
Demonstrations Aspirations Regarding May Day Resignation

Franciska Chika Bella¹, Yunni Widhi Astuti², Salsa Bila Juita³, Reisa Indira⁴, Oktaviani Puspitasari Ayuningtyas⁵, Zahra Nurizki Widyasari⁶

¹ Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta (C100200069@student.ums.ac.id)

² Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta (C100200098@student.ums.ac.id)

³ Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta (C100200140@student.ums.ac.id)

⁴ Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta (C100200170@student.ums.ac.id)

⁵ Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta (C100200174@student.ums.ac.id)

⁶ Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta (C100200350@student.ums.ac.id)

ABSTRACT

International Labor Day is known as May Day which is celebrated on May 1 around the world. This commemoration originated from the trade union movement to celebrate the economic and social success of the workers. With the existence of a labor day, it is expected to get an additional day off, but it is considered to be included and gets paid. Problems that often arise in the world of labor include violence, such violence is an act outside the morals of humanity. Even the perpetrators can be punished. Another problem that is often demanded by workers is the abolition of the outsourcing system, this system is considered to be detrimental to the position of workers, especially cuts in workers' salaries. The basic problem for workers is the issue of salaries that are not commensurate with the needs of a decent living. Related to the sequence of workers, the government and employers should pay more attention to the wages of workers. In the aspirations or desires of workers, the demands submitted by workers can find out what the government can take when workers submit their aspirations in the covid and non-covid era. Labor participation in demonstrations as a strategy formed by workers in an effort to solve collective problems. The reason for the increase in cooking oil is due to hoarding, the diversion of sales from modern retail to traditional markets. The impact of the problems related to the scarcity and increase in the price of basic commodities above, the government needs to issue a policy related to the stability of staple food prices in Indonesia, this is needed to maintain market stability and to anticipate panic buying by the public, especially before the preparation for Eid al-Fitr, and demands that President Jokowi revoke the trade minister who is considered to have failed to control prices. cooking oil and other staples. With regard to workers, the government and employers should pay more attention to labor matters.

Keywords: Labor, Aspirations, Action, Rights

PRELIMINARY

Labor Day, also known as May Day, is always celebrated on May 1. In some countries, Labor Day is made a national holiday. This commemoration began with the efforts of the trade union movement to celebrate the economic and social success of the workers. Labor Day was born from a series of working class struggles in 1886. At that time, there was a demonstration of the United States workers demanding the implementation of eight hours of work. The Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions designated May 1 as International Labor Day. May 1 is celebrated as Labor Day to appreciate the contribution of workers in a production process. With the existence of a labor day, workers are expected to get additional days off but are still considered included and are paid.

As a state of law, Indonesia has regulated all matters relating to all lines of life in the form of laws, including regulating labor. All matters concerning workers have been regulated in the Act. Laws governing labor are not always obeyed by either employers, workers or even the government. Wages, as stated in Law Number 13 concerning Manpower 2003, are income to meet the needs of a decent living for workers. Wage determination regulated by the Government and the Wage Council sometimes does not favor the position of workers.

By holding this paper, it is hoped that it can become reading material about the history of Labor Day or May Day. In addition, it can find out the aspirations or desires of workers, demands put forward by workers and know what policies the government takes when workers submit their aspirations in the covid and non-covid era.

Based on the provisions of Article 1 paragraph (3) of Law No. 13 of 2003 concerning Employment A worker or laborer is anyone who works by receiving wages or other forms of remuneration. This is different from the meaning of the definition of labor as we know it based on the Manpower Act.

The definition of labor is based on the provisions of Article 1 paragraph (2) of Law No. 13 of 2003 concerning Manpower, namely everyone who is able to do work to produce goods and/or services both to meet their own needs and for the community¹. The definition of every person who is able to do work to produce goods and/services, both to meet their own needs and for the community can include anyone who works by receiving wages or other forms of remuneration or anyone who works alone without receiving wages or remuneration. The workforce includes civil servants, formal workers, and people who have not worked or are unemployed. In other words, the definition of labor is broader than workers/labor.²

FORMULATION OF THE PROBLEM

1. What are the aspirations and demands of workers in commemorating Labor Day?
2. What are the government policies towards workers?

METHOD

This study used descriptive qualitative method. Descriptive method is a research method created with the aim of describing or describing a situation objectively.³ While the qualitative method is a data collection technique that is carried out in various ways such as through books, journals, articles or it could be through interviews, analysis, discussions, observations, and so on which will be described in sentences. The sources of data that we use for this research are scientific journals, articles and books.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Democracy for fulfilling aspirations for labor day close to Eid al-Fitr

Already it became a tradition that on May 1, workers in Indonesia held a demonstration that was already in a working relationship. Employment relationship is a relationship between a worker and an employer who wants to show the position of the two parties which basically describes the rights and obligations of the worker.⁴ Although the COVID-19 pandemic in Indonesia has not ended,

¹ Undang-Undang No.13 Tahun 2003 tentang Ketenagakerjaan

² Asri Wijayanti. 2009. Hukum Ketenagakerjaan Pasca Reformasi. Jakarta. Sinar Grafika. Hal 1

³ Soekidjo 2002

⁴ Imam Soepomo, Hukum Perburuahan Bidang Hubungan Kerja Djembatan, Jakarta, 2001, hlm .1.

it does not eliminate the intention of the KSPI (Confederation of Indonesian Trade Unions) and MPB (Indonesian Labor Workers Assembly) to hold demands or actions in commemoration of the International Labor Day which is often called May Day by the trade unions.

Labor participation in rallies is a strategy formed by workers in an effort to solve collective problems. This labor democracy action was carried out on a large scale out of a sense of solidarity and in order to put pressure on policy makers regarding labor. The demands of the protesters are often the main problem because normative demands make a high contribution to job satisfaction which will ultimately improve their welfare. There are two kinds of aspirations or demands that will be held at the May Day commemoration action approaching the Eid al-Fitr celebration as follows:

1. Demands for lower prices for basic commodities to maintain market stability;
2. Demands for the prohibition of termination of employment (PHK) by the Company.

The action of the workers who are members of the Indonesian Trade Unions Confederation (KSPI) will commemorate Labor Day from the actual date of May 1, 2022 to May 14, 2022, which has been postponed because it coincides with the Eid al-Fitr celebration held at Gelora Bung Karno (GBK) and it is estimated that there will be 150,000 workers and farmers and other elements⁵. Aspirations that will probably be put forward by the first workers include stabilizing cooking oil prices because until now there has been no change for HET. Demonstrators demanded the government to lower the prices of a number of basic commodities, especially cooking oil and demanded that President Jokowi remove the Minister of Trade who was deemed to have failed to control the price of cooking oil and other basic commodities.⁶

The beginning of the scarcity of cooking oil also occurred because of the active role of the cooking oil mafia who smuggled it abroad, while the mafia practices such as diverting subsidized oil to industrial oil, exporting cooking oil abroad and repackaging cooking oil so that it can be sold at a lower price. which does not correspond to the highest retail price (HET). On Thursday, March 17, 2022, the Minister of Trade in a working meeting of the House of Representatives Commission VI promised to reveal the mafia⁷. The scarcity and spike in the price of palm cooking oil in the market is caused by hoarding, efforts to divert sales of palm cooking oil from modern markets to traditional markets and panic buying in the community.⁸. Needpreventive efforts for disasters such as the covid-19 pandemic and consumers in Indonesia at the beginning of the pandemic took panic buying actions and experienced changes in the way they shopped.⁹

There is no cooking oil in the market due to the small supply of oil from distributors, this is because there is no intentional element from oil producers but the oil producing industry has purchased raw materials at international standard prices, so industry players cannot process them

⁵ Ungkap Presiden KSPI Said, Selasa 05 April 2022 kepada reporter detikfinance “Aksi May Day di geser ke 14 Mei, ratusan ribu buruh bakal turun ke GBK”, (<https://finance.detik.com/berita-ekonomi-bisnis/d-6017731/aksi-may-day-digesar-ke-14-mei-ratusan-ribu-buruh-bakal-turun-ke-gbk>) (Diakses pada Selasa,12 April 2022. Pukul 13:34)

⁶ “Buruh Demo Tuntut Harga Minyak Goreng, Orator : Ibu-ibu Menjerit, Anak-anak menangis” <https://megapolitan.kompas.com/read/2022/03/23/06402271/buruh-demo-tuntut-penurunan-harga-minyak-goreng-orator-ibu-ibu-menjerit?page=all> (Diakses pada Selasa,12 April 2022. Pukul 13:36)

⁷ “Menagih Janji Menag Soal Ungkap Mafia Minyak Goreng ?.” (<https://www.kompas.com/tren/read/2022/03/22/163000765/menagih-janji-mendag-soal-kapan-ungkap-mafia-minyak-goreng-?page=all>) (Diakses senin,14 april 2022 pukul 13:40)

⁸ Guritno, T. (2022). Temuan Ombudsman soal Minyak Goreng : Ditimbun, Dibuat Langka, dan “Panic Buying” Kompas-com - 08/02/2022, 16:18 WIB(Diakses pada Selasa,12 April 2022. Pukul 13:40)

⁹ Ainur Rohmah. 2020. PANDEMI COVID-19 DAN DAMPAKNYA TERHADAP PERILAKU KONSUMEN DI INDONESIA. Surabaya: Jurnal Inovasi Penelitian. ISSN 2722-9467 (Online). Hlm. 1374

because the government lowers prices. look at the regulation of the supply of fresh palm fruit, which if produced according to government policies, industry players will be disadvantaged in other words the price is unstable according to world standards¹⁰

The reason for the increase in cooking oil prices is due to hoarding, diversion of sales from modern retail to traditional markets, and panic buying by the public. The government's actions are to make a policy regarding cooking oil at one price per liter, establish a Food Task Force Team, create a complaint hot line, and provide a budget for subsidizing cooking oil prices. As for the impact, there were demonstrations demanding a reduction in cooking oil prices, changes in people's cooking methods from frying to boiling by political parties, which resulted in the General Chairperson of the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle feeling disappointed due to being bullied by netizens for suggesting changes to the cooking process. The next impact is that there are queues in various regions to get cooking oil through a cheap market organized by the government¹¹

Due to the various impacts of the problems related to the scarcity and rising prices of basic commodities that have arisen above, the government needs to issue a policy or regulation related to the stability of staple food prices in Indonesia, this is needed to maintain market stability and to anticipate panic buying by the public, especially ahead of the preparations for Hari Raya Eid Al-Fitr. This can trigger a shortage of goods which results in the cessation of market production, such as the termination of the tempe factory production caused by rising soybean prices. So the government must also import on a large scale, such as wheat to imported meat to support the needs of the community ahead of Eid al-Fitr.

The second demand for workers, namely to stop the termination of employment (PHK) this action has been voiced on April 4, 2022 but has not produced results and it is likely that this will become the aspirations of Labor Day on May 14, the layoffs carried out at the Uniliver Indonesia Factory were 161 workers. The secretary of Uniliver Indonesia has conducted bipartite (negotiations) with PT Uniliver Indonesia twice before the action, but it is felt that this has not reached a meeting point.¹² Labourers dare to issue it in the form of a demonstration because the normative rights that should be accepted fairly are still being ignored by entrepreneurs. It is also hoped that through the aspirations of the demonstration workers and employers can find a peaceful middle ground by negotiating through bipartite an institution that functions as a forum for communication and consultation on labor matters in companies.¹³

Government policies based on democratic principles during the Covid-19 pandemic

Judging from the point of view related to democracy, the existence of the COVID-19 pandemic in the realm of government is a big challenge, especially for the existence of a democratic system. This is related to the government's commitment to demonstrate policies that continue to uphold the principles of the democratic order. So, indirectly, the existence of the COVID-19 pandemic is proof of whether the principles of the state are being implemented properly or

¹⁰ Widjaja, G. (2022). SIKAP MASYARAKAT SEHUBUNGAN DENGAN HILANGNYA MINYAK GORENG DARI PASAR DI JAKARTA. *JOURNAL OF COMMUNITY DEDICATION*, 2(1), hlm 1-11..

¹¹ Rahayu, R. N. (2022). KENAIKAN HARGA MINYAK GORENG KELAPA SAWIT DI INDONESIA: SEBUAH ANALISIS BERITA KOMPAS ON LINE. *JURNAL EKONOMI, SOSIAL & HUMANIORA*, 3(08), hlm 26-37.

¹² Ucapan Saekertaris PUK Uniliver Indonesia Surabaya Eddy Jaya, Senin 04 April 2022 kepada reporter detik jatim "Ratusan Buruh Surabaya Kembali Demo di Depan Pabrik SIER" (<https://www.detik.com/jatim/berita/d-6015696/ratusan-buruh-surabaya-kembali-demo-di-depan-pabrik-sier>). (Diakses pada Selasa 4 April 2022 14:24 WIB)

¹³ Utomo,Setya,Ide.(2004). Suatu Tinjauan Tentang Tenaga Kerja Buruh di Indonesia, *The WinnErs*,6(2005),87-93.

otherwise. So, in a pandemic like this, the government is required to be more responsive and accountable to the interests of the people based on a democratic system.¹⁴ It is important that the government supports the aspirations of the people which are realized in policies that are in accordance with democratic principles, so that people get a guarantee to fulfill people's lives well. And everyone has the right to guarantee Constitutional as stated in the 1945 Constitution Article 28E paragraph (3) which clearly states "Everyone has the right to freedom of association, assembly and expression". Thus, there is no reason for the government or other stakeholders in Indonesia not to give freedom to workers to exercise their right to freedom of association, in other words, there is no reason to prevent the formation of trade unions in Indonesia as long as it does not conflict with positive Indonesian law.¹⁵

The efforts of the workers to convey their demands/aspirations at the commemoration of Labor Day during the COVID-19 pandemic are things that must be considered. The realization of democracy by the trade unions has the intention of conveying various aspirations that are wanted by the workers. However, during a pandemic like this, it does not reduce the enthusiasm of the workers to take action/demonstration. During the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a desire to convey aspirations related to the Omnibus Law regulations and various policies related to worker welfare.¹⁶

The importance of conveying aspirations in demonstrations to commemorate May Day ahead of Eid al-Fitr, which is carried out by trade unions in the context of prosecuting workers' rights. Regarding the existence of government policies, it is expected to be firm in supervising basic commodities in order to ensure stability in food prices such as oil, wheat, meat and so on. So it is necessary to subsidize the price of basic commodities to support the needs of the lower middle class, or people who have been affected by the economy during the COVID-19 pandemic, so that labor demonstrations are carried out in accordance with applicable regulations and maintain public order.

CLOSING

CONCLUSION

Labor Day, also known as May Day, is always celebrated on May 1. This commemoration began with the efforts of the trade unions to celebrate the economic and social success of the workers. As a state of law, Indonesia has regulated all matters relating to all lines of life in the form of laws, including labor. The laws that regulate labor will not always be good by the workers or even the government. In May 2013 there were cases of violence against factory workers in Tangerang which were quite adequate. The torture of 36 workers added to the red tape of labor in Indonesia as well as violations of Human Rights (HAM). Almost every Labor Day commemoration, workers hold demonstrations demanding an increase in their wages. They – the workers argue that the increase in the price of basic necessities has made their wages meaningless. With regard to workers, the government and employers should pay more attention to labor matters. Because of this, many strikes are carried out by workers, which can actually harm the company itself. The beginning of the

¹⁴ Negara, J. H. T. Sistem Demokrasi di Tengah Pandemi: Penyampaian Aspirasi dalam Rangka Hari Buruh Nasional atau May Day di Tengah Pandemi COVID-19. *Menelisik Berbagai Hubungan Kebijakan di Tengah Pandemi Covid 19 Aturan dan Praktik dalam Masyarakat*, hlm 83.

¹⁵ Asifa Maulidya dan Beni Hidayat. 2020. Pemenuhan Hak Berserikat Pekerja pada Perusahaan di Kabupaten Sleman Berdasarkan Undang-Undang Nomor 21 Tahun 2000 Tentang Serikat Pekerja/Buruh. *Jurnal Media of Law and Sharia*, Vol. 1, No. 2, 2020, 68-80. Hlm 73

¹⁶ Muhammad Hendartyo, (2020) "Di Tengah Pandemi Corona, Buruh Bersikeras Akan Gelar Demo", (<https://bisnis.tempo.co/read/1333206/di-tengah-pandemi-corona-buruh-bersikeras-akan-gelar-demo>) Diunduh pada Rabu, 13 Mei 2022 pukul 18.00 WIB

scarcity of cooking oil also occurred because of the active role of the cooking oil mafia who smuggled it abroad, as for the practices carried out by the mafia such as subsidizing oil to industrial oil, exporting cooking oil abroad and packaging cooking oil so that it can be sold at an affordable price according to the highest retail price (HET). The cause of the increase in cooking oil prices is due to hoarding, concern for modern retail sales to traditional markets, and panic buying by the public. The next impact, there are queues in various areas to get cooking oil through cheap markets organized by the government.

There are various impacts of the problems related to the scarcity and rising prices of basic commodities that have arisen above, the government needs to issue a policy or related to the prices of basic commodities in Indonesia, this is needed to maintain market security and anticipate panic buying by the public, especially preparations for Eid al-Fitr. This can trigger a shortage of goods which results in the cessation of market production, such as the termination of the tempe factory production caused by rising soybean prices. The workers dared to issue them in the form of demonstrations because businessmen had ignored normative rights that should have been accepted fairly. The realization of democracy by the trade unions has the intention of conveying various aspirations that are wanted by the workers. However, during a pandemic like this, it does not reduce the enthusiasm of the workers to take action/demonstration. The importance of expressing aspirations in demonstrations to commemorate May Day ahead of Eid al-Fitr, which is carried out by labor unions in order to properly demand the rights of workers.

SUGGESTION

1. Submission of aspirations in demonstrations to commemorate May Day ahead of Eid al-Fitr
2. Supervise basic ingredients to ensure food price stability
3. Subsidies on the price of basic commodities to support the needs of the lower middle class, or people who have been affected by the economy during the COVID-19 pandemic

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