

ABSTRACT

THE CONTROVERSY OF RICE IMPORT POLICY IN THE ERA OF SUSILO BAMBANG YUDHOYONO'S GOVERNMENT

By

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Indonesia is a country that most of its people rely their living on agriculture. It is true that national food needs can be met from domestic production and imports. However, because of Indonesia's population continues to grow and spread across many island, the food import dependence will lead to food insecurity, so it can impact on various aspects of life including social, economic, and even political. Although Indonesia is known as an agricultural country and most of its population are farmers, in reality Bulog still not able to meet the rice stocks in the country, as well as the threat of drought, or from rice scarcity in the market. Importing rice is also not free of controversy from various parties such as farmers, laborers, and students who rejected the importation of rice and oppose government policy to import rice from Vietnam and Thailand.

This study uses qualitative research with descriptive and historical approach. Data was collected with a literature study and a few interviews as supporting data. Data processed through data selection, data classification, and data preparation. Data were analyzed using an interactive model that consists of data reduction, data serving, and conclusion. The validity of the data is checked by the test of credibility, diversity, and certainty.

The results showed that Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono' government chose rice import policy as an effort to ensure food security based on four grounds, namely the practice of rent-seeking in the importation of rice, cartel practices in the food sector, the liberalization of international trade, and the low volume of domestic food production. Then, the rice import policy also has the actors concerned, those are: (1) domestic employers, (2) the government, (3) foreign investors, and (4) domestic farmers. This study recommended: to overcome the problem about rente hunting government should make a regulation to confine the number of importers of staple food product (rice) that are concentrated only in some of entrepreneurs by using open tender mechanism, , the state as the guardian of the public interest must be present to make corrections in cartel practices, namely (increase production, productivity, and efficiency of farming) as well as the marketing system of food commodities in the upstream, to continue the program initiated by the government through the One day no Rice (one day without rice), and to increase the volume of food product in country by

expanding of new field that aims for expansion of planting area and addition of farmland that becomes government's demand.

Keywords: Rice Import Policy, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's Government.