

# GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITY FOR WORKERS WHO EXPERIENCE UNEMPLOYMENT DUE TO COVID -19

Gempar Putra Firdaus, Risma Dewi Hermawan, Aris Prio Agus Santoso

Duta Bangsa University Surakarta

JL. Pinang Raya No.47, Kel. Cemani, Kec. Grogol, Kab. Sukoharjo

e-mail: [algempar02@gmail.com](mailto:algempar02@gmail.com)

**ABSTRACT:** *Right now the whole world, including Indonesia, is feeling uneasy because of the problem about Covid-19 which has caused losses in various sectors of life. The most visible losses are in public health, the economy and in other sectors. The most pronounced example is in the economic sector. Because many companies have been forced to reduce their workforce, so many people have lost their livelihoods. This article contains a discussion of the role of the government in dealing with unemployment in Indonesia during the Covid-19 pandemic. The purpose of writing this article is to find out how the steps have been and will be taken by the government to deal with the current unemployment problem. The approach method in this study uses a statutory approach (statute approach). This method examines the law based on legal norms and literature. The final result of this research is the government's efforts to deal with unemployment during the Covid-19 pandemic and the success rate or effectiveness of government policies on legal protection for Indonesian Workers during the pandemic. Based on the data analysis carried out, to deal with unemployment, the government issued several policies that could be used as solutions for workers to survive during the Covid-19 pandemic, several policies, namely: the pre-employment card policy which aims to eradicate poverty and reduce unemployment, Training Center Work,*

**Keywords:** COVID-19, Unemployment

## INTRODUCTION

At the beginning of 2020, it was shocked by the outbreak of the corona virus (Covid-19) which infected almost all countries in the world. Where Covid-19 started and was detected in the country of Wuhan, China in December 2019 and began to spread to various parts of the world including Indonesia in March 2020. Globally positive cases of corona have reached 2,601,774 while in Indonesia as of April 20, 2020 until now it has reached 1.4 million patients.

The increasing number of patients caused by Covid-19 has made the Indonesian government issue various policies to be able to solve the Covid-19 case, one of which is by socializing the social distancing movement. With the Covid-19 disease pandemic, inevitably some companies reduce the number of workers or employees, resulting in layoffs of employees as an effort to prevent the spread of the disease. Many companies also take extreme steps to maintain their business and of course to reduce losses due to Covid-19.

Based on data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) in the August 2020 period, the number of unemployed people increased by 2.67 million people, thus the number of unemployed labor force in Indonesia was 9, providing a social safety net for informal sector workers. Fourth, prioritizing the provision of training incentives through the Pre-Employment Card Program for workers affected by layoffs. However, this government policy is still ineffective because there are still many unemployed people who have not received the assistance that should have been received. Based on the description above, the authors are interested in researching "Government Responsibility for Workers Who Experience Unemployment Due to Covid-19". Based on the background of the problem above, the main problem of this research is "The Government's Responsibility Against Unemployment Due to Covid?" This government policy is still ineffective because there are still many unemployed people who have not received the assistance that should have been received. Based on the description above, the authors are interested in researching "Government Responsibility for Workers Who Experience Unemployment Due to Covid-19". Based on the background of the problem above, the main problem of this research is "The Government's Responsibility Against Unemployment Due to Covid?" This government policy is still ineffective because there are still many unemployed people who have not received the assistance that should have been received. Based on the description above, the authors are interested in researching "Government Responsibility for Workers Who Experience Unemployment Due to Covid-19".

## **PROBLEM**

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## **RESEARCH METHODS**

The approach method in this research uses a statutory approach (statute approach) This research is more emphasized on library data, namely research conducted on secondary data consisting of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, the 5 principles of the Indonesian State, namely Pancasila which reads "Social Justice for All Indonesian People", Presidential Decree No.36 of 2020 Article 15 concerning policies, controls, and up to the Government's Responsibility for Workers Who Experience Unemployment Due to Covid-19.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Government Responsibility for Workers Who Experience Unemployment Due to Covid-19**

The period of the COVID-19 pandemic certainly gives the government responsibility for public order, security, comfort and welfare. We can see the state's responsibility in the fourth paragraph of the Preamble to the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, namely protecting the entire Indonesian nation and all Indonesian bloodshed, advancing public welfare, educating the nation's life, and participating in implementing world order based on independence and peace. lasting and social justice.

The four responsibilities above are mandates by the founders of the nation for state administration. Then, we all know that Indonesia is a country that stands based on law, not

based on power alone. The 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia has a principal position as a guideline for the governance and management of state, government and social life, including emphasizing the existence of the concept of the state.

This has been emphasized in Article 1 paragraph 3 of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia which reads that "Indonesia is a state based on law". The implication is that all actions in state administration must be based on legal instruments that lead to the state's goal, namely to protect and prosper.

The government issued several policies to reduce the spread of Covid-19, namely in the form of social policies. The social policies issued by the government have a very, very big impact on entrepreneurs and industry, especially on production whose raw materials and markets come from outside country. This resulted in a weakening of the economy in Indonesia. The weakening of the economy is expected to occur over the next 4-6 months or even longer, because the corona virus pandemic cannot yet be predicted when this pandemic will end in the service sector and industry. This incident resulted in many companies or industries experiencing a decrease in income and even experiencing losses, this will also increase the possibility of companies to adopt a policy of layoffs on a large scale. It can be predicted that in the future in Indonesia about 4 million workers are at risk of losing their jobs. For this reason, in order to overcome these problems, the government issued a policy with the aim of providing protection in the form of justice for workers who experienced layoffs.

#### 1. Issuing Pre-Employment Card

The pre-employment card program had been planned by the government from the start to eradicate poverty and reduce unemployment in Indonesia. This Pre-Work Card Program aims to develop workforce competence, increase productivity and workforce competitiveness. The pre-employment card is a way for the government to provide assistance to small workers / laborers who have experienced Termination of Employment (PHK) and also affected micro and small business actors, so that they can work and work again. Economic conditions that have not been stable due to this pandemic have made jobs based on soft skills more needed than those with diplomas. So, Through this program, it is hoped that workers / laborers who get facilities from the government can have new skills to be able to open their own business / business, be independent so that they can open new jobs for many people to reduce unemployment. The pre-employment card program can also be accessed easily because registration can be done online, making the process faster and more practical. The pre-employment card program provides assistance to each card holder in the amount of Rp. 3,550.00.00 which is sent gradually over 4 months. In addition, the government is also working with BP Jamsostek to provide additional incentives of Rp. 600,000 to every worker who is a victim of termination of employment (PHK) who has registered with BP Jamsostek. The pre-employment card program collaborates with online service providers, such as Ruangguru, maubelajarapa.com, Pintaria, school.mu, Pijar Mahir, Bukalapak, and so on. Initially, this pre-employment card program would be carried out directly / offline, but due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this program could not be implemented directly / offline. Initial planning, the government issued a budget of Rp. 10 trillion, but in order to

overcome the corona virus pandemic, the government is currently making a decision by increasing the budget to Rp. 20 trillion. Decisions taken by the government can be aroused This pre-employment card program will be implemented directly / offline, but due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this program cannot be implemented directly / offline. Initial planning, the government issued a budget of IDR 10 trillion, but in order to overcome the corona virus pandemic, the government is currently making a decision by increasing the budget to IDR 20 trillion. Decisions taken by the government can be aroused This pre-employment card program will be implemented directly / offline, but due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this program cannot be implemented directly / offline. Initial planning, the government issued a budget of IDR 10 trillion, but in order to overcome the corona virus pandemic, the government is currently making a decision by increasing the budget to IDR 20 trillion. Decisions taken by the government can be arousedstate losses, can be seen from the survey funds for worker partners. The government must each provide IDR 150 thousand for 5.6 million registrants. The total, which must be spent by the state is Rp. 84 billion, even though online surveys are supposed to be free, this can reduce costs to make it more effective and efficient. The eight digital platforms that work with the government to provide Pre-Work Card training have the potential to get a profit of IDR 3.7 trillion. What should have been given was 2.58 trillion. This means that each platform can benefit from the project of IDR 457 billion per platform if the profits are shared equally. Taken from some of the explanations above, the pre-employment card program is ineffective, coupled with the size of the budget spent is not comparable to the quality of training conducted online.

## 2. Work Training Center

In general, the Job Training Center (BLK) is a building that is used as a place to practice and add skills to prepare yourself for entering the world of work. The training held by the Vocational Training Center is useful for equipping participants with skills in various vocational fields and providing motivation to be independent. The target of this activity is the creation of a skilled, disciplined workforce with a productive work ethic so that they are able to fill existing job opportunities and are able to create jobs through independent businesses. The Job Training Center is designed to meet the needs of the community for job training institutions that are dedicated to producing a workforce that is ready to enter the world of work. The availability of vocational training centers can be an effective step in overcoming unemployment problems and increasing the competence of workers in the regions. Thus, BLK alumni will have the knowledge, experience, and work skills to develop themselves in the industrial world and entrepreneurial businesses independently because BLK is the choice, hope, and future career that becomes the ticket for tough professional workers and entrepreneurs.

## 3. Program of development and expansion of job opportunities through Safety Nets Social (JPS).

One of the Ministry of Manpower's JPS programs, which consists of the Independent Manpower program for the creation of entrepreneurship and labor-intensive activities, which can be an option for the community to avoid or reduce the impact of the pandemic. The labor-intensive program is a community empowerment program targeting the unemployed and underemployed, through the construction of

public facilities and community productivity facilities by involving a large number of workers. Both labor-intensive programs and entrepreneurial creation are stimuli for small industry players to increase their creativity in utilizing natural resources and human resources in the vicinity, to be processed into products that have selling value in the domestic market. The Ministry of Manpower through the Directorate of Development and Expansion of Job Opportunities as of 2 October 2020 has distributed assistance to TKM programs for the 1985 entrepreneurial group involving 39,700 people and 1,091 labor-intensive groups involving 21,820 people.

## **CONCLUSION**

The spread of Covid-19 in the world, especially in Indonesia, is developing very rapidly until now. Within one month, several economic sectors were seen to be affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, ranging from the manufacturing, trade, to tourism sectors. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, many companies have made decisions to terminate employment (PHK) to increase the efficiency of their companies by reason of force majeure. The company policy that was taken could not be justified because the Covid-19 pandemic was not a force majeure event because the Covid-19 pandemic had not yet reached two years or did not cause the company to close. The government issued several policies that could be used as solutions for workers to survive during the Covid-19 pandemic, several policies, namely: First, the government issued a policy for a pre-employment card program. Second, the government issued a Vocational Training Center (BLK) program. Third, the government issued a program development and expansion of job opportunities through Social Safety Nets (JPS).

Some of these policies, both from the president and the Ministry of Manpower regarding the protection of workers during the Covid-19 pandemic, have not been fully implemented properly or have not been effective. For example, the pre-work card program, the amount of the budget spent is not comparable to the quality of online training. The Vocational Training Center (BLK) program has a minimum number of mentors and instructors. The program to develop and expand job opportunities through the Social Safety Net (JPS), the manager of the JPS program, has not mastered many things because he is not experienced. In administration, for example, even though they have attended training, their abilities are still zero. They don't even understand the situation and condition of their own region.

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