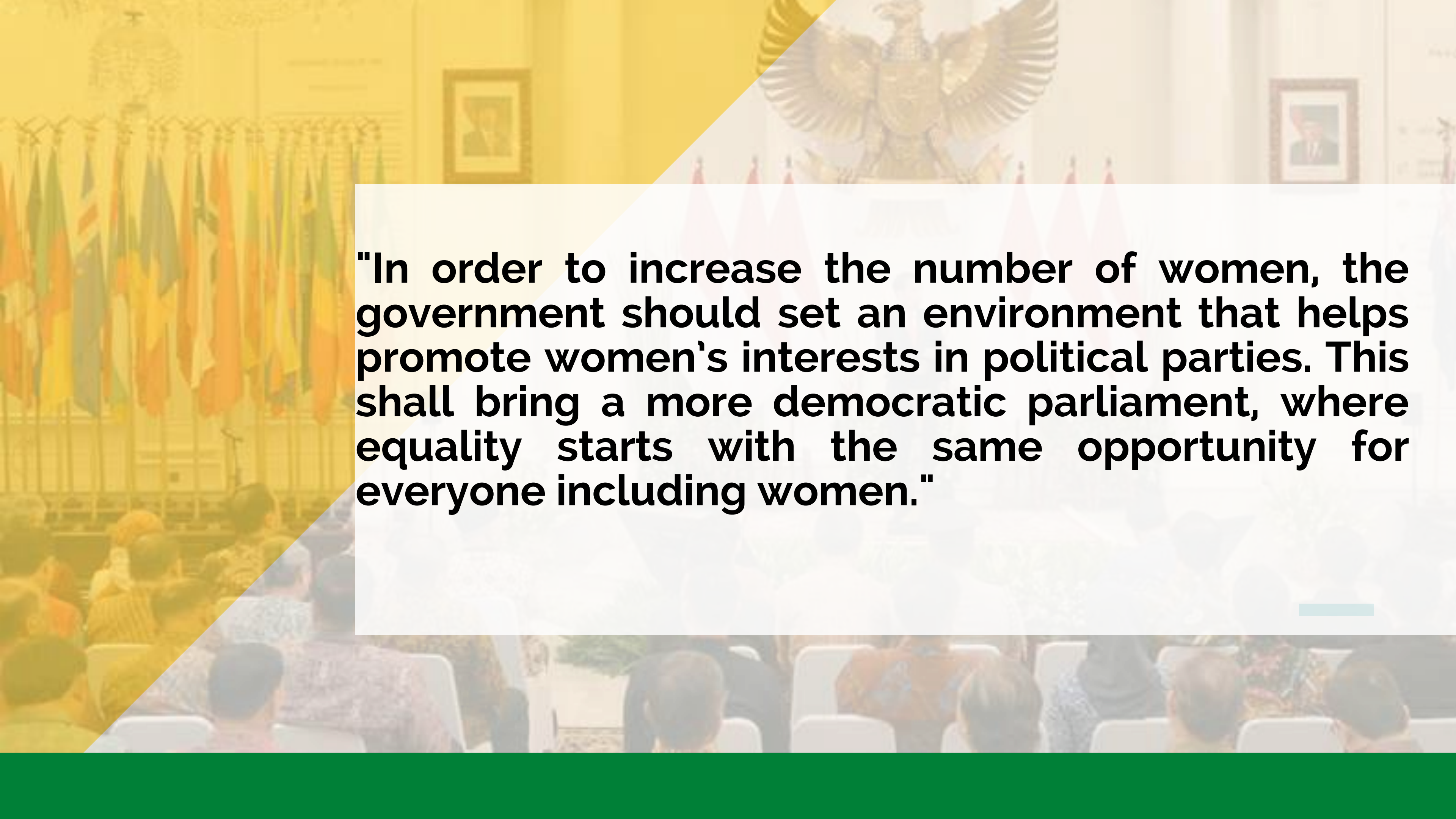




POLITICAL PARTY FINANCE AFFIRMATION FOR INCREASING WOMEN REPRESENTATION

Lena Maryana Mukti



"In order to increase the number of women, the government should set an environment that helps promote women's interests in political parties. This shall bring a more democratic parliament, where equality starts with the same opportunity for everyone including women."

THE BIGGEST HURDLE

The 2009 survey revealed that out of 300 institutions parliament, political finance is the biggest hurdle for female candidates to contest an election.



A research carried out by the Women of the United Nations (UN Women) in 2013 stated that more than 80 % of respondents admitted that lack of access to finance is the biggest challenge for female candidates to get into the political arena



The role of money in politics is indeed very crucial and means a lot to the success of the campaign. As we all know that the campaign has an influence on election results and will not work without the presence of a specific amount of money.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE AFFIRMATION

Campaign finance affirmation can be done at two levels: legislation (law) and internal political parties. At the legislative level, so far the affirmation provisions are limited to the stage of election participation requirements where each political party is required to include 30% of women in the management and the nomination stage which requires each party to nominate a minimum of 30% of women in each electoral district. While at the campaign stage there is no affirmation set yet.

IN-KIND PUBLIC FUNDING

Providing in-kind public funding through given campaign time for female legislature candidates of every political party in the media is one form of affirmation in the campaign stage. Other campaign mediums can also be applied to facilitate more room for female candidates. E.g.: display banners for female candidates are financially facilitated by the state as much as 30% in the campaign run by women in each constituency.





WOMEN'S REPRESENTATION CAN BE INCREASED IN FOUR FORMS INCLUDING:

- Incentives in the form of reducing the amount of state funds for parties that do not meet minimum female candidate quota requirements regulated in electoral law;
- Incentives in the form of additional state funds for parties that meet the requirements of the minimum female number of candidates that must be carried;
- Incentives in the form of additional state subsidies for the party in winning a number of female candidates.

Model 1 Public Fund Affirmation

Falguera et.al 2014: 356

COUNTRY	AFFIRMATION QUOTA	PROVISIONS OF INCENTIVES AND SANCTIONS
Albania	30% of candidates must be women	Violations are subject to a fine of 1,000,000 ALL (I\$17,000) for national elections and 50,000 ALL (I\$860) for local elections
Burkina Faso	30% of candidates must be women	Violations will be subject to a 50% subsidy cut. If the party supports more than 30% women, it will receive an additional subsidy.
Cape Verde	Balanced representation of both genders on the candidate list	Additional subsidies for coalitions or parties whose candidate list (if elected at the national level) has 25% female politicians.
Croatia	Balanced representation of both genders on the candidate list	For every minority candidate who wins the election, the supporting party will receive an additional subsidy of 10% of the total allocation of subsidy funds for each member of the representative body.
France	No more than 51% of candidates must be of one gender	If the gender difference between candidates reaches 2%, the subsidy will be reduced by three-quarters.
Georgia	20% of candidates must be women	Parties will receive additional subsidies if they nominate 20% of women candidates out of every 10 candidates.
Ireland	30% of candidates must be women (will be increased to 40% in 2019)	Violations will be subject to a subsidy reduction of up to 50%
Kenya	30% reserved seats	The party will not receive the subsidy if two-thirds of the candidates winning the election are of only one gender.
South Korea	50% women candidates for proportional electoral representation list	Special subsidies for female candidates will be distributed to parties based on the ratio of seats in the National Council and the number of votes won.
Niger	Reserved seats	Party subsidy funds are allocated at 30% of the total state tax revenue each year; the 10% is distributed according to the proportion of elected female politicians at all levels of government.
Portugal	33% of candidates must be women	Subsidies will be reduced if the representation of one gender is less than 20%. If both genders are represented only by 20% to 33.3%, public subsidies will be reduced by 25%.

Model 2 Public Fund Affirmation

(Falguera et.al 2014: 352-353).

COUNTRY	REGULATORY PROVISIONS
Bosnia and Herzegovina	10 percent of total state funds for parties will be distributed to parliament in proportion to the number of seats occupied by gender minorities.
Colombia	5 percent of state funds for parties will be allocated equally to all parties in proportion to the number of women candidates elected to public office.
Ethiopia	Subsidies will be given according to the number of women candidates nominated by political parties.
Haiti	Parties that promote a minimum of 30% women candidates (and succeed in winning 20% of them) will be given an additional subsidy of twice the amount after the election.
Italy	Representation of both genders must not exceed two-thirds of the total candidates promoted by the party. If this provision is violated, the subsidy fund will be reduced according to the number of candidates who exceed the specified quota (50%). The remaining funds as a result of the reduction will be given to parties that successfully meet the requirements.
Romania	The amount of subsidy allocation will be increased according to the number of seats won by women candidates.
Mali	10% of funds are allocated to political parties in proportion to the number of women candidates elected.

Model 3 Public Fund Affirmation

- state funds for political parties that are indeed allocated to improve gender equality and empower women's groups in political parties (Falguera et.al 2014: 352-353).
- Honduras and Ireland, before a political party gets an allocation of state funds, it is first required to report its expenditure of funds related to gender equality.
- Finland's state funds for political parties must be used to form the wings of women's organizations (Ballington 2011: 30 in Falguera et.al 2014: 360).

Recommendations

- **Incentives** in the form of increasing the allocation of state funds for parties that are able to increase women's representation and **disincentives** in the form of reducing state funds for parties that do not allocate 30 percent for women's empowerment activities, in the form of reducing state funds in the following year.
- *In-kind subsidy* through the financing of advertisements in print and electronic media in campaigns. This provision can also be specifically regulated for female legislative candidates. For example, **30% of the special time allocation slots in print and electronic media campaign advertisements for female candidates are financed by the state.**

Political Party	DPR Votes Gained	IDR 1000 Per Vote	30% for Women Politic Empowerment
PDIP	27,053,961	27,053,961,000	8,116,188,300
Golkar	17,229,789	17,229,789,000	5,168,936,700
Gerindra	17,594,839	17,594,839,000	5,278,451,700
Nasdem	12,661,792	12,661,792,000	3,798,537,600
PKB	13,570,097	13,570,097,000	4,071,029,100
Demokrat	10,876,507	10,876,507,000	3,262,952,100
PKS	11,493,663	11,493,663,000	3,448,098,900
PAN	9,572,623	9,572,623,000	2,871,786,900
PPP	6,323,147	6,323,147,000	1,896,944,100
Total	126,376,418	126,376,418,000	37,912,925,400

MAIN POLITICAL FINANCIAL PROBLEMS

- Transparency and accountability
- Funding sources
- Dependence of political parties on third parties
- Vote buying in elections
- High costs
- Absence of adequate legal frameworks to regulate political party finance
- The unregulated limit of donations (which can lead to corruptions)





THE IMPACTS

- Decline in the quality of democracy (political party financing is one of the main variables to measure the quality of democracy)
- Loss of public trust (The poor perception of political parties and widespread misunderstanding of their role in many of SouthEast Asia's emerging democracy countries, which has implications for parties' ability to raise funds at the grassroots level and voter expectations from politicians)
- Perception of politics as a money-making enterprise

SOLUTIONS

- Identifying and diagnosing the party finance problems
- Analysing the existing legal frameworks governing political party finance
- Formulating policy recommendations for party finance reform






How close party finance issues are intertwined with more general weaknesses in areas such as internal democracy, management, message development and delivery, have made us realised;

- The importance of building commitment to reform among political parties and their donors
- The need for proper enforcement of party finance laws through independent and adequately resourced agencies as well as monitoring and reporting by civil society and the media

Party finance reform is well worth pursuing. But perhaps the most important lesson is the need for attention to general issues of party development and strengthening. Many of the party finance problems find their origin in undemocratic, secretive and unprofessional party organizing practices. These problems not only undermine public confidence in political processes but also engender governments more susceptible to corruption. More transparent, better organized and more democratic parties are required not only to restore public confidence but also to enhance prospects for the election of accountable government officials who better represent the interests of the public.





A series of party finance scandals around the world have served as a reminder that money can also be used to distort the political process. These scandals have raised concerns about the power of money to influence policy outcomes and to gain awards of state contracts or even immunity from criminal prosecution.

There are a myriad of reasons for pursuing party finance reform. When money is used to distort the political process it undermines public confidence in democracy and limits prospects for policies that will benefit the poorest of the poor. Where the wealthy are able to purchase access and influence, the voices of the poor are drowned out, undermining the principle of one person, one vote. As indicated above, the phenomenon of transhumance has raised concerns about those who shift their political loyalties in an effort to escape justice for crimes committed. In other cases, government contracts for development projects may be awarded to favored party donors, rather than the most cost-effective or the most technically sound proposal.

A hand in a red and white striped sleeve holds a white envelope with a yellow bar at the top and a green bar at the bottom. The envelope is positioned over a brown cardboard box. The background is a white brick wall. The text "Thank You" is written in bold black font across the center of the envelope.

Thank You