

Government Preparation for Hoax Cases During the Covid-19 Pandemic to Preserve the Nation's Unity and Cohesion

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Abstract

People accustomed to all daily activities outside the home appear to have developed a sense of boredom as a result of being forced to adhere to the

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government's stay-at-home policy. And, of course, this program quickly became a popular issue on social media with the hashtag #dirumahAja, with the expectation that all Indonesians would comprehend and understand how to assist the government in breaking the chain of transmission of the fatal corona virus, which is a new form of virus. There are numerous examples of how this covid-19 epidemic may create havoc and disrupt human existence, and it feels very real to everyone in this country. Throughout this pandemic, the government was compelled to enact policies sufficient to ensure the nation's safety, and the hope that the national crisis would stop soon has become a global issue. Previously, if you encountered hoax news or news that was still confusing, you could immediately report it to the local police and face punishment for violating the ITE law. However, during this pandemic, and in relation to the pandemic issue that resulted in the emergence of HOAX news, it was not only the government that became the cause of this. enraged. But also among public people who turned out to be socially acceptable parties. This study used a qualitative descriptive technique to analyze life-affirming policies during the COVID-19 epidemic, which has caused widespread concern in all spheres of life.

Keywords: Government Policy, Covid-19, Hoax News

Abstrak

Orang-orang yang terbiasa dengan semua aktivitas sehari-hari di luar rumah tampaknya telah mengembangkan rasa bosan akibat dipaksa untuk mematuhi kebijakan pemerintah untuk tinggal di rumah. Dan tentunya program ini dengan cepat menjadi isu populer di media sosial dengan tagar #dirumahAja, dengan harapan seluruh masyarakat Indonesia dapat memahami dan memahami bagaimana membantu pemerintah dalam memutus mata rantai penularan virus corona yang mematikan, yaitu bentuk virus baru. Ada banyak contoh bagaimana epidemi covid-19 ini dapat menciptakan malapetaka dan mengganggu keberadaan manusia, dan itu terasa sangat nyata bagi semua orang di negara ini. Selama masa pandemi ini, pemerintah terpaksa membuat

kebijakan yang cukup untuk menjamin keselamatan bangsa, dan harapan agar krisis nasional segera berhenti telah menjadi isu global. Sebelumnya, jika Anda menemukan berita hoax atau berita yang masih simpang siur, Anda bisa segera melaporkannya ke polisi setempat dan menghadapi hukuman karena melanggar undang-undang ITE. Namun, di masa pandemi ini, dan terkait dengan isu pandemi yang mengakibatkan munculnya berita HOAX, ternyata bukan hanya pemerintah yang menjadi penyebabnya. sangat marah. Tetapi juga di kalangan masyarakat umum yang ternyata menjadi pihak yang dapat diterima secara sosial. Penelitian ini menggunakan teknik deskriptif kualitatif untuk menganalisis kebijakan yang menguatkan kehidupan selama epidemi COVID-19, yang telah menimbulkan kekhawatiran luas di semua bidang kehidupan.

Kata Kunci: Kebijakan Pemerintah, Covid-19, Berita Hoax

A. Introduction

Freedom of thought and speech is the right of everyone, and having an opinion on a matter is a natural thing. Before this era of democracy, speaking or expressing opinions had to be careful. Unlike today, where everyone can freely see, listen, and speak whatever they want to know and want to convey. Even if someone prohibits an opinion, the person who prohibits it can be reported for alleged violations of freedom of expression as well as violations of human rights.

The government has also extended the social distance period again because the number of people infected with the corona virus has kept rising. There have been many policies that have cut the number and hours of public transportation. The most recent policy is called PSBB, which stands for "large-scale social restrictions." The public didn't like the DKI Jakarta governor's policy number 5 of 2020 at first. It said that places of worship and religious activities should be closed for a short time to stop the spread of the coronavirus disease (covid-19). People in this country always talk about the pros and cons. Until

now, the PSBB has come back, which is even more surprising to most people, especially those in the lower middle class who still need to work outside of the house to make money for their family.

A lot of people are worried about how they will run their lives in the next week or even the next month during this pandemic. They have to think hard about how to do that. As long as there are still a lot of people who help the poor and this pandemic goes on, it will not be able to just get help and donations. Because these help and donations aren't every day, they don't meet the family's daily needs.

Some people have been forced to stay at home and look for the truth during the pandemic because of the social distancing policy, which makes everyone stay at home and keep their distance from other people. However, if the information you give isn't true or even if it's misleading, it will have a negative effect on other people in the future. Even if you do it consciously or not, there will be consequences. There are both legal and social consequences.

The public's insatiable need for knowledge necessitates the availability of cutting-edge technologies. As a result of technological advancements, humans (society) are able to process information more rapidly.

As a precaution, the government has put up a list of information that individuals in this country should be aware of. On the official website, www.covid19.go.id, you can monitor the status and the number of persons who have been infected with the coronavirus. On this website, you can find facts that can be supported and questions that you can ask directly. The website also provides information that has been deemed to be a hoax by the public.

Indonesia's fake epidemic is producing a slew of issues right now. Hoaxes have now taken on a new dimension on social media and have been widely reported on without any elaboration (Jemadu, 2017). More than 800,000 websites have been identified by Indonesia's Ministry of Communication and Information as distributing hoaxes and hate speech (Pratama, 2016).

Many benefits and drawbacks have previously been discussed in the absence of worship, which has become an important part of the community's daily routine. However, the appeal of DKI Jakarta Number 5 in 2020 does not

explain this clearly enough to be accepted by everyone. There should be a way for people who were affected by the pandemic and have similar experiences to communicate with one other in a non-insulting and non-promotional way, such as officials and specialists and public personalities who are known to the public. Social anxiety and terror can arise from information that is unclear and ambiguous.

The government's decision to implement a policy must be taken into account. It's not as straightforward as one might believe, and it takes a lot of work and cooperation between the community and the government to get it up and running. HOAX is likewise regulated by the government in Law Number 11 of 2008 concerning Information and Electronic Transactions (UU ITE) as revised by Law Number 19 of 2016 concerning Amendments to Law Number 11 of 2008 concerning Information and Electronic Transactions (UU ITE).

There are several issues and questions that should be addressed in the context of a global crisis, including how to handle hoax cases during a pandemic, how the media and public figures can be transparent and acceptable intermediaries by the community, and the role of the government as a liaison in a global emergency.

B. Method

A qualitative descriptive approach is used in this investigation. By working with data and organizing it, dividing it into manageable parts, and synthesizing its findings (Bogdan and Taylor), qualitative research is an endeavor to uncover patterns, learn what is significant, and decide what may be presented to others (Moleong, 2007). Literature review and data collection are both utilized in this study. Legal standards that promote social and economic well-being are the focus of this investigation. A qualitative descriptive method was used to assess both primary and secondary data.

C. Result and Discussion

1. Policy as a liaison in the midst of a global crisis

Program goals, actions, decisions and attitudes are all examples of policy. They are stages in the process of solving the problems that have arisen. It is critical for organizations to develop policies in order to attain their objectives (Iskandar, 2012).

The policy has two aspects: first, it is a social practice; it is not a single event or occurrence. As a result, policy is a government-created product that is based on all of society's current occurrences. These activities are part of everyday life in the community and do not exist in a vacuum. It's important to understand that policy is a response in two ways: to bring together opposing groups and to create incentives for people who are unfairly treated to work together (Thoha, 2012). A policy can be created by a single person or a group of people with a specific goal in mind. Actors (stakeholders) adhere to and apply this policy as a means of solving a particular problem (Haerul & Hamdan, 2016).

Policy implementation that is done in a targeted and efficient way will be able to solve a problem well. The more complex the policy problem and the more in-depth the analysis used, the more theory and capital are needed to explain how well the policy was implemented (Rohman, 2016).

As a product of public policy, legislation is a political commodity that pertains to the general welfare. Of course, the goal of this strategy is to serve as a bridge or a unifier among individuals, groups, or the broader public at large.

There must be an end to all activities that normally go hand in hand in order to stop the spread of Covid-19 as quickly as possible. There have been many different reactions to the government's initial initiatives, ranging from those who recognize the dangers of this corona virus to those who reject it for a variety of reasons. Considering that each of these things likewise has interests and obligations, there is absolutely nothing wrong with any of it. It's as if someone had to go to work and interact with other people in person (face to face). Alternatively, there are those who refuse to recognize the ban on doing religious activities outside of the home.

Policies cannot be effectively communicated and executed if the public is not adequately informed and educated. Because of the widespread dissemination of information via print and internet media, as well as broadcast and radio, the topic has become a regular topic of conversation since the outbreak. There can be little doubt that the corona virus is a new form of virus whose level of vigilance and recovery has yet to be explained in this digital age. It has spread swiftly across the country. What is obvious, however, is that this virus is spread by touch and can lead to death, and there is no clear vaccination or therapy that satisfies health and medical research requirements.

The essential parts of the policy's implementation are outlined in the preceding description of the policy's explanation. A thorough description of the program, including how and where the institution or organization must conduct the program, and how the law or program is read, is first. The second consideration is the distribution of resources, such as the budget, staff assigned to carry out the program, and the entity tasked with putting the plan into action. How decisions will be made is also a third issue (Jann, & Wegrich, 2007).

2. Handling in cases of hoaxes during the pandemic

In order to effectively implement a policy, it is not only the actions of administrative entities that must be taken into account, but also those of the many parties involved. As a result, hoax cases must be dealt with during this pandemic.

Many incidents of ITE legislation violations occurred before the pandemic, and it's possible that the same thing may happen during the COVID-19 epidemic because of incorrect information. Furthermore, those who read or listen to a sentence from a government policy and then pass it on to others, possibly causing new issues and affecting the legal case, may be liable to criminal sanctions.

The term "hoax" has been used since the early 1800s in England during the industrial revolution era, according to Walsh in his book "Sins Against Science, The Scientific Media Hoaxes of Poe, Twain, and Others" (Walsh, 2006).

Social media is being used to disseminate this fake story. For social media, it is all about the people who use it, and how they use it. As a result, social media can be viewed as an online medium (facilitator) that strengthens user relationships and social ties (van Dijk, 2013).

For breaking the Electronic Information and Transactions Law, those who spread hoaxes or fake news face up to six years in prison and a maximum punishment of Rp. 1 billion (UU ITE). Disinformation and misinformation must, however, be distinguished, particularly when it comes to legal problems. Disinformation is a term used to describe purposely false information or hoaxes that are intended to cause harm. Misinformation, on the other hand, is the dissemination of incorrect or faulty information without any hostile purpose.

A common method of disseminating hoaxes on the internet is through the use of misinformation. Misinformation can also be a product of word-of-mouth communication, which allows for the addition or removal of information. A hoax is a hoax, but misinformation is not. True or false information will fall if it does not do any harm and is not harmful.

Article 28 paragraph (1) of Law Number 11 of 2008 concerning Information and Electronic Transactions (UU ITE) as amended by Law Number 19 of 2016 about Amendments to Law Number 11 of 2008 concerning Information and Electronic Transactions governs violations of hoaxes or fake news. The perpetrators of hoaxes were additionally accused under Articles 14 and 15 of Law Number 1 of 1946 concerning Criminal Law Regulations, which carries a maximum sentence of ten years in prison.

It is impossible to target a single individual with the dissemination of fake news, as the phrase "misleading" suggests. People can be deceived by fake news stories. Fake news spreads deceptively, resulting in financial losses for consumers that use electronic payment systems. Rather than just monetary loss, this involves any and all forms of loss, such as the formation of negative emotions such as guilt, shame and disappointment as well as the dwindling chance of ever experiencing joy or financial gain again (Suhariyanto, 2012). On the basis of the preceding, it can be concluded that the hoax crime spreads swiftly and it is difficult to determine who is responsible for it (Pomuda, 2015).

In order to avoid hoax news, there are a number of considerations that must be made. For starters, look for trustworthy information, even if it comes from family members or friends. When getting news, we should be more cautious because the information could be a hoax. The second thing to remember is that technology may be a tool for fostering human connections. Avoid personal contact with each other as much as possible in order to prevent the spread of Corona. It's possible to communicate using social media platforms like Whatsapp or Line, Telegram or Facebook.

In addition, those who work from home (WFH) can use these numerous social media platforms as work communication tools. The third thing to do is to get to know your family better. Loneliness can become overpowering for certain people who live alone due to social isolation. Try to open up about the pandemic you're currently dealing with to those you trust the most, including family or friends. For families who live in the same place, it's important to keep in touch. As a final point, strive to understand and not stigmatize. Keeping a calm demeanor in the face of the corona outbreak will surely assist sustain mental and physical health in the middle of this global health crisis. It's healthy for you, but it's also excellent for others around you.

According to health information and research, government strategies throughout this pandemic have been developed and implemented. The major contributions of the information distribution stage or process of sharing this information are to avoid legal consequences related to false news: (Zhang & Dong, 2008)

- 1) Information can be transferred not only by the media, but also by interpersonal communication networks. In other words, people can get information through two channels or whatever.
- 2) There is an interface between the media and the interpersonal communication network, and the interface is the opinion leader.
- 3) The influence of opinion leaders and interpersonal communication networks on the communication of information and individual decisions is much greater than that of the mass medium.

Digital government refers to the use of technology in the administration of government. The term "e-Gov" has come to be widely accepted. Political technology refers to the use of technology in government in this type of administration (Coleman, 2008). E-Gov is simple to use and delivers a wealth of important data. As a result, every government agency, including the DPR RI, must consider content, including data updates, while developing databases (Katharina, 2018).

There are several efforts made by the government to tackle the increase in hoaxes in the community. Among others are:

First, enforce various legal rules related to the spread of hoaxes, such as the implementation of Law Number 19 of 2016 concerning Amendments to Law Number 11 of 2008 concerning Information and Electronic Transactions, the Criminal Code, and Law Number 40 of 2008 concerning Elimination of Discrimination, Race, and Ethnicity.

Second, efforts to create e-Gov. This is indicated by the use of various digital services in government. The government does less paper in its service activities. Everything is done online, making it easier for people to get services without having to go to government offices.

Third, in relation to hoaxes, the Indonesian government has launched a 'Trust Positive' application to detect and counteract hoax sources and sites. The 'Turn Back Hoax' application has also been introduced to check and report to the government regarding hoaxes. The government will also build a big data cyber security (BDCS) system, where with this system all data in ministries/agencies is stored in a secure data system. Through this system, it is hoped that the public can use it to then check information about the government, whether it is true or false (Katharina, 2018).

In overcoming this hoax behavior, the government through the police will eradicate the action and process it to legal channels. In the regulation of the law, the Police of the Republic of Indonesia is regulated in Law No. 2 of 2002 concerning the National Police of the Republic of Indonesia which contains all arrangements and understandings regarding the police, and the procedures for a police officer to carry out his duties. This law is also a barrier for a police

officer in carrying out his duties. As protectors of the community, the police guarantee the security of the community through legal orders in various aspects of life, both legal, social, and economic aspects with the principle of legal certainty. Therefore, every criminal act that occurs should be resolved through a judicial process. Investigators are officers of the State Police of the Republic of Indonesia who are authorized by law to conduct investigations (UU No. 2/2002). Besides that, the criminal procedure law regarding investigations which is specifically regulated in chapter X of the ITE Law, is based on the principle of *lex specialis gerogat legi generali*, so that special rules apply (Chazawi, 2011).

3. Communication media and the role of public figures can be transparent mediators and can be accepted by the community

Since experiencing the corona virus pandemic, many things have caused concern and panic in society, and therefore a lot of information is needed. The information provided must be accurate and reliable.

When compared to life before the democratic era, today is a golden age where everyone can freely express themselves in communication. This is due to the issuance of Law Number 39 of 1999 concerning Human Rights. The existence of this law is a follow-up to the Decree of the People's Consultative Assembly (Tap MPR) Number VII/MPR/1998 concerning Human Rights. As for Article 14 of the Act, it is stated that: first, everyone has the right to communicate and obtain information needed to develop their personal and social environment (Law No. 39/1999). Second, everyone has the right to seek, obtain, possess, store, process, and convey information by using all kinds of available means." It is clear that the article is actually subject to and refers to article 28F of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia and article 19, the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

This right to communicate and receive information is enshrined in Article 28F of Indonesia's 1945 Constitution, which declares that everyone has the right

to communicate and obtain knowledge in order to develop their personal and social surroundings.

The United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights had a section on freedom of thought and expression. Later, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution on December 16, 1966, that added a section on freedom of thought and expression to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. It says that Article 19 of the agreement is written this way: As a first step, everyone has the right to have their own opinions without interference from other people. As a second thing, everyone has the right to freedom of expression, which means that he can seek, get, and share information and ideas of any kind, no matter how he does it. This means that he can do this in any way he wants. People who use the rights in paragraph 2 of this article also have to do things in a certain way. If you don't want to hurt someone's feelings or reputation, you can put some rules on what you can and can't do. These rules can only be done in accordance with the law and to the extent necessary to protect national security, public order, public health, and morals.

It's impossible for this freedom to manifest unless it originates from those who have the power to influence and be influenced by others' mindsets. For example, well-known public officials, government officials, and public figures. The corona virus has caused many pros and cons in terms of news and information during this pandemic, such as an increase in infected individuals, the expansion of the red zone, a reduction in the number of public transportation vehicles and the hours they can operate, as well as numerous restrictions in other public areas to prevent crowding. The general public has a desire for information on this subject and shares information with one another. People who supply information will have a greater level of trust in information if they present it from a position of greater or closer expertise (Ridings; Gefen; Arinze, 2002).

The administration has made many attempts to disrupt the spread of COVID-19 in order to avoid any unpleasant surprises. It all started with the lockdown of multiple red zone regions, and then came restrictions on how

many people could ride in public transportation at once, then came work from home policies, then came PSBB, which is an entirely new issue.

Public figures such as local officials and human rights advocates have used social media to remind one another that all government initiatives have been weighed carefully. A vaccination has not yet been developed to combat Covid 19, a newly discovered virus, thus it's anticipated that this won't be faked as well.

D. Conclusion

Many inferences can be formed about how to appropriately exercise one's right to free speech and expression from the arguments described above. In addition, it's critical to know how to identify and use reliable sources of information found on the internet and other forms of social media. During the COVID-19 epidemic, every community will have access to correct information thanks to the assistance of social and political practitioners and the direct involvement of public figures so that people can readily comprehend the government's policy. In whatever mode of communication, there will inevitably be flaws to be considered. It's even better if the information comes from an internet source, too. Since the government has given emergency aid services and information posts, it is hoped that the general population will verify the accuracy of any information they receive throughout the epidemic.

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*An idea is nothing but Information,
it won't do us any harm until we
accept it as perception of truth in our
mind, which in time will potentially
evolve and construct major events in
history.*

Djayawarman Alamprabu

Feared Intellectualism