

Contradictive Policies Generated Innovations on COVID-19 Management Policies in Indonesia

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Abstract:

Indonesia is a country that has no experience in tackling infectious and deadly viruses, so various COVID-19 countermeasure policies in Indonesia pose problems. The problem faced is the existence of policy contradictions that make the spread of the virus more widespread. The rapid spread of the virus led local governments in Indonesia to propose a regional quarantine policy to the central government, but it's rejected because it was the authority of the central government. Consideration of the central government because the quarantine area is difficult to apply in Indonesia because it affects human rights. This research determines policy innovations resulting from contradictory COVID-19 countermeasure policies in Indonesia. This research method is qualitative with descriptive analysis. This research data sourced from secondary data from the Indonesian government website (Ministry of Health, National Disaster Management Agency, and Local Government), national media that trusted and has credibility of data sources, and other supporting data relevant to research objectives that then filtered to maintain data accuracy. Data analysis by presenting data, interpreting data, and drawing conclusions. The results showed that the COVID-19 pandemic in Indonesia is experiencing various problems, especially the contradictory regulatory issues between the central and local governments. The problem solved by conducting policy innovations by issuing Large-Scale Social Restriction (PSBB) policies. The policy can solve the contradictory problem between the central and local governments, because the local government may apply the policy to the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia. The impact of the policy is that there has been a decrease in the number of positive cases in the regions, especially in DKI Jakarta, which is the first region to implement PSBB in Indonesia.

Key Word: COVID-19, Indonesia, Policy, Regulation.

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I. INTRODUCTION

COVID-19 is a virus that is spreading rapidly through humans (Kraemer et al., 2020). This condition makes every government in the world must hasten to prepare a strategy to fight it. Restrictions on preventing the widespread spread of COVID-19 have largely decided by governments around the world (Narzisi, 2020). Unlike the Indonesian government that did not shoot when the virus entered Indonesia, it even considers that Indonesia as a country immune to COVID-19 (Farisa, 2020; Human Right Watch Group, 2020). The assumption that Indonesia is immune to the virus broken by the Announcement of the President of Indonesia on March 2, 2020 about the first and second positive cases of COVID-19 (Almuttaqi, 2020).

The entry of COVID-19 in Indonesia is causing panic in the community because of its rapid spread, especially in DKI Jakarta, which is the capital of the country. The situation made the DKI regional government propose a regional quarantine to the central government, but they rejected it because the policy is the authority of the central government and the local government not entitled to implement a regional quarantine (Briantika, 2020). However, many local governments in Indonesia are implementing local quarantine areas without permission from the central government (Putri, 2020), and this is contradictory to Indonesian government policy (Ihsanuddin, 2020b; Taher, 2020a).

The policy contradictions that occurred in tackling COVID-19 in Indonesia led the Indonesian government to innovate its policy towards Law No. 6 of 2018 on Health Quarantine. The policy considered violating human rights, so it is not appropriate to apply in a country that adheres to a democratic system such as Indonesia. Based on this, the government innovated policy by giving birth to Government Regulation No. 21 of 2020 on Large-Scale Social Restrictions (PSBB) in order to Accelerate the Handling of COVID-19. The regulation considered a policy that does not violate human rights and can be applied in various regions in Indonesia.

Implementing Large-Scale Social Restriction (PSBB) policy in some regions in Indonesia slowly resolves the contradictory policy problem that has been a problem since the beginning, because implementing

the policy has a positive impact. The DKI Jakarta Government implemented PSBB policy on April 10, 2020 and the result on April 27, 2020 the growth of COVID-19 positive cases decreased (Taher, 2020b) and based on national data on May 2, 2020 decreased to 11 percent of new cases of COVID-19 positive in Indonesia (Amirullah, 2020).

II. MATERIAL AND METHODS

This research uses qualitative method with descriptive analysis. This research data sourced from secondary data from the Indonesian government website (Ministry of Health, National Disaster Management Agency, and Local Government), national media that trusted and has credibility of data sources, and other supporting data relevant to research objectives that are then filtered to maintain data accuracy. Data analysis by presenting data, interpreting data, and drawing conclusions.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Governments worldwide have implemented several precautionary measures to control/mitigate the high transmission of SARs-CoV-2, which included partial or total lockdown of cities/regions/municipalities, reduced economic activities and businesses to essential supplies, reduced mobility of goods and passengers, restrictions on social contact, mandatory quarantine for COVID-19 patients with minor symptoms, the creation of provisory treatment facilities for patients with moderate to severe symptoms, limited access to hospitals and healthcare facilities by family/visitors, and the incentive in the use of plastic-based personal protective equipment [PPE] (e.g., masks and gloves) by the general public (Tobías, 2020; Xiao & Torok, 2020).

Although lockdown measures to stop COVID-19 have direct effects on disease transmission, their impact on violent and accidental deaths remains unknown (Calderon-Anyosa & Kaufman, 2020). The policies issued make various countries could not determine the right policies to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic. Including in Indonesia, where the implementation of COVID-19 countermeasures policy causes problems (Almuttaqi, 2020). For example, when the first pandemic entered Indonesia there was obscurity policy, both from the local and central government.

Governments in various regions in Indonesia are working to combat COVID-19 with plans to implement health quarantine laws. But what happened differs from the decision of the central government, where the central government does not allow local governments to implement such policies. The central government has its own consideration that the policy cannot implemented because it has various risks to the economy. These considerations are contradictory to the wishes of local governments who want to implement a regional quarantine whose goal is to stop the spread of COVID-19 in the region.

Quarantine activities become the policy of the Governor of DKI Jakarta based on number 5 of 2020 concerning Temporary Cancellation of Worship and Religious Activities in Houses of Worship in order to Prevent the Spread of corona virus disease (COVID-19).⁶ In this call the government conveys the cancellation of worship activities and other religious activities that gather crowds held in mosques, Churches, temples, monasteries, temples and other places of worship include Friday prayers, services, Sunday worship and mass, taklim assemblies, big day celebrations and others. It is prepared and distributed guidelines for worship organizers to carry out worship at home instead of activities that eliminated. The appeal is valid for 14 days from the date specified and can be extended. In addition, it gives awareness to increase vigilance and discipline to prevent the risk of COVID-19 by maintaining a safe distance from interacting. The DKI Jakarta regional government also socialized the official website of <https://corona.jakarta.go.id> to find out the development of the corona virus spread correctly. In addition, socializing the guardedness related to COVID-19 in the form of posters, stand banners, and others that can be downloaded through the <https://bit.ly/PublikasiCoronaDKI>. It also bases this appeal on the fatwa of the Indonesian Ulama Council No. 14 of 2020 on implementing worship in the event of a corona outbreak.

The rapid movement carried out by the DKI Jakarta Regional Government in this case Governor Anis Baswedan is based on the existence of legal instruments that he has as the Regional Head to issue policies. Related to the policy issued by the DKI Jakarta government, it has actually also regulated in Law No. 6 of 2018 on Health Quarantine. Quarantine is the restriction of the activity or separation of a person exposed to infectious diseases as stipulated in the legislation, although it has shown no symptoms or is in the incubation period, or separation of containers, transportation, or any items suspected of being contaminated from people or goods containing the cause of the disease or other sources of contamination materials to prevent the spread to people or goods in the vicinity. Article 9 of Law No. 6 of 2018 states that implementing quarantine aims to protect the public from diseases and or public health risk factors that have the potential to cause Public Health Emergencies, prevent and ward off diseases and/or Public Health Risk Factors that have the potential to cause Public Health Emergencies, increase national resilience in public health, provide protection and legal certainty for the public and health workers.

Local government policies, such as DKI Jakarta, aim to stop the spread of COVID-19, but this is not in line with the central government which prohibits local governments from taking regional quarantine policies. The impact of this contradictory policy has increased the spread of COVID-19 in Indonesia, even the highest in ASEAN. The Indonesian government continues to make efforts to minimize people infected with COVID-19. At first, the government did not want to give information to the public regarding the coronavirus that entered Indonesia. This is done to avoid public panic and also avoid issues that are not clearly true.

Various problems faced by the central and local governments, so that the Government of Indonesia committed to policy innovation to stop the spread of COVID-19 in Indonesia and policies that implemented without having to conflict with applicable laws and regulations. The Government of Indonesia issued Government Regulation No. 21 of 2020 concerning Large-Scale Social Restrictions (PSBB) in order to Accelerate the Handling of COVID-19. The Large-Scale Social Restriction Policy (PSBB) solves the handling of COVID-19 in Indonesia and the innovation of Law No. 6 of 2018 on Health Quarantine because the law cannot applied by local governments so that with the PSBB, local governments may implement it with the permission of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia.

The impact of PSBB policy is that there is a decrease in the number of positive cases in Indonesia, especially in DKI Jakarta. We saw this downward trend in the week after the Tightening Of Large-Scale Social Restrictions (PSBB) completed. On October 17, daily cases of COVID-19 declined to 974 cases. The daily trend of only 1,000 cases per day then continues. It was only on October 24 that daily cases again increased above 1,000, to be exact 1,062 (Ihsanuddin, 2020a).

IV. CONCLUSION

Based on the results of research and discussions, they concluded it that the COVID-19 pandemic in Indonesia is experiencing various problems, especially the contradictory regulatory issues between the central and local governments. The problem solved by conducting policy innovations by issuing Large-Scale Social Restriction (PSBB) policies. The policy can solve the contradictory problem between the central and local governments, because the local government may apply the policy to the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia. The impact of the policy is that there has been a decrease in the number of positive cases in the regions, especially in DKI Jakarta, which is the first region to implement PSBB in Indonesia.

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