

# The Indonesian Update

Monthly Review on Economic, Legal, Security, Political, and Social Affairs



## Main Report: A Recession Like No Other: How Can Indonesia Mitigate It?

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- Questioning the Facts and Legality of the Simultaneous Regional Elections in December 2020 ■
- The Role of Dewas and the Ethical Decision of the KPK Chair ■

### Politics

- A Look at the Initial Campaign Fund Report (LADK) for Regional Head Candidates in the 2020 Pilkada ■
- Strengthening the Regional Organizers of Pilkada 2020 ■
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- Get to Know Big Data and Its Challenges in Indonesia ■

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- Mental Health Day in the Midst of a Pandemic ■
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# FOREWORD

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The October 2020 edition of the Indonesian Update raises a major report on the economic recession that has hit various countries and Indonesia due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In September 2020, at least 18 countries have entered the brink of recession due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, in the Asian region, the Singapore economy went into recession after two consecutive quarters of contraction. This has also happened in Indonesia. People are worried about the future economic conditions, especially with the sentiment and reports of countries experiencing recession. The implication is that people withhold their consumption, which has also affected economic conditions in Indonesia.

In the legal field, the Indonesian Update discusses the sustainability of the 2020 Pilkada amidst the increasing spread of COVID-19. The legality of determining the simultaneous Pilkada in December can normatively be declared as void by law. In fact, it can be considered contrary to Perppu No. 2 of 2020 if the implementation continues. In addition, we discuss the role and performance of the Supervisory Board (Dewas) of the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK).

In the political field, the Indonesian Update discusses the Initial Campaign Fund Report (LADK) for Regional Head Candidates in the 2020 Pilkada. LADK is very important to note because this report is expected to be a starting point for the public to assess which candidates are committed to implementing the principles of transparency later if elected. In addition, we also discuss the strengthening of the 2020 regional elections. Next, we discuss the provisions of the 2020 Pilkada campaign with the issuance of PKPU Number 13 of 2020. Then, we also discuss the use of “big data” in the government sector in Indonesia, as well as challenges in its utilization.

In the social sector, the Indonesian Update raises the commemoration of Mental Health Day in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Mental Health Day in the midst of a pandemic is an important reflection related to the portrait of meeting the needs of mental health services in Indonesia. In addition, we discuss the efforts to break the chain of COVID-19. Furthermore, we also discuss the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on women.

The monthly publication of the Indonesian Update with actual themes is expected to help policy makers in government and business institutions - as well as academics, think tanks, and elements of civil society, both at home and abroad, to obtain actual information and contextual analysis of economic conditions. political, social, and legal in Indonesia, as well as an understanding of public policy in Indonesia.

**Happy Reading.**

## **A Recession Like No Other: How Can Indonesia Mitigate It?**

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In the years before the COVID-19 pandemic broke out, millions of the world's population were looking anxiously at the future. Many companies face a complex global business climate, starting from the threat of cyber attacks to the global supply chain that begins to falter. As a result, the business expansion process is slow. Not only that, economic-political turmoil has begun to become clear, starting from the American-China trade war, Brexit (British Exit), to political tensions in the Middle East that have implications for a global economic slowdown (Basri, 2020; World Economy Forum, 2020).

Furthermore, many people suspect that the global economy is heading for a credit crisis caused by corporate debts rather than mortgages, as happened in 2008. Then, the decades-long easy money policy launched by the Fed has indeed made many businesses rise. However, this does not ensure that the economy will be fine (Advisor Perspective, 2020).

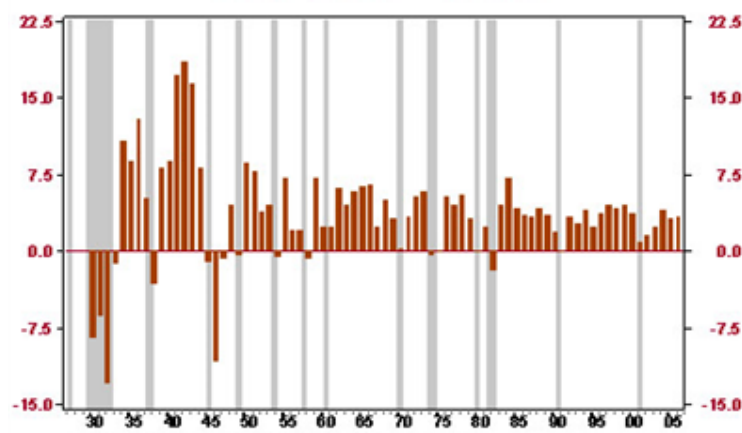
The World Bank and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) project that an economic slowdown is imminent. For example, the World Bank before the outbreak of this pandemic, had projected global economic growth in 2020 of minus 5.2 percent (Global Economic Prospect, 2020). Then, the OECD also projected that the global economy would experience a slowdown from 2.9 percent in 2019 to 2.4 percent in 2020 (OECD Interim Economic Outlook, 2020).

Therefore, many parties have finally started to warn that the world economy will experience a recession in 2020.

## A Recession Like No Other and Its Implications

In principle, a recession is a natural business cycle. A recession momentum usually starts right after economic activity reaches a peak and ends when the economy reaches a trough. According to the NBER (2020), a recession is a significant decrease in economic activity that is spread across all components and lasts more than several months. Usually decreases are seen in production, employment, real income, and other indicators. Technically, a country is said to be in a recession if its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) contracts or is negative (negative) in two or more consecutive quarters on an annual basis. To make it easier, see the chart below.

**Figure 1. Real GDP Growth Rate (%)**



Source: Bureau of Economic Analytics, 2007.

Graph I shows the annual expansion or contraction in the economy. The sections in gray represent the recessions identified by the NBER. The two most severe contraction in output (excluding the post-World War II adjustment from 1945 to 1947) occurred during the Great Depression of the 1930s. The rest, every time the graph goes down in brown, this part will be blocked in gray. This shows the economy is in recession. At least, more than 13 times the world economy has experienced contractionary momentum. However, the chart above also shows that after experiencing contraction, the economy will move into the next cycle; namely, an expansion momentum.

This year, shocks were caused by things that had never been thought of before; namely, viruses. In particular, from the supply side, supply chains have almost been cut overnight due to virus concerns and social distancing policies in many countries. On the

demand side, consumer purchasing power collapses as people lose their jobs. As a result, those with more money began to choose to save more. The implication is that demand has also fallen sharply. Therefore, this is what we would call an unusual recession. We are faced with something very unique: this year's recession has been driven by supply and demand.

Quoted from Kontan.co.id (2020), in September 2020, at least 18 countries have entered into the abyss of recession due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, in the Asian region, the Singapore economy has gone into recession after two consecutive quarters of contraction. In Q1 2020, Singapore's economy declined by 3.3 percent quarter-on-quarter (QoQ). Then, in the second quarter of 2020, the Singapore economy contracted further by 41.2 percent (QoQ). Then, the Malaysian economy has also entered the brink of recession, where in the second quarter of 2020, the Malaysian economy has slumped to minus 16.5 percent (QoQ), after the previous quarter was minus 1.15 percent (QoQ).

In the European region, the German economy has contracted at its sharpest rate in the second quarter of 2020. The German economy has contracted by 10.1 percent (QoQ) from April to June. Then, there is Switzerland, which is also officially entering the brink of recession. Switzerland experienced minus 8.2 percent in Q2 2020. According to the records of the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), the decline was the sharpest decline since the quarterly records began in 1980. In fact, Superpowers like the United States, have also experienced the same thing. The United States economy has fallen into a recession in the second quarter of 2020, after recording a negative economic growth of 32.9 percent.

### **Indonesia on the Edge of a Recession**

So what about Indonesia? Entering June 2020, the government is planning a 'new normal' policy, which was later known as New Habitual Adaptation (AKB). This policy is a form of relaxation of the Large-Scale Social Restrictions (PSBB) policy. As is well known, the PSBB policy brings difficult externalities, especially for an economy that relies on physical meetings. Therefore, when the IMR was implemented, the community was given space to resume activities, including starting economic activities, but with stricter health protocols.

From the records of the google mobility report, it can be seen that community mobility has started towards the baseline. There is more mobility, such as going to supermarkets and pharmacies.



Then, community mobility has also begun to be high towards the workplace, even though it is still 20 percent below normal. From the data above, it can also be said that many offices have started to carry out their daily business activities. The implication is that people who were previously laid off and do not receive a salary will now get back their income as their offices begin to operate. The multiplier effect is that the level of public confidence will soon recover, and purchasing power will soon rise.

This public movement data is also in line with the Purchasing Manager Index: Manufacturing (PMI) data. PMI data for July 2020 have shown signs of reborn (46.9) after previously slumping (28.6) in March. This means that in June 2020, the manufacturing industry has started to show a reborn or improvement, even though it has not yet reached the expansion stage. We should be grateful. This means that the production process has started to run and that the community has gradually returned to work even though the capacity is still below normal.

Nevertheless, there is one interesting thing, if we pay attention in detail that reborns did occur from May to June 2020. However, in July 2020 the repair or reborn tends to stagnate. This has also been reflected in the Consumer Confidence Index (IKK) data, where in line with the relaxation of the PSBB. IKK did indeed improve to 86.9 in August. However, this improvement has been running slightly sloping with an increase between May and August, which was only 11.7 percent or 3.74 percent per month (Bank Indonesia, 2020). Then, the purchasing index for durable goods also increased insignificantly from 66 in June to 68.5 and 71.8 in July to August, respectively. From these explanations, it shows that the relaxation policy on social restrictions cannot be justified to encourage the economy to return to normal.

The conditions have been further aggravated by the implementation of the PSBB Volume II policy, which took effect since September 14, 2020. The implication is that the community's activities, which yesterday had progressed towards the baseline, must now be forced to stop again. It's not surprising, then, that hopes for the V-Shaped curve have faded. Thus, it is likely that Indonesia will face a U-Shaped curve or an L-Shaped curve. The government's projection of economic growth in the third quarter of 2020 has also been shifted from minus 2.1 percent to minus 2.9 percent. If so, then Indonesia is currently on the edge of a recession and ready to catch up with 18 other countries that have already entered a recession.

## How to Mitigate It?

So, what can be done to mitigate and emerge from recession? In normal situations, ideally we can encourage the economy from within and from outside. However, the situation is different now. The world economy is also in turmoil. This means that we cannot expect much from exports and imports (international trade). So, what we can do is to focus on domestic sources of growth.

In domestic sources of growth, especially in normal situations, we can boost it through investment. However, we need to be realistic and rational. The economic closure and sluggish demand have resulted in a pressure in the business world, which simultaneously makes investment stagnate. Why is that? Currently the fever / demand situation is experiencing a sluggishness. Therefore, investors will think why invest if the demand for goods and services is falling. Thus, the jargon of supply creates own demand cannot even apply.

So, what are the alternatives? First, in line with Blanchard (2014), in the short term, economic growth can only be driven by driving demand. The follow-up question is, how do you encourage demand? At this point, agree with what Basri (2020) said, that the economy would not recover automatically, unless the government stepped in to boost demand. The implication is that the government must take all steps for the safety of the community and restore the economy until a vaccine is found. Therefore, the breath of fiscal policy must be longer.

Efforts to expand the scope of social assistance recipients, whether in the form of Direct Cash Assistance (BLT), the Family Hope Program (PKH) or other social assistance posts, are indeed some of the options to encourage demand. However, will the demand immediately be created? Not necessarily. Why? Even though the government has poured billions of rupiah to encourage consumption through social assistance programs, currently the problem is the change in behavior of the community.

See, for example, the data from *The Economist* (2020) that there is an interesting phenomenon in Sweden that applies a relaxed scenario when there is a lockdown. Meanwhile, Denmark applies a strict scenario. However, both have something in common; namely, the people spend less money. This means that currently people's behavior has changed to become spend less money.

This is also the case in Indonesia, people are worried about the future economic situation, especially the sentiment and news of countries experiencing recession. The implication is that people withhold their consumption. This is in line with LPEM UI's (2020)

record, which shows that household consumption has slowed down to 2.84 percent (year on year / yoy), well below the 5.01 percent recorded in the same period last year (being the lowest growth since Q2 2001). Meanwhile, according to Bank Indonesia's Supply Money Analysis data, bank deposits in August 2020 were recorded at IDR 6,228.1 trillion, or an increase of 10.9 percent yoy. This growth was higher than the previous month at 7.7 percent yoy. In fact, as mentioned earlier, currently consumption is the ultimate weapon against recession.

### **Policy Recommendations**

Therefore, there are a number of recommendations that the government can take to boost demand and mitigate recession.

First, in the short term, the government must fix health problems. Health equipment and facilities must be the top priority. If this health problem cannot be mitigated, then economic recovery will be sluggish. Moreover, currently the sentiment of the spread of the COVID-19 virus is still one of the reasons people are reluctant to shop.

Second, from the demand side, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Social Affairs can work together to expand the coverage of recipients of social assistance, especially through BLT (with all its shortcomings) to middle income class aspiring people. The forms can also be various, such as giving shopping coupons that have a certain period of time. Thus, the community has no other choice but to exchange these coupons rather than save them. As a result, demand will move and economic growth will roll on.

This has also been implemented in several states in the United States, where people belonging to the aspiring middle income class are given a shopping voucher every month. Thus, they are given the freedom to buy the basic necessities they need.

Third, in the medium term, the Ministry of Finance must prepare industries to jump start, one of which is micro, small and medium enterprises (UMKM). Why is that? UMKM business units contribute 99 percent of the total business establishments in Indonesia. In terms of employment, MSMEs are able to provide 90 percent of employment for the population to work. At the macro level, the contribution of UMKM has also been proven. In 2018, the contribution of MSMEs to Indonesia's GDP reached more than 50 percent. Therefore, by providing a jump start stimulus to MSMEs, employment will also be created quickly.

**- M. Rifki Fadilah -**

*We are facing something very unique: this year's recession has been driven by supply and demand. It is not surprising then that the hopes for the V-Shaped curve have faded. Thus, it is likely that Indonesia will face a U-Shaped curve or an L-Shaped curve. So, what can be done to mitigate and emerge from recession?.*

## Questioning the Facts and Legality of the Simultaneous Regional Elections in December 2020

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Increasingly worrying is a phrase that is most appropriate to describe the current state of the development of the Coronavirus Disease-2019 (COVID-19) case in Indonesia. This is because the increase in cases, which what has happened today, only takes about 14 days to reach 50,000 people.

Interestingly, given this far more extreme situation and upward trend, the attitude of the Government and several other policy makers appears a priori to reality. In a virtual press conference held on Friday, September 11, for example, Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs (Menkopolhukam) Mahfud MD firmly stated that he had not seen this as one of the convincing reasons to postpone the Pilkada ([kompas.id](http://kompas.id), 11/09).

Meanwhile in the minutes of the Hearing Meeting (RDP) between Commission II of the House of Representatives (DPR), the Minister of Home Affairs (Mendagri), the General Election Commission (KPU), the Election Supervisory Board (Bawaslu), and the Honorary Council of Election Administrators (DKPP) On Monday, September 21 yesterday, it was also emphasized that the current pandemic condition was still under control.

### **The Word and Reality Anomaly**

This line of attitudes and statements is clearly an irony that has hit the sane reason of humanity. This is because the facts that happen on the ground actually show a different reality. As can be seen from the big number of prospective pairs of candidates (bapaslon) for regional heads who have tested positive for COVID-19.

The data compiled by the KPU during the three-day registration period for regional head candidates yesterday showed that as many as 63 registered chaplons for head and deputy regional heads had

tested positive for infection (news.detik.com, 10/09). Some are even reported to have died. For example, the bupati who were the incumbent in East Halmahera, the former Karo regent, the incumbent regent of Berau, the incumbent regent of Majene, the candidate for mayor of Bontang, and the incumbent regent of Central Bangka (republika.co.id, 5/10).

From what has been monitored so far, there are at least several members of the Indonesian KPU and KPUD who have reportedly tested positive for COVID-19, starting from the Chairperson of the Gresik KPUD, the Chairperson of the Riau KPUD, the Indonesian KPU commissioner Evi Novida, Pramono Ubaid, to the Chair of the Indonesian KPU Arief Budiman. It does not stop there, a similar situation has also hit ad-hoc election supervisors who are scattered in several regions. In Boyolali Regency alone; for example, it was recorded that 20 supervisors at the sub-district level and 76 supervisors at the sub-district / village level had been positively infected (Bawaslu, 2020).

### **Questioning Legality**

Thus, it is very irrational to state that today's conditions are still "under control" and not convincing enough. Moreover, if you have to force a celebration of a democratic party, in the midst of the safety of the soul of the sovereign giver who is getting cornered at a nadir.

Moreover, the determination of the voting schedule (*tungsur*) that was agreed upon to be held in December is also questionable. This is because the legality can be said to have been annulled, even though the Government Regulation in Lieu of Law (Perppu) Number 2 of 2020 concerning the Third Amendment to the Election Law has been passed in the month of "December 2020" as a follow-up schedule for the implementation of the *tungsur* which has been postponed.

This can be seen clearly if we use the historical-systematic interpretation of the provisions of the article and the explanation of Article 201A paragraph (1) and paragraph (3) of Perppu No. 2 of 2020 itself. For example, in the provisions and explanations of Article 201A paragraph (1), the implementation of the *tungsur*, which was previously determined to be held in September 2020, is deemed "unable to be implemented" on the grounds that "due to a non-natural disaster." The premise of a "non-natural disaster," in this case can be seen as an absolute condition stipulated by Perppu No. 2 of 2020 to state whether or not the implementation of the *tungsur* will be carried out.

The meaning of “non-natural disaster” here, of course, rests on Presidential Decree (Keppres) Number 12 of 2020, which administratively established the COVID-19 pandemic status as a non-natural national disaster since April 13, 2020. For this reason, the month of “December 2020”, which is stipulated in Article 201A paragraph (2), can be said to be the dependent variable whose validity will greatly depend on the range of validity or the enforceability of the stipulation.

Because the provisions and explanations of Article 201A paragraph (3) of Perppu No. 2 of 2020 indirectly affirm that this option can be postponed and rescheduled if the national disaster of the COVID-19 pandemic has not ended. The problem is that has the status of the non-natural disaster in the COVID-19 pandemic as stipulated in Presidential Decree No. 12 of 2020 been declared over or revoked? Certainly not. Its validity can be seen that it is still valid and has never been declared revoked.

Therefore, the legality of determining the simultaneous Pilkada in December, can normatively be declared as lost and null and void by law. In fact, it can be considered contrary to Perppu No. 2 of 2020, if the implementation continues.

**- Muhammad Aulia Y Guzasiah -**

*The legality of determining the simultaneous Pilkada in December can normatively be declared as void by law. In fact, it can be considered contrary to Perppu No. 2 of 2020 if the implementation continues.*

## The Role of Dewas and the Ethical Decision of the KPK Chair

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Towards the end of 2020, the “new face” of the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) still seems relevant and urgent to be discussed, especially if this concerns the behavior of the latest KPK chairman, Firli Bahuri, who is often controversial and bypasses ethical principles. Also, the role and performance of the KPK Supervisory Board (Dewas), which are increasingly unclear.

### **The Unclear Role and Performance of Supervision**

At least, it can be seen from how this structure has carried out its function since it was first formed at the end of 2019. Of course, the public has not forgotten the bribery cases involving a legislative candidate from the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDIP), Harun Masiku, and a Commissioner for the General Election Commission (KPU), Wahyu Setiawan. KPK’s search could not be conducted at the PDIP Central Executive Board (DPP) office, as KPK Dewas did not issue the approval.

This time around, the public must also be disappointed again when the KPK Dewas enforcement hearing only gave a light sanction in the form of a written warning to Firli on Thursday, September 24, 2020. Previously,, Firli was reported to Dewas because he had used a helicopter that cost Rp. 20 million per hour to travel to Baturaja, South Sumatra, in June 2020. This action should have been judged as a serious violation. It should have been given a minimum recommendation to resign.

There are arguments stating that Firli rented these luxurious facilities with private funds ([national.kompas.com](http://national.kompas.com), 25/08). Even so, this still cannot be justified if it is based on Supervisory Board Regulation No.2 of 2020 concerning the KPK Code of Ethics, which prohibits its members from showing a hedonistic lifestyle. Moreover, the KPK itself is a state institution that often voices the values of integrity,

including promoting a proper lifestyle in carrying out its functions.

Also, this action should have been investigated further and seen as not just an ethical issue, especially, if there is allegation stating that the luxury facilities have been provided by certain parties (ICW, 2020). For this reason, the KPK Dewas should have coordinated with the Deputy for Enforcement before rushing to impose sanctions. Because if proven, Firli could have been subjected to the clause of gratification, which is punishable by a maximum of life imprisonment in the Corruption Eradication Law.

### **Notes on the Repetition of Violations**

Violations committed by Firli were certainly not new. While still serving as KPK's Deputy for Enforcement, Firli was known to have met with parties investigated by KPK; namely, West Nusa Tenggara (NTB) Governor Zainul Majdi or Tuan Guru Bajang (TGB). At that time, the KPK was investigating alleged corruption in PT Newmont's share ownership, which involved the NTB Provincial Government (national.tempo.co, 11/09/2019).

In addition, hundreds of KPK employees also sent petitions to the KPK leadership due to internal problems in the Deputy for Enforcement, which was then led by Firli Bahuri. The petition was based, among others, on several points; namely, first, case handling obstacles; second, case leakage; third, special treatments for certain witnesses; fourth, difficulties in overseas searches and prevention; fifth, the omission of allegations of serious violations (ICW, 2020).

Furthermore, Firli was also suspected of neglecting to protect KPK employees who were conducting a search for the suspect Harun Masiku. At that time, the KPK had conducted a search for Harun Masiku at the Police Science College, but there were allegations of attempts to lock up KPK employees. Instead of being able to explain to the public and provide protection, Firli, who at that time had been elected as the new KPK Chair, was silent, allowing the action to occur (national.tempo.co, 30/01).

Also, Firli had also forcibly returned an investigator who was actively involved in the team that handled the bribery case of Must Masiku and Wahyu Setiawan; namely, Rossa Purbo Bektı. In fact, the person concerned had not yet entered the deadline for working at the KPK and had never violated the code of ethics or involved in a legal case at the anti-rasuah institution (Majalah.tempo.co, 8/02)



### Some Recommendations

In the past, many parties thought that the composition of Dewas filled by people with integrity could at least complement the function of the KPK in carrying out the agenda of eradicating corruption. However, this is actually proven to be wrong with the imposition of light sanctions for ethics violators that are always repeated. The presence of five Dewas members has no doubt failed to uphold ethics and maintain the spirit of the KPK.

Thus, this incident will certainly not only erode public confidence in the existence of the KPK and the KPK Dewas itself. However, it will also set a bad precedence for the enforcement of corruption in the future, mainly for employees and for other KPK leaders in facing similar cases and experiences in the future.

For that, at least some recommendations need to be encouraged. First, there should be improvements to the indicators and monitoring mechanisms of Dewas. Second, there should be the evaluation of the KPK leadership. Third, there should be strict ethical enforcement without discrimination. Without this, the presence of the Dewas structure within the KPK should be dissolved.

- **Muhammad Aulia Y Guzasiah** -

*At least, some recommendations need to be encouraged. First, there should be improvements to the indicators and monitoring mechanisms of Dewas. Second, there should be the evaluation of the KPK leadership. Third, there should be strict ethical enforcement without discrimination. Without this, the presence of the Dewas structure within the KPK institution should be dissolved.*

## **A Look at the Initial Campaign Fund Report (LADK) for Regional Head Candidates in the 2020 Pilkada**

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Campaign funds are an important part of regional head candidates in the context of participating in political contestation. Magnus Ohman (2016), states that campaign funds are very important for political parties and candidates who are contesting the general elections. Campaign funds are used to spread ideas and communicate with their constituents. Therefore, campaign funds are very important to be regulated so that they can provide equal playing field for candidates who are competing in political contestation, including the Simultaneous Regional Head Elections (Pilkada) in 2020.

On September 25, regional head candidates who will contest the 2020 Pilkada began reporting the Initial Campaign Fund Report (LADK) (kompas.com, 30/9). This is an obligation that must be fulfilled by candidates as stipulated in the General Election Commission Regulation (PKPU) Number 13 of 2020 concerning the Implementation of the Election for Governors and Deputy Governors, Regents and Deputy Regents, and / or Mayors and Deputy Mayors Simultaneously Continuously. In Non-Natural Disaster Conditions Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

In the PKPU, it is explained that LADK is a bookkeeping on a special Campaign Fund account, the source of obtaining the initial balance or opening balance, the details of the calculation of revenue, the expenditure obtained before opening a special Campaign Fund account, and receipt of donations originating from Candidate Pairs and / or Parties. In addition, in Article 65A paragraph (1) letter b, it is stated that the pairs of candidates who have been approved by KPU are obliged to submit LADK no later than 3 (three) days after being approved as Candidate Pairs by the Provincial KPU or Regency / Municipal KPU.

### **The Monitoring of LADK Pilkada 2020 and the Importance of Transparency**

According to the monitoring on the website <https://infopemilu2.kpu.go.id/> as of October 16, 2020, out of 735 candidate pairs who reported, 30 pairs reported 0 rupiah. Furthermore, 304 candidate pairs reported Rp. 50,000 - Rp. 1,000,000, and 104 candidate reported Rp. 1,000,000 - Rp. 5,000,000. The total number of candidate pairs who reported Rp. 0 to Rp. 5,000,000 is 438 candidate pairs. Meanwhile, the remaining 297 pairs of candidates reported Rp.5,000,000 or above.

Observing the report, it is clear that the amount of funds reported by the pairs of candidates is very clear. This raises two possibilities; namely first, the weak understanding of the candidate pairs and the campaign teams in the initial reporting of this campaign fund. This can occur due to the limited information dissemination for candidate pairs and their campaign teams in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic in reporting their campaign funds.

Second, candidate pairs are not transparent in reporting their initial campaign funds. In fact, campaign finance reporting is a very important step. This is done as part of the implementation of transparency to the public.

The transparency of campaign finance is very important because it allows voters to make better decisions about the party or candidate they will support (Karl-Heinz Nassmacher, 2003). In addition, the transparency of the initial campaign fund reports is very important because it is to prevent the occurrence of misuse and irregularities, especially in the funding sources used by candidate pairs and supporting parties.

Furthermore, the initial campaign finance report should also fulfill the principle of accountability. The principle of accountability is intended to ensure that candidate pairs and supporting parties obtain and spend campaign funds are rational, ethical, and not violating regulations (Supriyanto & Wulandari, 2013).

### **Conclusion**

By looking at this LADK report, it is hoped that it will become a starting point for the public to assess which candidates are committed to implementing the principle of transparency in the context of good governance if elected later.

On the other hand, for Election organizers, both the General Election Commission (KPU) and the Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu), this LADK is the preliminary findings to keep trying to consistently apply fair campaign finance rules for all candidates. Therefore, the rules regarding campaign finance reporting must be implemented consistently. In addition, the role of civil society is needed to oversee the reporting of campaign funds for regional head candidates in a transparent and accountable manner.

- **Arfianto Purbolaksono** -

*The Initial Campaign Fund Report (LADK) is very important, as this report is expected to be a starting point for the public to assess which candidates are committed to implementing the principle of transparency in the context of good governance if elected.*

## Strengthening the Regional Organizers of Pilkada 2020

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The implementation of the 2020 Regional Head General Election (Pilkada) in the midst of a pandemic does not only present challenges in the matter of formulating regulations that are running against time. However, implementing the provisions that have been formulated is also crucial. It is at this point that election organizers at the provincial, district, and municipality levels play their role.

Meanwhile, records from the General Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu) have shown that 96 ad hoc supervisors in Boyolali District have tested positive for coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) (kompas.com, 3/10). This does not mean that election organizers at the central level are ignorant, because the health protocol in the General Election Commission Regulation (PKPU) Number 6 of 2020, which was last amended through PKPU Number 13 of 2020, is also binding to be applied by regional election organizers.

With this potential, strengthening regional election organizers is important to be continued and be strengthened. This is not only to maintain their own safety while on duty but also to maintain the safety of voters, participants, and other parties involved in the 2020 Pilkada activities.

Currently, the most actual problem of implementing the policy is at the campaign stage. There are activities closely related to mass gathering. Therefore, the implementation of campaign rules for candidate pairs (paslon) by regional election organizers must be enforced.

### **One of the Many Challenges**

The threat of the COVID-19 is certainly a major concern for election organizers. In fact, the presence of a health protocol in the 2020 Pilkada is still not sufficient. Because, these provisions must be disseminated intensively to all regional election organizers. This was also realized by the Daily Executive (Plh) Chair of the KPU,

Ilham Saputra, who stated that he would continue to disseminate health protocol in PKPU Number 13 of 2020 (kompas.com, 2/10).

Apart from the challenges of information dissemination, the quality issue of the 2020 Pilkada has also been widely discussed. One of them is manifested in the form of potential violation of provisions by paslon. This can be found in the article entitled “A Look at the Provisions for the 2020 Pilkada Campaign” in another part of this Indonesian Update edition.

From this fact, the implementation of the PKPU has become important to be fulfilled by regional election organizers, both related to information dissemination activities to imposing sanctions on participants who violate rules, including health protocols.

Regional election organizers become actors who play a big role. This is because they are the ones who will face the participants, the campaign team, and the supporting masses, and implement PKPU’s mandate in the event of a violation.

The case is even more complicated, considering that the 270 regions holding the 2020 Pilkada have social and cultural diversity. Meanwhile, the available rules are centralized and have limitations in contextualizing themselves with local phenomena. Regional election organizers then challenged to be able to find the right way to implement the provisions in these conditions.

For example, the provisions for digital campaigning in PKPU Number 11 of 2020 and PKPU Number 13 of 2020 will be faced with the conditions of many regions that do not have adequate internet infrastructure. In fact, PKPU Number 13 of 2020 has stated that Other Activities in the campaign must be carried out online; for example, through social media.

In the end, the unequal availability of internet infrastructure must be anticipated. This is important so that the rights of the 2020 Pilkada participants to continue spread their vision, mission, and ideas are accommodated fairly. On the other hand, the absence of a substitute activity that is equal to Other Activities of online campaign also needs to be monitored, so that participants do not return to campaign methods that relying on the crowd.

In this position, independence becomes an absolute matter for regional election organizers. This means that the implementation of

the rules cannot be done in a segmented manner. All parties who are required to follow the rules of the game provided in the provisions on campaigning must be subject to sanctions if committing violations.

However, the potential of a bad implementation of campaign provision is still present. The author's findings in the year-end Indonesia Report 2019, entitled "Vote Buying in the 2019 Pileg: Case Study in Central Java and East Java", show that there are elements of regional election organizers who have relations with local powers. This causes cheating by participants to be tolerated, even negotiated. The facts have finally succeeded in illustrating how dynamic the efforts that must be carry out by election administrators in regional level.

### **Note: The Important Role of the Central Election Organizers**

The problems above require a response from the election organizers at the central level. Through continuous and solid information dissemination or coordination, regional election organizers are undoubtedly able to carry out their functions, whether it is in terms of ethics, professionalism, and independence. This also applies to implementing the provisions of PKPU Number 11 of 2020 or PKPU Number 13 of 2020 relating to campaigns during the pandemic. This spirit was agreed and amplified by the Head of Bawaslu Abhan when he was present at the National Police Headquarters webinar, October 1.

More specifically, when referring to the provisions of PKPU Number 13 of 2020, a number of articles in Chapter XIA concerning Prohibitions and Sanctions must be the parts that are most emphasized by KPU to regional election organizers. This is because a number of articles in the regulation state that apart from coordinating with the police (Article 88A), Bawaslu is also mandated to participate in dissolving campaign activities that violate the provisions (Article 88C paragraph (2) letter b). Meanwhile, the KPU has the authority to prohibit the implementation of campaign activities in three days to paslon who violate the provisions (Article 88D letter c).

With regard to certain groups of voters who participate in campaign activities, Bawaslu also has the authority to prohibit them. Article 88E paragraph (3) letter b PKPU Number 13 of 2020, clearly states that the inclusion of toddlers, children, pregnant/breast-

feeding mothers and the elderly in face-to-face campaign activities will be sanctioned in the form of a restriction.

Not to mention, Article 88F PKPU Number 13 of 2020 clearly states that political parties (parpol)/coalition of parpol, paslon, candidate liaison, campaign teams, and other parties are required to follow up on sanctions imposed by regional election organizers. The two election organizers mentioned are KPU/Independent Election Commission (KIP) at the provincial/regency/municipality level (letter a) and Bawaslu at the provincial/regency/ municipality level (letter b).

The role of regional election organizers at the 2020 Pilkada campaign stage is so vital. It should be equipped with skills in implementing the rules in elections. In addition, individuals who are part of regional election organizers must be able to position themselves, understanding that the work done by them is aimed at serving the constitutional rights of all citizens.

Simply put, election organizers must be able to comply with the code of ethics that binds their work. In accordance with the Regulation of the General Election Organizer Honor Council (PDKPP) Number 2 of 2017. Article 8 to Article 20 of PDKPP Number 2 of 2017 has explained in detail what the election organizers should and should not do. This provision is also binding on all election organizers, starting from members of the central KPU, members of the provincial/district/municipality KPU/KIP, the District Election Committee (PPK), the Voting Committee (PPS), the Voting Organizing Group (KPPS), the Overseas Election Committee (PPLN), Overseas Voting Organizing Group (KPPSLN), central Bawaslu, provincial/regency/municipality Bawaslu, sub-district/village Election Supervisory Committee (Panwaslu), Overseas Panwaslu, and Polling Station Supervisor (TPS).

**- Rifqi Rachman -**

*Through continuous and solid information dissemination or coordination, regional election organizers will undoubtedly be able to properly maintain their ethics, professionalism, and independence.*



## A Look at the Provisions for the 2020 Pilkada Campaign

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In the first two days of implementing the 2020 Regional Head Election (Pilkada) campaign, which were September 26 and 27, the General Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu) found 18 campaign activities that violated health protocols. These violations were related to the numbers of campaign participants, the use of masks, the obligation to maintain a safe distance, and the availability of places to wash hands in the campaign areas (kompas.id, 29/9).

This record got even worse with the inclusion of the findings of Bawaslu on September 28 to 30, 2020. There were violations of health protocols in 35 districts/municipalities that held the 2020 Pilkada campaign. These areas included Depok, Trenggalek, Mojokerto, Ketapang, Bontang, Supiori, Bulukumba, Pasangkayu, Makassar, and South Solok (kompas.com, 1/10).

Pilkada campaign regulations have a vital position in ensuring the continuation of safe activities. The General Election Commission (KPU) has also enacted KPU Regulation (PKPU) Number 11 of 2020 as an improvement to PKPU Number 4 of 2017 concerning the Pilkada Campaign. PKPU on Pilkada campaign is expected to be able to complement PKPU regarding the implementation of Pilkada during the 2019 coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, which was last modified through PKPU Number 13 of 2020.

To achieve the ideal implementation, strictly enforcing the rules is inevitable. The goal is that all campaigning provisions, including prohibitions and sanctions, can be implemented optimally during the 71 days of the 2020 Pilkada campaign.

However, some notes from this paper show that PKPU Number 11 of 2020 does not present the necessary vigilance in carrying out campaigns during the COVID-19 pandemic. This is unfortu-

nate, considering the discourse of shifting the campaign towards online method has been echoed since the early days of this pandemic, including by the election organizers.

### **The Divergence of Campaigning in the Time of Pandemic**

Initially, the revision of PKPU Number 4 of 2017 is expected to be able to bring about a shift in campaigning methods. This is to address the concern about mass concentration. KPU has opened a dialogue opportunity several times, one of which is with platform companies on the internet, such as Facebook, to get advice on formulating digital campaigns in Pilkada.

These are manifested in changes of the definition in PKPU Number 11 of 2020. Social media, which was originally defined as a collection of communication channels on the internet, has been transformed into a two-way internet-based platform to provide users with space to interact, participate, discuss, collaborate, share, and create community-based content (Article 1 paragraph 28).

KPU has also added online media as an entity other than social media. Online media itself is defined as any platform on the internet that has links, actual multimedia content, or facilitation of virtual meetings using information technology (Article 1 paragraph 28a).

From these two points, it can be projected that the weight of the digital campaign has expanded quite massively in PKPU Number 11 of 2020. However, this is not found if we read the PKPU until its last page. Several provisions actually intensify one way of physical campaigning and also create opportunities for indiscipline in its application.

Regulations regarding campaign props (APK) are an example of provisions that are counterproductive to campaigning digitization efforts. In Article 28 paragraph (3) letter b PKPU Number 11 of 2020, the number of APKs that can be printed independently by candidate pairs (paslon) has increased to 200 percent of the number facilitated by the KPU. In PKPU Number 4 of 2017, this figure only reached 150 percent. This will increase the APK installation process, which means that it also increases the physical interaction of the parties involved in the APK installation process.

Also, during the Public Hearing of PKPU Number 6 of 2020, numerous political parties (parpol) requested that the number of APK should be increased. This means that campaigning tools, such as billboards and banners, are still considered as an effective instrument in gathering votes. Therefore, their uses will certainly be maximized by paslon, campaign teams, and supporting political parties.

This condition is increasingly risky when the revision of Article 28 paragraph (6) PKPU Number 11 of 2020 changes the independent printing mechanism of the paslon. Previously, it required a related regional KPU permit, now it only needs reporting. This condition becomes prone to cheating.

On the other hand, fraud that arises in installing APKs will also make the organizers work harder. Because, Article 31 PKPU Number 13 of 2020 mandates regional administrators to discipline and clean APKs that are not installed in accordance with the provisions and agreements.

Another thing that is also counterproductive to a transformative campaign is the elimination of the disqualification for candidates who violate the campaigning provisions. In fact, the implementation of Pilkada during a health crisis requires more solid assertiveness. Also, the record at the registration stage for paslon in early September showed the magnitude of potential violations of the rules from the 2020 Pilkada participants. Article 81, which previously regulated reporting mechanisms from voters, observers, and participants on campaign violations, has been removed from the latest provisions regarding the Pilkada campaign.

This precarious nuance has actually been realized by Bawaslu as one of the organizers. On one occasion, Bawaslu member Rahmat Bagja, had suggested to the KPU to make regulations that strengthen the use of campaign advertisements on television and radio. According to him, this is a solution to two problems. First, to reduce the number of campaign violations in the open campaign method. Second, to answer the problem of uneven internet access in all regions holding the 2020 Pilkada ([bawaslu.go.id](http://bawaslu.go.id), 1/20).

However, PKPU Number 11 of 2020 has failed to show any significant changes related to new campaigning methods. This regulation seems to only accommodate changes in institutional

matters, where the election supervisory committee (Panwaslu) at the district/municipality level is changed to Bawaslu. This does not mean that it is not important. It is just unfortunate that PKPU did not succeed in achieving the substantive changes related to the campaign that many parties hoped for.

### **Other Notes**

This paper certainly realizes the insignificant and non-progressive causes of the latest PKPU about Pilkada campaign. This is due to none other than the Law that regulates Pilkada. The law still states that physical campaigning methods, such as installing APKs, are legal. However, a number of modifications were successfully carried out by the KPU. One of them is by limiting the maximum number of people who gather in activities such as limited meetings and face-to-face dialogue.

Finally, the desire for providing transformative campaigning methods hangs over. This is because the discourse does not receive full support, reflecting on the provisions contained in PKPU Number 11 of 2020. Meanwhile, the online campaign method is the most rational solution. This choice had to be made in the 2020 Pilkada.

To be able to present a more sensible provision under current conditions, the availability of time is a luxury that should be obtained by the KPU. The decree containing the postponement of the 2020 Pilkada is a realistic tool, and the KPU should issue it. KPU should create a good Pilkada implementation procedure. It is because KPU should consider security and safety factors in the midst of a pandemic.

**- Rifqi Rachman -**

*PKPU Number 11 of 2020 concerning Campaign has left a number of problems that are contrary to the need of campaign with minimal physical interaction during a pandemic.*

## Get to Know Big Data and Its Challenges in Indonesia

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Big data is a familiar term at the business sector. Big data is one of the technological adaptations to make it easier to analyze consumer needs. In practice, the use of big data systems has also increasingly penetrated the government sector in many countries with advanced or developing technological ecosystems, including Indonesia.

During the pandemic, the talk about big data is also getting stronger so that the practice of using it becomes an urgency. A number of countries that have adopted and adapted big data, such as Taiwan, Singapore and South Korea, have become the best countries in preventing and dealing with the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. So, what about big data practices in Indonesia?

A number of business and government sectors in Indonesia have been practicing big data. In the government sector, the use of big data is considered in line with the government's commitment to implementing evidence-based policies that prioritize the principle of transparency. However, a number of challenges have been encountered, apart from the fundamental efforts in preparing the technology and human resources (HR) ecosystem. A number of strategies need to be formulated so that the use of big data, especially in the sphere of government, is more evenly distributed and has a significant impact on the implementation of government programs.

### **What is Big Data?**

According to Laney (2012), big data literally means big datam. According to Chew (2013), big data is a process of collecting and processing data to find patterns and correlations in supporting business

decision making. Along with its development, big data includes five main characteristics (5V); namely, volume, velocity, value, veracity, and variety (Gartner, 2009). It is a quite complicated term, isn't it?

Volume means that the data has a large size or it is possible to enlarge it very quickly so that it requires a very large disk space as well. Velocity means the ability to process data very quickly into information. Value means that big data has a very high value if it is processed in an appropriate way.

Veracity means that the correctness of the data itself or the information processed from the data needs to be validated so that it can be useful and accurate information. Thus, the data sources used need to be reviewed. Variety means data has very diverse formats, including various types of data, both structured data in a database and data that is not organized in a database.

With sentences that are easier to understand, Chen and Zhang (2014) define big data as an integrated system that connects the real world, humans, and the virtual world. The real world is related to social realities or facts that occur in society, which are then documented in the virtual world through the Internet of Things (IoT) or connected internet devices. Meanwhile, humans produce big data through the use of technology, such as computers, artificial intelligence (AI), and the internet.

Rowles and Brown (2017) say that integration is a complex technology project, considering that there are third parties and integrated systems. In other words, to perform big data management requires a very diverse technical ability, as big data involves work processes, including data collection, data storage, data transformation, and data analysis. From the work process, the competencies needed are related to the ability to do data modeling, scripting, programming, data mining, and others.

### **The Challenges of Big Data Practices in Indonesia**

A number of online shopping platforms, banking, online transportation, and other business sectors have practiced big data to support their business development in Indonesia. In practice, this system carries a huge risk. For example, user or consumer data leakage and potential data breaches experienced by a number of online shopping platforms or a number of other business sectors.

In addition, allegations of data leakage have also occurred in the

government sector; namely, the General Election Commission (KPU). KPU is one of the state institutions that have practiced the big data system since 2014. However, on May 21, it was discovered that the data on 2.3 million Indonesian citizens and voters were suspected to have leaked on a dark web called RapidForums. This was revealed by one of the Twitter account users who had discussed the sale of user data on one of the shopping platforms (CNN Indonesia, 2020). The data seller claims to have received data in the form of Portable Document Format (PDF) officially from the KPU.

The National Cyber and Crypto Agency / BSSN (2020) said, in general there are four ways how data leaks can occur, namely, (1) theft or loss of data storage devices; (2) illegal access to systems or information; (3) insider involvement, and (4) negligence in the application of information security protocols.

According to Dody Hidayat (2020), rampant data breaches show that cybersecurity is not included in the government's priority scale. This has made Indonesia an easy target for cyber attacks. Furthermore, internet users in Indonesia still lack cybersecurity education. In short, ensuring data security needs to be a priority for the government in the practice of big data adoption and adaptation.

However, the threat of data breaches is also very worrying. Legal protection related to personal data protection or the Personal Data Protection Bill (RUU) is also still in the planning stage, so these incidents are difficult to prevent. Under these conditions, is it possible that the practice of big data in Indonesia can be developed to achieve greater benefits?

### **Strategic Steps for Big Data Practices in the Government Sector**

Basically, the concept of data integration brought by big data creates complexity. Moreover, the development of this technology application still collides with a number of fundamental problems in preparing resources in the form of a technology and HR ecosystem. The strategy is divided into the following two things; namely, technical preparations and implementations.

First, preparations, which consist of making written rules and information dissemination. Legal umbrella and policies related to big data are very important. Indonesia has already had Law (UU) No. 14 of

2008 concerning Freedom of Information (KIP). With the existence of UU KIP and its derivatives, a lot of public data are available and can be used as a big data base. However, considering the main challenge of big data is the protection of personal data, as mentioned earlier, the discussion of the Personal Data Protection Bill needs to be accelerated.

In addition, information dissemination is very important to build understanding within the scope of government about the urgency of big data practice. A number of state institutions that have practiced it also need to continue to review their road maps so that in the midst of a pandemic, this system can adapt to support government programs. Given the ongoing pandemic, it is also hoped that the government can prioritize improving and expanding the practice of big data in the health sector.

Second, technical implementations. The government needs to carefully prepare big data practices, which are fairly complex. The mapping of strategic actors across government sectors also needs to be done to share roles. For example, the Ministry of Communication and Information (Kominfo) plays a role in preparing the technology ecosystem, including equal distribution of internet coverage in Indonesia along with the development of cybersecurity education and systems. Meanwhile, the National Civil Service Agency (BKN) plays a role in preparing various competent human resources.

In addition, the Ministry of Research and Technology / National Innovation Research Agency (Kemenristek/BRIN) has a role to lead various collaborations, given that big data requires and enables collaboration with many sectors, both between state institutions and the private sector and between countries. Finally, the role of BSSN in pursuing a better cybersecurity strategy in Indonesia.

Through the two main strategies above, it is hoped that a more equitable, more beneficial, and safer practice of developing the adoption and adaptation of big data can be implemented in Indonesia.

**- Vunny Wijaya -**

*The use of “big data” has increasingly penetrated the government sector. However, a number of challenges have been encountered in their use. A number of strategic steps need to be taken to support a more equitable, more beneficial and safer “big data” practices in Indonesia.*



## Mental Health Day in the Midst of a Pandemic

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How does it feel to be celebrating World Mental Health Day in the midst of a pandemic? Every one of us, once or twice, must have worried about what is happening and what will happen in the future. When our daily lives undergo changes due to the outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), many people are struggling to adapt to the dynamics that occur.

Last October 10 could be a reflective moment about the current situation. In the past few months, each of us could not help but face a number of challenges that were quite difficult: workers who felt insecure about making a living, health workers who were under pressure when risking their lives for patients, students and teachers who had to be patient to adapt to online learning, as well as women or mothers who have to spend more time doing care work at home.

Not finished there, the consequences are not light to be faced from this pandemic. The socio-economic impacts haunt our days non-stop. Many people complain of decreased income or loss of jobs. Many also have to be caught in the trap of crime, as well as gender-based violence and violence against children, as they may find it difficult to control the situation. Not a few of us experience anxiety, depression and even trauma, because maybe we are feeling a lot about how to survive the existing conditions.

Seeing this complicated situation, mental health services are an urgent need. Even so, there are challenges faced when service delivery is carried out in the midst of existing social restriction policies. Apart from the limited face-to-face services, equitable access to mental health services in the midst of a crisis is a critical note. This will be discussed further in the following article.

### **Are Our Mental Health Services Crisis?**

It cannot be denied that health services in any form will be disrupted when a pandemic occurs. Mental health services are not an exception. A statement from the World Health Organization ahead of the commemoration of the World Mental Health Day on October 6, 2020, stated that 93 percent of countries in the world experienced mental health service disruption when the service was urgently needed.

It should be noted that the aforementioned service disruption also occurs in important aspects. For example, 60 percent of countries worldwide report that they have difficulty providing services to vulnerable groups, including children. As many as 70 percent of them also find it difficult to provide mental health services to the elderly, and 61 percent of survey countries have difficulty providing services to women who need antenatal and postpartum checkup services.

To answer this problem, many countries then implemented telemedicine and teletherapy services to answer the barriers to direct interaction services. As many as 70 percent of countries in the world implement these interventions. However, it cannot be ignored that there are significant gaps that occur. By comparison, more than 80 percent of high-income countries have been able to adopt telemedicine and teletherapy in their mental health care systems. Meanwhile, in low-income countries, the adoption of these services does not reach 50 percent who are able to apply.

The survey, which was conducted in 130 countries, also presented a portrait of mental health service responses in the formulation of handling COVID-19. Only 89 percent of these countries have included mental health services in national virus response planning, and only 17 percent of these countries have the full additional budget to finance psychosocial service delivery activities.

If reflected, the biggest challenge in this regard is adequate investment related to mental health. Looking back for a moment, the budget challenge was a chronic problem that was very difficult to solve. It has been years even before the pandemic occurred, the national budget for the provision of mental health services in various countries did not exceed 2 percent of the national health budget (World Health Organization, 2020).

Talking about in Indonesia, the figure is much smaller. The Indonesian government allocates at least 1 percent of the total national health budget for mental health. It should also be noted that the total expenditure in the national health sector is approximately 3 percent of the total gross domestic product (GDP) (Pols, 2020). The realization is that a lot of people are still struggling with 48 mental hospitals and 269 mental health service units in public hospitals. In fact, if you look at the disparity, there are still 8 provinces in Indonesia that still do not have mental hospitals, and only 33 percent of public hospitals and 21.47 percent of Community Health Centers (Puskesmas) provide mental health services (Ministry of Health, 2014).

The low capacity above becomes unbearable when the pandemic hits. Basically, we must admit that poor mental health conditions accounted for 13 percent of the total global disease burden long before the pandemic occurred (World Health Organization, 2011). Meanwhile, if we take a peek at the history of previous health disasters, mental health becomes a contextual issue. For example, as many as 33-42 percent of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) patients experience depression or anxiety disorders. Likewise, in the Ebola epidemic, many patients showed symptoms of anxiety and depression due to the loss of family members and relatives, as well as the stigma and social exclusion that must befall survivors of the outbreak (The Lancet Infectious Diseases, 2020).

Likewise, in the context of mental health issues in Indonesia, in the past six months, we have had a very difficult time. No problem having to admit that. It cannot be ignored that this situation makes it difficult for many people to adapt, even many who need mental health services. In Indonesia, records from the Indonesian Clinical Psychology Association (IPKI), from March to August 2020, there have been 14,619 people who received treatments from members of the association. Issues that are addressed include difficulty learning, anxiety, stress, mood disorders, and depression.

Other data that strengthen are the survey conducted by the Association of Indonesian Mental Health Specialists (PDSKI). From April to August 2020, it was recorded that around 57.6 percent of the participants were identified as having symptoms of depression. Then, 58.9 percent of the participants in the self-examination study had thoughts of suicide or self-injury, which in fact 15.4 percent of them experienced the daily frequency. The complexity of the situ-

ation above challenges the delivery of mental health services that have been done.

In the context of a pandemic, mental health services must consider various contexts of target services. Both the general population, groups of people with severe mental disorders, people with psychiatric problems (ODMK) as well as frontline health workers need effective and efficient individualized services. Here, expanding access to mental health checks and optimizing services for old patients and the general public who have just experienced mental health problems during the pandemic must be encouraged (Moreno et al, 2020).

In Indonesia, service delivery in the midst of a pandemic can at least be seen through the National Service System for Mental Health During the COVID-19 Pandemic or SEJIWA services. This service development is realized in the forms of public education, initial consultation using telemedicine and call centers, and providing assistance. However, until now, there needs to be an evaluation and improvement of the realization of the initiative that hooked the Indonesian Psychological Association (HIMPSI), the Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection (Kemenpppa), the Ministry of Communication and Informatics (Kemkominfo), the National Disaster Management Agency (BNBP), the Ministry Health (Kemenkes), PT Telkom, and PT Infomedia Nusantara. This is because the need for mental health services is not only called for in times of crisis, but must be sustainable.

### **Encouraging Service Optimization in the Midst of a Pandemic**

Two important talks that can be highlighted in this paper are regarding the mental health budget and the realization of mental health service delivery during a pandemic. Regarding the mental health budget, inevitably we have to talk about sectors that are directly related to the provision of mental health services. Both the Central Government, Local Government, donor agencies and private institutions can collaborate to encourage the availability of funding for mental health services, both in prevention and assistance.

Substantially, the human rights approach can be used in prioritizing mental health budgets. This approach is then realized in the form of collaborative harmonization of resources for mental health from the various institutions involved. Structural barriers may be a major challenge, but the space for simplifying resource collaboration

mechanisms must be opened widely. Here too, it will be very important to carry out an agenda for mapping stakeholder actors that can become the foundation of resources and service delivery for the national mental health system. Of course, the Central Government through the Ministry of Health and other related actors has a big homework to do on this narrative.

In practical terms, service optimization through telemedicine and community-based services must be carried out. Initiatives carried out by the Central Government through SEJIWA and Sehat Pedia services can be an option. On the other hand, there needs to be continuous outreach on various telemedicine platforms for mental health services, such as through Halodoc and Alodokter. In addition, the platform must also be optimized with the integration of health social insurance financing accommodation that has been guaranteed by the Health Social Security Agency (BPJS) for mental health services.

Apart from telemedicine, community-based services are needed to reach wider community groups with the aim of providing prevention and touching community groups who are not facilitated by access to electronic services. The roles of primary health facilities at the community health centers, safe houses, peer-support groups, and communities engaged in mental health, can be at the forefront of society. Not only to be closer to the target information target to be targeted, but also to become a bridge connecting various mental health services for the community. The above initiatives will be one of the important efforts to improve mental health services during a pandemic and the foundation for improving the mental health service system in the future.

**- Nopitri Wahyuni -**

*Mental Health Day in the midst of a pandemic is an important reflection related to the portrait of meeting the needs of mental health services in Indonesia.*

## Improving the Efforts to Break the Chain of COVID-19

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Various efforts have been made by the Central Government to break the chain of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). However, entering the 8<sup>th</sup> month of prevention and handling of COVID-19, the number of additional COVID-19 patients continues to rise, showing a significant increase every day nationally. Efforts to supply vaccines also require a long time. So, what needs to be improved and pursued so that the breaking of the COVID-19 chain becomes more effective?

### **The Struggle to End the First Wave of COVID-19: Learning from Singapore and South Korea**

Indonesia is still struggling in the first wave of prevention and handling of COVID-19, while a number of countries have entered the second wave. This has been confirmed by a lung specialist doctor from the Persahabatan General Hospital (RSU Persahabatan), Budhi Antariksa, who said that Indonesia was still trapped in the first wave of cases. According to Budhi, according to theory, to enter the second wave, the number of COVID-19 cases must first drop to zero (health.detik.com, 10/07).

In fact, a number of countries that have entered the second wave have indeed shown a decline of up to zero cases, including Singapore and South Korea. Basically, these two countries have already integrated data centers supported by the use of technology applications through big data, as well as rapid response and coordination in handling the needs of health facilities. Protecting medical personnel is also their top priority. In addition, community discipline in implementing health protocols is another supporting factor.

Even though it has entered the second wave, South Korea, with its Social Distancing policy, which is divided into several levels, continues to move quickly to increase the capacity of large-scale testing

and contact tracing to detect the spread of COVID-19 (kompas.com, 22/09). Early detection along with ensuring the availability of medical devices through cooperation with the private sector is also being carried out. In addition, South Korea has also made sure that all those who have tested positive are properly isolated and that quarantine facilities are equipped with adequate equipment to prevent the spread of the virus (news24.com, 10/10).

Effective communication is also carried out by the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (KCDC) by providing information quickly and openly to the population (katadata.co.id, 03/04). Information and data transparency are ensured to prevent public panic and to build public trust. Not to mention the existence of criminal sanctions and fines. A fine of 3 million won (Rp. 40 million) is intended for people who refuse the test and one year in prison or a fine of 10 million won (Rp. 134 million) is for people who refuse quarantine / hospitalization.

Turning to Singapore, Yoes Kenawas, a Political Researcher who graduated from Northwestern University, United States who lives in Singapore said that the people there obeyed the rules and understood the benefits of government policies because law enforcement ran strictly and was accompanied by sanctions (kompas.tv, 09/09). Yoes also said that open communication by the government, including acknowledging and apologizing for strategic actions that were late in the context of a pandemic was also the key to handling a pandemic.

An infectious diseases doctor at Mount Elizabeth Novena Hospital, Leong Hoe Nam also said that Singapore was successful in fighting the pandemic because of the discipline of its people in maintaining social distancing and wearing masks (batampos.co.id, 02/10). In addition, the responsibility and commitment of all levels of society and cooperation with the government in implementing safe distancing and hygienic living habits in each sector are the keys to the success of suppressing COVID-19 (education.kompas.com, 10/12).

### **Problems and Improvement Efforts in Indonesia**

How about Indonesia? The struggle of the first wave of Indonesia in breaking the chain of COVID-19 continues. However, the number of patients has never touched a significant reduction in a day. When referring to the efforts of the two countries, a number of problems and remedial efforts need attention.

First, about communication and information management. The COVID-19 Prevention and Handling Task Force has a special website in conveying information, including efforts to suppress hoaxes. However, the communication between the COVID-19 Task Force and other strategic actors spread across the Central and Regional Governments still shows many weaknesses in the coordination mechanisms. One of them can be seen in the unsynchronized publication of COVID-19 data.

The existence of unsynchronized data was emphasized by the spokesperson for the COVID-19 Task Force, Wiku Adisasmito, who said that Indonesia's biggest challenge in dealing with the pandemic was integrating COVID-19 data ([newsdetik.com](https://newsdetik.com), 21/09). Wiku explained that each region applies different COVID-19 data collection methods. This often becomes an obstacle to the Central Government, in this case the Ministry of Health (MoH) when verifying data received from the regions. Thus, data collection mechanisms need to be harmonized.

One of these efforts can be done by developing the use of the Information System for the Public Health Center (Puskesmas) and the existing technology-based Hospital Information System (SIRS). However, the commitment of the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology (Kominfo) to provide internet access to 2,500 of the 3,126 health facilities that have not access to the internet must be accelerated first.

Second, increasing early detection. Epidemiologist from Griffith University Australia Dicky Budiman said that the increasing trend of COVID-19 cases was actually the result of the inadequate efforts to detect early detection of COVID-19 cases optimally in all regions ([national.okezone.com](https://national.okezone.com), 13/10). Dicky explained that the contribution of early detection was still dominant from DKI Jakarta. This fact shows that there is no equivalence in controlling the COVID-19 pandemic with essential strategies, such as testing, tracing, and isolation / quarantine. This is where more equitable early detection efforts need to be made. Given the vast territory of Indonesia, cooperation in the supply of test kits with various parties, including universities, must continue.

Third, the provision of personal protective equipment (PPE) for health workers and an isolation mechanism. In the midst of prevention and handling of a pandemic, inequality or shortages of stocks of PPE are still being found. For example, at the Achmad Mochtar



Hospital (RSAM) Bukittinggi, West Sumatra. Public Relations of RSAM, Murshalman Chaniago said that several types of PPE were admitted by RSAM to be short of stock (padek.jawapos.com, 05/10).

In addition, it is necessary to pay attention to the mechanisms of isolating positive patients. In the two countries previously mentioned, the practice of handling COVID-19 prioritizes the addition of a special handling center for COVID-19, because health facilities are one of the most vulnerable places of transmission. The COVID-19 Task Force must also continue to establish a center for handling COVID-19 by conducting expert building functions and collaborating with public and private facilities so that the handling of COVID-19 is more centralized.

Fourth, strict law enforcement accompanied by continuous information dissemination. No matter how good the Large-Scale Social Restrictions (PSBB) policy is, without any information dissemination explaining the benefits of the policy, it will not be optimal. If the public fully understands the objectives of government policies in dealing with COVID-19, then public support will continue to flow. This effort can be made especially by Puskesmas and COVID-19 volunteers so that even rural areas can be touched by information.

However, dealing with COVID-19 requires cooperation and joint commitment between the government and the community. The two of them must trust each other. This can be started from the commitment of the government led by the COVID-19 Task Force to continuously provide honest information and encourage all strategic actors in the health sector to intensely inform policies and developments related to COVID-19. No one has been able to predict when the first wave of COVID-19 in Indonesia will end. Everything depends on genuine commitment between government and society.

**-Vunny Wijaya-**

*The struggle of the first wave of Indonesia in breaking the chain of COVID-19 continues. However, the increase in the number of daily patients has not decreased significantly. A number of improvement efforts need to be prioritized considering the fact that there are countries that are able to get through the first wave of COVID-19.*

## **Women in the Abyss: Gender Issues on the Socio-Economic Impact of the Pandemic**

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Gender-based data in Indonesia has shown that the socio-economic impact of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has hardly hit women with low socio-economic status. It cannot be ignored, the pandemic crisis has forced an increase in the responsibilities of care work at home due to school closures and travel restrictions.

In addition, many groups of women, both women workers and foreign workers, have experienced disruptions of mobility and difficulties due to postponed various services, such as reproductive health services and other related social services. To examine this, there are several critical notes about the situation of women during the pandemic in the following article.

### **Some Critical Issues**

According to the data from the Central Statistics Agency (2019), the percentage of women with low socio-economic status is still higher than men during 2015-2019. In March 2019, the percentage of women who were below the poverty line reached 9.63 percent, greater than men who were at 9.18 percent. At least, the number of poor women in 2019 will reach 12.8 million people, who are scattered in various provinces in Indonesia.

Unfortunately, the problem of poverty experienced by these women has created a lot of vulnerability, especially, in the context of a pandemic, where all uncertainty leads to delays and restrictions on activities. A study conducted by the Demographic Institute of the University of Indonesia (2020) portrays the condition of poor women who have difficulty accessing health and education services during times of crisis. If compared to other groups, the percentage of poor women who can access hospital services is only around 6.7

percent; certainly lower than men who are in the range of 7 percent.

Meanwhile, women are considered to be responsible for the health conditions of the family. In many socio-cultural conditions, women and girls are expected to be able to provide health care to other family members, especially children and the elderly (World Bank, 2020). During a pandemic, this burden of health care increases with the recommended implementation of health protocols inside and outside the home, as well as the availability of other health resources within the family. This situation further complicates the conditions of families with higher economic pressures.

Still related to the above health issues, the National Socio-Economic Survey / Susenas (2019) also describes the fact that the issue of women's health insurance still requires considerable optimization efforts. The data point to the reality that around 29.83 percent of the population in Indonesia does not have any health insurance. In addition, there are still 30.23 percent of the female population who do not have health insurance. It should be underlined here that the population of poor women who do not have health insurance still stands at 36.03 percent or around 4.81 million people.

The risk of disparities in health insurance above in the end has an impact on health administration that is full of records. In general, the major health challenges are maternal and infant mortality rates. According to the Inter-Census Population Survey (SUPAS) in 2015, the maternal mortality rate (MMR) is still at 305 per 100,000 live births; this figure is still one of the highest in the ASEAN region. Meanwhile, the infant mortality rate (IMR) in Indonesia reaches 15 per 1000 live births.

In a pandemic situation, it is estimated that the above health conditions will worsen. According to a study published by The Lancet Global Health (2020), a model of estimating the indirect effect of COVID-19 on maternal mortality shows that disruption of health services and decreased access to food will have an effect on increasing MMR and IMR (Robertson et al., 2020).

In this situation, of course the attention of women with low socio-economic status to health services is getting bigger. This is because access to existing health services is being delayed. When antenatal care and children under five have decreased, many mothers have postponed visits, or there are even restrictions on services in most primary health facilities. This has an impact on the conditions of the

quality of maternal and child health services (Wahyudi, 2020).

The challenges at the household level also highlight the portrait of female household heads who have had to fight harder during the pandemic. According to Susenas data (2019), the percentage of female household heads reaches 15 percent of total households in Indonesia, or at least 11 million households are headed by women.

It is undeniable that most of the women who are heads of these households live under the shadow of poverty. This is also reinforced by the analysis conducted by Brown, Ravallion and Walle (2020), published in the journal the National Bureau of Economic Research. The portrait of a household headed by a woman has a worse welfare condition than that of men, such as limited clean water, inadequate sanitation and inadequate housing.

The above was then confirmed by the findings of the research from the Demographic Institute of the University of Indonesia above. In Indonesia, nearly 2.5 million female household heads still have children who are still attending primary schools. As many as 5 million of them also have to pay attention to the care of their elderly family members, and about 1 in 2 households are headed by women also take care of people with disabilities. In the context of a pandemic, simultaneously, the female household heads must work hard to meet daily economic needs, take care of the household, pay attention to the child's education process, and care for other family members (Setyonaluri & Samudra, 2020).

The most significant impact of the above conditions is of course closely related to women's participation in the economy. According to the National Labor Force Survey (Sakernas) in February 2020, the participation rate of women in the labor force (TPAK) is still in the range of 54.56 percent, far below that of men who reached 83.82 percent. It cannot be denied that the role of caring, which is mostly handled by women, has made it difficult for women to enter the labor market. In fact, according to a study conducted by The SMERU Research Institute (2017), many women who work have to bring their children to work to ensure that child care role is maintained.

Considering the situation above, of course the choice of women's participation in the economy is getting narrower. In the end, women are more involved in the structure of the informal economy. Sakernas data (2020) also confirm that with a figure of 43.04 percent,

women are still involved in informal work. During a pandemic, informal work with a daily wage system makes women vulnerable to job losses and decreased income. In addition, the social protection system, which is limited to informal structure, prevents women from accessing social protection in the realm of their work, both employment social security, health and other social assistance to survive the pandemic context. This endless cycle has gone unnoticed by many.

### **Optimizing the Role of All**

The government has indeed spent a number of budgets to recover the national economy. Many policy responses are aimed at mitigating the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on household conditions in Indonesia. The National Economic Recovery Program also pays attention to aspects of social protection as an integral part of it. For example, the Rp.203.9 trillion budget is specifically aimed at providing social protection in the form of direct cash assistance, the Basic Food Program, the Family Hope Program, and other related programs.

However, in reality, the distribution of social protection still does not pay attention to gender aspects. A study conducted by The Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) Southeast Asia (2020) shows that the percentage of women who received at least one social assistance program from the government since the start of the pandemic touched 59 percent; This figure is below that of men who reached 65 percent (Hanna & Olken, 2020).

Looking at the conditions above, what needs to be considered is how to reach beneficiary groups by capturing different vulnerability characteristics, such as needs that vary by gender, conditions of disability, age and others. Capturing the characteristics through the use of evidence-based policy recommendation that have been put forward in various research results is an important basis for carrying out the provision of truly targeted social assistance effectively.

In the gender context, seeing that most women have limited mobility in a pandemic situation, simplification of the conditions and mechanisms for receiving social assistance is urgently needed, such as using self-demand online registration, utilizing local local institutions and community-based targeting at the RT / RW level. Likewise, there should be increased access to health services that can be obtained by women through a community-based approach with the assistance of health workers in it.

Simultaneously with this process, efforts to improve the accuracy of data on beneficiaries that are integrated with Universal Database are very important so that consideration for providing social assistance with sensitivity to the needs of various community groups can be improved in the future.

**-Nopitri Wahyuni -**

*Sensitivity to the vulnerability characteristics based on gender aspects is needed to encourage the effective provision and targeted social assistance.*

**THE** **INDONESIAN INSTITUTE**  
C E N T E R F O R P U B L I C P O L I C Y R E S E A R C H

**The Indonesian Institute (TII)** is a Center for Public Policy Research that was established on 21 October 2004 by a group of young, dynamic activists and intellectuals. **TII** is an independent, non-partisan, non-profit institution, whose main funding stems from grants and contributions from foundations, companies, and individuals.

**TII** has the aim of becoming a main research center in Indonesia for public policy matters and has committed to giving contribution to the debates over public policies and to improving the quality of the planning and results of public policy by promoting good governance principles and public participation in the policy processes in Indonesia.

**TII**'s visions are public policies in Indonesia which highly uphold human rights and rule of law, as well as involve participation of various stakeholders and practice democratic good governance principles.

**TII**'s missions are to conduct reliable research that is independent and non-partisan and to channel the research to the policy-makers, the private sector, and academia in order to improve the quality of Indonesian policy-makers.

**TII** also assumes the role of disseminating ideas to the society so that they are well informed about the policies that will have a good impact on the people's lives. In other words, **TII** has a position to support the democratization process and the public policy reform, as it will be involved in the process.

The scope of the research and review on public policies undertaken by **TII** includes economic, social, political, and legal affairs. The main activities which have been conducted by **TII** in order to achieve our vision and mission, are: research, surveys, facilitation and advocacy through training and working groups, public discussions, public education, weekly editorial articles ("*Wacana*" or Discourses), monthly analysis ("*Update Indonesia*" in Indonesian and "**The Indonesian Update**" in English), mid-year policy analysis ("Policy

Assessment”), annual policy analysis (“Indonesian Report”), and monthly discussion forum on policy issues (“The Indonesian Forum”).

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## RESEARCH ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

The economy tends to be used as an indicator of the success of the government as a policy-maker. Economy plays an important role as one of the fundamentals of national development. Limited resources have often caused the government to face obstacles in implementing economic policies that will optimally benefit the people. The increase in the quality of the people's critical thinking has forced the government to conduct comprehensive studies in every decision-making process. In fact, the studies will not be stopped when the policy is already in place. Studies will be continued until the policy evaluation process.

**TII** focus on economic issues, such as monetary policy and fiscal policy, as well as issues on sustainable development by using analysis which refer to economic freedom principles. Monetary issues will focus on the Indonesian Central Bank to maintain economic stability, both regarding inflation and exchange rate. Meanwhile, fiscal policy will focus on the discussions over the National Budget and infrastructure development both in the regions and in the cities. In relation to sustainable development, **TII** research is focusing on productivity, competitiveness, infrastructure development, and development gap. In addition, **TII** also upholds economic freedom principles in highlighting the importance of individual freedom and involvement of private sectors in increasing development and improving welfare in Indonesia.

The TII Economic Research Division is present for those who are interested in the conditions of the economy. The results of the research are intended to assist policy-makers, regulators, and donor agencies in making decisions. The research that TII offers: **(1) Economic Policy Analysis; (2) Regional and Sectoral Prospects; and (3) Program Evaluation.**

## RESEARCH ON LEGAL AFFAIRS

According to stipulations in Law No. 12 Year 2011 on the Formulation of Laws and Regulations, every bill which will be discussed by the legislative and the executive must be complemented with academic paper. This stipulation is also confirmed in Law No. 15 Year 2019 on the Amendment of Law No. 12 Year 2011 regarding the Formulation of Laws and Regulations.

Therefore, comprehensive research is very important and needed in making a qualified academic paper. With qualified academic papers, the bills will have strong academic foundation both from academic and content aspects. Furthermore, academic paper also functions as an early tracking over possibilities of overlapping laws and regulations, so that revocation of local regulations or other related issues which can be caused by legal, economic, or political aspects in the future, can be minimized as soon as possible.

**TII** offers normative and legal research related to harmonization and synchronization of laws and regulations, especially in making academic papers, legal opinion on harmonization and synchronization of laws and regulations, and legislative drafting for the formulation of local regulations bill drafts or other laws and regulations. In addition, **TII** also offers openly research on other legal issues related to Constitutional Law and Public Administration, Human Rights, and Political Corruption.

## RESEARCH ON THE POLITICAL AFFAIRS

The enactment of Law No. 23 Year 2014 on the latest regulation on the Local Government, has created different relations between the Central Government and the Local Government. Entering the era of Bureaucracy Reform, specification of division of affairs of the Central Government and the Local Government has increasingly demanded the implementation of good governance principles. The government is demanded to be adaptive and responsive towards public aspiration and services. Therefore, public policy research become more important for both the Central Government and the Local Government to analyse context and current issues in the regions. The government must also consider various actors whether political actors or bureaucrats, as well as public's aspiration and other non-state actor in policy processes.

In order to respond those needs, **TII** research in political affairs offer policy assessment on various policies which were already applied or will be implemented. **TII** will look at socio-cultural, economy, legal, and political aspects in assessing public policies. Our research will be useful to assist government in formulating policies which are in line with context, priorities, and people's aspiration. **TII** also offers various breakthrough of transformative policies according to existing contexts in particular and Open Government principles' implementation in general, in order to increase public participation in policy processes, particularly in the era of the openness of public information.

Political Research Division of **TII** provide analysis and policy recommendations in order to generate strategic policy in the strengthening of democracy and the establishment of good governance both at the national and local levels. Political research forms are offered by **TII** **(1) Public Policy Analysis, (2) Media Monitoring, (3) Mapping & Positioning Research, (4) Need Assessment Research, (5) Survey Indicator.**

## RESEARCH ON THE SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Social development needs policy foundations that come from independent and accurate research. Social analysis is a need for the government, the businesspeople, academia, professionals, NGOs, and civil society to improve social development. Social analysis is important to identify strategic issues which are developing and to make the right stakeholders' mapping to promote significant change in the context of development, public policy, and democracy in Indonesia.

The Social Research Division is present to offer strong and valid recommendations to produce strategic, relevant, efficient and effective, and impactful policies, in addressing to existing various issues. For example, issues related to education, health, population, environment, women, children, and elderly. Social research that **TII** offers: **(1) Social Policy Analysis; (2) Explorative Research; (3) Mapping & Positioning Research; (4) Need Assessment Research; (5) Program Evaluation Research; and (5) Indicator Survey.**

## PRE-ELECTION AND REGIONAL HEAD ELECTION

One of the activities carried out and offered by **TII** is a pre-election survey as well as a pre-election and regional head election. The reasons underlying the implementation of pre-election and regional head election surveys, namely: (1) A good election is a democratic process that can be arranged, calculated, and predicted in the resulting process; (2) Survey is one of the important and common discussions to measure, calculate, and predict how the process and results of the General Election and the Regional Head Election will take place, in accordance to the expectations of the candidates; (3) It is very important to win in the General Election and the Regional Head Election based on empirical, scientific, measurable and supportable data.

As one of the important aspects of a strategic candidate's election, the survey is useful for monitoring political power. In this case, the success team needs to conduct a survey for: **(1) mapping the candidate's position in public perception; (2) mapping voters' desires; (3) publishing the most effective political machinery used as voters; and (4) Looking for the most effective medium for the campaign.**

## EVALUATION OF A PROJECT OR A PROGRAM

One of the activities that have been performed and experienced offered by **TII** is a qualitative evaluation of the projects and programs of non-governmental organizations and government. Evaluation activities are offered **TII** stages of mid-term evaluation of the project/program (mid-term evaluation) and also the final evaluation at the end of the project/program (final evaluation).

As we know, the evaluation is an important step in the implementation of a project or program. Mid-Term Evaluation of the project or program is intended to look at and analyze the challenges, the overall learning takes place during the project or program, and make recommendations for the continuity of the project or program. Meanwhile, the final evaluation allows us to view and analyze the outcomes and the lessons learned to ensure the achievement of all the objectives of the project or program at the end of the project or program.

## THE INDONESIAN FORUM

**The Indonesian Forum** is a monthly discussion activity on actual issues in the political, economic, social, legal, cultural, defense, and environmental fields. TII organizes these forums as media for competent resource persons, stakeholders, policymakers, civil society activists, academicians, and the media to meet and have discussion.

Themes that have been raised were the ones that have caught public attention, such as migrant workers, social conflicts, domestic politics, and local direct elections. The main consideration in picking a theme is sociological and political reality and the context of the relevant public policy at the time that the Indonesian Forum is delivered.

It is expected that the public can get the big picture of a particular event as the Indonesian Forum also presents relevant resource persons.

Since its inception, the Indonesian Institute is very aware of the passion of the public to get discussions that are not only rich in substance but also well formatted, which support balanced ideas exchanges ideas and the equal involvement of the different elements of the society.

The discussions, which are designed to only invite a limited number of participants, do not only feature idea exchanges but also regularly offer policy briefs (policy recommendations) to relevant policymakers and also summaries to the participants, especially the media people and the resource persons at the end of each discussion. Therefore, the discussions will not end without solutions.

## LOCAL COUNCIL TRAINING

The roles and functions of local councils in monitoring local governments are very important. They need to ensure that participative and democratic policies will be espoused. Members of provincial and regent local councils are required to have strong capacity to understand democratization matters, regional autonomy, legislative techniques, budgeting, local Politics, and political marketing. Thus, it is important to empower members of local councils.

In order for local councils to be able to response every problem that will come out as a result of any policy implemented by the central government or local governments, the Indonesian Institute invites the leaderships and members of local councils to undergo training to improve their capacity.

## WORKING GROUP

The Indonesian Institute believes that a good public policy process can be held with some engagement and empowerment of the stakeholders. The Indonesian Institute takes a role as one of mediator agencies to facilitate some forums in which the Government, Council Members, Private Sectors, NGOs and Academicians can meet in interactive forums. The Indonesian Institute provides facilitation on working groups and public advocacy.

The Indonesian Institute takes the role of mediator and facilitator in order to encourage the synergy of public policy work between the stakeholders and policy makers and also to have a synergy with funding agencies (donors).

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