



STRATEGY OF THE NATIONAL UNITY AND POLITICS AGENCY (KESBANGPOL) IN HANDLING SOCIAL CONFLICT AMONG POLITICAL PARTY SUPPORTERS IN PESAWARAN REGENCY

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E-ISSN : 3109-9777

Accepted: June 2026

Accepted: June 2026

Published: June 2026

Abstract :

This study used a descriptive qualitative research method. The method was applied to describe and qualitatively examine the strategy of the National Unity and Politics Agency (Kesbangpol) in handling social conflict among political party supporters in Pesawaran Regency. All data were obtained directly from field informants through interviews and document studies. The findings show that: (1) in the strategy formulation dimension, conflict-handling steps were prepared by considering potential political vulnerabilities in the community. Strategy formulation was conducted through problem identification, mapping of conflict-prone areas, monitoring of political situations, and coordination with related parties; (2) in the strategy implementation dimension, early detection, community political education, cross-sector coordination, dialogue facilitation, mediation, and public appeals to maintain political conduciveness were carried out; and (3) in the strategy evaluation dimension, Kesbangpol assessed the implementation of strategies through situational monitoring, activity reporting, and evaluation of conflict-handling effectiveness. The inhibiting aspects include limited data at the formulation stage, coordination constraints and political fanaticism at the implementation stage, and weak measurement and follow-up at the evaluation stage.

Keywords : Strategy, Agency, Conflict, Social

INTRODUCTION

Social conflict involving political party supporters is a phenomenon that frequently occurs in the dynamics of democratic life in Indonesia. In local contexts such as Pesawaran Regency, the potential for such conflict tends to increase, especially before and after general elections and regional head elections. Differences in political choices, group fanaticism, and the spread of inaccurate information often trigger friction among political party supporters, which may disrupt social stability and public security.

Indonesian legal provisions related to social conflict management, such as Law Number 7 of 2012 concerning Social Conflict Management, provide a strong legal basis for local governments. However, several obstacles must be addressed so that these policies can be implemented at the local level, including budget support, human resources, and institutional capacity. This indicates a gap between field practice and policy standards that requires further research, particularly in relation to the strategic role of the National Unity and Politics



Agency (Kesbangpol).

Considering the complexity of these problems, research on the strategy of Kesbangpol in resolving social disputes among political party supporters in Pesawaran Regency is important and relevant. In addition to providing an empirical picture of conditions in the field, this study is expected to produce strategic recommendations that can be considered in developing public policy related to regional social and political resilience.

Table : 1 Social Conflict Problems Among Political Party Supporters (January-March 2026)

No	Month	Problem Type	Brief Description	Impact	Initial Handling
1	January	Differences in political choices between groups	Friction occurred among party supporters due to different political choices	Social tension in the community and potential open conflict	Mediation by village officials and community leaders
2	January	Spread of provocative issues (hoaxes)	False information circulated through social media	Increased emotions and prejudice among groups	Clarification by the local government and security apparatus
3	January	Low political literacy in the community	The community was easily provoked by political issues	Verbal conflict and mutual blaming	Political socialization by Kesbangpol
4	February	Unhealthy campaigning	Mutual attacks occurred among party supporters	Triggered conflict among individuals or groups	Supervision by election organizers
5	February	Clashes among sympathizers	Arguments occurred and nearly developed into physical conflict	Disturbance of public order	Security measures by the police
6	February	Minimal coordination among related parties	Lack of synergy between government, apparatus, and the community	Conflict handling was less optimal	Cross-sector coordination meetings
7	March	Community polarization	The community was grouped according to political affiliations	Declining social cohesion	Dialogue among community groups
8	March	Low participation in maintaining conduciveness	Limited public awareness of maintaining social stability	Conflict had the potential to spread	Education and persuasive approaches
9	March	Influence of social media	Spread of hate speech and political propaganda	Accelerated conflict escalation	Monitoring and digital literacy
10	March	Limited Kesbangpol resources	Limited human resources and budget for conflict handling	Conflict handling was not maximized	Optimization of resources and cooperation

Source : Kesbangpol of Pesawaran Regency, 2026.

The table shows the dynamics of social conflict problems during the three-month period from January to March 2026. In general, the conflicts that emerged indicate an escalation pattern that developed from latent or hidden conflict toward more open and complex conflict.

The problems show that social conflict among political party supporters in Pesawaran Regency is influenced by various interrelated factors. Low public political literacy makes individuals vulnerable to provocative information,

especially information spread through social media. This condition triggers community polarization based on political choice and eventually reduces social cohesion. The research problems are formulated as follows:

1. How is the strategy of the National Unity and Politics Agency (Kesbangpol) in handling social conflict among political party supporters in Pesawaran Regency?
2. What are the supporting and inhibiting aspects of Kesbangpol strategy in handling social conflict among political party supporters in Pesawaran Regency?

The concept used to discuss the strategy of Kesbangpol in handling social conflict among political party supporters in Pesawaran Regency refers to David (2021). Based on this concept, the strategy can be analyzed through three main dimensions:

1. Strategy Formulation. This stage includes identification of social conflict problems, environmental analysis, such as conflict potential, involved actors, and causal factors, as well as determination of conflict-handling policies and programs.
2. Strategy Implementation. This stage relates to the implementation of formulated programs and policies. Kesbangpol implements strategies through activities such as conflict mediation, facilitation of dialogue among community groups, political socialization, and coordination with security apparatus and related agencies.
3. Strategy Evaluation. This stage aims to assess the effectiveness of the strategies that have been implemented. Kesbangpol monitors conflict developments, evaluates program success, and improves strategies when weaknesses are found in their implementation.

RESEARCH METHOD

Social life is closely related to social disputes, especially in the political field. Differences in political preferences are normal in a democratic society, but in practice they often lead to social disputes within the community, particularly among political party supporters. Political events such as national elections, regional head elections, and other local political dynamics often become moments when these disputes arise. If not handled properly, the problem may turn into open conflict that disrupts public order, security, and social stability.

In this context, the role of local government is very important, particularly through the National Unity and Politics Agency (Kesbangpol), an institution with a strategic function in maintaining political and social stability. Kesbangpol has tasks in conducting early conflict detection, community political development, and coordination with various parties in conflict prevention and handling efforts.

Therefore, this study used a descriptive research design with a qualitative methodology. This research aimed to understand in depth the techniques used by Kesbangpol in addressing social conflict, particularly confrontations among political party supporters, so a qualitative methodology

was employed.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The strategy of Kesbangpol of Pesawaran Regency in handling social conflict among political party supporters emphasizes preventive and coordinative efforts, namely preventing conflict from an early stage, building communication among parties, fostering public political awareness, and maintaining social and political conduciveness in the region.

a. Strategy Formulation

Strategy formulation is an important initial stage for the National Unity and Politics Agency of Pesawaran Regency in handling social conflict among political party supporters. At this stage, Kesbangpol needs to prepare strategic steps based on developing social, political, and security conditions in the community. Based on an interview with the Head of Kesbangpol of Pesawaran Regency, it was stated that:

Strategy formulation is conducted through early identification of conflict potential based on mapping of vulnerable areas, cross-sector coordination with security apparatus, and strengthening political communication with political parties. (Interview results, May 2026).

Strategy formulation is also carried out by analyzing internal and external factors. Internal factors relate to Kesbangpol ability to perform its duties, such as the availability of human resources, budget, political data, and coordination networks. External factors relate to community conditions, the behavior of political party supporters, election situations, the role of social media, and the possibility of provocation by certain parties. Based on an interview with the Head of the Domestic Politics Division at Kesbangpol of Pesawaran Regency, it was stated that:

Strategy formulation is carried out through a political development approach for political parties and the community, including socialization of healthy and ethical political education. In addition, internal regulations are strengthened and coordination with the General Election Commission and the Election Supervisory Agency is conducted to ensure that all political activities run according to the rules. (Interview results, May 2026).

Based on the analysis, Kesbangpol can formulate several strategic directions, such as improving early conflict detection, strengthening cross-sector coordination, conducting political education for the community, building communication with political parties, and facilitating dialogue when tensions occur among supporters. This strategy is directed so that the community continues to maintain unity, respect differences in political choice, and resolve political problems through peaceful and democratic means.

b. Strategy Implementation

Strategy implementation is the execution stage of the strategy that was previously formulated. In the context of Kesbangpol of Pesawaran Regency, strategy implementation is important because handling social conflict among political party supporters is not sufficient if it is only planned; it must be

realized through concrete actions in the field. Based on an interview with the Head of Kesbangpol of Pesawaran Regency, it was stated that:

Strategy implementation is conducted through cross-sector coordination with security apparatus, the local government, and election organizers. Kesbangpol also holds political communication forums regularly, monitors field situations, and strengthens the role of early detection. (Interview results, May 2026).

In local political life, political party supporters often have strong emotional bonds with certain parties or political figures. These emotional bonds can be positive when directed toward healthy political participation. However, if they are not controlled, political fanaticism can create mutual suspicion, blame, and even hostility among citizens. This condition is one reason why Kesbangpol needs to implement persuasive, educational, and coordinative strategies. Based on an interview with a representative of Political Party 1 in Pesawaran Regency, it was stated that:

Coordination with Kesbangpol has run quite well through official forums and informal communication. Political parties are often invited to development activities and discussions related to the regional political situation. (Interview results, May 2026).

Strategy implementation can also be directed toward strengthening the early warning system. Kesbangpol needs to ensure that information regarding potential conflicts can be received quickly from the village, subdistrict, and regency levels. The information is then analyzed to determine appropriate handling steps. If indications of tension among political party supporters are found, Kesbangpol can immediately coordinate with security apparatus, local government, and community leaders to take preventive approaches before the conflict becomes larger.

c. Strategy Evaluation

Strategy evaluation is an important stage in determining the extent to which the strategies formulated and implemented by Kesbangpol of Pesawaran Regency are able to handle social conflict among political party supporters. After strategies are carried out through early detection, coordination, political development, mediation, and field monitoring, Kesbangpol needs to assess the strengths and weaknesses of those strategies. Evaluation is conducted so that conflict handling is not only temporary but can continue to be improved according to the development of social and political situations in the community. Based on an interview with the Head of Kesbangpol of Pesawaran Regency, it was stated that:

Evaluation is carried out through regular internal meetings, monitoring of political situations in the field, and analysis of reports from related divisions and regional apparatus. In addition, Kesbangpol assesses the decline in the number of conflicts and the effectiveness of resolution through mediation. The evaluation results are used as a basis for improving strategies so they become more responsive and adaptive to developing political dynamics. (Interview results, May 2026).

Strategy evaluation is also related to the reporting process to regional leaders. As a regional apparatus that assists the Regent in the field of national unity and politics, Kesbangpol needs to convey monitoring results, conflict developments, steps that have been taken, and policy recommendations. These reports become the basis for the local government in making more appropriate decisions to maintain security, order, and community harmony. Based on an interview with the Head of National Vigilance and Conflict Handling Division at Kesbangpol of Pesawaran Regency, it was stated that:

Evaluation is carried out by assessing the speed of response to early reports, the accuracy of information received from the vigilance network, and the effectiveness of preventive actions taken. If a case still develops into conflict, an in-depth evaluation is conducted to improve the early detection mechanism and coordination among parties. (Interview results, May 2026).

In the context of social conflict among political party supporters, strategy evaluation does not only assess Kesbangpol success in reducing conflict. It also evaluates the extent to which the community and political parties take responsibility for maintaining a peaceful democratic atmosphere. Evaluation needs to examine whether political parties can control their supporters, whether community leaders play an active role in easing tensions, and whether the public has become wiser in responding to differences in political choice.

CONCLUSION

Based on the dimensions of strategy formulation, strategy implementation, and strategy evaluation, it can be concluded that: (1) in the strategy formulation dimension, conflict-handling steps have been prepared by considering potential political vulnerabilities in the community. Strategy formulation was carried out through problem identification, mapping of conflict-prone areas, monitoring of political situations, and coordination with related parties; (2) in the strategy implementation dimension, early detection, community political education, cross-sector coordination, dialogue facilitation, mediation, and public appeals to maintain political conduciveness have been implemented; and (3) in the strategy evaluation dimension, Kesbangpol evaluates the implementation of strategies through situation monitoring, activity reporting, and evaluation of the effectiveness of conflict handling.

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