

## The Government's Policy Strategy on Mitigating Covid-19 Pandemic In Indonesia

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Received: February 11 2022; Revised: May 23 2022; Accepted: May 30 2022

**Abstract:** *As one of the countries affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, Indonesia has a death toll of 7.8% of the total deaths due to the COVID-19 disease in the world. This figure is one of the highest death rates in the world. Of course, if it is not handled correctly, then various problems will continue to emerge from each other, so it can have a long-lasting bad impact if it is not appropriately handled. Therefore, the researcher intends to examine how the government will make economic policies in Indonesia to overcome the COVID-19 problem. This research will use a qualitative approach through the case approach method. The findings obtained from this research suggest that the government should make new economic policies to help various elements of society deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. These policies include reducing electricity and fuel costs, direct assistance in cash, issuing pre-employment cards and food cards for recipients, free examinations, and special incentives for medical staff.*

**Keywords:** *Covid pandemic, Government Policy, Strategy, Economy.*

### Introduction

National security is threatened by disease outbreaks, as outlined in the Indonesian Defense White Paper for 2015. The world continues to face an epidemic of a number of severe infectious diseases. The World Health Organization (WHO) warns that contagious diseases that are dangerous to humankind have not been fully contained and have even spread more widely (Chattu et al., 2019). One to three varieties of new infectious diseases or the reappearance of existing diseases are discovered in humans nearly every year. Human respiratory infections have a tendency to grow with new cases in the indicated population in particular regions (Acter et al., 2020).

Among the diseases that continue to threaten humanity are dengue fever, tuberculosis, human immunodeficiency

virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, mad cow disease or Variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, Avian Influenza, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), swine flu, Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, Ebola, and a new variant of bird flu (Tania et al., 2021). WHO has classified Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean as regions prone to numerous deadly diseases (Marois et al., 2020).

In response to this genuine threat, a new coronavirus strain appeared in Wuhan, China, in December 2019. Coronaviruses are a vast family of respiratory viruses that include SARS and MERS. Coronaviruses have been widely discovered in civets, camels, and bats, among other mammals (Chang et al., 2020). It is possible for animal-to-human and human-to-human transmission of this virus. SARS and



within the limitations of these actors' powers (Butkus et al., 2018).

Chief J.O. Udoji has a slightly different view from the opinion of W.I. Jenkins above, and Chief J.O. Udoji emphasizes more on public policy that has a specific purpose and can influence the community. According to Chief J.O. Udoji, public policy is as follows: "a sanctioned action that leads to a specific, interrelated goal that affects a large part of society" (Uster et al., 2022).

Based on the above notions of public policy put forward by scientists, it can be explained how public policy has a broad and dynamic dimension to develop knowledge further. Public policy can also be interpreted as a series of decisions or actions determined by the government in which some stages are interrelated and have goals to be achieved (Lenihan et al., 2019).

From Anderson's view, it can be concluded that every policy must have a specific goal to solve a particular issue. That goal can be achieved if the policy can be appropriately implemented (Howlett, 2019).

## Method

This research will use a qualitative approach through the case study method. The data used in this research comes from various previous studies and studies that are still suitable or relevant to this research. The data that this researcher has collected will be analyzed so that the results of this research can be found later.

## Result And Discussion

### The Economic Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic

As of January 8, 2020, the Passport Index data has been changed. Indonesian visitors are exempt from visa requirements in eighty-five countries worldwide. Don't even think about visas now, as several foreign flight routes have

been canceled owing to the fast spreading illness. AirAsia Indonesia has suspended all domestic service till June 2020. Other airlines must likewise operate with limited passenger capacity. As of April 1, 2020, 1,174 hotels and 286 eateries had shuttered in Indonesia alone. As a result, the company was forced to lay off thousands of people. "Business sectors that require attendance have fallen prey to COVID-19," says Indonesian Hotel and Restaurant Association chairman Hariyadi Sukamdani.

In the March 2020 edition of the Study on Trade and Industry by the Institute of Economic and Community Research, University of Indonesia (LPEM UI), supply chain obstruction was cited as the most significant immediate effect of the COVID-19 epidemic. According to Finance Minister Sri Mulyani, China provides 30 to 50% of the raw materials used in the plastic, textile, footwear, steel, and chemical industries. According to data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS), the value of raw and auxiliary material imports declined by 15.89 percent to \$8.89 billion in February 2020, while imports of capital goods decreased by 18.03 percent to \$1.80 billion. The reduction in significance is expected to reach 10% in the first three months of 2020.

While a lack of raw resources could lead to the termination of home production, it could also constrain local industrial activity. Ultimately, this circumstance will result in the price of consumer products increasing and the number of workers decreasing. There are a number of ways to reduce the negative impact of COVID-19 on the economy. Fithra Faisal Hastiadi, an economist from the University of Indonesia, remarked that the government must ensure the immediate availability and stability of prices for vital commodities. Examples of goods



### **Economic Impact of PSBB Policy**

PSBB has not been deployed uniformly throughout all locations. This is natural given the complex conditions that each region must meet in order to successfully deploy PSBB. The following policy realization pertains to the provision of social assistance to disadvantaged members of society. There will be a wide range of measures to help those in need, President Jokowi said, from direct monetary support to free and discounted electricity prices for specific groups, to driver training and credit payment relief aimed at small businesses.

However, during the subsequent news conference, there were still a number of inquiries from the public regarding online motorcycle taxis allegedly being pursued by moneylenders. At one point, the OJK claimed that they had replied by employing the previously described motorcycle taxi drivers in their web ventures. At one point, the OJK claimed that they had replied by employing the previously described motorcycle taxi drivers in their web ventures.

Covid-19 has had a significant impact on the revenue of many small towns, and direct financial aid is the only way lower-income families can meet their basic needs. Online motorcycle taxis cannot carry passengers under any circumstances because of the PSBB policy in DKI Jakarta. The drop in daily income is felt not just by taxi bike drivers, but also by employees of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), taxi drivers, and public transportation drivers, as well as individuals whose income is insufficient to meet their daily demands.

Therefore, direct cash aid must be made available to individuals in need. However, the COVID-19 case has resulted in a number of unfortunate situations, including the eviction of

online motorcycle taxi drivers and their families for nonpayment of rent. Since the Covid-19 case, the online motorcycle taxi driver stated that it has been difficult for him to earn a living. As a result, he was unable to make his rent payments. During an interview with a local television station, the motorist confirmed that he had not received any help from the authorities. As a result, direct financial aid has not yet been implemented, or if it has, it has not yet been distributed in an equitable manner and on target.

According to the preceding statement, the government's PSBB response to the COVID-19 epidemic is still in the process of being executed. However, despite the fact that it hasn't been implemented in its entirety, at least some progress has been made. There are, however, some places that are still evaluating the policy. Similarly, President Jokowi's social aid strategy is still being implemented, despite the fact that operational challenges remain.

### **The Indonesian Government's Economic Approach to the Covid-19 Outbreak**

The government has failed to give prompt diagnostic tests to the entire population when it comes to outbreak management and preventing the spread of COVID-19. To expedite treatment and prevent more widespread transmission, the government must implement a policy of no expense spared, such as the acquisition of medical equipment supporting examinations, isolation rooms, and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE); free of charge for inspections, whether proven or not, or preventive measures such as the distribution of inexpensive masks, etc. According to the substantial decrease in APBN revenues, the government will definitely be burdened by the escalating budget deficit. However, humanitarian



tests to the entire population, should be bolstered by the government to expedite the management of the COVID-19 outbreak. Although this strategy may result in a larger budget shortfall, is there anything more important than human lives?

People who depend on daily income are particularly hard hit by PSBB, so the government must provide BLT to ensure their well-being. The economic engine continues to operate. However, the distribution of BLT must be precise and comprehensive so that no low-income community is overlooked.

The community will gain from the government's plan to cut the cost of electricity and fuel, as these are the two largest household expenditures. During an economic slump such as this, this strategy will be of great assistance to the community despite the indeterminate duration of the economic uncertainty.

The value of the Family Program of Hope's pre-employment and basic food recipient cards should not be increased; instead, the government should issue financial packages that directly affect the community, such as BLT and lower electricity and fuel costs, and free examinations should be made available to everyone.

### Acknowledgment

Thank you to all colleagues of National University, Jakarta, for their support and encouragement in completing this research.

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