

THE DECLINE OF BUREAUCRACY IN INDONESIA

BY: Mohammad Fahmi Haikal, SH., MAP (Penyuluh Hukum Ahli Muda, Bureau Law and Human Rights, Regional Secretariat, Provincial Government of West Java)

I. Prologue

Bureaucracy, as a system of administrative organization, plays a pivotal role in the functioning of governments and nations. In Indonesia, a sprawling archipelagic nation with a rich cultural heritage and diverse population, bureaucracy has historically been a central element in governance. However, in recent years, Indonesia has witnessed a decline in the efficiency, transparency, and effectiveness of its bureaucratic apparatus.

Bureaucracy in Indonesia has been on a steady decline since the late 1990s. This is largely due to the decentralization of government power and authority, which shifted from the Central Government to Provincial Government or Regency/City Government across the country. As a result, bureaucratic institutions have become less centralized and more focused on regional needs rather than national ones. The decentralization process has also led to an increase in public participation in decision-making processes at all levels of government, further diminishing bureaucracy's influence over policy implementation and reform efforts.

The decline of bureaucracy has had numerous positive effects for Indonesia's citizens as well as its economy overall. For one thing, it allows people access to more efficient services with fewer obstacles or delays caused by red tape or paperwork requirements that are common under traditional bureaucracies; this makes life easier for those living within Indonesia's borders who may not be familiar with how these systems work otherwise. Additionally, it reduces the cost associated with running large bureaucracies while allowing businesses greater flexibility when dealing

with governmental entities-something that can help spur economic growth throughout indonesia's provinces and cities alike. This paper aims to explore the cause behind this decline, its consequences, and potential remedies to address the issue.

1. Introduction

Bureaucracy has historically played a critical role in Indonesia's governance, shaping policies and delivering services to its diverse population. In recent years, however, the effectiveness and efficiency of Indonesia's bureaucratic machinery have dwindled, giving rise to a range of challenges, such as corruption and patronage; one of the key cause of the decline of bureaucracy in Indonesia is the deep-rooted issue of corruption and patronage. Bureaucratic processes have been susceptible to graft and unethical practices, eroding public trust and hindering the delivery of public services. These practices have fostered an environment where appointments and promotions are based on personal connections rather than merit, resulting in a less competent and accountable bureaucracy.

The complexity regulatory environment of indonesia's bureaucratic system has become increasingly complex, characterized by a multitude of regulations and red tape. This complexity has discouraged investment, stifled economic growth, and discouraged efficient service delivery, one of the recent example of this complexity is musical concert of one of the renowned Grammy Awards winner Band of Cold Play held concert in Indonesia for just one day of concert in contrast with our neighboring country Singapore they held almost six day of concert, Singapore have one of the easiest licensing facilities in

bureaucratic red tape rather than Indonesia that have such complex bureaucratic red tape.

Modernization and technological integration have been lacking in Indonesia's bureaucracy. Many processes are still paper-based, leading to inefficiencies, delays, and increased opportunities for corruption. The absence of streamlined digital system has hampered efforts to increased transparency and accountability, this kind of issues already happened in today climate such as the worsening of air pollution in Indonesia not just in Jakarta but Bandung and other big cities in Indonesia, bureaucrat in Indonesia have the habit of covering up its own mistake and offer solution just simple does not make sense and imping the society that always need to sacrifice, such as the need to electrical vehicle, 4-in-1 zone and other solution that simply just a temporary solution but not a permanent solution to this urgent problem.

Lastly The influence of politic in administrative matters has often compromised the autonomy and neutrality of the bureaucracy. Frequent changes in leadership can lead shifts in priorities and policies, disrupting the implementation of long term strategies and institutional memory

2. Consequences of the decline of Bureaucracy in Indonesia

2.1. Impaired Economic Development: a cumbersome bureaucracy has hampered Indonesia's economic development by discouraging foreign investment, hindering entrepreneurship, and delaying infrastructure projects. This has limited job

opportunities and stifled innovation for the greater good of mankind especially Indonesia's future.

- 2.2. Diminished Public Services: Inefficiencies in bureaucracy have resulted in inadequate public service, such as education, healthcare, and public infrastructure. The general population bears the brunt of this decline, as essential services are compromised due to mismanagement and corruption, we can see lately as society in Indonesia there's a loss of this kind of consequences, healthcare lots of Indonesian people much prefer choosing our neighboring countries for healthcare such as Penang Malaysia and Singapore also there's some mistake in the design of MRT and fast train that currently build, this kind of inefficiencies and inadequate can make the society realize there's absolutely ticking time bomb in our bureaucracy system.
- 2.3. Erosion of Public Trust: The decline of bureaucracy has eroded public trust in government institutions. Citizens who experienced bureaucratic hurdles, corruption, and unequal treatment are less likely to believe in the government's ability to serve their interests, potentially leading to social unrest and political instability.

3. Potential Remedies for The Declining Bureaucracy in Indonesia

- 3.1. Anti-Corruption Measures: Strengthening anti-corruption efforts through transparent and accountable mechanisms is crucial. This kind of effort is perfectly fit for Indonesia Corruption Eradication Commission, The Corruption Eradication Commission must be free from interference from anyone including the

president though. This includes effective enforcement of anti-corruption laws, and whistleblower protection.

- 3.2. Simplification of Regulations: streamlining the regulatory environment by reducing redundant laws and regulations can encourage business growth and reduce opportunities for corruption. Simplified processes can also expedite public service delivery, with this kind of remedies will guarantee ease of investment for foreign investors in Indonesia.
- 3.3. Merit-Based Appointments: Implementation merit-based appointment and promotion system can ensure that competent individuals lead and manage government agencies. This can mitigate political interference and improve the overall efficiency of the bureaucracy. In Indonesia Provincial Government of West Java in the year 2022 has achieved Meritocracy Awards form National Civil Apparatus Commision The Regional Government of West Java Province received the Very Good category with the highest score of 396.5, what was achieved by Provincial Government of West Java is one of many example how Merit-Based Appointments can be benefit for bureaucracy.
- 3.4. Technological Modernization: Investing in technology and digital system can revulotionized bureaucratic processes, enhancing transparent and reducing opportunities for corruption. E-Government initiatives can improve citizrn-government interactions and service delivery.

II. Epilogue

The Decline of Bureaucracy in Indonesia poses significant challenges to the nation's development and governance. Corruption, complex regulations, political interference, lack of technological integration are among the root causes of this decline. The consequences range from impaired economic growth to diminished public services and eroded public trust. Addressing these issues requires a comprehensive approach, including anti-corruption measures, regulatory simplification, merit-based appointments, technological modernization, and capacity building. By taking decisive action to reform its bureaucracy, Indonesia can pave the way for a more efficient, transparent, and effective government that serves the needs of its citizens and promotes sustainable development.

The shift away from bureaucracy also helps promote transparency within government operations; no longer do only certain individuals know what goes on behind closed doors but instead information is made available publicly so anyone can stay informed about their local representatives' activities without having any direct contact whatsoever. This increased openness encourages accountability among elected officials while providing citizens peace-of mind knowing there is oversight over how decisions are being made. All things considered, the move towards decentralized governance appears beneficial both economically and politically-making it clear why many Indonesians favor such measures today compared to past decades when bureaucratic control was much stronger than now.

Reference

- [1] B. Istianto, *Manajemen Pemerintahan: Dalam Perspektif Pelayanan Publik*, Edisi Kedu. Jakarta: Mitra Wacana Media, 2011.
- [2] L. Romli, "Masalah Reformasi Birokrasi," *J. Kebijak. dan Manaj. PNS*, vol. 2, no. 2, pp. 1–8, 2008.
- [3] Firdaus, "Birokrasi dan Implementasi Program," *J. Ecomet Glob.*, vol. 3, no. 2, pp. 115–125, 2018.
- [4] Muhammad, *Birokrasi (Kajian Konsep, Teori menuju Good Governance)*. Sulawesi: Unimal Press, 2018.
- [5] Sugiyono, *Metode Penelitian Kuantitatif, Kualitatif dan R&D*. Bandung: Alfabeta, 2008.
- [6] Worldometer, "COVID-19 Coronavirus Pandemic," *worldometer.info*, 2020. [Online]. Available: <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>. [Accessed: 11-Apr-2020].
- [7] Rosidah, "Patologi Birokrasi dalam Organisasi Publik dan Upaya Mecegahnya," *J. Inf.*, vol. XXX1, no. 1, pp. 63–69, 2005.
- [8] D. Supratman, "Budaya Kerja Aparatur Sipil Negara Dalam Rangkagood Governance Menuju Birokrasi Berkelas Dunia," *J. Adm. Publik*, vol. XIV, no. 2, pp. 102–108, 2018.
- [9] Herbani Pasolong, *Teori Administrasi Publik*, Alfabeta, Bandung, 2010
- [10] Kaelan, Ms, *Pendidikan Pancasila, Paradigma*, Yogyakarta, 2008
- [11] M.Makhfuz, *Hukum administrasi Negara*, Graha Ilmu, Yogyakarta, 2013

[12] Safri Nugraham Hukum Administrasi Negara, Center for Law and Good Governance Studies. Fakultas Hukum Universitas Indonesia, 2007