

PROS AND CONS OF THE POLICY FOR PROVIDING SOCIAL ASSISTANCE AHEAD OF THE GENERAL ELECTION

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Abstract

One of the things that has become a hot and endless topic of discussion is the government's policy of providing assistance ahead of the 2024 election. One party believes that the policy of providing social assistance ahead of the general election is likely to have an electoral impact on one of the presidential and vice presidential candidate pairs. One of the reasons this happened was because President Joko Widodo seemed to be siding with one of the candidate pairs. This can give rise to sentiment among the wider community which can give rise to the perception that the state budget is used for intervention policy programs that benefit one of the candidate pairs. However, providing social assistance to the community can help overcome poverty before 2024. Providing social assistance is a form of support from the government to underprivileged communities in facing the economic shocks currently being faced. This research is qualitative research with a descriptive approach. Researchers use research data in the form of secondary data obtained from a number of credible sources such as scientific articles, books and a number of other sources that are credible and commonly used in research. These data were analyzed using analytical tools with stages of data collection, data selection, data reduction and drawing conclusions.

Keywords: *Social Assistance, Elections, 2024 Elections.*

INTRODUCTION

Social assistance is the provision of non-continuous and selective assistance in the form of money or goods to the community with the aim of improving community welfare. In providing social assistance, both the Regional Government as the provider of social assistance and the Community or Community Institutions as recipients of social assistance have an obligation to account for social assistance according to their portion based on applicable regulations (BPK, 2014).

Quoted from the National Kontan article (2024) that " Social assistance from the government will continue to flow in 2024. before election time which will be held in February 2024. One of them is that the government will continue providing pre-employment cards this year. In fact, the Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs, Airlangga Hartarto, is targeting pre-employment cards to be able to train around 1.2 million people. The government also disbursed funds to provide compensation for farmers who failed to harvest due to flooding. "Each farmer group has the potential to receive compensation ranging from 122 million rupiah to 200 million rupiah."

The 2024 is the most important moment in Indonesian democracy. That is, determining the leader of the Indonesian nation. Apart from the presidential election event, the simultaneous election of legislative members in 2024 will also begin. So far, every democratic party held has always used quite a large budget. The Ministry of Finance has allocated a budget of up to 71.3 trillion rupiah for the 2024 elections. This amount of funds has increased by 57.3 percent compared to the 2019 simultaneous democratic party budget of 45.3 trillion rupiah (BPK, 2024) Therefore, the idea of simultaneous regional elections emerged. There are seven phases of simultaneous regional elections that will be held starting from 2015 until the end in 2027. In 2017 alone, 101 regions held regional elections from the provincial, district and city levels. The aim of simultaneous elections is to create effectiveness and efficiency related to the budget (Pratiwi, *et.al.*, 2018).

Social assistance provided by the government aimed at overcoming poverty is often issued before elections in almost every country. It is hoped that this assistance can mobilize and influence voter behavior to choose the party of the government in power. Although every policy cannot be separated from political interests. However, the policy of providing social assistance ahead of elections is considered unethical and therefore needs to be evaluated or postponed after the elections have been held (Grehenson, 2014).

Social assistance provided by the government itself is in the form of money transfers or basic necessities to be given to the public to protect against the possibility of existing social risks and also to improve public welfare. Social assistance itself can be provided directly to the public or social institutions, where the assistance is for the Family Hope Program (PKH), National Basic Food Assistance (BSN), and Cash Social Assistance (BST) (Gumanti, *et.al.*, 2022).

Social assistance has received a lot of public attention because it has interests that need to be accommodated to assist local governments in realizing prosperity for society, overcoming social ills and containing political interests in a broad sense (Alba, *et. al.*, 2019). Minister of Home Affairs Regulation Number 32 of 2011 states: "social assistance is the provision of assistance in the form of money or goods from local governments to individuals, families, groups or communities which is non-continuous and selective in nature, aimed at protecting against possible social risks." Minister of Home Affairs Regulation Number 32 of 2011 concerning requirements and criteria for recipients of social assistance originating from the APBD, which was amended by Minister of Home Affairs Regulation Number 39 of 2012 states that: Community members or groups submit written proposals to the regional head, the regional head appoints the relevant Regional Government Work Unit (SKPD) to evaluating written proposals, the Head of SKPD submits the results of the evaluation in the form of recommendations to the regional head through the Regional Government Budget

Team (TAPD), then TAPD provides consideration of the recommendations in accordance with regional priorities and financial capabilities.

METHODS

Researchers believe that. Therefore, this research aims to analyze the pros and cons of the policy of providing social assistance before the election. This research is qualitative research with a descriptive approach, namely describing the negative and positive impacts of the policy of providing social assistance ahead of the election because it can influence the electoral votes of one of the presidential and vice presidential candidate pairs (Moleong, 2018). The data used in this research is secondary data that researchers obtained from books, credible websites, scientific articles, books, and other things that are usually used as reference data from researchers (Sugiono, 2011). The data sources were analyzed using the stages of data collection, data selection, data reduction, and drawing conclusions (Maksum, 2020).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

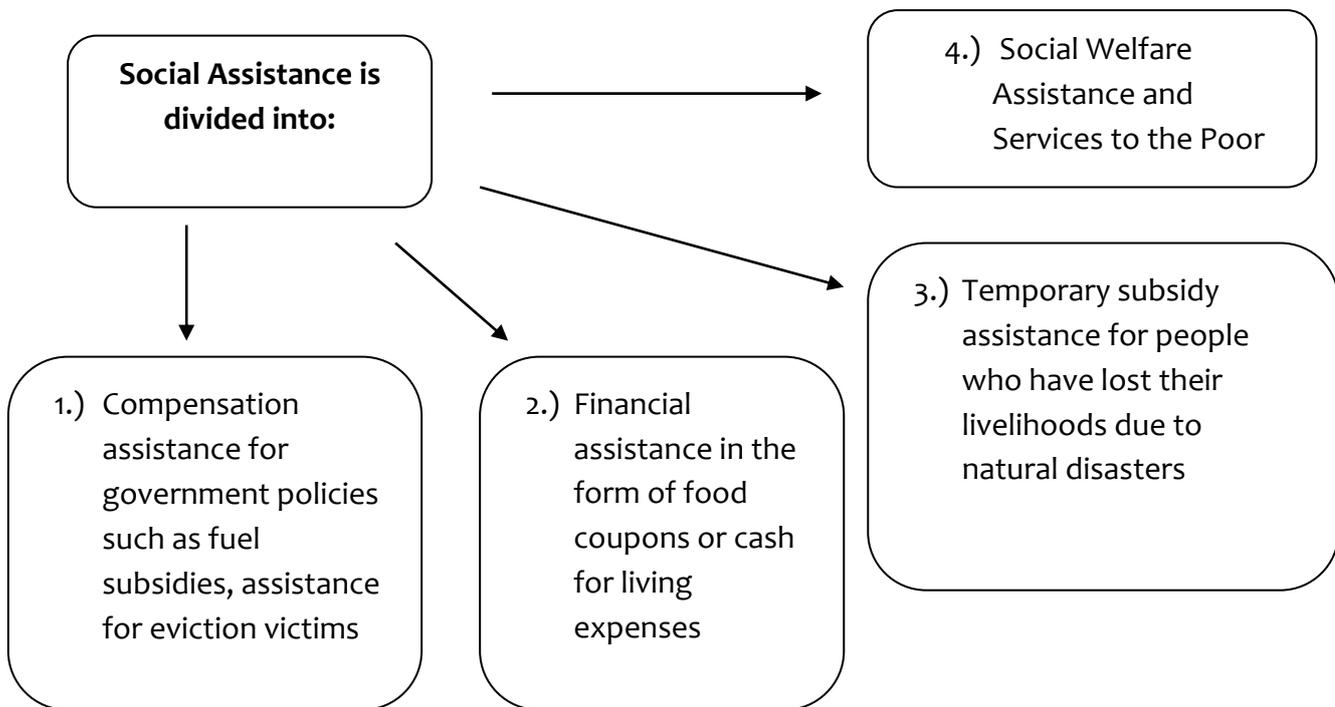
POLICY FOR PROVIDING SOCIAL ASSISTANCE AHEAD OF THE GENERAL ELECTION

Social Assistance is a policy created and implemented by the government in order to overcome and minimize economic weakness in the community, whether social assistance is running or not, the general guidelines are usually related to the parties implementing it and these parties understand the main tasks and functions of their performance without clashing with other parties. other parties or parties who are the target recipients of social assistance. For this reason, it is necessary to pay attention objectively and transparently in providing social assistance with the right targets to create stable conduciveness, because this social assistance cannot be underestimated by many parties who will use it for personal interests or certain groups who will take advantage of this for their own interests. which will harm many people (Tyas, *et. al.*, 2023).

Social Assistance itself is also stated in Article 14 of Law Number 11 of 2009 concerning Social Security regarding Social Protection, namely: (1) Social protection which ensures that individuals, families, groups and residents avoid and reduce the risk of social shocks and vulnerabilities and cover survival those with minimal basic needs, (2) Social protection as defined in Paragraph (1) is implemented through, (a) Social encouragement, (b) Social advocacy, (c) Legal encouragement (Indawati, 2022).

Social assistance is issued through the State budget (APBN/APBA), this assistance is given to individuals, groups or communities who are economically weak and their eligibility to receive it is first tested using a poverty test. Assistance is usually provided with conditions or without conditions (Alba, *et. al.*, 2019).

Figure 1. Types of Social Assistance



The success of the policy of providing social assistance is determined by the quality of service to the community receiving assistance and is influenced by the direction of macro social policy. Social policy determines the type and system of providing services to the poor people as program targets. Knowledge of social policy analysis is important to determine whether a policy has a positive or negative impact on society, whether the policy is in accordance with the wishes of aid recipients, in accordance with needs and the policy is able to overcome the problems felt by society. One form of public policy is social policy, the more advanced a country is, the higher the state's attention to social policy. The state needs to play an active role in implementing social policy because the state is a legitimate institution that has the authority to collect taxes from the people and therefore the state is most obliged to provide basic social services for its citizens. In a civilized society, the state must not allow a single person to be in a position of being unable to meet their needs (Alba, et. al., 2019).

According to Indawati (2022), Cash Social Assistance itself is also stated in Article 14 of Law Number 11 of 2009 concerning Social Security regarding Social Protection, namely: 1.) Social protection ensures that individuals, families, groups and residents avoid and reduce the risk of social shocks and vulnerabilities and cover their survival with minimal basic needs, 2.) Social protection as defined in Paragraph (1) is

implemented through, (a) Social encouragement, (b) Social advocacy; and/or, (c) Legal encouragement.

The government's provision of social assistance to the community in 2024 is a continuation of the government's program in previous years. This has given rise to polemics in various parties regarding the policy of providing social assistance ahead of the general election which is vulnerable to having an electoral impact on one of the presidential and vice presidential candidate pairs. One of the factors causing this to happen was because President Joko Widodo seemed to be siding with one of the candidate pairs. This can give rise to sentiment among the wider community which can give rise to the perception that the state budget is used for intervention policy programs that benefit one of the candidate pairs. The president de facto takes sides, which immediately means that all social assistance policies inevitably have an electoral impact on one of the candidate pairs, namely those supported by the president (Sasmita, 2024).

The distribution of social assistance ahead of elections can have a positive impact on people's welfare, especially for those who need economic assistance. This step can help ease the burden on residents who are directly affected by difficult economic conditions. Social assistance provided in a timely manner can provide an economic boost to people in need. Social assistance such as basic necessities or direct financial assistance is a form of government support for residents in need. Apart from that, this can increase public trust in government institutions and the distribution of social assistance can be one of the government's efforts to eradicate poverty. By providing assistance to the community, the government can help create conditions where every citizen has equal access to opportunities and a decent life (Pratiwi, 2024).

One solution to avoid the pros and cons of distributing social assistance ahead of the 2024 election is that there needs to be an investigation by the Election Supervisory Body in supervising the process and also the role of the government must be open and transparent in the distribution of social assistance to the community. According to Pratiwi (2024) the government also needs to carry out effective outreach regarding social assistance programs, such as objectives, acceptance criteria and application mechanisms. By providing clear information to the public, miscommunication can be avoided which can trigger misunderstandings in the distribution of social assistance.

Based on the explanation above, this research aims to analyze the advantages and disadvantages of Government Policy in providing Social Assistance Ahead of the 2024 Election. The advantages and disadvantages in this research are analyzed using the SWOT method. If there are more strengths and opportunities, it can be concluded that it is profitable. On the other hand, if there are more weaknesses and deficiencies, it can be concluded that it is detrimental.

SWOT Analysis

Table 1
SWOT Analysis

Strenghts	Weaknesses	Oportunities	Threats
Help Indonesian People overcome poverty	Create sentiment among the wider community	lighten the burden of life for residents who have difficult economic conditions	
Prospering Society	Give rise to the perception of using the state budget for policy programs that benefit one of the candidate pairs	Transparent and open distribution of social assistance	Generating public suspicion which causes distrust in the government

CONCLUSION

Based on the explanation above, several points can be concluded regarding the advantages and disadvantages of the policy of distributing Social Assistance ahead of the 2024 Election in Indonesia as follows:

1. Distribution of social assistance ahead of elections can have a positive impact on people's welfare, especially for those who need economic assistance
2. Increasing public trust in government institutions and distributing social assistance can be one of the government's efforts to eradicate poverty
3. From the SWOT results conducted by researchers, the government's policy of providing social assistance ahead of the elections has more advantages than weaknesses and threats which can be overcome by the government's role which must be open and transparent in distributing social assistance to the community. The government must also carry out effective outreach regarding social assistance programs. By providing clear information to the public, miscommunication can be avoided which can trigger misunderstandings in the distribution of social assistance.

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