

Government Oversight Function in Implementation of Large-Scale Social Limitation of COVID-19 in Indonesia

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Abstract

Indonesia is one of the country that get the big impact because of COVID-19. This COVID-19 have been declared as pandemic by WHO. Indonesia use the Large-scale Social Limitation as their way to prevent the increase of people get infected because of this pandemic. This study will examine the oversight of implementation of Large-scale Social Limitation in Indonesia from the eyes of government. Also, will examine how the government using their power in the middle of this pandemic. In the end, we will know what really government do and how the oversight running. The result of the study are, *first*, The government is the party that has the right to design, create, and implement regulations in people's lives. Government can control the society with the regulations that are made by them. *Second*, Government has obligations to serve the best service for their people. In general, government services include public services and civil services which are respect to the equality. The Government of Indonesia issued several policies such as Presidential Decree (Keppres) Number 7 of 2020 concerning the Task Force for the Acceleration of Covid-19 Handling (amended through Presidential Decree (Keppres) No. 9 of 2020.), Government Regulations (PP) Number 21 Year 2020 concerning Large-Scale Social Restrictions (PSBB) in the framework of the Acceleration of Covid-19 Handling.

Keywords: government, government oversight, COVID-19.

A. Introduction

COVID-19 is biggest problem that world now faced. COVID-19 firstly identified in Wuhan, China in the late of December 2019 (Muhammad et al., 2020).¹ In January 2020, this COVID-19 spread in the whole area of China. Because many number of people who get infected by this COVID-19, the authorities of Wuhan decided to quarantine Wuhan on January 23rd while the others area such as Hubei follows the quarantine in a few days. The quarantine actions taken by the government of China is to slow down the spread of this COVID-19. Kind of quarantine that have done by China is shut down the public transport, parks, educational institutions, etc that have a possibility to have a lot of people meeting each others. Passengers displaying symptoms offever and coughing were quarantined at home and as-sessed whether

¹ Sulaman Muhammad, Xingle Long, Muhammad Salman, *COVID-19 pandemic and environmental pollution: A blessing in disguise?*, 2020, p. 1.

medical attention at a hospital was necessary (Wang et al., 2020).² Even the quarantine already began, this COVID-19 still spread to more than 200 countries in the world.³ In February 2020, COVID-19 started to get in on Italy and other countries including Indonesia. Every country has their own way in order to face this global pandemic. Italy and China choose to lockdown their country, while other countries choose to use Large-scale Social Limitation like in Indonesia.

Indonesia is one of the countries that infected by COVID-19. COVID-19 case in Indonesia already reach more than 19,000 people. The highest rate of increases number of infected people each day is on Wednesday 20th May, the exact number is about 693 people.⁴ The rapid growth of people affected by COVID-19 is caused by the government's delay in making decisions when there are no people affected by this virus until finally President Jokowi announces a positive case of COVID-19 for the first time in Indonesia on March 2nd.

Although there is already the first case of COVID-19 in Indonesia, the government has not shown its preparedness in handling this pandemic. Government does not issued any policies at that time when the first case of COVID-19 already exist. Indonesian citizen still doing their activities as well as normal life being like there is nothing happened while the truth there is world pandemic already began in Indonesia. However, the government is now increasingly showing that they are trying to fight the pandemic that is ravaging Indonesia. There are several purposes on this study. First, this study will examine the understanding of government and the function of government. Second, this study will examine the increases people get infected by COVID-19 and what policies are issued by the Indonesian government in dealing with this pandemic. Third, this study will learn more about the application of Large-Scale Social Restrictions conducted by the Indonesian government. Fourth, this study will look at how how the House of Representative oversight the implementation of Large-Scale Social Restrictions.

B. Discussion

Government and The Function of Government

To make a state runs properly, the state need the existence of government. Government is one of the requirements to make a state. The government is an organization

² Wang. C, Response to COVID-19 in Taiwan, 2020, p.1.

³ <https://www.bbc.com/indonesia/indonesia-51850113>

⁴ Ibid.

that works and carries out the tasks it carries, namely to manage the government system and establish policies that are in accordance with the existing circumstances in achieving the country's goals. The quality of government institutions has been propelled by empirical findings that show that such institutions may hold the key to understanding economic growth and social welfare in developing and transition countries (Rothstein & Teorell, 2008).⁵

There are several functions that it must carry out by the government, namely: (1). Development Function: Government must make a development in their country. The development not only in physical appearance, also mental and spiritual development need in society. The development will reduce by itself if the condition of the country or the society are getting better. (2). Empowerment Function: This function to support the implementation of regional autonomy. In this function the government must provide sufficient space for the community to carry out their own activities, so that community participation in the Regions can be increased. It is better if the interests of the community are respected, both in the applicable regulations and in concrete actions taken by the government. (3). Regulate Function: The government is the party that has the right to design, create, and implement regulations in people's lives. Government can control the society with the regulations that are made by them. (4). Service Function: Government has obligations to serve the best service for their people. In general, government services include public services and civil services which are respect to the equality.

Apart from its function, the government also has the authority to carry out its duties as a government. Government authority is regulated in PP No. 25 of 2000. Government Authority is the right and power of the Government to determine or make policies in the context of governance.⁶ The authority of the Government includes authority in the fields of foreign policy, defense and security, justice, monetary and fiscal, religion and other fields of authority.⁷

COVID-19 and Issued Policies by Indonesian Government

COVID-19 spread into all over the world fastly because the mode of transmission of COVID-19 is very easy such as physical contact with a positive person COVID-19. Because of that, China implementing quarantine at home to prevent the possibility of human to meet

⁵ Bo Rothstein and Jan Teorell, *What Is Quality of Government? A Theory of Impartial Government Institutions*, 2008, p.1.

⁶ Peraturan Pemerintah No.25 Tahun 2000 tentang *Kewenangan Pemerintah dan Kewenangan Propinsi Sebagai Daerah Otonom*

⁷ Ibid.

each other. Lot of country have problem with this pandemic. For example Italy and Spain, this two country have serious problem with this pandemic, they literally lockdown their country in order to pushing down the number of people who get infected by COVID-19 itself. All of the activites must be done at home and they told to their people to start quarantine theirsself at home. COVID-19 also can causes someone death. Indonesia is one of the country that have the high growth of people who get infected by COVID-19. This statement is supported by data on below:

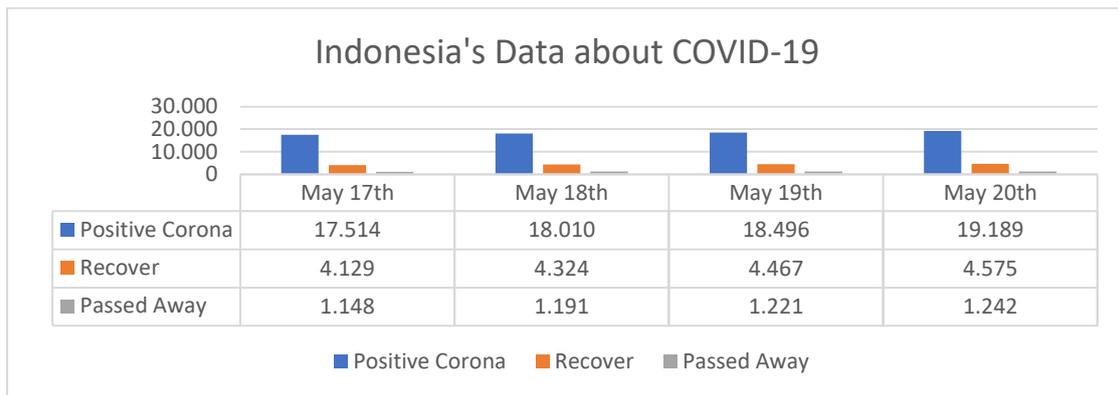


Table : Infected people in Indonesia are increase significantly

Source: <https://www.merdeka.com/peristiwa/data-terkini-jumlah-korban-virus-corona-di-indonesia.html>

Data taken since May 17th until May 20th. Infected people in Indonesia are increase significantly. Because of the fact that COVID-19 in Indonesia is increases fastly, the government issued several policy related to handling COVID-19. Several policy issued by government are:

First: Presidential Decree (Keppres) Number 7 of 2020 concerning the Task Force for the Acceleration of Covid-19 Handling. This decision was later amended through Presidential Decree (Keppres) No. 9 of 2020. *Second,* Government Regulations (PP) Number 21 Year 2020 concerning Large-Scale Social Restrictions (PSBB) in the framework of the Acceleration of Covid-19 Handling. *Treat:* Government Regulation in Lieu of Law (Perppu) Number 1 of 2020 concerning State Financial Policy and Financial System Stability for Handling Covid-19 Pandemic and / or in the context of Facing Threats that Harm National Economy and / or Financial System Stability. *Fourth:* Regulation of the Minister of Transportation (Permenhub) No. 25 of 2020 concerning Transportation Control during the Eid Al-Fitr Homecoming Year 1441 H. This regulation has a derivative regulation in the form of Circular of Covid-19 Task Force Number 4 of 2020 concerning Criteria for Restricting People's Travel in the context of Accelerating Handling of Covid-19.

These several policy that have been issued by Indonesian Government shows that the government really try to handle this pandemic. This COVID-19 really influence to the all aspects and all activities of society.

Large-Scale Social Restrictions

Indonesia choose to use Large-Scale Social Restrictions instead of Lockdown the country. Large-scale Social Limitation are restrictions on certain activities in an area suspected of being infected with COVID-19. Large-scale Social Restrictions is the way that has been chosen by the government to prevent the infection of COVID-19.

There are several requirements that must be fulfilled if wants to apply Large-Scale Social Restrictions in their area, the requirements are: 1). The number of cases and / or number of deaths due to disease increased and spread significantly, and spread rapidly to several regions; 2). There are epidemiological links with similar events in other regions or countries

There are a number of things that are limited during the Large-Scale Social Restrictions policy that is set out in Government Regulation No. 21 of 2020 Article 4 (1) concerning Large-scale Social Restrictions in Order to Accelerate Handling of Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the things are:

Dismiss school and work activities: School and workplace is the place where lot of people meet each others and probably shaking their hands with others people. Physical touch is one way of transmission from COVID-19 itself. With the existence of Large-Scale Social Restrictions, it is hope that people do the social distancing from other people in order to pushing down the transmission of COVID-19. Now, the government's way to overcome this problem, the government is implementing Work From Home (WFH) for the workers and E-Learning for the students. The purpose of the existence of WFH and E-Learning is to make people still active even it should be done by internet. Work From Home is not apply for all fields of institutions or job, WFH can be implement to the job except for offices that provide services related to defense and security, public order, food needs, fuel oil and gas, health services, the economy, finance, communications, industry, exports and imports, distribution, logistics, and other basic needs.

Limitation of religious activities: During Large-Scale Social Restrictions, religious activities also restricted. Places of worship are expected to be closed to the public during the Large-Scale Social Restrictions. Citizien is asked to be able to carry out worship activities at home for all religions, without exception.

Limitation of activities in public places or public facilities: Written on Minister of Health Regulation (Permenkes) No. 9 of 2020 several public facilities that still open in the middle of this pandemic, the public facilities that still open are: Supermarket, traditional market, pharmacy, and minimarket which are selling the main needs of society; Health care facilities, for example hospital; Hotel, motel, guest house, and homestay; Companies used / designated for quarantine facilities; Public facilities for personal sanitation needs; Public places or facilities to fulfill the basic needs of other residents including sports activities. With the enactment of this Large-Scale Social Distancing, it is expected that COVID-19 will reduce quickly as soon as possible.

House of Representative (DPR) Oversight to The Implementation of Large-Scale Social Restrictions

The House of Representatives is an element that can oversee the performance of the government. The House of Representatives has 3 functions, namely legislation, budgeting, and supervision. With this oversight function, the House of Representatives can conduct oversight of what is done by the government. In carrying out its supervisory function, the DPR has the duty and authority to conduct oversight of the implementation of laws, the National Budget, and government policies. In this function also, the DPR has 3 rights, namely the right of interpellation (asking), the right of inquiry (investigating), and the right to express an opinion.

As a concrete manifestation of the oversight function of the House of Representatives in dealing with COVID-19, the House of Representatives formed a Monitoring Team on the Implementation of COVID-19 National Non-natural Disasters. The Monitoring Team itself is chaired by Muhaimin Iskandar as Deputy Chair of the House of Representatives. The Monitoring Team was formed not without a reason. The Monitoring Team was formed to ensure that the implementation of COVID-19 handling carried out by the government was running effectively and also on target.

Monitoring Team need to watch several policies that has been issued by the government, the policies that need to be watch by Monitoring Team are: 1). Supervision to COVID-19 Task Force (Presidential Decree No. 7 Year 2020 then was changed into Presidential Decree No. 9 Year 2020); 2). Supervision to Large-Scale Social Restrictions policy (Government Regulations No. 21 Year 2020), 3). Supervision to Amandement of State budget (Government Regulations in Lieu of Law No. 1 Year 2020 and Presidential Regulation No. 54 Year 2020);

4). Supervision to Homecoming Prohibition policy (Minister of Transportation Regulations No. 25 Year 2020 and COVID-19 Task Force Circular No. 4 Year 2020).

In April 16th, Monitoring Team held a virtual meeting with the Covid-19 Task Force. After finish doing the virtual meeting with COVID-19 Task Force, Monitoring Team issued several evaluations: First, accelerate and multiply the rapid test / PCR tool that aims to detect people affected by COVID-19 so that if someone is exposed to COVID-19, that person can be isolated according to procedure so as to break the chain of COVID-19 spread. Second, the need to involve the role of private hospitals to accommodate the large number of COVID-19 patients who cannot be treated in national hospitals due to too many people being COVID-19 patients. Third, The COVID-19 Task Force must ensure that medical experts obtain and use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in accordance with standards to treat positive COVID-19 patients. Fourth, Carry out socialization about healthy living better than before.

In particular, there has not been a direct evaluation from the Monitoring Team for the implementation of Large Scale Social Restrictions carried out by the government as a concrete form to reduce the number of people affected by COVID-19. In particular, there has not been a direct evaluation from the Monitoring Team for the implementation of Large Scale Social Restrictions carried out by the government as a concrete form to reduce the number of people affected by COVID-19. There are 3 problems that exist in the implementation of Large-Scale Social Restrictions according to a Lecturer in Global Health from Griffith University, Febi Dwirahmadi, the 3 problems are: First, The implementation of large-scale social restrictions must meet several requirements so that their implementation cannot be implemented in all regions. So it can be called less effective if only placed in certain areas. Second, Large-scale social implementation is not based on appropriate data and research. So with this reality, the government has not been able to provide adequate health facilities for medical experts. Also, the medical experts still got less Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to prevent them from getting infected by COVID-19. Third, the method of submitting the large-scale social restrictions to the government is considered not effective. Thus, the public cannot yet understand the meaning of large-scale social restrictions and their objectives. The public also has not complied correctly regarding this large-scale social restriction. The method of socialization carried out by the government is also not evenly distributed. Communities that are far from technological reach are still "gray" about the purpose of this large-scale social restriction. Monitoring Team also got a new job. The work is monitoring the control of

economic impacts during the Large-Scale Social Restrictions and after the Large-Scale Social Restrictions, overseeing the licensing of areas that want to advance the Large-Scale Social Restrictions, encouraging the government to conduct research on the ability of health facilities owned by hospitals in managing positive patients with COVID -19, and encourage the government to improve the manner in which large-scale social restrictions are delivered so that the public can understand large-scale social restrictions.

In this regulation, the government has prepared a fund of 405.1 billion rupiah to overcome COVID-19. With this much money, the existence of a Monitoring Team is needed to oversee the use of these funds. There are several things that need to be examined in this policy. First, the distribution of social assistance which is judged to be many is not on target, an example is the fact that electricity assistance is for customers whose electricity is 450 A and 50% discount for those whose electricity is 900 A. their work is hindered because of the Large-scale Social Implementation policy so they do not get a salary. Then, the government does not have definite data on who is entitled to get social assistance provided by the government so this is the reason why many of these social assistance are not on target. Secondly, the lack of self-protection equipment and medical devices. Funds prepared by the government should be allocated to things like this, so that medical experts can carry out their duties better. Payment of salaries of medical experts should also be paid attention to in order to be paid in full and also on time. This action can be considered as appreciating the efforts of medical experts who have tried to help fight COVID-19 faced by Indonesia today. Medical experts have dedicated their time and energy in full, so that medical experts are entitled to receive payment for their salary in a timely and full manner.

Government policies do not have certainty which confuses the public. In the Minister of Transportation Regulation No. 25 of 2020, all transportation whether by land, air or sea is prohibited from operating. Whereas in the COVID-19 Task Force Circular Letter No. 4 In 2020, transportation is permitted to operate again on conditions that must be met. The regulations contained in this Circular Letter are considered irrelevant to the government's enthusiasm to break the chain of distribution of COVID-19 in Indonesia. The existence of the Monitoring Team can oversee the application of this policy in accordance with the steps and objectives of the government to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

C. Conclusion

In dealing with COVID-19 the government adopted a policy to implement Large-Scale Social Restrictions as written in Government Regulations (PP) Number 21 Year 2020 concerning Large-Scale Social Restrictions (PSBB) in the framework of the Acceleration of Covid-19 Handling. The application of this Large-Scale Social Restrictions (PSBB) must meet 2 requirements as written in the Government Regulation, the requirements are: First, The number of cases and / or number of deaths due to disease increased and spread significantly, and spread rapidly to several regions. Second, there are epidemiological links with similar events in other regions or countries.

Policies issued by the government must be overseen by the House of Representatives (DPR) which has a supervisory function. Therefore, the House of Representatives created a Monitoring Team that oversees how the policy manifests. Government policies whose socialization is considered incomplete are also a concern of the Monitoring Team. With the Monitoring Team, it is hoped that all evaluations in the policies issued by the government can be overcome and we can fight COVID-19 so that COVID-19 can be completed immediately and Indonesians can carry out their activities as usual again.

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