



POLICY EVALUATION OF LUBUKLINGGAU CITY GOVERNMENT IN BREAKING THE CHAIN OF COVID-19 TRANSMISSION

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ABSTRACT

The Covid-19 pandemic has not only had an impact on public health, but has also affected the economic conditions, education and social life of the Indonesian people. Based on data from the National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB), the number of positive patients infected with Covid-19 in Indonesia reached 4,114,334 positive cases of people as of December 31 2021. This pandemic has caused several local governments, especially Lubuklinggau City, to implement a Large-Scale Social Restrictions (PSBB) policy which has implications for limiting community activities, including economic activities, educational activities, and other social activities. This study uses qualitative research. Based on the results of the research, it can be concluded that effectiveness has not been maximized to be implemented. This condition can be seen by the high number of cases of people infected with Covid-19. Second, the efficiency of the policy for handling Covid-19 in Lubuklinggau City is still not related to the budget used and the lack of human resources in the process of handling Covid-19. Third, responsiveness. The implementation of the policy for handling Covid-19, the Government of Lubuklinggau City has not been very responsive to the handling of the Covid-19 pandemic. This can be seen from the slightly late Lubuklinggau City Government making regulations to prevent the spread of Covid-19, such as the recently issued Lubuk Linggau Mayor Regulation No. 31 of 2020 concerning Guidelines for the Implementation of Discipline and Law Enforcement of Health Protocols as an Effort to Prevent and Control Corona in August 2021 which in July 2020 Lubuklinggau City was categorized as a red zone, which means cases of being infected with Covid-19 are very high. Meanwhile, the first case of Covid-19 was detected in Lubuklinggau City in early April 2021.



INTRODUCTION

It all started with a report from China to the World Health Organization (WHO) regarding 44 severe pneumonia cases in a region called Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China, suspected to have originated from a wet market selling fish, seafood, and various other animals. In early 2020, it was identified that the symptoms were caused by the coronavirus or more commonly known as Covid-19. This virus is transmitted directly from human to human, resulting in a significant increase in the number of cases worldwide by the end of January 2020, including in Indonesia. The government has made efforts to prevent the spread of the virus by implementing the Large-Scale Social Restrictions (PSBB) policy, as stated in Law Number 6 of 2018 on Health Quarantine.

Lubuklinggau City is one of the areas with a high number of Covid-19 transmissions, with the highest number of confirmed cases reaching 7,651 people as of December 2021. Meanwhile, the highest cumulative incidence and death rate are in Lubuklinggau City, with 486.96 cumulative incidence cases and 17.16 death cases per 100,000 population. In response to this situation, the government of Lubuklinggau City has implemented various measures, including the mandatory use of masks outside the home, social distancing, and the implementation of Large-Scale Social Restrictions (PSBB) and the Community Activity Restrictions (PPKM). However, these measures have not yielded maximum results in suppressing the spread of Covid-19 in Lubuklinggau City.

The main issue of this research in handling Covid-19 in Lubuklinggau City is related to the implementation of the

coronavirus protocol vaccination policy amidst the high number of Covid-19 cases in the area.

PREVIOUS RESEARCH

A research conducted by Helly F Kolondam, *EJournal of Public Administration*, University of Padang, Vol 7 No. 123, 2021, titled "Government Policy Implementation and Community Participation in Handling Covid-19 in Kuma Selatan Village, Essang Selatan Sub-district, Talaud Islands Regency." Based on the research, it can be concluded that this research differs from the research to be conducted. The previous research focuses on the issues of village officials' behavior in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic in Kuma village, while the upcoming research focuses on the efforts of the Lubuklinggau City Government and community behavior in implementing the Covid-19 protocol handling policy. The similarity between the two research studies is that both use qualitative descriptive research methods and discuss variables such as knowledge, attitude, and behavior.

Another research conducted by Ni Nyoman Pujaningsih, I.G.A.AG Dewi Sucitawathi P, *EJournal of Public Administration*, State Islamic University of Bengkulu, Vol 9 No. 98, 2020, titled "Implementation of Community Activity Restrictions in Handling the Covid-19 Outbreak in Denpasar City." Based on the research, it can be concluded that this research differs from the research to be conducted. The previous research focuses on the implementation of community activity restrictions (PKM) in Denpasar City, including restrictions on community gatherings, traveling without masks, purposeless movement of people, full passenger



restrictions for four-wheeled vehicles, restrictions on goods transportation activities, and limitations on the operational hours of businesses (stores), which have shown effectiveness in reducing Covid-19 cases.

IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC The Covid-19 pandemic has not only impacted public health but also affected the country's economy, education, and social life in Indonesia. According to data from the National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB), the number of confirmed positive cases of Covid-19 in Indonesia reached 4,114,334 as of December 31, 2021. This pandemic has led several regional governments to implement Large-Scale Social Restrictions (PSBB), which have implications for limiting public activities, including economic activities, education, and other social activities.

HEALTH POLICIES

The purpose of health policies is to provide preventive patterns, focused services on health maintenance, disease treatment, and protection of vulnerable populations. Health policies also consider the impacts of the environment and socioeconomic factors on health. Health policies can have multiple objectives for the community, but for most people, health policies are only concerned with the content. For example, government and private sector health financing or policies regarding the strengthening of maternal and child health services. Health policies favor things considered important in an institution and society, aiming for long-term goals to achieve targets, and provide practical recommendations for important decisions.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

In the context of the division of government affairs, good coordination between the central and regional governments is crucial for the success of policies at the regional level, including those related to handling Covid-19. Regional governments are considered to have a better understanding of their communities and regions and are closer to the public who receive government services or policies. On the other hand, the central government must ensure balanced development among regions by exploring each region's potential and striving for equitable distribution. Regarding the handling of Covid-19, the role of the central government is like that of a conductor in an orchestra, while the regions are the various musicians playing different musical instruments. Good cooperation and coordination between the musicians and the conductor will result in a harmonious orchestration. Similarly, good coordination and cooperation between the central government and regional governments will greatly help in the fight against Covid-19.

MATERIALS AND METHODE

This research takes the form of qualitative research. The choice of qualitative research is made because it is considered suitable for the purpose of this study, which aims to explain and interpret the policies of the Lubuklinggau City Government in dealing with the Covid-19 chain of transmission (a case study conducted from April 2020 to December 2021). This is different from quantitative research, which tends to focus on explaining



the relationships between variables in a phenomenon and aims to prove a hypothesis or even a theory in practical terms, usually using deductive logic.

Furthermore, the researcher chose a qualitative descriptive research design because they wanted to describe the observed situation in the field in a more specific, transparent, and in-depth manner regarding the policies of the Lubuklinggau City Government in handling the Covid-19 chain of transmission

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This research is a qualitative descriptive study. The research began in November 2022. The obtained research findings consist of data and facts found in the field during the research, supported by the required references. The available data and facts are then described and analyzed by the researcher to arrive at expected conclusions that could serve as strong solutions to the existing issues. Several aspects of policy implementation are as follows:

1. Effectiveness

Based on the observation and interviews, the author concludes that the procurement of health facilities and infrastructure to support healthcare services in controlling and breaking the chain of Covid-19 transmission is being carried out effectively. This is evidenced by the positive response from the community who have experienced the healthcare services provided by the regional general hospital (RSUD) in the city of Lubuklinggau, especially RSUD Petanang, which not only has supporting healthcare facilities but also an adequate healthcare workforce. Additionally, the handling of Covid-19 through the Mayor's

Regulation, which emphasizes the enforcement of health protocols such as mandatory mask-wearing and the dissemination of information on Covid-19 prevention, as well as the provision of healthcare facilities to break the chain of Covid-19 transmission, has been effective. However, the implementation of enforcing sanctions for violating health protocols and the policy of implementing micro-scale public activity restrictions (PPKM) has not been effective due to conflicting with the livelihoods of the community in meeting their daily needs during the Covid-19 pandemic.

2. Efficiency

Based on observations and interviews, the author explains that in terms of budget, there is inefficiency due to the allocation of funds for Covid-19 management, which did not have comprehensive effects on the community, such as direct cash assistance during the Covid-19 PPKM emergency situation. Similarly, the construction of handling posts in each region was a waste of budget as there were no personnel stationed there.

3. Responsiveness

Based on observations and interviews, it can be concluded that the government's responsiveness to addressing this issue appears to be lacking. This can be seen from the Mayor's Regulation, which was implemented in August and was relatively late considering the emergence of Covid-19. Additionally, until the middle of 2022, the Lubuklinggau City Government had not issued a Regional Regulation to strengthen its enforcement. As a result, the government struggled to handle the



cases that occurred at the beginning of the Covid-19 outbreak.

CONCLUSION

From the research conducted, several conclusions can be drawn as follows:

Firstly, the effectiveness of the Covid-19 handling policy in Lubuklinggau City, as stated in the Mayor's Regulation No. 31 of 2020 regarding Guidelines for the Implementation of Discipline and Law Enforcement of Health Protocol as Prevention and Control Efforts for Corona, has not been effective. This is indicated by the insufficient enforcement of sanctions for violations of health protocols. The situation was evident during the mid-2021 period, precisely in July, when there was a high number of Covid-19 cases among the population, resulting in Lubuklinggau City being categorized as a red zone.

Secondly, the efficiency of the Covid-19 handling policy in Lubuklinggau City is still lacking, particularly in terms of budget utilization and the shortage of human resources in the Covid-19 handling process. This can be seen from the large allocation of funds for Covid-19 handling, which has not maximally impacted the general public and has not been optimally utilized to meet the community's needs. Additionally, the establishment of assistance posts funded by the Central Government is also ineffective and inefficient. This is evident from the lack of personnel in the Covid-19 handling posts at the neighborhood level, and even the absence of staff on duty as one of the bases of information for Covid-19 pandemic management at the neighborhood level. These posts should serve as coordination centers and sources of information related to Covid-19 handling,

enabling the public to quickly understand the trends of Covid-19 cases in Lubuklinggau City.

Thirdly, the responsiveness of the Covid-19 handling policy implementation by the Lubuklinggau City Government has not been sufficiently responsive to the pandemic. This can be seen from the slight delay in the city government's issuance of regulations to prevent the spread of Covid-19, such as the issuance of Mayor's Regulation No. 31 of 2020 regarding Guidelines for the Implementation of Discipline and Law Enforcement of Health Protocol as Prevention and Control Efforts for Corona in August 2021. By that time, in July 2020, Lubuklinggau City was already categorized as a red zone, indicating a high number of Covid-19 infections. The first case of Covid-19 in Lubuklinggau City was detected in early April 2021.

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