

Enhancing Transparency and Accountability of Political Party Finance in Indonesia

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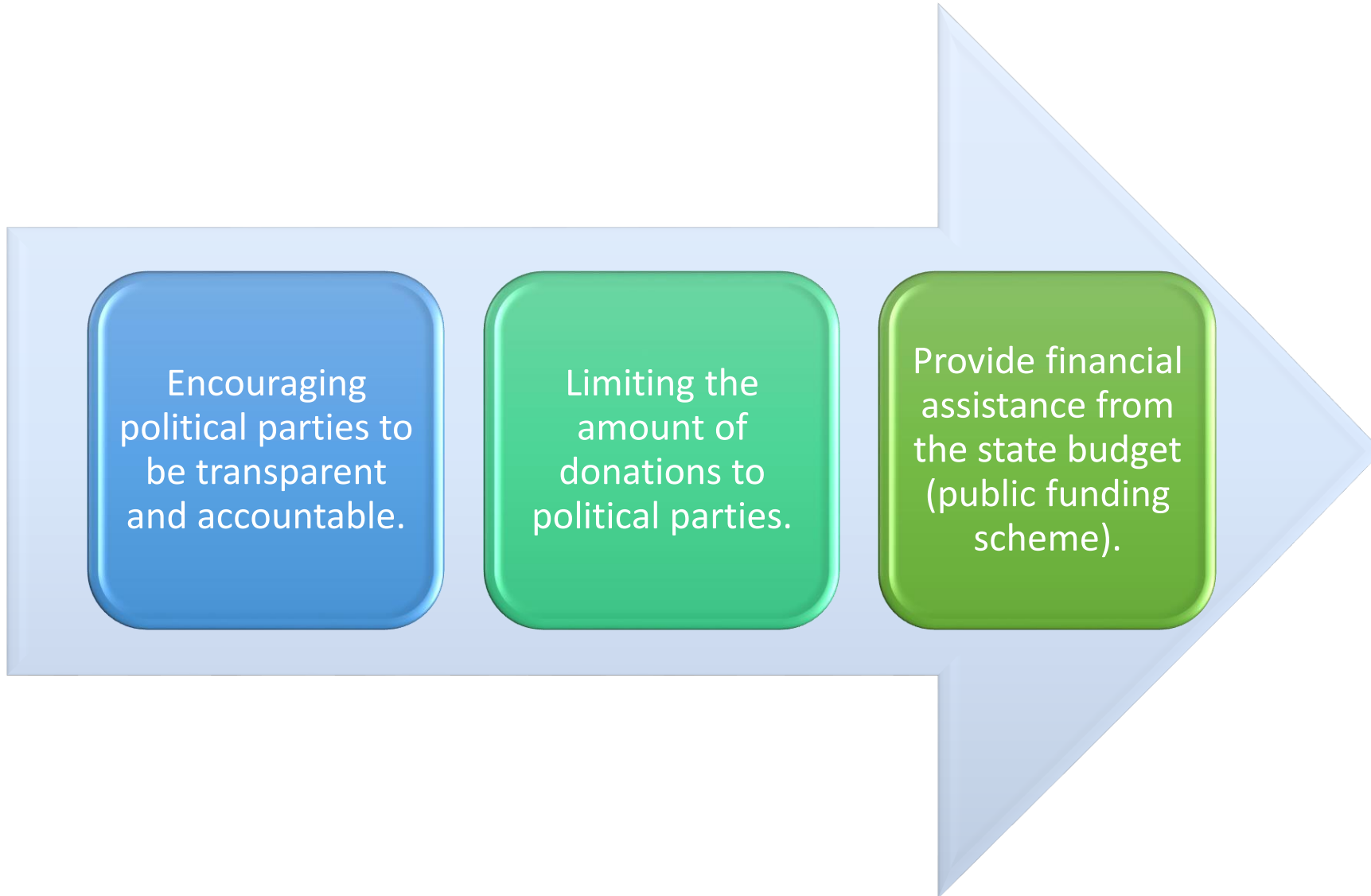
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Political Party Dilemma



THREE STEPS TO SOLVE THE DILEMMA



Barriers to Party Finance Accountability

- Money is increasingly dominant in Indonesian politics. The limit on donations for political parties is getting bigger but accountability arrangements are still very minimal.
- Party finance is considered as a domestic domain of the party that does not require accountability in its use.
- Legal instruments are also unable to enforce financial transparency and accountability of political parties in Indonesia.
- There are differences in the accountability scheme arrangements between campaign funds and political funds managed by parties outside the campaign period. Regulated in two different law: Election Law and Political Party Law.
- The awareness of political parties and their actors towards the transparency and accountability of political funds is also very low. Not yet internalized as part of the values in the governance of political organizations in Indonesia.
- Accountability of political funds has also not become a consideration for voters in determining their vote in elections.

Barriers to Party Finance Accountability

- The absence of a political fund report supervisory agency.
- Currently, the political party feels that there are no incentives and disincentives for transparency and accountability in the governance of political funds by them.
- Instead of using political finance accountability to create competitive elections among political parties, political parties tend to ignore the issue of funding accountability in elections. In fact, it is "very tolerant" of the issue of accountability for political funds. This is not an important/mainstream issue.
- So far, reporting on political funds has only been a formality to comply with existing regulations (conformity). Has not reached the truth or accountability of the contents of the report itself.
- The mechanism for administrative sanctions against reports on the misuse of state funds for political parties is not running optimally.
- There is no scheme to strengthen the quality of women's representation in the allocation of state funds to political parties.

Enhancing Transparency and Accountability

- Increase the allocation of state funds to political parties so that there is strong legitimacy to demand transparency and accountability of political party funds.
- Strengthening state funds for political parties is also an effort to avoid the domination of the influence of capital owners in controlling the party structure, as well as to open up more inclusive political access for potential party cadres with minimal funding.
- Because the accountability of funds is very influential on creating fair and equal election competition, it is necessary to have an institution that supervises the financial accountability of political parties (not only supervising campaign finance).
- Civil society and the media must continue to educate the public about the importance of financial transparency and accountability of political parties and use them as a reference in casting votes in elections.