts hinders the resolution process. Suboptimal coordination between institutions means that residents' grievances are not addressed promptly; as a result, tensions that could have been defused early on instead escalate into more widespread conflict. Furthermore, a lack of human resources and an insufficient understanding of dispute resolution procedures often leave committee members hesitant to make decisions, causing issues to be deferred and left to accumulate. This stands in contrast to villages with more structured dispute resolution frameworks and committee members who have

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undergone formal training—settings where conflicts can typically be resolved much more quickly (Fajriani & Tenripadang, 2022:25). Strong institutional capacity is a critical determinant in the speed and accuracy of conflict management; therefore, enhancing this capacity through training and technical guidance is an essential component in the administration of village head elections.

From the perspective of legal culture, the socio-cultural factors within the community of Tonala Village—specifically a parochial political culture and strong kinship ties—serve as the most dominant obstacles. Political choices based on familial relationships and the influence of respected elders foster intense fanaticism among the supporters of various candidates. When election results are announced, the losing side often struggles to accept the outcome and tends to question the fairness of the electoral process. This indicates a need to improve the community's legal awareness regarding election procedures; residents do not yet fully perceive the village head election (*Pilkades*) as a democratic process whose results must be respected, but rather view it primarily through the lens of personal ties—who wins and who loses. These findings reinforce the research of Hamim et al. (2020:89), which suggests that the political culture in rural communities—still dominated by patron-client patterns and kinship—is frequently the primary source of conflict during village head elections. Furthermore, the politicization of aid and development programs exacerbates social divisions, which in turn hinders post-election reconciliation efforts. The community does not yet view development as a right belonging to all villagers; instead, they perceive it as a gift from the elected leader. Consequently, when political allegiances differ, residents feel entitled to different development outcomes. Shifting this political culture cannot be achieved quickly; it requires sustained socialization and political education to help the community understand that a village head election is a process for selecting a leader capable of advancing the village, rather than merely a means to reinforce kinship bonds.

Strengths and Limitations of the Research

This study possesses several strengths, most notably the in-depth data analysis conducted through direct interviews with various stakeholders involved in the village head election conflict, resulting in rich, contextually grounded data. The researcher also conducted direct field observations—including witnessing reconciliation meetings facilitated by community leaders—which allowed for a more comprehensive and profound understanding of the conflict situation. This study integrates three perspectives—legal, sociological, and political—to analyze conflict mitigation, thereby providing a more comprehensive overview than research that focuses on only a single aspect. Furthermore, it enriches the study of conflict resolution in village head elections (Pilkades) by incorporating local wisdom—an area currently underrepresented in existing literature. The findings of this study can serve as a reference for other villages with similar socio-cultural characteristics in developing strategies for the prevention and resolution of conflicts related to village head elections. Nevertheless, this study also has limitations. In terms of sample size, the research was conducted in only one village—Tonala Village—meaning the findings cannot be generalized to other villages with different socio-cultural and demographic characteristics. Each village possesses unique social relationship patterns, family structures, and educational levels; therefore, mitigation strategies that prove effective in Tonala Village may not necessarily yield the same results elsewhere. Furthermore, regarding the depth of analysis, this study did not quantitatively measure the extent to which individual factors influence the effectiveness of conflict mitigation, making it impossible to definitively determine which factor is statistically the most dominant. The study also did not explore the long-term impacts of village head election (Pilkades) conflicts on

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social relations and the village development process; consequently, the full extent of the resulting divisions and the time required for complete recovery remain unclear. Future research should ideally encompass a larger number of villages with diverse characteristics and employ a mixed-methods approach (combining qualitative and quantitative data) to achieve more profound and generalizable results. Additionally, longitudinal research is essential to examine the comprehensive impact of village head elections on the lives of rural communities.

Based on the arguments above, several recommendations can be proposed. First, local governments should develop detailed technical guidelines for resolving village head election disputes—guidelines that are easily accessible to the village community—so that all disputing parties are aware of the appropriate resolution channels and have a clear frame of reference. Second, the capacity and training of village head election committees should be enhanced to ensure they remain neutral and professional when handling disputes, particularly regarding fair and transparent decision-making. Moreover, the formation of these committees must strictly follow a process that guarantees neutrality, ensuring that appointments are not based solely on kinship ties. Third, the promotion of democratic values ??and political ethics must be continuously carried out among the public to reduce group-based fanaticism and foster a spirit of sportsmanship in accepting election results. It is essential for the community to understand that differing political choices are a natural aspect of democracy and should not damage existing familial or social bonds. Fourth, sustained post-election reconciliation efforts are necessary to mend fractured social relations; the newly elected village government must commit to leading the entire community without discrimination, ensuring that development programs are implemented equitably for all villagers, regardless of their political affiliations.

CONCLUSION

Based on the research findings and discussion presented, the conclusions of this study are as follows:

First, the conflict mitigation strategy for the village head election in Tonala Village, Posigadan District, South Bolaang Mongondow Regency in 2022, was implemented through three approaches: conflict resolution methods and legal compliance; the roles of resolution actors and the effectiveness of the organizing committee; and resolution strategies combined with oversight systems. These approaches were carried out through consensus-based deliberation and a familial, community-oriented approach, involving the organizing committee, village government, community leaders, and relevant authorities. This strategy proved effective in easing social tensions both during and after the village head election.

Second, the factors hindering the conflict mitigation strategy for the village head election in Tonala Village relate to legal substance, institutional structure, and the community's social culture. Key obstacles—which made optimal conflict resolution difficult—included a lack of clarity in the technical regulations for dispute settlement, limitations in the capacity and neutrality of the organizing committee, and a strong parochial political culture, alongside kinship ties that influenced the community's political choices.

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