



## **Indigenous Papuans Could Become a Minority in the Papuan Regional Representative Assembly (DPRP)** *by Agus Sumule<sup>1</sup>*

*In essence, Special Autonomy (Otonomi Khusus, OTSUS) is simple: its introduction to Papua clearly meant siding with, protecting and empowering the rights of the indigenous Papuan people in every aspect of life as well as developing Papua (the provinces of Papua and West Papua), including in political affairs. It is for this reason that a number of articles were included in Law No. 21, 2001 which specifically regulate the political rights of the indigenous Papuan people.*

The most pressing question at the moment is how to safeguard the political rights of indigenous Papuans in the 2009 general elections? Will OTSUS take their side, will it protect and empower them? Have the provisions of Law 21 of 2001 on Special Autonomy been implemented in terms of prioritising the recruitment of indigenous Papuans by political parties campaigning for seats in Papua (Article 28, paragraph 3), ensuring that they can occupy 25% of the seats in the Papuan Regional Representative Assembly (DPRP) (Article 6, paragraph 4)?

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To ensure that indigenous Papuans are prioritised and comprise the majority of the

members of the DPRP, the following criteria must be met:

- A substantial majority of indigenous Papuans must be nominated by all the political parties in Papua for seats in the DPRP.
- Party political mechanisms must be mobilised to support as many Papuan cadres as possible from each of the political parties, and
- The best Papuan cadres in each of the parties must have sufficient financial resources to be able to reach out to, communicate with, and attract as many voters as possible, including both indigenous Papuan as well as immigrant voters.

To find out whether these criteria have been met, I collected data from the List of Permanent Legislative Candidates of the Electoral Commission for the region of Papua (KPUD).

I first divided the candidates into two categories, indigenous Papuans and non-Papuans, placing them in the two categories on the basis of their names. See Table I below.

Table I shows that, if all the parties are treated alike, that is to say they are regarded as being equally capable of mobilising support from the voters, the chances of indigenous Papuans becoming members of the DPRP are quite substantial, that is to say 63 percent. However, this conclusion is far too simplistic and could even be deceptive. This is because, as explained above, there is a marked difference between the capabilities of each of the political parties to use their party machinery to mobilise the mass of voters to support indigenous Papuan cadres nominated by the respective parties. Furthermore, Table I shows that in Dapil I (electoral district I)<sup>ii</sup>, indigenous Papuans are in a minority. They are also close to being a minority in Dapils I and II.

**‘there is a marked difference between the capabilities of each of the political parties to mobilise the mass of voters to support indigenous Papuans’**

This, therefore, means that it is better to assume that the parties have different capacities to mobilise the masses. Parties frequently referred to nationally as the large parties (GOLKAR, PDI-P/Partai Demokrasi Indonesia–Perjuangan, PAN/National Mandate Party, PKS/Prosperous Justice Party, PDS/Prosperous Peace Party, PBR/Reformation Star Party) or other parties which are capable of becoming large, such as Gerindra/Great Indonesia Movement Party and Partai Hanura/People’s Conscience Party, clearly have the capacity to mobilise the support of their masses. In other words, if these parties were to provide the space and political empowerment to indigenous Papuans, their chances of becoming a majority in the

DPRP would increase. But is this likely to happen? Not according to the data set out in Table II. See Table II below.

**The problem can be solved by the creation of 11 additional seats set aside for indigenous Papuans**

This shows that the intentions of the large parties and the parties capable of becoming large to accommodate the political rights of indigenous Papuans are not apparent. Five parties have given a sizable share, between 63 and 75 percent, to indigenous Papuans, but five parties have given only a small or very small share to indigenous Papuans of between 4 and 45.8 percent. Two other parties have given a larger share to indigenous Papuans but only by a very narrow margin of between two and four percent.

The situation becomes even less beneficial if we include another factor, the capacity of indigenous Papuans to finance their campaigns. It is virtually certain that their capacity to campaign for their programmes in various locations will be far less than that of non-Papuan candidates. Their financial resources are very limited, even more so if we bear in mind the fact that some places in Papua are extremely vulnerable to money politics and to the purchase and sale of votes. It is virtually certain that only those with money will be able to win votes in places like this.

Such factors are clearly not conducive to ensuring support, protection and empowerment to indigenous Papuans in the development of the political situation, particularly with regard to representation of indigenous Papuans in the DPRP, as stipulated in Law 21, 2001. If these factors are brought to bear, the number of indigenous Papuan members of the DPRP would be less than the number of non-Papuans, a political catastrophe that no one wants.

So how can this problem be solved? In my opinion, there needs to be a compromise in order to reach agreement on a possible solution, the creation of 11 additional seats in the DPRP exclusively set aside for indigenous Papuan candidates.

**the executive bodies should draft a special regional regulation that makes it possible for indigenous Papuans to set up their own political parties**

My proposal is that this should be done in several stages. Firstly, the Electoral Commission (KPU) in the Province of Papua should decide that candidates who win the most votes will occupy 45 seats, the number formerly agreed in the law regarding the DPRP of the Province of Irian Jaya, regardless of whether the candidates are indigenous Papuans or not. Secondly, indigenous Papuan candidates who fail to win any of these 45 seats should be grouped together and arranged in a list according to the number of votes gained in each of the Dapil. The 11 indigenous Papuan candidates who obtain the most votes would then be confirmed by the KPU of the Province of Papua as members of the DPRP in these 11 additional seats.

To prevent this problem occurring again, the KPUD of the Province of Papua should stipulate that every political party that wants to take part in elections in Papua must act consistently with Article 28, paragraph 3 of Law 21, 2001, which states: 'Political recruitment by parties in the Province of Papua shall be conducted in such a way as to prioritise the indigenous Papuan community.'

Thus, there would be two types of political recruitment: first, to get a position in the

leadership of the political party in question, and second, to be nominated as a candidate for a seat in the legislature. In addition, the executive bodies, the DPRP and the MRP (*Majelis Rakyat Papua*, Papuan Peoples' Council), should as speedily as possible draft a special regional regulation in Papua that makes it possible for indigenous Papuans to set up their own political parties, as is already the case in the Province of Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam.

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**Table I**  
**Percentage of indigenous Papuan candidates for the DPRP from all the parties**

<b>Electoral District (Daerah Pemilihan – Dapil)</b>	<b>Papuan (%)</b>	<b>Non-Papuan (%)</b>
Dapil I.. Jayapura and the City of Jayapura	51.7	48.3
Dapil II. Bintang Mountains, Yahukimo, Boven Digoel, Keerom	53.1	46.9
Dapil III. Mappi and Merauke	43.2	56.8
Dapil IV Jayawijaya, Tolikara, Lani Jaya, Nduga, Yalimo, Central Mamberamo, Puncak Jaya, Puncak Asmat	78.04	21.96
Dapil V. Paniai, Dogiyai, Nabire, Mimika	73.08	26.92
Dapil VI. Supiori, Biak, Mamberamo Raya, Yapen, Waropen, Sarmi	73.84	26.16
<b>Total</b>	<b>63.62</b>	<b>36.39</b>

**Table II**  
**Percentage of indigenous Papuan candidates for the DPRP from the large parties and those likely to become large**

<b>Electoral district</b>	<b>Papuan (%)</b>	<b>Non-Papuan (%)</b>
I	47.8	52.2
II	45.59	54.41
III	26.98	73.02
IV	67.03	32.97
V	60.00	40.00
VI	59.09	40.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>52.18</b>	<b>47.82</b>

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<sup>ii</sup> Each Dapil consists of two or more districts – kabupaten – depending on the size of the population.