

Regional Logistics in Improving the Defense Economy in the Region

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Abstract: Covid-19 has had an impact not only on health but also on the resilience of the national economy. Learning from the history of war, if we have weapons without food reserves, it will be messy as well as increasing food security to anticipate the impact of disease outbreaks such as Covid-19 which could happen again in the future. The Ministry of Defense is serious about developing the Food Estate Program by reviewing several potential land locations for planting strategic commodities. The plan to develop the "Food Estate" area in Central Kalimantan launched by the President of the Republic of Indonesia Joko Widodo is a collaboration between the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of PUPR, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry and the Ministry of SOEs. The research method uses descriptive qualitative. The results of the study show that the strength of food security is no less important than the strength of weapons, especially in dealing with the current situation such as the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. For this reason, Indonesia must have adequate food reserves.

Keyword: Logistics, Defense Economics, Covid-19 Pandemic, Budget Changes, Defense Area.

1. Introduction

Indonesia is an archipelagic country. In order to implement a strong defense, there are many determining factors, one of which must be supported by the availability of sufficient regional logistics and packaged in a well-regulated and coordinated regional logistics system. The condition of the area's potential in the

form of natural resources and artificial resources can be informed through maps that describe some or all of the potential resources of the region. The map functions as a source of information that provides information on regional logistics, with the aim of achieving similarities and understanding in reading a regional logistics map so that national defense can be implemented optimally. The national security system is built with a citizen and community participation approach or a security sector reform agreement, the most important thing is how it affects the Defense-Security Expenditure Structure on security stability in Indonesia (Saputro et al., 2020).

Regional logistics are logistics that are prepared based on the wealth of regional resources which include Natural Resources and Artificial Resources, among others in the form of food supplies, personal supplies, fuel oil and lubricants, building and construction materials, ammunition and explosives, medical supplies, spare parts supplies, and other supplies needed for the benefit of the National Defense. According to Oxfam (2001) food security is a condition when: “everyone at all times has access to and control over sufficient and good quality food for an active and healthy life. Food and nutrition security is a guarantee that is broader than just food efficiency and availability, as stated in Law no. 18/2012 on Food. Planning the defense budget and the right allocation of defense spending every year can support Indonesia's defense forces, so that they are able to create and increase Indonesia's economic growth (Saputro, et al., 2021). The Food Law guarantees the certainty of affordability and fulfillment of quality and nutritionally balanced, equitable food consumption, at all times by utilizing local resources, institutions and culture. Food security is closely related to regional defense logistics. Defense economics as a multidisciplinary study discusses resource allocation, income distribution, economic growth, and political stability which is applied to topics related to defense. According to defense economics, the impact of using the defense budget on the economy can be seen from the approach to demand or consumption and supply or production (Saputro et al., 2021).

Military logistics experts argue that military logistics is a bridge of support between front and back line troops and the logistics process is an economic element in military operations (Mawanto, 2020). Defense logistics are all efforts in determining policies, planning, organizing, implementing, supervising, and controlling through the stages of fostering and using personnel, materials, facilities, and services according to operational demands, in terms of quantity,

quality, time, type, place and conditions. and can maintain its readiness during use and provide continuous support to combat units and tactical units in order to achieve strategic objectives. Strategy and tactics provide the pattern for conducting military operations, while logistics provide the means. Meanwhile, what is meant by integrated logistical support are activities carried out by the army/military to ensure a strong support system by providing supply services (Hartanto, 2016). The concept of thought is the lowest cost and in accordance with the needs, reliable, sufficient inventory, maintenance and others as the requirements set for it.

According to the latest survey (2019) by BPS and the National Land Agency (BPN), there are around 7.46 million hectares of rice fields in Indonesia itself, according to the latest survey (2019). Despite the government's efforts to increase the area, the existing rice fields are still far below the 8.1 million ha figure in the early 1990s. Assuming that only half of the existing 7.46 million ha of rice fields can be harvested twice per year because it is affordable by technical irrigation networks, then the potential for the existing harvest area is on average 11.175 million hectares per year. This potential can increase if the dry season is wet enough, so that semi-technical irrigated rice fields, even rain fed, can produce. It's no secret that the area of rice fields is shrinking. Many productive paddy fields have changed functions. Minister of Agriculture 2014-2019 Amran Sulaiman tried to increase the area of rice fields with the Serasi program (Save Swamps, Prosper Farmers) on peatlands in Kalimantan and Sumatra, but it has not had a significant impact. Efforts to increase the productivity of paddy fields which now average around 5.2 tons of grain per ha are also not easy to carry out.

President Joko Widodo continues to remind his staff to strengthen the food production side so that people can more easily access their basic needs. When access is open, food security is strengthened. The World Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) also reminded all countries to maintain their food production management, especially in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic. Dependence on imported materials will make food security decline. Security Stability and Strategic Industry Growth have a simultaneous effect on Macroeconomic Stability. The integration of the development of security stability together with increasing the growth of strategic industries in a synergistic manner has the ability to increase macroeconomic stability (Saputro & Meirinaldi, 2019).

According to Suharyanto (2011), food security has now become part of national security. Therefore, the government is also trying to create a food estate,

a food area. The food estate is located in Central Kalimantan, precisely in Pulang Pisau and Kapuas districts. The long-term program is in the form of providing new land, rehabilitating existing land by increasing facilities to support land productivity, especially in terms of irrigation and drainage in swampy land. This food area covers an area of 600,000 hectares (6,000 km²), nine times the area of DKI Jakarta. This location was chosen because it was considered more suitable than the three other candidates, namely in South Sumatra, East Kalimantan, and Merauke, Papua. One of the considerations is that it has sufficient water resources, its location is in the middle of Indonesia, and it is close to the potential new capital city in North Penajam, East Kalimantan. This latest food estate plan leaves a big question, what are the assumptions behind the food estate decision as an agenda for food and nutrition security, as well as in the context of improving the regional economy?

2. Methods

This study used a qualitative method. Biklen (1995) states that one of the main characteristics of qualitative research is descriptive, namely the data collected takes the form of words or pictures rather than numbers. Moleong (2007) qualitative study aims to understand the phenomena of what the entire study subject has experienced, and uses various scientific methods through explanations in the form of words and languages in a particular natural context. Is aimed at. The data acquisition method for this study was direct or non-disguised observation. Researchers try to find and reveal field data in a natural way (natural environment). Therefore, researchers need to carefully and wisely apply data acquisition techniques in the field to procure individuals so that the data obtained is truly natural. Every process carried out by a researcher is known to all who have been studied. But in the past, researchers did not openly or secretly observe to avoid this if the data they were looking for was still confidential. If so, the researcher may not make any observations.

3. Results and Discussion

To realize national food security, the Ministry of Defense is appointed by the President as the leading sector. The Ministry of Defense synergizes with relevant agencies, including the Ministry of PUPR, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Forestry and Environment and the Ministry of SOEs that plan to develop a food estate area in Central Kalimantan. The integration of security

stability development together with increasing strategic industrial growth and macroeconomic stability synergistically has the ability to increase economic growth (Saputro, 2021). Regarding the joint action of ministries/agencies in the development of a food estate area in Central Kalimantan in an effort to support the program to strengthen national food security. Food reserves and fixed land for food crops to be developed, the land does not change its function. There are three main food crops that need to be developed for national food security, namely rice, corn and cassava. The three factories built with adequate land will be very meaningful to support economic growth. Talking about building food security is not always related to rice, but also corn and cassava. In fact, growing cassava is easier and the infrastructure and yield potential is greater. Cassava or corn if processed derivatives are extraordinary for the food industry and for animal feed.

To make this program a success, several defense industries are directly involved in the production of agricultural equipment systems such as PT Pindad and PT Dirgantara Indonesia with the production of Excava and other supporting equipment such as helicopters. Multipurpose tractor farming system innovation, assy and test room, mechanical sub assy room and 4x4 maung production line, Komodo, Medium Tank, Canon 20 mm armored 6x6 and fuel type anoa 6x6 armored. The Ministry of Defense is entrusted with developing strategic commodities such as cassava for the Food Estate program. The Ministry of Agriculture continues to work on the Food Estate land for food security programs as instructed by President Joko Widodo (Jokowi) in Central Kalimantan. According to the Ministry of Agriculture, the government has formulated a 4 Ways of Action (CB) agenda to maintain the need for national food stocks, including the development of modern agriculture that encourages the development of food estates on former peatlands. Land Development Project (PLG) in Central Kalimantan Province. Apart from Central Kalimantan, the government is also planning food estates in various locations funded by the state budget (Basindoro, 2020).

This latest food estate plan leaves a big question, what are the assumptions behind the establishment of a food estate as a food security and nutrition agenda? If this intervention option is judged to be able to increase efficiency through large-scale agriculture and increase food availability in the form of energy or calories, the High Level Expert Panel Report of the World Food Security Committee states that the dimension of food security is food availability; access to food physically and economically; ability to absorb food to fulfill nutrition and health; sustainable

food availability and access; freedom to decide independently what food to eat, produce, and participate in food policy; and ensuring that the food available today does not sacrifice food for future generations.

Therefore, efforts to provide food should not encourage food insecurity in the dimension of fulfilling nutrition. For example, one study found that changing control over land for agriculture changed diets, with women from traditional households in West Kalimantan consuming 30 percent more nutrients in the form of green vegetables, compared to women from plantation worker households.

There are at least three reasons why food estates have not answered the food security and nutrition policy agenda in Indonesia. First, the food estate does not answer the problem of food distribution. Distribution is an old problem that has been sharpened by Covid-19 (Christina, 2020). In terms of communication, it can be seen that the efforts made by the government have not been maximized and it seems that they are not serious in handling the Covid-19 pandemic (Saputro, 2021). This is related to high logistics costs, weak goods management, and long supply chains. Research shows that high logistics costs add to poverty and nutrition levels, for example the high cost of basic necessities in eastern Indonesia. Furthermore, the 2019 Global Food Security Index assesses that Indonesia has problems with agricultural infrastructure, including food distribution. Weak food distribution can lead to food scarcity in various regions, especially in food insecure areas.

Second, the food estate does not answer the problem of access to healthy food. In 2018, 9 percent of Indonesia's population still experienced chronic hunger and malnutrition. In 2019, before the Covid-19 pandemic, Indonesia managed to reduce the poverty rate to below 10 percent. Despite improving economic conditions, they have not been able to cope with the three burdens of malnutrition that are still high in Indonesia. High food prices exacerbate food insecurity due to uncertainty in access due to weak public purchasing power. In the last ten years the price of rice in Indonesia has been higher than the price of rice in the international market. The pandemic has sharpened the uncertainty of people's access to food. Data from the Ministry of Manpower shows that 1.7 million formal and informal sector workers have lost their income due to the pandemic. This further suppresses people's purchasing power; at least 38 percent of households reduce their consumption. With high food prices and without increasing economic accessibility, food estate development cannot guarantee food security and improve malnutrition.

Third, food intervention should not be carried out in a way that poses a risk to the environment, economy and health. The government estimates that it will take Rp 6 trillion for 3-4 years to realize the food estate plan, including printing rice fields. Food estate on peatlands has the potential to increase environmental risks and endanger health. The activity of clearing paddy fields with peat-friendly practices has the potential to cause serious problems. For example, forest and land fires in 2019 mostly occurred on peatlands, causing economic losses of IDR 72.95 trillion, including respiratory problems due to smoke and decreased productivity due to health problems.

4. Conclusion

The Covid-19 pandemic highlights the weakness of the food system in Indonesia and the importance of addressing food security issues that do not only focus on the dimensions of food availability. A food estate development that ignores these challenges will only have the potential to repeat the failures of the past. Therefore, several solutions need to be considered. First, it is necessary to improve the smoothness of the food distribution system so that food scarcity does not occur again, which results in hoarding for one group of consumers and scarcity for other groups.

Second, the government must move from a single focus, such as only rice, to fundamental change, by diversifying food systems, empowering vulnerable and marginalized groups, and promoting sustainability in all aspects of the food supply chain while taking into account natural resources and local capacities. Third, pandemics have taught the relationship between the health of the environmental system and the health of the food system. Therefore, the synergy between the food system, the ecological system and the economic system is a must. Indonesia's food security has great potential to be supported by biodiversity and a healthy environment without environmental risks that will have an impact on the economy and health. For example, a study shows the opportunity for swamp cultivation (paludiculture) on peatlands, which supports food availability and security, with commodities that have sustainable value, have good market opportunities, and are acceptable to farmers, such as sago and tengkawang.

This pandemic moment can be used as an opportunity to organize a sustainable Indonesian food system. Food estate is an integrated program covering food crops, plantations, and livestock. Regarding the synergy of the three ministries, the Ministry of Agriculture remains fully responsible for the

cultivation aspect from pre to post-harvest in order to increase production, both quantity and quality if needed so that it can be exported. While the Ministry of PUPR plays or supports the development of primary and secondary irrigation, tertiary irrigation is the task of the Ministry of Agriculture. The Ministry of Defense's involvement plays a role in mobilizing TNI personnel. This involvement is very important considering that the TNI Babinsa is in every village so it is very helpful in accelerating land cultivation, planting, absorbing grain, and having a strong supervisory function in the field.

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