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## Urgency of Government Policies in Developing Countries to Support Food Security to Prevent Hunger and Crime

**Guntarto Widodo**

Fakultas Hukum, Universitas Pamulang, Indonesia

Email Korespondensi: [dosen00485@unpam.ac.id](mailto:dosen00485@unpam.ac.id)

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### ABSTRACT

Food in Indonesia has a very important position, especially staple food, because it concerns political, economic, social and cultural problems. Most of the staple food of the population comes from cereals consisting of rice, corn and wheat and the largest as a staple food of the population is rice. Therefore, the issue of food security in Indonesia is important for political, economic, social and cultural stability. The government plays a strategic role in maintaining food security through various public policies designed to address complex challenges, such as limited agricultural land, climate change, fluctuations in food prices, and dependence on imports. The government's strategy in maintaining food security includes developing agricultural infrastructure, increasing productivity, diversifying food, strengthening the logistics system, and empowering communities and farmers as the main actors in the food sector.

**Keywords:** Public Policy, Food Security

### ABSTRAK

Pangan di Indonesia memiliki posisi yang sangat penting, terutama pangan pokok, karena menyangkut masalah politik, ekonomi, sosial dan budaya. Sebagian besar makanan pokok penduduk berasal dari sereal yang terdiri dari beras, jagung dan gandum dan yang terbesar sebagai makanan pokok penduduk adalah beras. Oleh karena itu, isu ketahanan pangan di Indonesia penting bagi stabilitas politik, ekonomi, sosial dan budaya. Pemerintah berperan strategis dalam menjaga ketahanan pangan melalui berbagai kebijakan publik yang dirancang untuk mengatasi tantangan kompleks, seperti keterbatasan lahan pertanian, perubahan iklim, fluktuasi harga pangan, dan ketergantungan impor. Strategi pemerintah dalam menjaga ketahanan pangan meliputi pengembangan infrastruktur pertanian, peningkatan produktivitas, diversifikasi pangan, penguatan sistem logistik, dan pemberdayaan masyarakat dan petani sebagai aktor utama di sektor pangan.

**Kata kunci:** Kebijakan Publik, Ketahanan Pangan

## INTRODUCTION

Hunger and food insecurity remain significant challenges in many developing countries. This situation is exacerbated by various external factors, including climate change, armed conflict, and volatile food prices on the global market. In addition to its implications for public health, hunger also has serious consequences for social stability, as evidenced by rising crime rates.

Public access to safe and affordable food is an integral part of sustainable national development. In this regard, food security is a key element. The concept of food security, as formulated at the World Food Conference in 1996 and reaffirmed in 2009, refers to the condition of meeting individual food needs – in terms of quantity, accessibility, and quality – regardless of socioeconomic status. In Indonesia, the issue of food security has multiple dimensions, encompassing national sovereignty, social welfare, and economic and political stability. The government plays a crucial role in maintaining national food security through public policies designed to address complex challenges, such as limited agricultural land, the impacts of climate change, dependence on imports, and volatile food prices. Government efforts include developing agricultural infrastructure, increasing productivity, diversifying food sources, strengthening distribution and logistics systems, and empowering farmers and local communities as key actors in the national food system. In addition, the national food security strategy also encourages cross-sector collaboration, involving central and regional governments, private sector actors, academics, and civil society, in order to effectively manage agricultural resources and technology to increase food availability and quality.

Malthus's view, which stated that population growth is exponential, while food production growth is linear, seems relevant again in this era. With a continuously increasing population growth rate, without a commensurate increase in food production, Indonesia faces the risk of a food deficit in the future. Food demand will continue to increase in line with population growth. However, on the other hand, food production and distribution capacity face numerous limitations, creating an imbalance between national food needs and availability.

History shows that food crises and famines occurring in various countries are often caused by the absence or negligence of the state in ensuring equitable and sustainable food distribution. This challenge is even more complex for countries with limited agricultural land or agrarian resources. Therefore, it is crucial for a country to incorporate food issues into its constitutional framework. In this way, the state has a legal and moral obligation to guarantee food security and sovereignty for all its people.

## METHOD

The approach used in this research is a literature study, a research method conducted by collecting information and data from various written sources, such as books, scientific journals, articles, and other relevant documents that support the research discussion (Lexy J. Moleong, 2017) : 123). Literature sources in library research are not limited to books alone, but can include various other forms of written documents, such as magazines, scientific journals, newspapers, and related archives

(Zed, M, 2004 : 3–5). The primary focus of this method is to explore and discover various theories, legal provisions, crime formulations, expert opinions, and ideas that can serve as a basis for answering and solving the research problem.

The type of research used in this paper is qualitative descriptive research, an approach that combines descriptive and qualitative elements to explain a particular phenomenon or situation in depth. The purpose of this research is to systematically describe an ongoing condition or phenomenon. The primary focus of this approach is the use of qualitative data sourced from literature studies, where materials such as books, scientific articles, and other sources serve as the primary objects of analysis. The data collection technique used is a literature study, a method of searching for and collecting information from various written materials available in the library and digital sources, including newspapers, books, magazines, manuscripts, documents, and other written sources relevant to the research topic.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### *The Urgency of Government Policies in Developing Countries in Supporting Food Security and Its Relation to Reducing Crime Rates*

#### **Definition and Aspects of Food Security**

Food security is not only related to the availability of adequate food, but also encompasses the ability of individuals or households to obtain food sustainably without relying on external sources. If food is available but not accompanied by easy access and optimal utilization, the potential for food insecurity remains. Even high food production volumes do not necessarily guarantee that the entire population will be free from food shortages. In Indonesia, the main sectors that contribute significantly to achieving food security include agriculture, livestock, fisheries, and forestry.

Based on Government Regulation of the Republic of Indonesia Number 17 of 2015, food security is defined as the state of fulfilling food needs from the national level down to the individual. This is reflected in the availability of sufficient food, both in terms of quantity and quality, and must be safe, nutritious, diverse, equitable, affordable, and in harmony with the religious values, beliefs, and culture of the community, in order to support a healthy, active, and productive life in a sustainable manner. To achieve food security at the household level, there are four main aspects that must be considered: the stability of food supply, ease of access to food, adequacy of food availability, and its quality and safety (Utami, 2020).

#### **Aspects of Food Security**

**Availability:** The first pillar emphasizes the adequacy of overall food availability. The main factors influencing this include production from the agriculture, livestock, and fisheries sectors. **Accessibility:** Refers to the ability of each individual or family to obtain sufficient and nutritious food. This is influenced by factors such as income level, food prices, and existing distribution systems and infrastructure.

**Utilization:** Relates to nutritional quality and food safety. The food obtained must be able to meet the body's nutritional needs and be free from harmful

contaminants that can endanger health. Stability: Ensures sustainable and consistent food availability over time. This includes stability in food supply, prices, and access, despite challenges such as climate change or economic fluctuations.

### Theory of Crime and Food Insecurity

In the Big Indonesian Dictionary, the term crime refers to actions that are classified as violations of criminal law or crimes that are detrimental to society in general. This word comes from the English word "crime," which directly means a criminal act. Formally, crime is understood as behavior that violates social norms and criminal law, violates human moral principles, and results in harm, thus drawing rejection from the wider community.

From a sociological perspective, crime is not only seen as a violation of the law, but also as an expression of behavior and speech that deviates from prevailing social norms, and causes damage or disruption to the social, economic, political and psychological stability of society. According to J.E. Sahetapy, crime in the context of language is an act that is considered immoral by society, such as murder, rape, theft, document forgery, and the deprivation of other people's rights by fellow human beings (J.E. Sahetapy, 1984 : 45).

Criminal behavior can be categorized as a form of social deviance, where an individual or group of people commits actions that are contrary to values and norms that are generally accepted in society (Soerjono Soekanto, 2013 : 134). In the Criminal Code (KUHP), crimes are grouped into two main categories. From a formal legal perspective, crime is understood as behavior that is contrary to the principles of human morality (immoral), is detrimental to the public interest, is antisocial, and violates applicable legal provisions and criminal regulations.

In criminal law, crimes can be classified into two main forms, namely:

1. **Violent offenses**, namely types of crimes that involve physical actions against other people, such as murder, assault, rape and other forms of physical violence.
2. **Property offenses**, which are violations of the law related to the ownership or property rights of another individual. Examples of this type include robbery, theft without violence, and property damage.

In practice, criminal acts can occur in various forms, harming both individuals and society at large. Some common forms of crime include the following.:

1. Theft, which is the act of taking someone else's property without the right and with the intention of possessing it unlawfully (R. Soesilo, 1991 : 165–168).
2. Immoral acts, including acts that are contrary to moral norms and moral values that apply in society, such as sexual harassment and indecent acts.
3. Pickpocketing, which is a form of theft that is carried out quickly and usually occurs in public places, without violence but still causes harm to the victim.
4. Murder, namely an act that intentionally causes the loss of someone's life, including premeditated and unpremeditated murder. Corruption is a form of abuse of power or public office for personal or group gain, which is very detrimental to the state and society (Moeljatno, 2002 : 45).

The economic problems plaguing Indonesia have had significant negative impacts, particularly evident in the increase in deviant behavior among some members of society. Many individuals are forced to take the wrong path to meet their daily needs, without considering the legal or moral consequences of their actions. This phenomenon reflects a shift in values that contradicts the ethical and moral principles enshrined in Pancasila. Even more worrying, some perpetrators of these crimes appear undaunted by the presence of law enforcement officials or the systems tasked with maintaining social order.

### **Food Regulation within a Constitutional Framework**

Although the right to food is not explicitly stated in the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, this guarantee can be found implicitly in several articles of the constitution. One such guarantee is reflected in Article 28C paragraph (1) of the 1945 Constitution, which states that everyone has the right to develop themselves through fulfilling basic needs, obtaining an education, and utilizing science and technology, art, and culture to improve the quality of life and welfare of humanity.

Furthermore, Article 28I paragraph (4) also emphasizes that the protection, advancement, enforcement, and fulfillment of human rights are the responsibility of the state, particularly the government. These two provisions provide a normative basis for the state's obligation to guarantee the fulfillment of citizens' basic rights, including the right to food, as part of human rights.

To support the program refocusing policy, the Ministry of Agriculture has restructured its budget components. This step is one strategy to address the limited available budget. Broadly speaking, the Ministry of Agriculture has four main categories of expenditure: personnel expenditure (salaries), capital expenditure, operational expenditure, and expenditure on facilities and infrastructure assistance for farmers. Anomalies in food security budgeting arise from the absence of standard definitions and measurements of food security in applicable regulations. This differs from the education sector, where the State Budget (APBN) explicitly stipulates that a minimum of 20 percent of the total state budget must be allocated to support national education. Such clear provisions are absent from regulations related to food security, leading to inconsistent budget allocations in this sector and the risk of neglect.

The first three components—personnel, capital, and operational expenditures—are intended to support the institution's internal needs in order to support the implementation of various strategic programs. Meanwhile, spending on agricultural infrastructure and facilities is allocated specifically to support farmer activities, such as the provision of fertilizer, seeds, agricultural tools and machinery (alsintan), and other farming business components. Prior to the restructuring, the majority of the budget tended to be focused on operational expenditures, such as official travel, meetings, building maintenance, and the provision of office facilities. Conversely, allocations for agricultural infrastructure development—particularly irrigation and facilities that directly impact farmers' needs—remained minimal.

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*What is the government's strategy for maintaining food security through public policy?*

Indonesia actually has significant potential for achieving food security. This is supported by its strategic geographic location, the availability of vast and fertile agricultural land, favorable natural conditions, and a community character rooted in an agrarian culture. These factors should be the main capital in building a national food security system. However, in its implementation, many challenges remain, particularly in terms of food diversity, production independence, food sovereignty, agricultural sector competitiveness, and easy public access to food. These various obstacles arise from, among other things, suboptimal food logistics infrastructure, low farmer welfare as reflected in the low exchange rate, shrinking agricultural land, declining quality of the agricultural supporting environment, lack of synergy between food policies, and low levels of diversification of community food consumption.

Going forward, national food security policy needs to transform toward an approach that relies on the utilization of resources and knowledge. This approach should prioritize improving farmer welfare through better exchange rates, maintaining and expanding the availability of agricultural land, and strengthening environmental conditions that support the agricultural sector. Furthermore, advances in agricultural technology must be encouraged, as must crop management and the development of an integrated food logistics system—creating connectivity between regions experiencing food surpluses and deficits. These efforts must be comprehensive and aligned across sectors to promote national independence and increase economic competitiveness, as part of efforts to strengthen overall national resilience.

The strategy for achieving food security must align with the direction of national policy, which is based on the country's constitution. The primary foundation of this policy is inseparable from the noble ideals as stated in the Preamble to the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, particularly in the fourth paragraph. It emphasizes that the purpose of establishing the Indonesian government is to protect all Indonesian citizens and territories, improve public welfare, advance the nation's intellectual life, and play an active role in realizing world peace based on independence, lasting peace, and social justice.

The successful implementation of the national food security strategy depends on several key interrelated factors. First, the agricultural sector must be sufficiently attractive to the public, especially the younger generation, to ensure farmer regeneration. Second, the availability of adequate and sustainable agricultural land is a crucial requirement for sustainable food production. Third, competent and trained human resources in modern agriculture are needed. Fourth, environmental support and agricultural ecosystems must be maintained to maintain productivity. Finally, the use of advanced agricultural technology plays a crucial role in increasing the efficiency, productivity, and competitiveness of the national agricultural sector.

## CONCLUSIOAN

Crime is a constant presence in society and a part of everyday life. Criminal activity can cause unrest within society. Crime is a common occurrence. Many external factors influence criminal activity, one of which is economic factors, particularly food shortages. Comprehensive reform of the national food political-economic system is imperative to realize a more equitable and sustainable food system. Strengthening the food supply and trade sector needs to be geared toward efficiency, supported by robust state systems and institutions. This transformation can begin by shifting the food development paradigm from a food security approach to a food sovereignty approach, as reflected in the constitutional mandate, specifically Article 33 of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, To maintain national food price stability, an integrated food system from upstream to downstream is required, coordinated under state control. The role of State-Owned Food Enterprises (BUMN) such as Bulog, as well as strengthening food cooperatives at the producer (farmer) and consumer levels, are crucial instruments in this strategy. Therefore, the discourse on the fifth amendment to the 1945 Constitution is worth considering in order to strengthen the substance of Article 33.

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