

## From Academician to Politician Asafri Jaya Bakri's (AJB) Career Journey 1984-2021

Irwan Aditama<sup>1\*</sup>, Phil Gusti Asnan<sup>2</sup>, Nopriyasman<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1,2,3</sup>Historical Studies, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Universitas Andalas, Indonesia  
\*correspondence email : aditamairwan04@gmail.com

*Received 1 April 2025; Received in revised form 4 April 2025; Accepted 6 April 2025*

### Abstrak

Pada era reformasi terjadi beberapa gejala/fenomena unik, salah satunya pengembangan sumber daya manusia (SDM) yakni peralihan profesi. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk melihat perjalanan karir dari salah seorang tokoh yakni Asafri Jaya Bakri dimulai dari seorang akademisi menjadi politisi. Penelitian ini menggunakan 4 tahapan yakni, pertama yaitu *heuristik* yakni tahap pengumpulan sumber berupa arsip, dokumen, dll. Kedua *kritik sumber* yaitu melakukan pengujian data dengan melakukan kritik internal dan eksternal terhadap keaslian data yang diperoleh. Ketiga *interpretasi* yaitu penafsiran data sehingga menjadi fakta bermakna. Tahap terakhir yaitu *penulisan sejarah* dalam bentuk *thesis*. Hasil penelitian yakni Asafri Jaya Bakri mengawali karirnya sebagai seorang akademisi pada tahun 1984, ia sempat memegang beberapa jabatan staretegis hingga puncaknya ketika ia mendapatkan gelar guru besar di IAIN STS Jambi bidang hukum islam/fiqh siyasah tahun 2000. Namun pada tahun 2011, ketika ia menjabat sebagai Ketua STAIN Kerinci, AJB mengalihkan profesinya sebagai politisi dengan menjadi Walikota Sungai Penuh selama dua periode dari tahun 2011-2016 dan 2016-2020. Perjalanan karir Asafri Jaya Bakri lebih banyak ia habiskan dengan menduduki jabatan baik ketika sebagai akademisi maupun politisi. AJB juga pernah diisukan melakukan KKN salah satunya yakni nepotisme, dimana beberapa keluarga dan anak-anaknya mendapatkan jabatan di pemerintahan.

**Kata kunci:** biografi, asafri jaya bakri, akademisi, politisi, jambi.

### Abstract

*In the reform era, there are several unique symptoms/phenomena, one of which is the development of human resources (HR), namely the transition of professions. This research aims to look at the career journey of one of the figures, Asafri Jaya Bakri, starting from an academic to a politician. This research uses 4 stages, namely, first, heuristics, namely the stage of collecting sources in the form of archives, documents, etc. Second, source criticism is testing the data by conducting internal and external criticism of the authenticity of the data obtained. The third is interpretation, which is the interpretation of data so that it becomes a meaningful fact. The final stage is writing history in the form of a thesis. The result of the research is that Asafri Jaya Bakri began his career as an academic in 1984, he had held several strategic positions until his peak when he received a professorship at IAIN STS Jambi in the field of Islamic law/fiqh siyasah in 2000. But in 2011, when he served as Chairman of STAIN Kerinci, AJB switched his profession as a politician by becoming Mayor of Sungai Penuh for two terms from 2011-2016 and 2016-2020. Asafri Jaya Bakri's career has been spent holding positions both as an academic and politician. AJB has also been rumored to have committed KKN, one of which is nepotism, where some of his family and children get positions in the government.*

**Keywords:** biography, asafri jaya bakti, academic, politician, jambi.

### INTRODUCTION

The Orde Baru collapsed with the fall of Soeharto as president after 32 years in office. The reformasi era or post-Soeharto era in Indonesia began in 1998, precisely

when President Soeharto resigned on 21 May 1998 and was replaced by B.J Habibie. This period was established by a more open socio-political environment (Winarno, 2007).

Reformasi, which began in 1998, was a new era in the government of the Republic of Indonesia, marked by the implementation of government from centralisation to decentralisation. Centralisation means that all power is centralised, while decentralisation means that some authority, responsibility and power is delegated to the regions (Adryan, 2018).

As a result of this reform, the Indonesian government UU No 22 of 1999 on local government which has been revised UU No 32 of 2004, which reads that the implementation of regional autonomy allows regions to manage national resources in their regions. Since the introduction of regional autonomy, many regions have planned to expand to maximise the management of their resources (Hakim, 2017).

In addition, the process of this reform also experienced some unique phenomena. One of them is the development of Human Resources, namely 'switching professions'. An example is the transition from an academic to a politician. One of them is Asafri Jaya Bakri or commonly called AJB who started his career as an academic, he served as Rector of IAIN STS Jambi in 1998-2002 & 2002-2006 and Chairman of STAIN Kerinci 2009-2013 and then switched his profession to become a politician as Mayor of Sungai Penuh 2011-2016 & 2016-2020.

Asafri Jaya Bakri, a graduate of UIN Syarif Hidayatullah, Jakarta, who was born in Tanah Kampung, 10 October 1957, began his career as an academic in 1984 when he was appointed as a Civil Servant in 1984 and has served in several strategic positions. Then he shifted his profession as a politician when he was still the Chairman of STAIN Kerinci in 2011.

The uniqueness of AJB's figure is that he is an academic who already holds the title of professor before he entered politics. In addition, AJB's career is aligned between his academic title as a professor of Islamic politics and his entry into political practice. In addition, AJB was the first definitive leader after the creation of Sungai Penuh City from Kerinci Regency. Of course, the initial foundations of the regional development of Sungai Penuh City were carried out by AJB.

Asafri Jaya Bakri's career journey as an academic to become a politician has its own charm, is AJB's appointment as Chairman of STAIN Kerinci just a stepping stone to occupy the seat of Mayor of Sungai Penuh?

AJB is better known as a politician, although he previously had a background as an academic with a title as a professor in the field of Islamic legal philosophy and political fiqh/fiqh siyasah. He started in politics by running as a mayoral candidate supported by the Partai Demokrat. Even AJB decided to retire as a civil servant when he served as Mayor of Sungai Penuh

and Chairman of the DPC of the Partai Demokrat of Sungai Penuh City.

AJB's role as mayor of Sungai Penuh has several views from the community, both positive towards its performance. However, it cannot be denied that AJB was the first definitive mayor to be directly elected by the community after the expansion of Sungai Penuh City from Kerinci Regency.

There are two reasons for this paper: Firstly, until now there has not been one work that tries to conduct an in-depth historiographical review of Asafri Jaya Bakri's biography, based on the background stated, the author feels that the figure of AJB has its own uniqueness to be discussed further. The dynamics of AJB's life journey as an academic and politician are interesting to study. Based on these considerations, the life story of Asafri Jaya Bakri's life becomes meaningful and becomes the author's choice, with the chosen title being 'From Academician to Politician: The Career of Asafri Jaya Bakri (AJB) 1984-2021'.

The purpose of this research is to explain Asafri Jaya Bakri's career journey from an academic to a politician. To achieve the desired goal in accordance with the background, the problem formulation to be studied is how the background of the formation of AJB as an academic? How is AJB's work as an academic and AJB's contribution during his career as an academic? Why did AJB leave

academia and choose a career as a politician and AJB's contribution during his career as a politician?

The benefits of this research are as a benchmark for the author's ability to research, analyse and reconstruct an event and present it in the form of scientific papers, as well as adding and enriching the repertoire of knowledge related to Asafri Jaya Bakri's biography as an academic and politician as a separate science of history for both academic and non-academic circles.

## **METHODS**

The steps taken by this writing are following the historical method, namely: First, Heuristics collects archives, documents, or writings regarding AJB's biography that are relevant to the study conducted through the collection of sources such as birth certificates, family cards, diplomas, decrees, newspapers and interviews (Kuntowijoyo, 2003).

The second is the source criticism stage, namely the source testing stage. Source criticism functions to find the truth in order to distinguish true and untrue data. This source criticism is divided into two, namely external and internal. What is meant by external criticism is a way of verifying the 'external' aspects of historical sources. Meanwhile, what is meant by internal criticism is that it emphasises the 'inner' aspects of the source content (Sjamsudin, 2007).

Third, the interpretation stage selects, arranges, analyses and synthesises in chronological order and in the context of causal relationships. Then it is necessary to interpret the facts obtained through source criticism by looking for and compiling relationships between the same and similar facts, then arranged chronologically and in a cause and effect relationship (Sjamsudin, 2007). Fourth, presenting the findings in the form of a research report or historiography (historical writing) (Kuntowijoyo, 2003).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### **Works about biographies whose characters have work histories such as AJB**

First, a book written by Sukron Kamil entitled "Profile of 100 prominent figures of UIN Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta Alumni Contribution in building the Nation". This book briefly describes the biographies of UIN Syarif Hidayatullah alumni who have successfully pursued careers in various fields of service such as religious, social, political and cultural fields. This book briefly mentions the biography of AJB who is an alumnus of UIN Syarif Hidayatullah, but this biographical writing is still general, not written in depth about the history of the figures in it including Asafri Jaya Bakri (AJB) (Kamil, 2020).

Secondly, Greg Barton's book on Biography Gus Dur *The Authorized Biography of Abdurrahman Wahid*

published in 2016, discusses the life journey of Indonesia's fourth president. Gus Dur and AJB have in common that they were born from a clerical environment and a family that adheres to religious teachings. In career paths, AJB and Gus Dur almost have in common, namely from academics to politicians. AJB is known as the father of pluralism or pluralism by the people of Sungai Penuh City, this is reminiscent of Gus Dur who is known as the father of Indonesian pluralism (Barton, 2016).

The third is a book written by Lindo Karsyah about Governor M. Nasroen to Zainal Bakar. This book explains how the dialectics of the leadership of the West Sumatra Provincial government from the *Orde Lama* to *Orde Baru*. One of the chapters describes the leadership of Harun Zain, who was the former Governor of West Sumatra from 1966-1977. Harun Zain started his career as an academic, he served as Rector of Andalas University in 1964-1966. Harun Zain became the definitive governor replacing Soepoetro who was the previous acting Governor of West Sumatra. AJB and Harun Zain have similarities in terms of starting their careers as academics and having served as rectors at major campuses in Jambi and West Sumatra. They also became the definitive leaders of what were previously officials, but at different levels, Harun Zain as Governor and AJB as Mayor (Kasyah, 2005).

Fourth, a thesis written by Alvinia which discusses the practice of nepotism when AJB served as Mayor of Sungai Penuh. It started in 2017 when Fikar Azami, AJB's son, became the Chairman of the Sungai Penuh City DPRD, then his third son was elected as a member of the Jambi Provincial DPRD in the 2019 legislative elections. This thesis looks at how the role of power from AJB as Mayor in determining the victory of his son as a legislative member.

The studies above contain biographical writings both directly related to AJB and studies related to figures who have careers like AJB. There are still many things that have not been revealed about AJB, therefore the writing of this thesis will trace and write the life journey of an AJB completely and comprehensively.

## **Asafri Jaya Bakri: Education & Academician Career**

### **a. Educational Period in Kerinci**

Children born in the 1950s generally received a government-run primary school education. This also applies to AJB, he started his education at one of the schools in Tanah Kampung, precisely at Elementary School No. 89/III Tanah Kampung. The school was AJB's first formal education level in studying, AJB's life during elementary school was filled with schooling and then continued by attending recitation in the musholla like Kerinci children in general. However, he is

less interested in playing with his friends, other than attending school and reciting the Koran, AJB is mostly at home with his family and siblings.

After completing primary school in 1970, AJB continued his education at the 4-year State Religious Teacher Education (PGAN). This school was a form of inauguration carried out by the Indonesian government in 1952-1958 under the auspices of the Ministry of Religious Affairs which was established to prepare prospective religious teachers in Indonesia. Apart from attending school, AJB also spends his time attending additional non-formal classes such as learning Arabic and English with Buya M.Rusli, Ramli and Lahmudin.

AJB then continued his education at the 6-year State Religious Teacher Education (PGAN), at this time AJB was known as a figure full of authority, even his friends did not realise AJB as one of the students at the school and was considered one of the teachers. At PGAN 6, AJB participated in the Student Activity Unit, namely badminton activities and he was a school representative in several high school tournaments throughout Kerinci Regency.

During his school years, AJB liked to read, which is inseparable from the habits taught by his parents. AJB likes to read magazines and newspapers related to Islam, one of which is Buya Hamka's Panji Perjuangan Magazine. Apart from

studying, AJB also often helps his parents to look after the herbal medicine shop and go to the rice fields.

#### **b. Migrate to Continue Their Education**

In 1976, after completing 6 years of education at PGAN, AJB was faced with the dilemma of continuing his education at the College. At that time it was very rare for Kerinci youth to continue their education at an advanced level, among those who continued their education only on campuses around Kerinci, Jambi and West Sumatra.

Due to AJB's determination to pursue higher education, he asked permission from his parents to continue his education outside the region to follow his brother Razmara who had first continued his education in Yogyakarta. After receiving the blessing of his parents, AJB continued his education at the Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic Institute (IAIN), Jakarta. This is because AJB wanted to try the challenge of responsibility as well as the encouragement of one of his family who first continued his education in Jakarta.

In 1976 AJB finally officially became a student at IAIN Syarif Hidayatullah at the Faculty of Sharia at the baccalaureate level. AJB completed his baccalaureate degree in 1980 with a satisfactory predicate, he immediately continued his education at IAIN Syarif Hidayatullah to obtain a complete

bachelor's degree. It did not take long, AJB completed a complete undergraduate degree in 1982 majoring in muamalat with the title of his thesis / paper 'Review of Masalihul Mursalah as one of the sources of Islamic law'.

In contrast to when he was still at school in Kerinci, during his college years AJB was also active in several activities such as writing in magazines and organisations and often discussed with his friends and campus seniors such as Din Syamsudin, Azyumardi Azra, and Suryadharma Ali. During his college years, AJB always received scholarships until he completed his studies at IAIN Syarif Hidayatullah, Jakarta.

In 1987, when AJB was already a civil servant at IAIN Sultan Thaha Syaifuddin, Jambi. He had the opportunity to continue his master's education and he continued his education at IAIN Syarif Hidayatullah, AJB completed his master's education in 1990 with a very good predicate. Then he immediately continued his doctoral education at the same campus, IAIN Syarif Hidayatullah and finished in 1994. While continuing his master's and doctoral education, AJB fully received scholarships until his education was completed.

While studying AJB lived in a student dormitory provided by the campus for students who came from outside the area, he invited his wife, Emizola, whom he married in 1983 because during his

college days AJB experienced a severe illness, thus requiring his wife to accompany AJB while completing his education.

**c. An Academician**

AJB started his career as an academician in 1983 when he became an honorary lecturer at the Faculty of Sharia, Sultan Thaha Syaifuddin Jambi, Kerinci. After serving for approximately one year, AJB was appointed as a civil servant at IAIN STS Jambi in 1984. The figure who has a big role in AJB's career as a civil servant is H. Nasrul Rusli.

AJB's appointment as a civil servant coincided with the onset of the economic recession in Indonesia in 1980. So there is no civil servant appointment programme, but H. Nasrul Rusli received information that there is an insertion system from the Ministry of Religious Affairs for those who want to enter government agencies.

Initially AJB pursued a career as a public relations staff at IAIN STS Jambi from 1984-1986, after completing his master's and doctoral education, AJB carried out work as a lecturer at the Faculty of Sharia IAIN STS Jambi. During his time as a lecturer, AJB taught several courses such as Comparative Mazhab, Family Law, Islamic Criminal Law, Government Science, Sharia Economic Law and Constitutional Law.

During his time as an educator at IAIN STS Jambi, he was known as a figure who was close to various groups starting

from students, employees, even "sweepers" at IAIN STS Jambi. In the past in Jambi there was an issue, that Kerinci people should not hold positions because if Kerinci people hold positions then generally their subordinates are also Kerinci people. However, AJB tried to deny this by continuing to build good relationships with anyone and from any group.

AJB is known as a figure who upholds diversity, does not differentiate between one and another. Until this made the young AJB close and socialize with anyone at IAIN STS Jambi. AJB also routinely writes in journals and has published books, one of his works is the book *The Concept of Maqashid Syari'ah according to Al-Syatibi*. In addition, there is a journal published with the title "Partai Persatuan Pembangunan: PerguMulan Identitas dalam Kancah Orde Baru".

In 2000, AJB received a title as a professor in the field of Islamic Legal Philosophy and Political Fiqh. AJB is also actively involved in the Association of Indonesian Muslim Intellectuals (ICMI) as the head of the Religious Affairs Division.

**d. Academics and Bureaucrats**

In addition to being an educator, AJB is also busy with the positions entrusted to him, this has started since the beginning of AJB as a civil servant at IAIN STS Jambi. Starting with the position of Public Relations Staff of IAIN STS Jambi

in 1984-1986, Assistant Dean I of the Faculty of Sharia 1993-1996, Head of the Research Center of IAIN STS Jambi 1996-1998 after that he was elected as the Rector of IAIN STS Jambi 1998-2002 & 2002-2006 & Head of STAIN Kerinci 2008-2012.



Picture 1. Photo of AJB when he was the Chancellor of IAIN STS Jambi

AJB was elected as the Rector of IAIN STS Jambi after going through an election conducted by the IAIN STS Jambi senate. He replaced Dr. H. Sulaiman Abdullah, he was officially inaugurated as the rector according to the Decree of the President of the Republic of Indonesia No. 284/M in 1998.

During his time as rector, AJB formed a preparatory committee for the establishment of a postgraduate program in 1999, finally the struggle was not in vain on April 14, 1999 the IAIN STS Jambi postgraduate program was officially established. Furthermore, AJB established a new faculty within IAIN STS Jambi, namely the Adab faculty, where previously IAIN STS Jambi only had 3 faculties,

becoming 4 faculties and one postgraduate program.

In the second period of AJB's leadership as the rector of IAIN STS Jambi 2002-2006, he encouraged educators to continue their education to strengthen the quality of human resources within the scope of IAIN STS Jambi. In addition, AJB also began moving the main campus building which was originally in Telanai Pura, Jambi City to the wider Sungai Duren campus, Muaro Jambi. AJB also focused on the plan to transform IAIN into UIN through the Winder Mandate program.

After completing his term as rector of IAIN STS Jambi, he was asked to become the Head of STAIN Kerinci which was in chaos at that time, finally he invited his family to return to his hometown at the same time he saw the momentum to enter the world of politics, because Sungai Penuh City would hold its first mayoral election after the expansion of Sungai Penuh City from Kerinci Regency.

During AJB's leadership, STAIN Kerinci initiated the construction of a lecture building from Koto Lolo Village to Sungai Liuk Village. AJB also established new study programs, namely Islamic Education Management (MPI) and Islamic Guidance and Counseling (BKI). AJB also often conducts socialization in the form of lectures in the community introducing STAIN Kerinci which is the only state campus in Kerinci.

**e. Becoming a Politician**

AJB's journey as a politician began when Sungai Penuh City was going to hold its first mayoral election in 2011. AJB, who was still serving as the Head of STAIN Kerinci at that time, had the intention to participate in the contest. AJB used his position as the Head of STAIN Kerinci as one of his political tools, he started by conducting socialization and preaching introducing STAIN Kerinci and introducing himself to the community.

Implicitly, AJB used his position as the Head of STAIN Kerinci as a "stepping stone" to introduce himself to the people of Sungai Penuh City, because previously AJB spent more time in a foreign land. Entering the realm of politics was AJB's step to directly apply the knowledge he had gained during his time as an academic. AJB considered that positions on campus were still theoretical, so the knowledge he gained could not be optimally implemented to the community. So by becoming a politician, the theory he gained could be realized.

The socialization process finally began to have an impact, the name AJB began to be known by the people of Sungai Penuh City. Then AJB continued his preparations by meeting with Mulyadi Yacoub who was the chairman of the Democrats of Sungai Penuh City. After conducting political negotiations, AJB was finally supported by the Democrats to become Mayor of Sungai Penuh. In

addition, AJB began to consider who would accompany him and who would be his opponent.

Finally, AJB decided that his running mate would be Ardinal Salim, a politician from the Social Justice Party (PKS) who is of Minangkabau descent. This is also inseparable from Sungai Penuh City as a homogeneous area. In addition, during the first period of his candidacy, AJB was supported by several parties such as Demokrat, PKS, PPP, PIB and Golkar.

**f. Mayor and Policies**

In the implementation of the Mayoral election of Sungai Penuh AJB had opponents namely the Ahmadi Zubir-Mushar and Zuhelmi-Nofrizon pairs. The 2011 mayoral election was quite a lot, where the mayoral election was carried out in two rounds. This happened because in the first round the AJB-Ardinal pair led the vote acquisition by less than 30%, where in the second round AJB-Ardinal again fought with the Ahmadi Zubir-Mushar pair.

In the second round of the Sungai Penuh City Mayoral Election, the AJB-Ardinal pair was finally elected as the Mayor-Deputy Mayor of Sungai Penuh. Of course, there are many tasks awaiting AJB because previously Sungai Penuh City was still led by a Temporary Acting Mayor from 2008-2011.



Picture 2. AJB-Ardinal Salim Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Sungai Penuh 2011-2016

At the beginning of his term of office, AJB implemented City For All, which does not differentiate between indigenous people and immigrants. So that the development of Sungai Penuh City can run smoothly, thus creating good collaboration. This policy has a good impact on the initial foundation of Sungai Penuh City development. Around the first three months, AJB made a phenomenal breakthrough by building a bridge infrastructure facility that connects the city center with the outskirts. This bridge is called the "bridge of longing", this is inseparable from the community's longing for access that can connect the outskirts with the city center who previously experienced obstacles when they wanted to go to the city center.

Furthermore, AJB succeeded in expanding several areas in Sungai Penuh City which previously consisted of 5 sub-districts, namely Tanah Kampung, Kumun Debai, Sungai Penuh, Hamparan Rawang and Pesisir Bukit. To become 8 sub-districts, Tanah Kampung, Kumun Debai,

Sungai Penuh, Hamparan Rawang, Pesisir Bukit, Sungai Bungkal and Koto Baru.

AJB also established a cinnamon processing factory in Tanah Kampung which is a primary commodity for the people of Sungai Penuh City and its surroundings. In the economic sector, since 2011-2015 the economic growth of Sungai Penuh City has continued to experience a constant increase of an average of 7.40%. In the cultural sector, AJB also pays special attention, especially in the preservation and development of local culture, by organizing an arts and culture festival called "harmony week" for all Indigenous and Newcomer communities.

In 2012, AJB declared to be part of the Democratic Party and was elected as the General Chairperson of the Democratic Party DPC of Sungai Penuh City, who was directly appointed by Hasan Basri Agus as the Chairperson of the Jambi Democratic Party DPW as well as the Governor of Jambi and officially resigned as a civil servant. In addition to infrastructure development, AJB also often participates in leadership training, one of which is as a representative of Executive Leader participants held in the United States.

In the first period of AJB's leadership as mayor, he focused more on infrastructure development because Sungai Penuh City was a new area that did not yet have a strong foundation. Towards

the end of the first period, AJB initiated the establishment of a special hospital for internal and heart diseases, this was inseparable from the needs of the community. On average, the people of Sungai Penuh City had to seek treatment outside the area such as in Padang or Jambi to recover from the disease. However, this hospital, named Bakri Hospital, did not receive permission to establish a special hospital so it was only permitted to establish a general hospital.

Next, AJB again participated in the 2015 Sungai Penuh mayoral election contest. However, AJB was no longer paired with Ardinal, but he chose Zuhelmi who was his opponent in the first period. The election of Zuhelmi was a political strategy carried out by AJB, considering that Zuhelmi had a strong mass base in the Pondok Tinggi and Kumun Debai areas.

AJB-Zuhelmi won an absolute victory over their opponents at that time, such as Herman Muchtar-Nuzran Joher and Ferry Satria-Buzarman. However, the mayoral election faced a lawsuit from the Muchtar-Nuzran Joher pair because it was considered full of fraud. However, the lawsuit was rejected by the Constitutional Court. Finally, AJB-Zuhelmi was officially declared the winner of the 2016-2021 Sungai Penuh City Mayoral Election.



Picture 3. Inauguration of AJB-Zuhelmi by Jambi Governor Zumi Zola

In the first period, AJB focused on infrastructure development, while in the second period, AJB focused more on human resource development. One of AJB's phenomenal works was establishing a regional library and continuing the construction of Bakri Hospital as well as providing assistance to MSMEs and farmer groups.

AJB also continues to focus on transferring Kerinci Regency assets located in the Sungai Penuh City area to become the property of Sungai Penuh City. In addition, AJB is also active as a regional administrator for Nahdatul Ulama Jambi Province.

In the second period, AJB was faced with the issue of nepotism in the Sungai Penuh City environment. This was because several Sungai Penuh City government officials were filled by AJB's family, in addition, his son Fikar Azami became the Chairman of the Sungai Penuh City DPRD and his third child was elected as a member of the Jambi Provincial DPRD 2019. AJB's wife also entered the world of politics, serving as the chairman of the Nasdem party in Sungai Penuh City.

During his tenure as Mayor of Sungai Penuh, AJB was known as a leader who was close to the people because he never discriminated against the people in any way. So he was known as a diverse leader.

**g. After Serving as Mayor**

After completing his term, AJB was busy preparing his son Fikar Azami who was running as Mayor of Sungai Penuh 2021-2024. Of course, as a father and politician, AJB declared his support for Fikar Azami as a candidate for Mayor of Sungai Penuh. However, Fikar Azami failed to win the contest by being defeated by the Ahmadi Zubir-Alvia Santoni pair. AJB was once considered as a candidate for Deputy Governor of Jambi paired with Syarif Pasha (Mayor of Jambi), but this did not materialize because AJB was not supported by the Partai Demokrat.

After that, AJB spent more time with his family, busy going back and forth to Jambi, because some of his children and grandchildren settled in Jambi. However, AJB is still remembered as one of the figures who succeeded in building Sungai Penuh City well, the development he did had an impact on the people of Sungai Penuh City & Kerinci Regency.

**CONCLUSION**

The story of AJB's life can be seen as a case study of how an Indonesian citizen pursues a career in two different fields of work, namely Academic and Politician.

AJB was actively involved in building the initial foundation of Sungai Penuh City which was just established in 2008, where he was the first definitive Mayor of Sungai Penuh City. Of course, AJB's appearance as an individual in the ranks of elite academics and politicians did not come by itself. Various factors influenced the formation of his personality and the development of his thinking. As previously stated. There are three main factors that play a role and influence AJB, namely the socio-cultural environment of the family, individuals who are close to AJB and the pattern of the soul of the era that AJB went through.

**REFERENCES**

- Alvinia Kharisma Putri. (2021). Implikasi Kekuasaan Asafri Jaya Bakri dalam Praktik Nepotisme Pada Pemerintahan Kota Sungai Penuh. *Skripsi*, Jambi: Universitas Jambi.
- Asafri Jaya Bakri. (1996). *Konsep Maqashid Syari'ah Menurut Al-Syatibi*, Jakarta: PT Raja Grafindo
- Asafri Jaya Bakri. (1991). PPP: Pergumulan Identitas dalam Kancah Orde Baru, *Pesantren: Berkala Kajian dan Pengembangan*, Vol. VIII, No.2.
- Departemen Pendidikan Nasional Republik Indonesia. (2009). Sertifikat Pendidik No: 09210160194, tentang Prof. Dr. Asafri Jaya Bakri, MA sebagai dosen Profesional Bidang Ilmu Filsafat Hukum Islam, Jakarta.
- Greg Barton. (2016). *Biografi Gus Dur The Authorized Biography of Abdurrahman Wahid*, Yogyakarta: Saufa
- Helius Sjamsuddin. (2007). *Metodologi Sejarah*, Yogyakarta: Ombak.

- Ijazah Pendidikan Guru Agama Negeri 4 tahun. (1973). Keputusan Menteri Agama No. 56 Tahun 1973. Jo. Kep. Dirjen Bimas Islam No. Kep/D/24/75.
- Ijazah No. 206/04/B/80, Tentang kelulusan Asafri Jaya Bakri Dalam Menempuh Ujian Sarjana Muda pada tanggal 28 Juni 1980 di Fakultas Syariah, Institut Agama Islam Negeri Al-Jami'ah Islamiyah Al Hukumiyah "Syarif Hidayatullah" Jakarta.
- Ijazah No. 004/04/D/83, Tentang Kelulusan Asafri Jaya Bakri Dalam Menempuh Ujian Sarjana Lengkap pada tanggal 29 Desember 1982 di Fakultas Syariah, Jurusan Muamalah, Institut Agama Islam Negeri Al-Jami'ah Islamiyah Al Hukumiyah "Syarif Hidayatullah" Jakarta.
- Ijazah Magister Ilmu Agama Islam, Departemen Agama Republik Indonesia Institut Agama Islam Negeri Syarif Hidayatullah Fakultas Pasca Sarjana, Jakarta, 02 Agustus 1990.
- Ijazah Doktor No. PS. 39463, Institut Agama Islam negeri Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta.
- Keputusan Menteri Agama No. 56 tahun 1973 Jo.Kep. Dirjen Bimas Islam No Kep. / D /24/75 tentang Ijazah Pendidikan Guru Agama Negeri 6 tahun (PGAN 6 tahun).
- Keputusan Komisi Pemilihan Umum Kota Sungai Penuh, No: 52/Kpts/KPU-Kota-005.670934/2015, tentang penetapan rekapitulasi hasil perhitungan suara dan hasil pemilihan Walikota dan Wakil Walikota Sungai Penuh 2015.
- Keputusan Pengurus Besar Nahdatul Ulama Nomor: 592/A.II.04/2020, Tentang Susunan Pengurus Wilayah Nahdatul Ulama Provinsi Jambi Masa Khidmat 2020-2025.
- Kuntowijoyo, Metodologi Sejarah (Edisi Kedua), Yogyakarta: PT. Tiara Wacana
- Kutipan Surat Keputusan Menteri Agama RI No: B.II/3/0116/2009, Mengangkat dan memberi tambahan kepada sdr. Prof. Dr. H. Asafri Jaya Bakri, M.A sebagai Ketua Sekolah Tinggi Agama Islam Negeri (STAIN) Kerinci periode 2008-2012, Jakarta, 2009.
- Lampiran Ijazah, No 206/04/B/80, Institut Agama Islam Negeri "Syarif Hidayatullah" Jakarta, Fakultas Syariah, 15 Juli 1980.
- Lindo Kasyah, *Dari Gubernur M. Nasroen sampai Zainal Bakar*, Padang: Genta Singgalang Press, 2005.
- Menteri Dalam Negeri Republik Indonesia No 131.15-5135, Pengangkatan Walikota Sungai Penuh H. Asafri Jaya Bakri, Jakarta, 2016
- Menteri Dalam Negeri Republik Indonesia, Sertifikat Nomor: 250/130-249 Tahun 2012, Tentang Asafri Jaya Bakri (Walikota Sungai Penuh Jambi) telah mengikuti Orientasi Kepemimpinan dan Penyelenggaraan Pemerintahan Daerah, Jakarta, 14 April 2012.
- Petikan Keputusan Presiden Republik Indonesia No 191/M Tahun 2002, Mengangkat sdr. Prof. Dr. H. Asafri Jaya Bakri, M.A sebagai Rektor Institut Agama Islam Negeri (IAIN) Sulthan Thaha Syaifuddin Jambi masa jabatan 2002-2006, Jakarta, 2002.
- Salinan Keputusan Presiden Republik Indonesia No 284/1998 M, Pengangkatan Sdr. Dr. H. Asafri Jaya Bakri sebagai Rektor Institut Agama Islam Negeri Sulthan Thaha Syaifuddin Jambi 1998-2002, Jakarta, 1998
- Salinan Keputusan Nomor 143/PHP.KOT.XIV/2016 Tentang Gugatan Hasil Pilwako Sungai Penuh 2015, Mahkamah Konstitusi Republik Indonesia.
- Sukron Kamil, *Profil 100 tokoh terkemuka Alumni UIN Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta: Kontribusi dalam Membangun Bangsa*, Depok: Murai Kencana, 2020.

Surat Tanda Tamat Belajar Sekolah Dasar Negeri 6 Tahun No 89/III Tanah Kampung, Wilayah Kabin PDPHB Hiang, Kabupaten Kerinci.

Surat Keputusan Dewan Pimpinan Pusat Partai Demokrat, Nomor 40.10/SK/DPP.PD/DPC/I/2012, tentang Susunan Kepengurusan Dewan Pimpinan Cabang Partai Demokrat Kota Sungai Penuh Provinsi Jambi Masa Bakti 2011-2016.

Surat Keputusan Pengurus Besar Nahdatul Ulama, Nomor: 631/A.II.04/05/2015, tentang Pengesahan Pengurus Wilayah Nahdatul Ulama Provinsi Jambi Masa Khidmat 2015-2020.

Surat Keputusan Pengurus Besar Nahdatul Ulama Nomor: 592/A.II.04/2020, Tentang Susunan Pengurus Wilayah Nahdatul Ulama Provinsi Jambi Masa Khidmat 2020-2025.

Petikan Keputusan Menteri Dalam Negeri Republik Indonesia Nomor: 131.15-8135 tahun 2016, tentang Pengangkatan Walikota Sungai Penuh Provinsi Jambi.