

Countering Corruption During The Covid-19 Emergency in Indonesia

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ABSTRACT: *The Covid-19 outbreak has hit people around the world, various things have changed following the conditions that occur in each country, Indonesia is doing the same to protect people from the economic downturn and keep people healthy in living life. In carrying out all these activities, the President provided various kinds of assistance to the community, however, in the implementation of the provision of assistance, it turned out that there were parties who committed criminal acts of corruption and misappropriation and those given to these communities. This research describes the problem of why in the Era of the Covid-19 Pandemic their corruption crimes and what actions are still are taken to overcome corruption crimes in the era of the Covid-19 pandemic. This research has the object of research on law, so this research is juridical research. Because the focus of his study on Overcoming Corruption Crimes during the Covid-19 Emergency in the Jurisdiction of the Purwokerto District Court, this is a juridical method in a broad sense, so the approach method used is the empirical method.*

KEYWORDS: *Countermeasures, corruption, Covid-19.*

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I. INTRODUCTION

Law is a very important part of the journey of a nation. It happens because the law is part of regulating, Humans in general are experiencing a global and very large crisis, it requires every element of society, government, and political elite to synergize in overcoming the complexity of the implications arising from health, economy, socio-politics, to culture. As of July 13, 2021, there were 2.53 million positive cases in Indonesia. This pandemic hit the Indonesian economy with economic growth this year as of March 2021 still contracting 0.74%, and on a quarterly basis down 0.96% [1]

The emergence of the covid 19 outbreak around the world has caused many changes in the order of people's lives from the smallest to the largest sector, not a single area is not affected. The state's obligations to its people are getting bigger, the cost of health protection for both sick people and healthy people is very large and increasingly drains the State Budget and Regional Government Budget.

The increasingly widespread Covid-19 pandemic has caused the emergence of a national health crisis globally, therefore the Government of Indonesia has declared a health emergency status on March 31, 2020, through Presidential Decree Number 11 of 2020 concerning the Determination of the Covid-19 Public Health Emergency. However, this kind of emergency crisis cannot be viewed as simple. Because the state of emergency gives extraordinary powers to the state that are not possessed during normal situations, this is commonly referred to as Emergency Power.

Corruption is one of the criminal acts that is still an enemy for Indonesia to be addressed. The emergence of emergency conditions on the other hand certainly raises concerns for many parties about the emergence and there could be greater opportunities for corruption to the needs of the community during the pandemic.

Finance Minister Sri Mulyani during the launch of the Stranas 2021-2022 Corruption Prevention Action in Jakarta on April 13, 2021, stated that corruption crimes committed at the time of the pandemic were very extraordinary crimes. Prevention of corruption crimes is very necessary for all state institutions.

During the pandemic, it turns out that corruption crimes still occur in the community. Even then two ministers were arrested. At that time, Edhy Prabowo was arrested at Soekarno-Hatta Airport when he just returned from a working visit to the United States. Not only Edhy, but a dozen other people were also caught by Operation Catch Hand in different locations. After that, the KPK named a total of seven suspects in the case of alleged bribery of lobster seed exports. With details, Edhy Prabowo, AndreauMisantaPribadi and Safri as special staff of Edhy Prabowo, personal secretary AmirilMukminin, management of PT Aero Citra KargoSiswadi, and Ainul Faqih as staff of Edhy's wife. Meanwhile, the Director of PT Dua Putra Perkasa Suharjito was named as a suspected bribe-giver.

In this case, Edhy allegedly accepted bribes from a number of companies that got lobster seed export permits. Edhy allegedly used a forwarder company. The money is then accommodated in one account until it reaches Rp 9.8 billion. In addition, Edhy also allegedly received 100,000 US dollars from Suharjito through Safri and Amiril.

Social Affairs Minister Juliari P Batubara also stumbled over a corruption case. The case that ensnared Juliari was directly related to the pandemic, namely the alleged bribery of social assistance for handling the Covid-19 pandemic for the Jabodetabek area in 2020. The determination of Juliari's suspect is the aftermath of the Hand-Catching Operation held by the KPK on December 5, 2020. Juliari became a suspect along with Matheus Joko Santoso and Adi Wahyono as commitment-making officials (PPK) at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Ardian I M and Harry Sidabuke as private parties. Juliari allegedly received a fee from a partner at the Ministry of Social Affairs of Rp 10,000 per social aid package. The total money allegedly received by Juliari amounted to Rp 17 billion which was then used for his personal purposes. This research will examine how in the Era of the Covid-19 Pandemic there are still corruption crimes and what is being done to overcome the existence of co-corruption crimes in the era of the Covid-19 pandemic.

II. METHODOLOGY

This research uses an empirical juridical approach, with analytical descriptive research specifications. Because this research seeks to illustrate the facts about how in the Era of the Covid-19 Pandemic there are corruption crimes and what actions are still being done to overcome the existence of co-corruption crimes in the era of the Covid 19 pandemic, this research uses the Research and Development (R&D) analysis method.

III. DISCUSSION

Corruption Crimes that occurred during the Covid-19 Pandemic and Its Prevention

The crime of corruption is actually a very dangerous criminal act, because this criminal act harms the state massively criminal acts will really hurt the people the impact of corruption crimes will be felt directly by the community. One of the things that can be felt is the high price of services and public services. From cultural side, corruption will greatly erode local wisdom and replace it with bad character.

Looking at the economic sector that is confined to corruption, it will increase the burden on economic transactions and create a bad institutional system. The existence of bribes and levies in an economy causes the cost of economic transactions to be higher. This leads to inefficiencies in the economy. The slowing course of the economy will give birth to economic downturn. On the other hand, corruption is also able to put public resources into the hands of corruptors, as a result of which there is less government spending money. This results in poor people not getting a decent life, a good education, or sufficient health facilities.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, it is suspected that there are extraordinary impacts on the economy in Indonesia, these impacts are:

1. Weakening of household consumption or weakening of purchasing power.
2. The weakening of the investment sector and the implications for the cessation of various business fields.
3. The weakening of the economy has caused commodity prices to fall.

As a result of these impacts, the government has taken swift action, vaccination program, national economic recovery program, Direct Cash Assistance, and business capital assistance for SMEs/MSMEs. In addition, the government also organizes a social assistance fund (Bansos) program for the poor or those affected by the pandemic.

Although the government has provided the policies that have been set in the provision of Covid-19 social assistance, there are still many irresponsible people who take advantage of this momentum to make it an opportunity to dredge up the rights of their citizens. This is also due to the lack of supervision from the government in the process of continuing the activities of the Covid-19 social assistance fund in Indonesia and the lack of a transparent and accountable public service system in the process of distributing Covid-19 social assistance funds to the community from the central to regional levels. So that this opens new opportunities for irresponsible parties to be able to commit corruption crimes.

The corruption of covid-19 social assistance funds that occurred in Indonesia is currently one of the cases that is very detrimental to the people in Indonesia. This can be seen from the poor regulation of the distribution of Covid-19 social aid programs and coordination from the government, as well as the chaotic process of collecting data on people who are entitled to receive Covid-19 social assistance funds. The case is evidenced by the recognition from the public and facts that show that the food packages given are very inappropriate and far from being feasible than the nominal that has been set by the government. One of the communities affected by the Covid-19 social assistance fund corruption case is the poor.

The search conducted by the BPKP (Financial and Development Supervisory Agency) in Jabodetabek, found unreasonable prices in social assistance packages for the community during this pandemic. In the

discovery of the BPKP tracing process in the social assistance package for the community during the pandemic in Jabodetabek, BPKP found Rp. 65.88 billion overpayment of basic food staples. Then, the price difference for *transporters* in Jabodetabek is worth Rp. 2.97 billion, and the overpayment in the *social assistance goodie bag* (bansos) is Rp. 6.09 billion. So that from the calculation process according to the BPKP, the social aid budget is suspected of being corrupted by Rp. 20.8 billion.

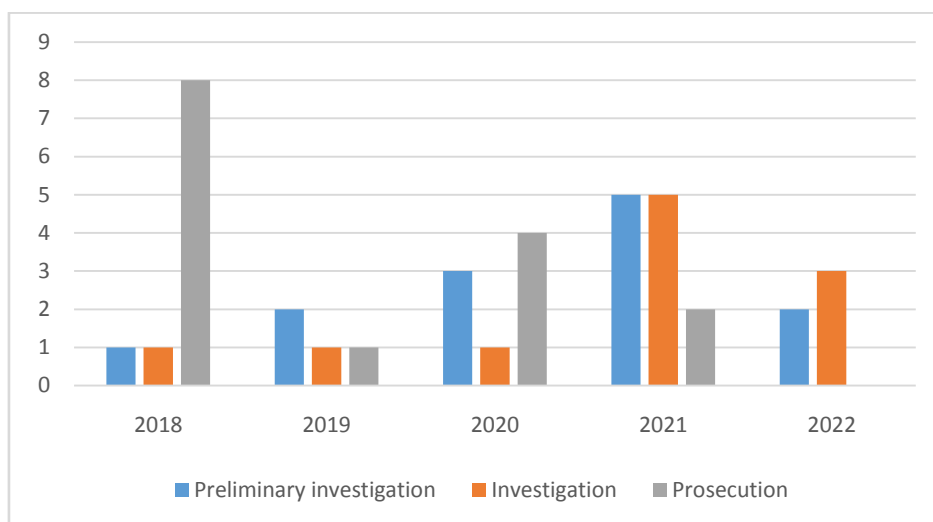
In general, corruption occurs in the distribution of social aid funds, namely the quota of recipients is reduced, and even social assistance is not accepted at all. The perpetrator creates a list of virtual beneficiaries but there are no recipients, but the funds are still used. This happened due to the lack of supervision and firm policies carried out by the government in the process of regulating covid-19 funding assistance in Indonesia.

The aid funds that should have been received by the people affected by covid turned out to be still exposed to corruption, this caused deep sadness, supervision that should have been carried out more strictly was not carried out so that corruption continued to occur even against funds for covid-19 relief. In one of the Metro television programs, namely in the Mata Najwa program on February 11, 2021, it was discussed related to the Covid-19 social aid fund corruption case that the poor are one of the victims of the poor regulation of the Covid-19 social assistance fund, they stated that the basic food packages they received from the government were very far from the nominal set by the government of IDR 300,000 for one basic food package with a discount fee of IDR 15,000 *goodie bag* fee, and a discount of IDR 15,000 for transportation service fees. This means that overall the contents of the basic food package should be worth around Rp. 270,000. However, residents admitted that the food packages they received were far from the nominal set by the government in one basic food package. They can find out from the type of quality and brand of each item contained in a basic food package. Residents also complained that the contents of the goods or items from the food packages were very unfit for use, this can be seen from the types of rice that are also very dull, chickens that are rotten, and other types of goods such as sardines and milk that have low quality or brands that they have never even seen before in the market. As a result of the calculations and research of residents, they stated that the contents of the basic food packages they received only ranged from Rp. 140,000 to Rp. 150,000, of course the nominal was very far from the nominal value of one basic food package that had been set by the government.

In the Banyumas regency during the Covid-19 period, there were also cases related to Covid-19 funds. The Purwokerto District Attorney's Office has investigated a case of alleged corruption of the Covid-19 social safety net fund from the Ministry of Manpower (Kemenaker) for a business group in Banyumas Regency, Central Java, worth Rp 1,920,000,000. The District Attorney's Team has secured the remaining cash of Rp. 470,000,000 from the house of a person with the initials AM (26), a resident of Sokawera Village, Cilongok District, Banyumas Regency,

This social security jarring assistance was supposed to be handed over to business groups in the Banyumas Regency area but this was not implemented. The aid money was used by the suspect. From the data of the Purwokerto District Attorney's Office, data is obtained as listed below:

Handling of Corruption Crimes of the Purwokerto District Attorney's Office 2018 to 2022



In 2018, an investigation was carried out on the case of the alleged PNPM revolving fund in Cilongok village from 2015 to 2018, followed by an investigation into this case. Furthermore, at the time of prosecution, there were 8 people who were designated as suspects in the PNPM Revolving Fund case in Cilongok village.

In 2019, there were 2 cases of investigation data, namely the 2018 Koni Grant Fund Examination and the case of alleged misuse of motorcycle financing loans from 2017 to 2018 at PT Pegadaian Purwokerto Pasar Cermi Branch from the two investigations, one rose to the level of investigation and for the case of koni grant funds not continued or stopped. As for 2021, there are 4 cases that are examined until the prosecution is carried out in the trial.

From the findings above, it can be said that during the Covid-19 pandemic, criminal acts continue to occur, both those that have a direct relationship with Covid-19 assistance and those that are not related to Covid-19 assistance, this is directly related to a conclusion that the integrity that should be possessed by all communities is still of low value so that corruption is still intensively occurring.

IV. CONCLUSION

1. Conclusion

Corruption crimes occur directly related to the personality of the perpetrator, the values of integrity that are a milestone for society to prevent corrupt behavior are not yet solid so that whatever and however the existing path remains a place to commit corruption. Covid-19 should be a concern that must be borne together and managed together so that the community can survive and can still be used by corruption actors. Covid-19 has been a disaster for all countries in the world for almost three years. This condition requires all countries to move quickly and must be able to overcome the emergency that occurs so that people in the country continue to receive sufficient protection to avoid diseases arising from Covid-19. In Indonesia, during the Covid-19 period, corruption crimes continued to occur even quite phenomenally because the defendants who committed corruption crimes were ministers who were still actively in office, and there was more than one minister. Meanwhile, in the region, corruption crimes continue to occur as in normal times. The lack of awareness from policyholders to uphold integrity causes corruption to remain born in society. The pandemic condition where the government distributes aid to the community in very large quantities is actually an opportunity to eliminate integrity.

2. Sugestions

First, It is necessary to have structural supervision at both the sectoral and regional levels and to always provide assistance in financial management in every activity. Second, It is necessary to have anti-corruption counseling that is carried out periodically, massively and structured both in the family environment, community and ecosystem in order to maintain integrity in every activity it carries out.

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