

The case of corruption in Covid-19 pandemic in Asia Pacific: Study case of Indonesia

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Abstract

The Covid-19 Pandemic is not halting the corruption cases in Asia Pacific; some countries such as North Korea, Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines, and even China. Nevertheless, Indonesia also suffers from Covid-19 corruption scandals. Corruption cases like social aid corruption by the ex-Social Minister, Juliari Batubara, and vaccines fund corruption by North Sumatera Provincial Health Office authorities are two prominent examples of corruption cases amid the pandemic. Through these cases, such questions as ‘why does corruption in Indonesia still exist even in the Covid-19 pandemic?’ arise. Such cases as the mentioned examples prove that social justice establishment is a concern in Indonesia while the global good governance campaign is not stopping even in pandemics. We argue that such corruption cases affect the Indonesian government to give social justice and lose its responsibility sense to the citizen through a global good governance perspective.

Keywords: *Covid-19; Corruption; Global Good Governance; Indonesia*

Introduction

With the emergence of the Covid-19 pandemic, the human way of life in its various aspects has experienced a drastic change in the health sector (Haleem et al., 2020), such as those pertaining to global mental health (Alzueta et al., 2021) 882 individuals (Mage = 42.30; 78.8% female, as well as the social (Barouki et al., 2021), economic (Haleem et al., 2020), education (Abidah et al., 2020) sectors and so forth. International organizations and the many countries of the world were compelled to adapt to the drastic changes resulting from the Covid-19

pandemic. In the short run, the challenges faced by the International Community in adapting to the Covid-19 pandemic include the constant wearing of masks, physical distancing, increased frequency of washing one's hands with soap, and so on. However, the long-term consequences and how present conditions will overhaul health and development management, employment, and global priorities for the better (Igoe & Chadwick, 2020).

As the governance of society, the economy, the health sector, and so on were transformed by the Covid-19 pandemic, said changes did not necessarily occur in global corruption trends. Corruption inflicts more of an adverse impact in periods of crisis, such as the current Covid-19 pandemic. Responses to Covid-19 have laid bare new opportunities to commit graft by capitalizing on poor supervision and low transparency to reallocate emergency transfers away from those affected the most by Covid-19. Ineffectual government supervision and inadequate transparency are one outcome of hasty decision-making in the crisis.

For instance, steps were not taken to verify that parties contracted to supply medical equipment, foodstuff, and other necessities, as is the case in the bargaining process for a fair and reasonable price. Not infrequently, collusion between several actors held sway over the supply chain of a much-needed good in the pandemic. Those actions have caused the cost of said goods to increase prohibitively. As a matter of fact, the new situation leans towards a market-oriented direction, deprioritizing the necessity of saving human life (United Nations Secretary General, n.d.).

As the Covid-19 pandemic rolls forward, many states have experienced corrupt practices, such as when fraud is involved in procuring goods or when stakeholders capitalize on the opportunity to enrich themselves. The international community should have learned its lessons when the Ebola epidemic struck when it quickly became apparent that traditional measures to eradicate corruption proved ineffective in stemming graft. Anti-corruption policymaking should be designed as such to conduct interventions in various sectors (Steingrüber et al., 2020).

Concerning the policy of conducting interventions in various sectors, it should be noted that stringent rules and procedures should be maintained to preserve the public interest. Should the state desire to assist the public in mitigating the Covid-19 pandemics, mechanisms and institutions with a long track record in eradicating corruption should be established. On the other hand, it is of equal importance to draw in non-state actors to supervise the medical equipment procurement mechanism or system, the provision of social assistance, and the utilization of the budget, among other things, to minimize the opportunities available in undertaking corrupt practices (Steingrüber et al., 2020).

Indonesia does not stand as an exception to this trend. Corruption in all its forms continues to perpetuate even as conditions deteriorate in the population, international and national alike, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The head of the Indonesian Financial Transaction Reports and Analysis Center (INTRAC/PPATK), Ivan Yustiavandana, has expressed that during the Covid-19 pandemic, graft-related transactions have changed from a conventional one to a direction that readily utilizes information technology and fintech, among others. The Corruption Eradication Commission has further warned that illegal fintech platforms are susceptible to being used for graft and money laundering (Novianto, 2021).

Nevertheless, the phenomenon above does not mean that "conventional" corrupt practices are done away with, as the recent corruption cases involving medical equipment procurement, social assistance, PCR equipment, drugs, and other items have demonstrated. This is further illustrated by the Indonesia Corruption Watch (ICW) findings on the procurement of medical equipment and material in the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia, which has ample potential for government fraud. The ICW further indicates that public accountability is necessary to ensure that the budget allocated towards that purpose is right on target, as well as pre-empting any possibility of committing graft from ever surfacing (Anggraeni et al., 2020). Furthermore, the Indonesian public had been shaken by the revelation of a massive graft case regarding Covid-19 pandemic social assistance payments that implicated the then-Minister of Social Affairs, Juliari Batubara. Juliari was alleged to have received a bribe amounting to 32,2 billion rupiahs for his part in the scheme. Said funds had been received from several parties, including one Harry Van Sidabukke, amounting to 1,28 billion rupiahs, Ardian Iskandar Maddanajta to the amount of 1,9 billion rupiahs, in addition to 29,2 billion from companies that have

contracted Covid-19-related social assistance procurement tenders (Aji, 2021).

The case detailed above is of the corruption cases in which one or several parties have taken undue advantage amidst widespread economic hardship caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. One is further driven to bask in irony, seeing that a Lembaga Survei Indonesia (LSI) survey in November 2020 reported that up to 39,6% of its respondents have come to regard that graft has not only taken place but also increased. A similarly themed survey conducted in September 2020 reported that 42,1% of respondents answered affirmatively to the notion that instances of corruption have increased, and another conducted in August 2020 had affirmative answers making up to 38,4% of all responses (Rozie, 2020). Another survey conducted in December 2020 by Saiful Mujani Research and Consulting (SMRC) reported that up to 55 percent of its respondents regarded corruption as skyrocketing compared to previous years (The Jakarta Post, 2020). This perception is based upon the high-profile corruption cases involving two cabinet ministers, the Minister of Social Affairs and the Minister of Seas and Fisheries.

Another case has engendered suspicions that the data of Covid-19 patients has been marked-up, which was utilized to request more Covid-19 mitigation funding. This happened in Ambon, where the city's Covid-19 taskforce was alleged to have marked up the number of Covid-19 positive patients, Orang Dalam Pemantauan (ODP), Pasien Dalam Pengawasan (PDP), to the number of medical personnel employed by the Puskesmas. By inflating the reported number of Covid-19 positive patients, Orang Dalam Pemantauan (ODP), and Pasien Dalam Pengawasan (PDP), funds allocated by the central government to the municipal Covid-19 taskforce will increase correspondingly. Furthermore, it would have permitted the task force to employ a more significant number of medical personnel and increased the incentive to commit graft with the provided funds (Siwalimanews, 2020).

It is important to note that even as the Covid-19 pandemic raged, graft and fraud remained equally persistent. In fact, the survey results listed above highlighted the fact that the public perceives how corruption remained as pervasive as it had been before the pandemic. This flies because the Covid-19 pandemic, and the economic hardship it continues to create in society, has created a greater need for budgetary transparency on the issues of social assistance provision, medical equipment, and material procurement. These are matters not confined to the notion of counting pennies lest those are lost graft and fraud, but rather are tied to the higher ideal of saving human life by effective policymaking and handling of the Covid-19 pandemic (Anggraeni et al., 2020).

From the passages above, an interesting question emerges, which warrants further research: why does corruption continue to occur during the Covid-19 pandemic, to the extent that public perception of corruption cases has increased in frequency during the Covid-19 pandemic. Thus, this article argues that in these dire times, the government has done all it could to safeguard the lives of its citizens by allocating a Covid-19 mitigation fund to the tune of 695,2 trillion rupiahs in the year 2020 alone, with an additional 744,75 trillion rupiahs in 2021 through the Pemulihan Ekonomi Nasional (PEN) program (Puspasari, 2021). However, the allocation of funds rarely conforms to the process of good governance, which presents new opportunities to commit graft and fraud. Thus, the Covid-19 pandemic alone cannot be blamed for the uptick in corruption cases.

This has been proven by the absence of budget transparency, chaotic policymaking regarding the procurement of medical equipment, material, and social assistance, to frivolous monitoring and evaluation process. Those are to blame for allowing corruption to fester during the Covid-19 pandemic, especially in Indonesia. Further, in the context of budget transparency during the Covid-19 pandemic, it is needed as an action that is prone to corruption. Secretary General of the Indonesian Forum for Budget Transparency (Fitra) Misbah Hasan stated that there is potential for corruption in the context of providing aid funds for citizens affected by the economy due to the Covid-19 pandemic (Purnamasari, 2020).

Evidently, when looking at the case of corruption of social assistance funds by the Former Minister of Social Affairs, Juliari Batubara. Even data from Indonesia Corruption Watch (ICW) that throughout 2020 to 2021 there were 30 cases of corruption of Covid-19 mitigation funds, state losses were estimated at IDR 22.49 billion, while bribes worth IDR 23.43 billion and corruption of Covid-19 handling funds occurred from the basic food aid budget, cash social assistance (BST) and direct cash assistance (BLT) (Hutasuhut & Iswinarno, 2022).

Another context is the clutter in taking policies such as the procurement of medical devices and so on. Even Indonesia Corruption Watch (ICW) has conducted monitoring and analysis related to the procurement of medical devices at the Indonesian Ministry of Health. The result is that there is a potential for fraud related to the procurement of health equipment and materials carried out by the government (Hadyan, 2021). Indonesia Corruption Watch (ICW) also mentioned that one of the official government agencies, namely the National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB), has neglected the process of procuring medical devices.

The act of neglect implied that during April-September 2020, it was found that 498,644 RNA reagents were returned because they were considered unfit for use, including because they were close to expiration from 78 laboratories in 29 provinces with a potential loss of IDR 169.1 billion. Moreover, there is one company engaged in providing machine tools and infrastructure to be one of the companies before signing a contract as a medical device provider with BNPB. The company is recorded to have a contract value of IDR 117 billion or 21.32 percent of the total contract (Hadyan, 2021). The last is due to the weak supervision and evaluation of the policies of several economic programs during the Covid-19 pandemic. Researcher of the Center for Anti-Corruption Studies (Pukat) Universitas Gadjah Mada, Zainur Rohman, assessed that weak supervision of the management of aid funds during the pandemic was prone to corruption (Azanella, 2020).

In addition, there is also the absence of an integrated supervision system established by the government to oversee the distribution of economic aid funds. Meanwhile, the Research Manager of the National Secretariat of the Indonesian Forum for Budget Transparency (FITRA), Badiul Hadi, is of the view that the pandemic situation is certain to be an opportunity for public officials to commit corruption. One of the reasons for this is due to the weak supervision, even if there is an internal government supervision apparatus to carry out supervision, it is considered ineffective (Saputra & Faqih, 2021). In line with Zainur Rohman and Badiul Hadi, Indonesia Corruption Watch (ICW) Researcher Agus Sunaryanto, said that the corruption cases that have occurred since the Covid-19 pandemic are due to weak corruption supervision. For example, weak supervision of social assistance funds for communities affected by Covid-19 (Endarwati, 2021). In addition, there is no policy evaluation process for the distribution of covid-19 pandemic mitigation programs. The evaluation only existed, when there was corruption of social aid funds carried out by the former minister of social affairs, Juliari Batubara.

This came accompanied by the urging of the community, especially researchers from the Center for Anti-Corruption Studies, Gadjah Mada University (Pukat UGM), Zaenur Rohman, to thoroughly evaluate the Covid-19 pandemic mitigation program (BBC Indonesia, 2020). In the end, the Program Secretary of the Policy Committee for Covid-19 Control and National Economic Recovery, Raden Pardede, said the government would evaluate the implementation of covid-19 pandemic mitigation programs. At the same time, the committee will hold an evaluation meeting to change the system for providing social assistance and possibly form an anti-corruption agency that oversees the use of the Covid-19 pandemic budget (BBC Indonesia, 2020).

Literature Review

Several scientific articles have explored the relationship between corruption and the Covid-19 pandemic, generally finding that corruption cases during the Covid-19 pandemic have increased, concluding that such actions constitute human rights violations – human rights which the state was under an obligation to facilitate (Arifin et al., 2021; Firdaus et al., 2021; Rahmatullah, 2021).

Indeed, the prevalence of corruption cases may indicate that the state has been unable to fulfill its obligations to realize the fundamental rights of its citizens, such as economic, social, and other rights, which have been thus far violated (Rahmatullah, 2021). As a result, society had become the direct victims of corruption, with their economic rights in particular violated by the Covid-19 social assistance scheme graft case (Firdaus et al., 2021), which in turn leads to the violation of their basic human rights as a whole (Arifin et al., 2021).

Furthermore, corruption cases are documented in various sectors, including infrastructural development (Supriadi et al., 2021), health (Teremetskyi et al., 2021), and social assistance (Wicaksana Prakasa et al., 2021). A few causes that can be readily pointed out to explain the frequent occurrence of corruption include monitoring,

evaluation, and law enforcement mechanism within the procurement and permit-issuing process that have not adapted to Covid-19 pandemic conditions, a lack of transparency where the budget is concerned, abuse of power, blatant favoritism in management, service-level corruption, and embezzlement of medical and social assistance funding (Ilahi & Widowaty, 2021; Rose-Ackerman, 2021; Teremetskyi et al., 2021).

Fajrin et al. grouped the causes of corruption during the Covid-19 pandemic into two: external or environmental factors and internal factors, which stemmed from those partaking in the deed itself. The internal factor or the individual behavioral aspects of corruption are greed, the absence of a solid moral grounding, and a consumption-laden lifestyle. In contrast, the external factors nourish corruption, among which are socio-cultural, political, economic, organizational culture, and poor supervision (Fajrin et al., 2020).

On the other hand, the opportunity to commit acts of corruption during the Covid-19 pandemic is expansive. Lousy faith actors desired to utilize the said opportunity for personal gain (Supriadi et al., 2021) or what is often called the corona virus, is currently increasingly infecting the Indonesian economy. Corruption is one of the causes of the nation's very rapid economic system, because corruption in Indonesia is widespread, thus harming the country's economy or the state's financial condition. In this study, the author discusses corruption in infrastructure development in Indonesia during the COVID-19 pandemic. This type of research is library research using the juridical-normative type of research, namely research that is focused on examining the causal factors, punishments given and examining the implications of corruption in infrastructure development on the economy and education during the COVID-19 pandemic. The data in this study is secondary data, namely library materials that include official documents, journals, books, libraries, scientific works, articles, and documents related to this research material. The results of this paper indicate that: 1. It is not uncommon for corrupt practices during the Covid-19 pandemic to extend down to the regional level. This happens to be closely tied to the notion of decentralization, which is a recommendation often issued to IMF donor recipients, such as Indonesia (Mulyaman & Ismail, 2019).

Nevertheless, the government's policymaking was geared toward producing a ready and rapid response to the Covid-19 pandemic. As such, it had not involved the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) from the very beginning, let alone identify and assess the risks for instances of corruption. Additionally, the government and anti-corruption institutions should promote integrity, transparency, accountability, and public participation to minimize future corruption (Kirya, 2020). Furthermore, the government and the Corruption Eradication Commission should be so bold as to consider the possibility of inflicting severe legal consequences, most minor of all capital punishment, by Article (2) Paragraphs (1) and (2) of Law No. 31 1999 on Corruption Eradication, considering the fact that the Covid-19 pandemic had been designated as a non-natural disaster by the President. The Corruption Eradication Commission needed a proper and comprehensive investigation and fact-finding process.

Methods

We employ a qualitative approach to achieve the best possible outcome in this situation. Through a succession of qualitatively processed data, the case study technique intensely explores one or a group of small examples, concentrating on numerous details in each case and setting (Klotz & Prakash, 2008). According to George and Bennett, a qualitative technique in International Relations typically means analyzing one or a few foreign policies, with a decision-making process to be tracked to establish the unit and level of deciding analysis at the shifting historical level (George & Bennett, 2005). Furthermore, singular case studies may develop from a practical problem. Thus, the key example in this research will examine corruption in Indonesia during the Covid-19 pandemic to address the question, "Why does corruption exist in Indonesia even during the Covid-19 pandemic?"

Next, for data collection strategies, a literature review is used. A literature study is a process for critically examining a portion of a published material body through description, categorization, and comparison of earlier research studies, reviews of literature, and theoretical articles (Jørgensen, n.d.). As a result, in this study, we

gathered data from books, scientific journals, records, and Internet media on corruptor behavior as evidence for the motive “Why does corruption exist in Indonesia even amid the Covid-19 pandemic?”

Further, why is this method being taken as the primary method of studying this issue? As we look for behavioral justification of the motive on “Why does corruption exist in Indonesia even amid the Covid-19 pandemic?” we believe that a qualitative approach on this issue is the best arrangement we could comprehend as behavior that led to motive often described best in the report of the research or paperwork instead of graphics or table. Furthermore, this technique enables us to uncover the issue’s phenomenon. Motivation is a state that stimulates and sustains activity toward a specific objective. As a result, we would want to interpret corruption’s conduct as predation or predators, which fails the spirit of good global governance even in fearful times like pandemics.

Theoretical Framework

This paper use Michael Zurn’s understanding of Global Good Governance. Michael Zurn explained that world politics is currently rooted in an ethical and organizational system controlled by hierarchies and status disparities, which causes contestation, resistance, and distributional disagreement, by the meaning. Thus, dividing the governance into several aspects, namely normative, reflexive, and legitimation, led to the deepening into the one global good governance that could apprehend the global governance (Zürn, 2018).

Further, for starters, it reorganizes global governance as an ideological platform based on normative principles and reflexive authority. Second, it highlights the core legitimacy issues of the global governance structure from a constitutionalist perspective. Third, it explains the growth of state and civil contestation by identifying crucial dynamic processes and examining the underlying causal arrangements. Lastly, it examines the circumstances that cause a reduction or deepening as in the global governance mechanism.

Therefore, this paper will analyze the issue in the eye of good global governance as corruption opposes the mechanism. However, to deepen the analysis, we would like to explain through the predation of development since corruption is part of the displeasing side of the good governance that eventually happened in the issue. Then, UNESCAP explained that good governance contains eight characteristics, i.e., participation, consensus-oriented, accountability, transparency, responsiveness, effectivity and efficiency, equity and inclusivity, and following the rule of law (UNESCAP, 2014). In fighting against corruption, collusion, and nepotism or Korupsi/Kolusi/Nepotisme (KKN), for UNESCAP, good governance would guarantee to minimize corruption so that the government could tend to the people’s needs more responsively today and in the future. Looking at the eight characteristics, a good administration would fight corruption by emphasizing accountability, transparency, and upholding the rule of law. A good government would be responsible for doing its job to fight corruption, be transparent in its fiscal policy, and follow the rule of law in eradicating corruption in its country’s interest (UNESCAP, 2014). With this in mind, does corruption law enforcement impact Indonesia’s good governance in fighting against KKN?

Further, predation by Azam et al. (2009) is the Predation that is determined by the strength of institutions as well as the size of the expropriated population. Predation is a movement that predates the fund’s intended role due to the predators’ persistent circumstances. The causes are numerous, such as low pay, power syndrome, and systematically done to favor a political group. Therefore, the predators, such as benevolent or benign predators, also vary based on predatory action. In this paper, we use predators or predation as a catalyst of analysis for achieving the best explanation to form a rigid argument for good governance in the context of this study (Azam et al., 2009) whose type (benevolent or predatory).

Results and Discussion

Corruption often occurs when a country is in the process of receiving foreign aid. This is because foreign assistance is granted to solve an existing problem, e.g., to improve the general welfare. However, poor handling of budget allocation, nonexistent public participation, and weak monitoring mechanism have paved the way

for corruption. In light of this situation, the World Bank in 1989 put forward the term 'governance' (sans using the term 'good'). It was intended to emphasize the necessity of structural reform and public services to be able to improve and more efficient (Maldonado, 2010). Over the years, however, 'good' was juxtaposed with 'governance' and had since entered everyday parlance (Addink, 2019).

The usage of good governance then spread for not only the World Bank but other international organizations such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF), United Nations (UN), and United Nations Development Program (UNDP), each with their particular emphasis and understanding. However, it can be summarized that good governance is a concept that serves as a guide for countries to improve their capacity to serve their people (Wibowo, 2012).

Good governance then steered how an organization is managed in the right direction. Terminology-wise it has become a catch-all term to be applied everywhere, especially in the government (Ameliya, 2021). Thus, good governance means sound management of the government. UNDP has tried to formulate that good governance should mean participation. In other words, all personnel of a government institution can provide their input in the decision-making process through a transparent method and procedure. Meanwhile, the government is expected to be responsive to the needs of the people and provide channels for their involvement.

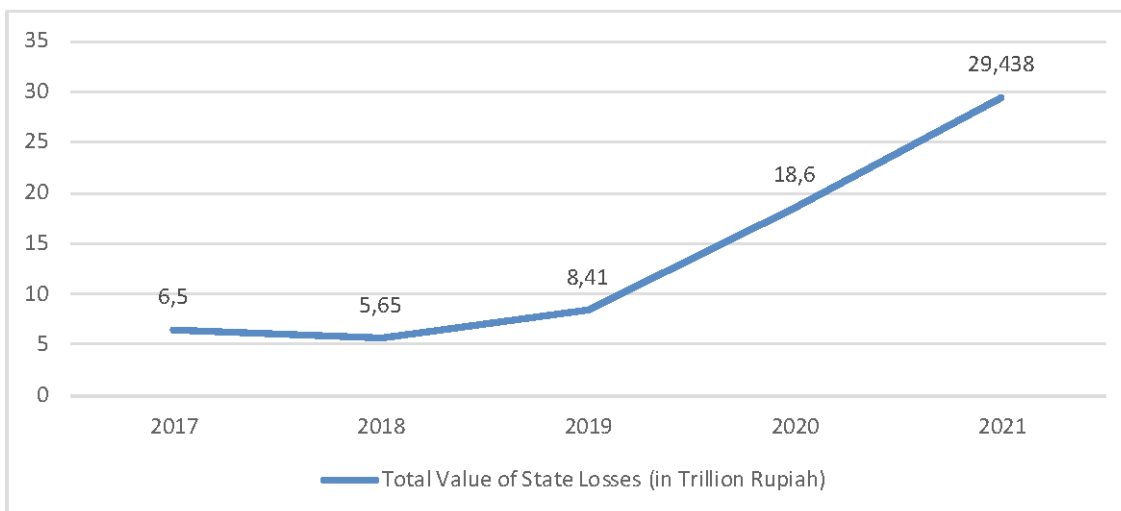
UNDP has tried to formulate that good governance should mean participation. In other words, every official of a government institution can provide their input in the decision-making process through a transparent method and procedure. Meanwhile, the government is expected to be responsive to the needs of the people and provide channels for their involvement. In addition, UNDP emphasizes that good governance covers regulation, precise policy implementation, and effective, transparent, and responsible bureaucratic processes (Ameliya, 2021). With the addition of a good democratic framework, corruption can then be reduced.

Steps were already taken to put those principles to the test in Indonesia. For example, the Presidential Regulation No. 5 of 2010 on the National Medium-Term Development Plan for 2010-2014 contained bureaucratic reformation and government administration as the 1st priority issue. Government Regulation No. 3 of 2013 on Position, Task, Function, Authority, Organizational Structure, and Working Mechanism of Non-ministerial Government Institution. Both regulations were laws aimed at improving existing governance practices.

Nevertheless, corruption cases in Indonesia are still fluctuating. A few years before the pandemic, the Indonesia Corruption Watch (ICW) noted that the period between 2017 and 2019 saw lower cases faced by the Corruption Eradication Commission, Indonesian Public Prosecution Service, and National Police. The decrease happened both in total cases and suspects. ICW's data stated that in 2017 there were 576 cases, with 1,298 suspects and a total of 6,5 trillion rupiahs of loss. In 2018 ICW noted at least 454 cases, with 1,087 suspects and 5,65 trillion rupiahs of embezzled funds. The downward trend continued in 2019 when ICW presented its report of 271 cases, 580 suspects, and 8,41 trillion state losses (Lokadata, 2019). According to ICW, a decreasing trend happened in cases handled by the Prosecution and Police Corps. In contrast, an upward trend was observed in the cases investigated by the KPK, especially on high-profile figures (Natalia, 2020). These data show that there was a decline in cases before the pandemic in Indonesia. This decrease brings good news for the Indonesian governance sector.

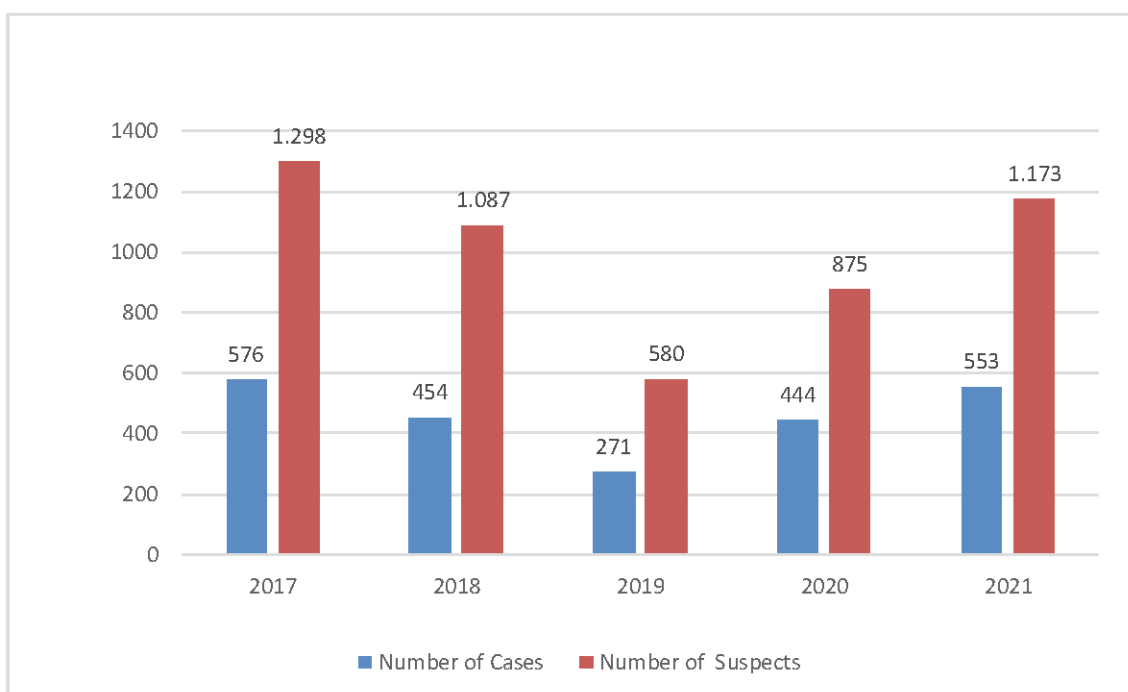
Unfortunately, said downward trend stopped during the Covid-19 pandemic. There is a marked increase in cases, suspects, and state losses. According to ICW, a significant uptick happened between 2020-2021 that coincided with the pandemic. In 2020, there were 444 cases with 875 suspects and 18,6 trillion rupiahs stolen (CNN Indonesia, 2021). This continued in 2021 when they reported 553 cases, an increase of 1.173 suspects causing 29,438 trillion rupiahs to be robbed from the state's coffers (Kamil, 2022).

Table 1. Total Value of State Losses (in Trillion Rupiah)



Source: processed by authors

Table 2. Number of Corruption Cases and Suspects in Indonesia



Source: processed by authors

Ironically, corruption cases increased while people’s economic life deteriorated, many layoffs happened, and not to mention other predicaments. Various forms of corruption occurred; first, there was alleged artificial inflation of covid cases in Ambon. The City’s covid Taskforce was suspected of marking up the numbers of infected people, Orang Dalam Pemantauan (ODP), Pasien Dalam Pengawasan (PDP), and assigned medical personnel in local health centers (Siwalimanews, 2020). This was done purposely for the mark-up would grant the Taskforce more covid relief funds from the government, which would then be embezzled.

Second, a price mark-up on the procurement of medical equipment in West Sumatra. Nofrizon, Deputy Speaker of West Sumatra’s Parliament, authorized the purchase of hand sanitizer priced at 35 thousand rupiahs

per bottle when it should have been bought at 9 thousand rupiahs each. The vendor itself was a batik vendor rather than a medical equipment enterprise (Kamil, 2022). Third, embezzlement of funds meant for covid relief by the then Social Minister Juliari Batubara, a social facilitator in Tangerang and Malang, an Ex-Director of Social Affairs of Kediri, a government official in Indramayu Regency, Former Head of Farm, Fishery and Forestry Instructor Bureau (BP3K) of Gorontalo and many others.

Rampant cases of corruption at least indicate the poor implementation of good governance in Indonesia's government administration. From the official's lack of integrity, weak monitoring mechanism, and inadequate internal supervision to their greed and extravagant lifestyle (Kartyadi, 2020). This was given more impetus by the slowing economy and massive disbursement of funds for covid relief.

Admittedly, the corruption eradication effort in Indonesia has been well designed at the systemic level. The framework rested on Law of the Republic of Indonesia No. 44 of 2001 and Law No. 31 of 1999 on corruption eradication, divided corruption practices into 30 forms and seven categories, e.g., corruption related to state funds, bribery, influence peddling, extortion, conflicting interest during the procurement process, and graft.

According to this data, it is clear that there has been an increase in corruption prosecution by the KPK since 2004. In that year, the prosecution was done only 23 times. This is understandable for KPK was founded in December 2003. The period between 2005 to 2009 saw a marked increase in the trial but declined in 2010. In 2014, the prosecution again went up; still, according to this data, 2016 would be the year where prosecution reached the highest tally since 2004. The initial inquiry phase (determining the nature of the deed), investigation phase (finding the evidence), prosecution (submitting the dossiers), Eintracht (a final verdict by the court), and execution of the verdict all reached the highest level in 2016 since it was started in 2004.

The data also shows that 'bribery' is the most common corruption type since 2004. The KPK handled a total of 775 bribery cases from 2004 until 2021. 2014 was the year with the most bribery cases, totaling 168. while corruption related to government procurement took second place with 266 cases (Annur, 2022).

The data indicate that law enforcement on corruption increased in the first semester of 2021. This upward trend has been observed since 2019. In 2021, with a total of 209 cases, it was increased by 40 compared to a similar month last year with 169 cases (Javier, 2021).

It, therefore, indicates that the increase in prosecution goes hand in hand with rising corruption practices. State's losses since 2018 saw an upward trend. The rising trend between 2019-2021 caused 51,928 trillion rupiahs to be stolen, and 2021 was the most corrupt year with a total of 16,83 trillion rupiahs embezzled.

According to the data, there is indeed an increase in corruption crackdowns along with rising corruption practices which caused billions of rupiahs of losses. However, the government strengthened the effort to charge those responsible in response to increasing cases. This means there is a commitment on the government's part to fight that would do away corruption in Indonesia. The creation of the KPK in 2003 is also a testament to the Indonesian government's willingness to fight corruption through good governance.

Said increase in crackdowns also shows that the Indonesian government pushes for accountability, transparency, and upholding the rules. The increase in crackdowns has been steadily upward since 2004. It shows the country's persistence despite Indonesia's relatively widespread corruption practices. The effort illustrates the government's commitment to bureaucratic reform. If the commitment to good governance is implemented, corruption will be eliminated. Other than commitment, the government has promulgated sets of laws to fight corruption. This is also a testament to the Indonesian government's willingness to bring change to the country via good governance.

The Indonesian government also strives for good governance via said sets of laws. The existence of Law of the Republic of Indonesia No. 20 of 2001; Law of the Republic of Indonesia No. 31 of 1999 on eradication of corruption indicate its effort to do away with corruption. Presidential Decree No. 5 of 2010 on National Medium-Term Development Plan 2010-2014 and other similar regulations are testament to its commitment to bureaucratic reform and government administration (Ameliya, 2021). It is also a sign that the government is devoted to changing government management through bureaucratic reform in line with the good governance

principle. Nevertheless, an increase in the offense indicates that corruption still exists, which shows that the government has yet to run the country via good governance effectively.

To fight corruption via good governance, the Indonesian government can transform anti-corruption policies into government programs and adapt to each state agency's ability to implement these policies. In addition, cooperation between the state apparatus, the business sector, and the people can also help the government to fight corruption (Ameliya, 2021). If the Indonesian government has been successfully encouraged to run the country through good governance, then corruption cases would also decrease. The government can support the implementation of good governance in countering corruption practices. Thus, the Indonesian people may see that the government has accountability and transparency and follows the rule of law.

Equally important, preventing corruption should be executed through formal and informal education. The cultivation of morals and character to maintain a clean behavior from corruption should be instilled since a person attends primary, secondary, and higher education through anti-corruption edification. Likewise, informal inculcation about the importance of good governance free from corruption should be provided to political party cadres who will occupy public positions in government.

In addition, to provide a deterrent effect to corruptors, law enforcers must be able to act decisively and without discrimination. With such firmness, it is hoped that public officials will not be interested in violating the law related to corruption, especially during the pandemic where the community is experiencing many difficulties. In this case, of course, the government and associated stakeholders need to ensure that law enforcers who deal with criminal acts of corruption must have good integrity and morality.

Conclusion

The outbreak of Covid-19 since the beginning of 2020 in Indonesia has impacted various sectors. Starting from the health sector, for example, global mental health, social, economic, education, etc. To deal with the outbreak, various small to large-scale organizations must adapt and be oriented toward solving problems. Organizations that are required to adjust include but are not limited to the government, especially the sectors responsible for handling Covid-19. Faced with pressure to solve the problem of the outbreak to save the lives of the affected and the potential for a further economic downturn, the bureaucratic and administrative order of the government is adjusted in such a way that the checks and balances mechanism that is often seen as slowing down the performance is shortened. Ironically, based on this acceleration effort, the Covid-19 response sequence opens up loopholes and opportunities for corruptors to exploit deliberately loosened supervision in the interests of acceleration and the weak transparency to misappropriate funds.

As if to say the die is cast, the improvement of the governance of fund management in times of crisis can only be implemented to deal with the pandemic or other force majeure in the future. The Indonesian government has a challenging task in working on institutional trust in the future. At the same time, sound checks and balances must be prepared to deal with the next crisis. It is necessary to find the most desirable midpoint between the supervision and management mechanism through prudent administration with the readiness and preparedness to reduce funds as a form of quick response when the crunch of conditions such as the pandemic. This is so that the public continues to see accountability, transparency, and obedience of the government and, at the same time, its reaction and swift response as a form of presence for the people when it is most needed.

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