

# **THE DISTRIBUTION POLICY OF NON-CASH FOOD ASSISTANCE IN THE SENDANA SUB-DISTRICT OF PALOPO CITY, INDONESIA**

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## **ABSTRACT**

This research aims to analyse and offer public policy strategies in implementing the food assistance program policy in Sendana Sub-district. This research uses a qualitative method conducted in Sendana Sub-district, which according to the information was done purposively by considering representation in each sub-district. Data was obtained using observation, interview and document analysis techniques. Then the collected data was analyzed using interactive qualitative techniques between data collection, data reduction, data presentation and conclusion drawing. The research results show that: The implementation strategy of the Non-Cash Food Assistance policy, the policy formula of the implementation mechanism is not in accordance with what is formulated in the policy so that the policy formula has not optimally run well in the Sendana District area. It can be concluded that the policy implementation strategy of the non-cash food assistance distribution program is oriented towards improving organisational management in improving human resource capabilities, increasing potential by paying attention to human resource development and training, understanding the application of SOPs, paying attention to operational facilities and infrastructure, building good coordination in creating humanist communication.

*Keywords: Policy Implementation, Non-Cash Food Assistance, Public policy strategy.*

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Indonesia is a nation that has consistently strived to achieve advancements. In order to foster enduring advancements across diverse domains such as politics, education, society, and the economy, it is crucial to persistently engage in complete endeavors. The economic sector is an area that continually strives for ongoing improvement in order to mitigate the exacerbation of poverty. Poverty can arise because of disparities in capabilities, opportunities, and human resources.

Based on the chosen methodology, it is evident that one of the primary indicators employed to evaluate the extent of societal well-being is the economic metric. Consequently, scholars argue that it is imperative to address the persistence of poverty in order to prevent its perpetuation in our society. The responsibility to combat poverty is shared among all individuals, including members of the social community, stakeholders, bureaucrats, as well as researchers and scholars.

Poverty in certain nations is distinguished by a range of adverse conditions, including but not limited to food insecurity, inadequate nutrition, homelessness, reliance on alms, limited educational opportunities, and insufficient access to potable water and power. Defining poverty can be a complex task, as its conceptualization varies depending on the perspective

from which it is approached. Poverty can also be observed through the lens of a satisfactory quality of living, wherein a family's ability to meet their fundamental needs determines their poverty status. In this context, poverty is characterized by the inability to fulfil essential needs, resulting in the absence of a good standard of living. Poverty eradication has been a primary focus of the Indonesian government since the country gained independence. Hence, it is unsurprising that a range of policies and activities have been implemented with the aim of enhancing community welfare and addressing the pervasive issue of poverty inside this nation.

The Indonesian government's inability to effectively implement a range of development policies and programmes hinders the achievement of its agenda to address pressing public issues. These include enhancing the quality of education services, healthcare provisions, access to clean water, employment opportunities, and infrastructure development.

In addition to this, Siagian (2003: 2) asserts the necessity of considering the significance of human resources. In recent times, there has been an unprecedented administrative phenomenon characterized by heightened awareness and involvement of multiple stakeholders in recognizing the importance of human resource management. The growing focus on this matter is evident among several stakeholders, including politicians, industry executives, influential individuals, particularly leaders, the mainstream media, government officials, and scientists. This paper discusses the implementation of non-cash food aid (BPNT), specifically focusing on the distribution of prosperous rice to the community as a means to promote future prosperity within families. The Government of Indonesia has implemented the distribution of subsidized rice for low-income households since July 1998 through the Social Security Net Programmed (JPS). Over the course of the nine-year implementation period of the initiative.

Prosperous Rice (Rastra) is among the various government initiatives aimed at poverty alleviation. In 2015, Khofifah Indar Parawansa, the former Minister of Social Affairs, disclosed that the nomenclature of the subsidised rice programme for impoverished individuals, commonly referred to as "Raskin," had been modified to "Rastra," denoting a sense of affluence.

The objective of the name alteration is to influence the perception of the community that once provided assistance to the underprivileged. By rebranding the rice funded by the government, the intention is to foster a positive transformation in individuals' lives, particularly in terms of enhanced prosperity. Multiple stakeholders have conducted assessments and contributed feedback to enhance the implementation framework of the programmed. These evaluations encompassed modifications such as the alteration of the program's nomenclature, the quantity of rice allocated per family, the frequency of distribution, as well as the origin and categorization of beneficiary data. Moreover, a novel approach has been introduced in the allocation of affluent rice through the utilization of electronic cards, which will be directly sent to the intended families. The current method of allocating food aid is governed by Presidential Decree No. 63/2017 on the Non-Cash Disbursement of Assistance, which aims to facilitate individuals' access to official financial services. Nevertheless, the execution of initiatives formulated by the central government often encounters setbacks, persisting as a recurring pattern. Furthermore, numerous well-crafted policies and development programmes, upon implementation, fall short of achieving the desired outcomes.

The available evidence indicates that the different optimal circumstances mentioned in policy documents, such as Law No.25 of 2009 regarding Public Services, can be considered a type of law. The state bears a responsibility to cater to the needs and rights of all individuals, both

citizens and residents, through the provision of public services. Government regulations play a crucial role in shaping and governing various aspects of society. These rules are designed to establish guidelines and standards that ensure the smooth functioning of industries, protect public Even ordinary annual development programmers might prove to be complex when confronted with the practical challenges of the field, making them difficult to implement.

The majority of regions, particularly the government, have not achieved optimal success in addressing these issues through the implementation of various policies, as exemplified by the case of Palopo City, namely in the Sendana sub-district. The distribution of social assistance in non-cash form is outlined in the Presidential Regulation of the Republic of Indonesia NO.63 of 2017 during its developmental phase. In addition, the subject of discussion is Palopo Mayor Regulation No.20 of 2017, which pertains to the promotion of rice cultivation for economic prosperity. The expansion of the subsidized rice programmed is a component of a social protection initiative designed to alleviate the financial strain faced by those with low incomes in meeting their fundamental rights, particularly in terms of securing basic food necessities. This initiative is commonly referred to as the Non-Cash Food Assistance (BPNT) programmed.

As per the findings of the National Team for the Acceleration of Poverty Reduction (TNP2K), the Rice Subsidy Programmed for Low Income Communities through Non-Cash Food Assistance is a comprehensive national initiative that operates across various sectors, both at the inter-ministerial and intergovernmental levels. The primary objective of this programme is to address the rice consumption requirements of economically disadvantaged communities.

Hence, the significance of ensuring accountability in the Regional Government's role cannot be overstated, as it plays a crucial role in enhancing the efficacy of the Rastra Programme, aligning its operations with the desired outcomes and seamless implementation of the programme. The reference indicators outlined in the Consideration of Presidential Regulation Part a. No 63 of 2017 state that the effectiveness of a Rastra programme should be evaluated based on six accuracy criteria, commonly referred to as the 6T framework. These criteria are the Right Target, Right Amount, Right Time, Right Administration, Right Quality, and Right Price.

The topic of discussion pertains to the concepts of administration, right quality, and right price. In summary, it can be stated as follows:

- a. The primary focus should be on identifying the appropriate beneficiaries, specifically those who qualify for the Rastra programme. This includes only the RTS-PM individuals who are officially enrolled in the Rastra Beneficiaries List (DPM-1), following a verification process conducted by the Village/Kelurahan and approved by the sub-district head.
- b. The appropriate quantity of Rastra rice is determined by the RTS-PM and is in compliance with the relevant regulations, which specify a quantity of 15 kg per RTS per month per year.
- c. The Right Price refers to the cost of Rastra provisions at the designated distribution site, which is set at 1,600 per kilogramme.
- d. The timely execution of the delivery of Rastra rice to RTS-PM aligns with the predetermined distribution plan.

e. The concept of "Right Quality" refers to the adherence to the specific criteria outlined by BULOG for rice quality, ensuring that the requirements for rice quality are met.

f. Appropriate administration refers to the effective execution of accurate, comprehensive, and punctual administrative tasks.

Hence, the execution of the distribution of fortunate rice, also known as Rastra, should adhere to the guidelines outlined by the prevailing indications. However, the General Guidelines (Pedum) for social aid for flourishing rice (2018: 27) provide greater explanation regarding the distribution or implementation of distribution. This statement elucidates that the responsibility for executing the food assistance programme lies with the village/sub-district/level government, specifically in relation to the implementation of the Rastra social assistance distribution. In relation to the Rastra social assistance scheme, the Village Head/Lurah/Head.

The implementation of the Rastra social aid distribution is established by the Level of Government in the following manner:

1. Position

The Implementation of Rastra Social Assistance Distribution is under and responsible to the Village Head/Lurah/Head of Government at the same level.

2. Duties

The Rastra Social Assistance Distribution Implementation has the task of coordinating with Bulog, checking the quality and quantity of Rastra Social Assistance delivered by Bulog at the distribution point (TD), conducting socialisation, distributing Rastra Social Assistance to Beneficiary Families (KPM), and completing the administration of the Rastra Social Assistance distribution implementation.

3. Function

Distribution Implementation has the following functions:

a. Coordination with PerumBulog regarding the implementation of Rastra social assistance distribution.

b. Checking the quality and quantity of Bansos Rastra received from Bulog at the distribution point (TD).

c. Socialisation of Rastra social assistance to the community, especially the beneficiary families (KPM).

d. Distribution of Rastra Social Assistance to KPM without collecting any fees.

e. Completing the administration of the implementation/distribution of Rastra Social Assistance, including: providing DPM-1 to distribute Rastra Social Assistance, signing the Minutes of Handover (BAST) at TD and making a list of the realisation of Rastra Social Assistance rice distribution according to the DPM-2 model.

f. Report the administrative documents mentioned in point (e) by referring to the implementation mechanism.

In actuality, the Rastra programme, which has been operational since its name change in 2015, continues to face numerous challenges. Particularly, issues have arisen in the execution of Rastra distribution within the Sendana Subdistrict. Furthermore, policy-making dilemmas have emerged in the implementation of rice subsidies for economically disadvantaged individuals in local government villages.

Based on the findings derived from field observations conducted in Sendana Sub-district, it is evident that there exist issues pertaining to the distribution of the Rastra programme within the aforementioned sub-district. This sub-district encompasses four distinct villages, namely Purangi Village, Sendana Village, Mawadan Village, and Peta Village. To begin with, there exists a discrepancy in the distribution of Rastra that deviates from the intended aim. This observation is based on interviews conducted with the local village chief, revealing that certain individuals who possess the capacity to sustain themselves are nonetheless receiving Rastra benefits.

Furthermore, based on the findings of the observations, it was discovered that the allocation of Rastra rations occasionally deviated from the standard 10kg per registered household (RTM). This discrepancy can be attributed to the continuous increase in the number of Rastra beneficiaries and the government's policy of sharing the rations equitably among individuals who are not eligible for Rastra. Furthermore, it is imperative to address the community's aspiration for equitable distribution **of Rastra in order to mitigate potential social resentment within the community.**

**Furthermore, a significant concern pertains to the quality of rice. This encompasses instances where rice exhibits substandard characteristics, including the presence of vermin, cracked or crushed grains, yellow discoloration, and even unpleasant odours that compromise its palatability.**

Based on the aforementioned description, this phenomenon in Sendana Sub-district, Palopo City has garnered the attention of researchers, prompting them to undertake a more comprehensive investigation. The formulation is presented as follows. The study examines the distribution policy of non-cash food assistance in the Sendana Sub-district of Palopo City.

## **2. METHOD**

The present study employs a qualitative research methodology. This study employs a case study methodology, wherein researchers conduct meticulous and comprehensive observations to uncover the natural implementation of non-cash food aid distribution policies within the context of the Prosperous Rice programme (Rastra) in the Sendana sub-district. The researchers refrain from intervening in the process. The study utilises a combination of primary and secondary data sources. Primary data sources refer to the locations where primary data is collected, including data obtained through direct observation and informant interviews. Specifically, these sources can be found within the development and community welfare section of the Sendana District office, as well as the empowerment section within each Kelurahan office in Sendana District. These Kelurahan offices include Peta Village, Mawa Village, Purangi Village, and Sendana Village. The methodologies employed in the acquisition of data and information encompass interviews, observation, and documentation.

### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### 3.1. A Strategic Approach to Managing the Implementation Process of Non-Cash Food Aid Distribution Policy in Sendana Sub-district, Palopo City.

Strategy refers to a systematic approach to long-term planning that is developed as a policy in order to guide the attainment of specific goals and objectives.

The examination of Presidential Regulation part a. No. 63/2017 regarding the Allocation of Non-Cash Social Assistance reveals that the allocation of social assistance to the community is characterised by efficiency and acceptability through six key aspects, namely accurate targeting, appropriate amount, timely distribution, proper administrative procedures, satisfactory quality, and reasonable pricing.

The regulatory framework pertaining to the Mayor of Palopo. In a broad sense, within the context of regulations or guidelines. In the first paragraph of the article, the author introduces the main topic and provides a brief. The user's text does not contain any information to rewrite in an academic manner. Regarding the execution of the Prosperous Rice Programme. With the objective of alleviating the financial load on recipient households, Rastra aims to enhance their prospects for prosperity. Hence, the government assumes responsibility for all phases of the Rastra distribution process to recipients, specifically in the context of implementing the Non-Cash Food Assistance Programme in Sendana District, Palopo City.

#### 3.2. Management and Organisation Strategy

The Sub-district Rastra Coordination Team is a group responsible for coordinating and overseeing the implementation of the Rastra programme at the sub-district level.

To enhance the efficiency of the Rastra distribution process, the establishment of a sub-district level Rastra coordination team and a village level Rastra coordination team was undertaken. At the sub-district level, the execution of the Rastra programme within the area falls within the purview of the sub-district head. The sub-district head is tasked with establishing the Rastra coordination team, which is thereafter entrusted with the various duties and obligations associated with the programme.

Based on the examination and evaluation of documents and observations, it was determined that there were instances of miscommunication regarding the comprehension of policy formulation, along with deficiencies in the bureaucratic framework of the Rastra Handling District. It is imperative that these issues are addressed effectively to ensure that the distribution process serves as a reliable accountability report, and that the administration of Rastra becomes a benchmark for enhanced policy implementation in subsequent endeavours.

#### 3.3. Rastra Distribution Organiser in Village

In the distribution of Rastra in Sendana Sub-district, the Head of Village holds the responsibility for all processes related to Rastra distribution within the local environment. These responsibilities are defined by their respective positions, duties, and functions. However, the researcher discovered that despite some points aligning with the existing policy, there were errors that can be attributed to the implementers. Specifically, there was a lack of coordination with the sub-district implementer, resulting in a gap in reporting data

pertaining to Rastra Distribution, which should have been the responsibility of the sub-district implementer.

#### 3.4. Prosperous Work Unit

The Prosperous Work Unit, also known as Satker, is an implementing body established and designated by the PerumBulog Sub Regional Division of Palopo city. It operates under the supervision and accountability of the PerumBulog Sub Regional Division. Its responsibilities and functions are aligned with the applied policies and it is accountable for the assigned tasks, including the management of the Rastra programme. A Satker, or SatuanKerja, is an individual who possesses qualities of integrity, honesty, trust, and patience in their profession. This is due to the significant duty they hold in the distribution of Rastra to designated Distribution Points, specifically villages, while ensuring adherence to all predetermined administrative requirements.

#### 4. Planning and Budgeting Strategy

##### 4.1. Planning

The planning and budgeting of the Rastra programme pertains to the annual state budget (APBN) for the given fiscal year. The planning under consideration encompasses the identification of Beneficiary Families, the allocation of Distribution Points, and the calculation of Sharing Points. Based on the analysis of the three proposed plans, it has been observed that stakeholders involved in the Rastra Programme face the need to enhance their administrative tracking mechanisms in order to mitigate potential social disparities. Additionally, the determination of Targeted Districts (TD) and Targeted Beneficiaries (TB) should consider locations that are easily accessible to the intended beneficiaries, and this can be achieved through the empowerment of local Pokja Rt/RW. Based on the findings, researchers have observed that the distribution point, which involves personnel, supporting facilities, and infrastructure for the efficient delivery of Rastra to KPM, does not align with the responsibilities assigned to the Outahan government.

##### 4.2. Budgeting

Based on the State Budget Law, the government allocates food subsidy funds with budgeting policies, the implementation of policy implementation on Rastra distribution by referring to the APBN and APBD which is not transparent by being socialised to KPM so that when the implementation of Rastra distribution is not in accordance with the provisions, it can be accepted by the community sincerely so that community trust in the policy bureaucracy can be maintained.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

To enhance the efficiency of policy implementation, a strategy for implementing a non-cash food aid distribution programmed policy is devised. This strategy focuses on enhancing organizational management by improving human resource capabilities through training and development initiatives. Additionally, it emphasizes the understanding and adherence to standard operating procedures, as well as the provision of adequate operational facilities and infrastructure. Furthermore, it emphasizes the importance of fostering effective coordination and humanistic communication to ensure clear information dissemination. Lastly, it underscores the significance of providing support and fostering accountability to ensure the successful execution of the non-cash food aid distribution programmed policy.

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