



# The Real Village Leader in Indonesia: A Unique Demonstration of Citizens Demanding That the Incumbent Re-Run

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**Abstract.** This research examines the causes of demonstrations by residents demanding that the incumbent be nominated again and the dynamics of village residents' protests regarding Mr Gaguk's rejection. It also evaluates the social and political impact of Mr Gaguk's rejection of the village government. Mr Gaguk has served as Village Head since 2017 and succeeded in leading the village well for one period. However, when asked to run again, he refused, sparking unusual public demonstrations. This research uses a qualitative descriptive method, and data sources are obtained through interviews, observations, and Focus Group Discussions, as well as online media, news, and related journals. The analysis technique uses the NVivo 12 plus data processing application, a qualitative document analysis tool with computer assistance. Their tools are easy to use and can process words and explore word frequencies, attributes, and cases from big data. The research results into the causes of demonstrations demanding that the incumbent run again show that Gaguk is an extraordinary leader with the admiration and support of his community. Even though he was initially reluctant to run for office until the community finally persuaded Mr Gaguk to become village head again, his extraordinary integrity and dedication have left an indelible mark on this village. One of the most vital reasons the public supports Mr Gaguk is his unmatched integrity. As village head, he never received a salary; instead, he invested his funds into village development projects. His integrity remains a shining example for everyone.

**Keywords:** Mr. Gaguk, Village Leaders, Demonstration Dynamics.

## 1 Introduction

Democracy as a political system dictates that a democratic country can invite all elements of society to participate in political life and government [1]. In simple terms, democracy is a form of government run by the people and for the people. Thus, indirectly, a sign of a country achieving political modernization is its success in running a

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government with the intervention of all the people, including small elements such as regional government [2]. In filling a particular position, a mechanism, namely, general elections, must be carried out to fill that political position. General elections are a way to fill political positions in a democratic manner that involves the community directly. Such as the election of President and Vice President, Governor, Mayor/Regent, DPRD RI, Provincial DPRD, Regency/City DPRD, DPD, and Village Head [3].

Taking part in general elections is one form of minimal political participation by citizens. Indeed, in several countries, including Indonesia, participating in elections is part of what Bruce Ackerman and James Fishkin call Civil Privacy [4]. Even though this concerns state or politics, participating in elections is a personal matter. The main objective of general elections in Law Number 12 of 2003 is to elect people's representatives and regional representatives, as well as to form a strong democratic government and obtain popular support to realize national goals as mandated by the Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia. Indonesia in 1945 [5].

Village elections are political events at the village level, showing that village communities have been involved in politics directly from the start [6]. The election of village heads is an exercise of people's sovereignty to be elected and vote in an election process that takes place democratically. Still, there is an increase in the number of villages that carry out village head elections with a single candidate [7]. As the implementer of popular sovereignty, the election of the village head must guarantee the realization that supreme power is in the hands of the people, meaning it mandates that the village head must be elected democratically [8].

Citizens' constitutional rights are a form of implementation of people's sovereignty to be elected, and to vote in village head elections must remain guaranteed, without being held hostage by the requirement that there be at least two pairs of candidates for village head and deputy village head [9]. This postponement is contrary to the spirit of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia if the village head election is not held and is postponed until the next election. Constitutional rights are impaired, namely, the right to be elected and elected only because the requirements for at least two village head candidates and deputy village head candidates are not fulfilled [10]. o, to guarantee the constitutional rights of citizens, village head elections must still be held even though there is only one pair of village head candidates and deputy village head candidates [11].

Previous research by Neneng Yani Yuningsih 2016 discussed Democracy in Village Head Elections. Case Study of Villages with Traditional, Transitional, and Modern Typologies in West Java Province 2008-2013. Then, research from Agus Sofyan, 2021 discusses Community Participation in the Village Head Election in Sukamulya Village, Rumpin District, Bogor Regency in 2019. Therefore, in this research, the author is more focused on reviewing the causes of Unique Citizen Demonstrations. which demands that the incumbent re-nominate himself. Various speculations arose when there was an election for village head with only one candidate participating, but what happened in Kaliasri Village, Kalipare District, Malang Regency was different, where all the village people directly asked Mr. Gagak, the old village head, to nominate again. Therefore, this research focuses on the causes. Demonstrators demanded that the incumbent run further. Various speculations arose when the village head election took place with only

one candidate participating, but what happened in Kaliasri Village, Kalipare District, Malang Regency was different, where all the village people directly asked Mr Gaguk, the old village head, to nominate again. Therefore, this research focuses on the demonstration's cause: the incumbent demanded that the incumbent run further.

## 2 Method

This research uses a qualitative descriptive method, and data sources were obtained through interviews, observations, and FGDs, as well as online media, news, and journals related to research by tracing analysts on the causes of demonstrations demanding that the incumbent run again. The literature review study approach is carried out by reviewing journals about the object under study [12].

The analysis technique uses the NVivo 12 plus data processing application, a qualitative document analysis tool with computer assistance. Their tools are easy to use and can process words and explore word frequencies, attributes, and cases from big data. They also produce categories of factors or sub-factors in journalistic and research applications related to the research topic [13].

**Table 1.** Informant data

No	Informant's name	Information
1	Sukiah	Dukuh kalitelo
2	Ahmad sauri	Padukuhan
3	Bang hewot	Village head media team
4	Suspernadi	Kalitelo community figure
5	Walidi	Village secretary
6	Gaguk	Head of Kaliasri Village

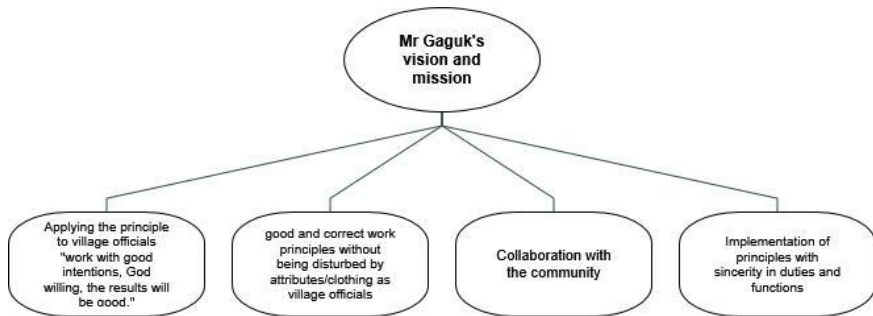
## 3 Results and Discussion

Mr. Gaguk has served as Village Head very well for an entire period in Kaliasri Village, Kalipare District, Malang Regency. His expertise in community development and inclusive leadership has brought positive change to the village. With his high enthusiasm for progress, he always prioritizes the welfare of society. Even though Mr Gaguk's term of office was successful, he believes that just one word of office is enough to serve as village head. He wants to encourage other capable citizens to come forward and lead. His humility and dedication to democratic principles are evident in his decisions [14].

However, the villagers did not want to accept Mr Gaguk's refusal to run again. They believe that his extraordinary leadership and his deep understanding of their needs make him the ideal candidate to continue improving the village's prosperity and connectivity. Mr Gaguk has proven himself to be an extraordinary leader. His selfless dedication, innovative thinking, and unwavering commitment to the welfare of society have earned him their respect and steadfast support [15].

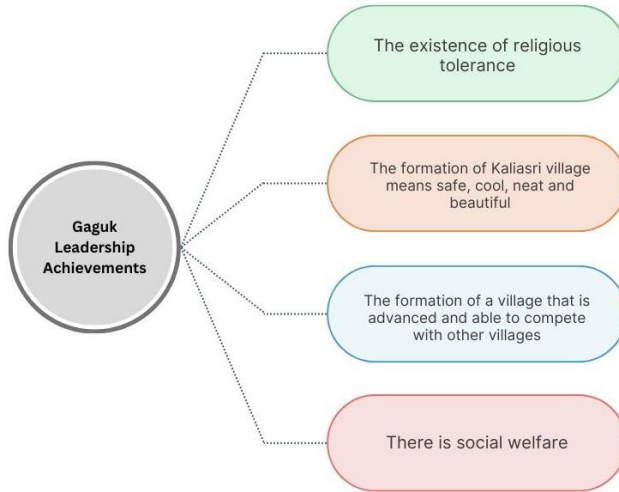
The community strongly supports Mr Gaguk's continued leadership because of his extraordinary problem-solving skills, effective communication, and ability to relate to people from all walks of life. His vision and passion for progress inspired confidence and hope. The villagers firmly believe that Mr Gaguk is the only leader who can take the village through the challenges that lie ahead. Even though he refused, they were determined to convince him to run again and build on the foundation of progress he had achieved in his previous term.

This article analyzes political dynamics at the village level through analysis of the village head election process. Therefore, one of the theories used to approach the case is local political theory. Just as political life in the village directly touches society's most fundamental political interests, local politics is believed to influence everyday life more than national politics. This is emphasized by Terry Christensen (1995, 1), who, by definition, local politics emphasizes decision-making, voting, and public policy at the local level when an individual or small group of people can be directly involved and influenced.



**Fig.1.** Mr Gaguk's vision and mission, Source: Modified with Nvivo 12 Plus

Fig.1. explains Mr Gaguk's vision and mission while serving as Village Head for an entire period in Kaliasri Village, Kalipare District, Malang Regency. (1) Application of the principle to village officials: "Work with good intentions, God willing, the results will be good". (2) Implementing excellent and correct work principles without being disturbed by attributes/clothing as village officials, (3) Collaboration between the community and village officials, and (4) Implementing principles sincerely in carrying out their duties and functions.



**Fig.2.** Gaguk Leadership Achievements, Source: Data processed by researchers in 2023

Fig.2. explains the achievements of Gaguk leadership in Kaliasri Village, Kalipare District, Malang Regency. (1) There is religious tolerance; (2) The formation of Kaliasri village means safe, calm, neat and beautiful; (3) The formation of a village that is advanced and able to compete with other villages; and (4) There is community welfare. Gaguk's leadership has improved the quality of life of village communities. Access to health services, education, and other resources has improved, and the village has become a livelier and friendlier place. Witness the extraordinary bond between Gaguk and his loyal villagers as their unwavering support inspires Gaguk to fulfil their wishes.



**Fig.3.** WordCloud causes citizens to demonstrate demanding that the incumbent re-run, Source: Modified with Nvivo 12 Plus

Fig.3. This is a WordCloud result that researcher produced based on analysis using Nvivo 12 Plus software. The results from WordCloud describe the relationship between the causes of demonstrations demanding that incumbents nominate again. The emerging themes showed protests demanding that the incumbent return to run again. Gaguk's tenure as village head was marked by his selfless service to his village community. The salary is returned to the village, which becomes a village development fund to benefit the community. The village utilizes these funds through 12 hectares of bent land. Where towns use village development funds to create community gardens, these gardens provide fresh produce to the city and increase community involvement. Gaguk realizes that collaboration and unity are essential to building a solid community. This idea is implemented in many village initiatives, which bring communities together to achieve common goals.

## 4 Conclusion

The research results into the causes of demonstrations demanding that the incumbent run again show that Gaguk is an extraordinary leader with the admiration and support of his community. Even though he was initially reluctant to run for office until the community finally persuaded Mr Gaguk to become village head again, his extraordinary integrity and dedication have left an indelible mark on this village. One of the most vital reasons the public supports Mr Gaguk is his unmatched integrity. As village head, he never received a salary; instead, he invested his funds into village development projects. His integrity remains a shining example for everyone.

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