



# The Power of Pancasila Democracy in the Time of the Covid-19 Pandemic

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**Abstract.** The COVID-19 pandemic that attacked the country of origin of China turned out to have also reached Indonesia, where on Monday, March 2, 2020, at that time President Jokowi announced that there were two confirmed cases of the coronavirus, with the first case in the DKI Jakarta area. Which then quickly infects many Indonesian people even to remote corners of this beloved country of Indonesia. It is not an easy thing to solve this pandemic problem when technology is very sophisticated where humans can move quickly from one place to another without obstacles, this is also the cause of this epidemic spreading even more quickly to remote areas of our country in Papua. The state has tried its best to deal with this pandemic, such as through the PSBB, PPKM, then the Emergency PPKM which was recently implemented to suppress the increasingly extraordinary cases of covid 19. Indeed, public health must be considered and handled appropriately and carefully, but don't forget that after all, Indonesia is one of the developing countries among many other developing countries which cannot pay attention to the health side without paying attention to the economic sector which is the life support for all human beings, if indeed lock action down is implemented in Indonesia, don't you think about how the life of the majority of people who are below standard life. The Indonesian state is truly on the verge of collapse, but all have forgotten the basis of the birth of the Indonesian state, namely Pancasila, we forget the principle "United we stand, divided we fall" and we also forget the principle of "deliberation for consensus" forgetting the principle of "our cooperation" where all Indonesian identities are famous for helping each other together.

**Keywords:** Pandemic · Pancasila Democracy · Indonesia

## 1 Introduction

Indonesia is a maritime country whose most of its territory is the sea and consists of thousands of large and small islands, with 34 provinces and a very large population is not something easy to manage. Indonesia is one of the developing countries in the world, with all the limitations in facilities and infrastructure, perhaps the most widely available are human resources in the form of workers with various educational backgrounds.

The law that applies in Indonesia is pluralism or in the sense that many rules apply in this independent State of Indonesia, namely the rules of national law, then the rules of Islamic law, and the rules of customary law, for some regions in Indonesia the rules of

customary law and Islamic law are still very strong, and is still obeyed by its indigenous people, so it is as if the National Law has been sidelined.

As long as the rules of Islamic Law and Customary Law regulate things that are different from the National Law, this is not a problem but what if there are mutually contradictory rules between National Law, Islamic Law, and Customary Law, this is very worrying in a country whose legal system is pluralism.

Article 1 paragraph (3) of the 1945 Constitution states that the State of Indonesia is the State of Law, which means that all actions must be based on law, but then the question arises which law? What is certain is that the laws that apply in Indonesia are pluralistic, namely, National Law, Customary Law, and Islamic Law. Not to mention the many customary laws that apply in Indonesia which sometimes contradict the National Law which is the policy of the central government to deal with a state problem. With a very large population with an uneven distribution because most of the population is in the Provinces of West Java, East Java, Central Java, and DKI Jakarta, causing uneven development of facilities and infrastructure and so on, including health facilities and health workers.

Efforts made by President Jokowi's government are now to accelerate development in eastern Indonesia with the aim that development is evenly distributed not only in western Indonesia but especially in the islands of Java and Bali. Even President Jokowi plans to build the capital city of Indonesia on the island of Kalimantan, the aim is to make the capital city more concentrated and not eroded by the development of the megapolitan city of DKI Jakarta. But maybe what is planned by President Jokowi is not yet realized because when Indonesia was in the process of developing infrastructure but it turned out that at the beginning of 2020, precisely in March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic entered Indonesia, and there is no need to ask where it came from, which is clear because of the mobility of the people. Very high. The state budget is automatically changed completely because almost all of the budget is focused on handling this outbreak.

The government has implemented various ways so that this epidemic ends soon, for example by disbursing PSBB, providing social assistance for the weak, MSME assistance, pre-employment assistance and so on which is a free distribution of funds to the people, so in media articles certain masses, Indonesia is the most generous country because of its activities in distributing social assistance, but do the people know that the funds distributed are government loan funds? The goal is good so that the people during the PSBB activities do not experience hunger because most Indonesian people are freelancers. So that finally, the debt of the Indonesian state swelled, but apart from that, we are back to discussing the covid 19 pandemic. This covid pandemic has destroyed everything that has been built by the Indonesian state, both in the economic sector, the health sector, and, the education sector, which is the area most affected.

The high number of layoffs due to this pandemic will directly increase the number of unemployed which will automatically reduce the per capita income of the Indonesian people and will reduce the level of public health and will also be directly proportional to education in Indonesia. The Minister of Education and Culture said that schools being closed for too long causes learning loss, by studying from home, not only parents who are distraught with their children's learning, but teachers also have to work twice as hard and even more with this pandemic situation, and indeed our education is not be

prepared for the situation that occurs when a pandemic occurs. Even the Minister of Education and Culture insisted that schools be opened in July 2021, this is not wrong because the Minister of Education and Culture is worried about the education of our millennial generation who will later become the backbone of the nation but what can we say, the rate of Covid cases is really beyond prediction, it immediately accelerates after Eid al-Fitr, with The reason for this is because of the tradition of going home. Whereas long ago the government had issued a ban on going home, prohibiting halal bi halal events and so on which were predicted to be the cause of the outbreak of this pandemic.

The thing that confuses people the most is the amount of news about this pandemic that is confusing in cyberspace, which sometimes contradicts each other. There are even some opinions that seem to blame the government, without providing a solution, even though if we look at the many things that have been implemented by the government, such as obliging the public to get vaccines with additional sanctions, even though there should be no sanctions, but it seems In Indonesia, sanctions are the most effective so that the people obey because the Indonesian people are still law-abiding and not aware of the law. In addition, there are also sanctions for violators of PPKM and PSBB in the form of fines or imprisonment, and those who violate are small people who incidentally are those whose life is from daily livelihoods such as trading and so on, so they are obliged to pay fines and because they are unable to afford it. Then they undergo confinement which automatically becomes a burden on the state again because the more prisoners there are, the more burden the state will have.

Some compare it with the State of Brunei Darussalam, it must be much different under normal circumstances, the State of Brunei is equal to the State of Singapore and the State of Malaysia, but from the per capita income of its people it is far away, not in other respects. After the increasing incidence of this outbreak, only then did people flock to want to be vaccinated (whereas it is reported that currently, vaccines in Indonesia are running low), it came from when the state required people to be vaccinated/as if it was considered a breeze, why is that because there are many rumors in the community through groups Whatsapp, and other social media that vaccines are poison, there are chips and so on, the news is extraordinary, law enforcement officers, especially the police, are working hard to eradicate hoaxes on social media and other security.

Recently, many are self-isolating because there are hospitals full of deaths everywhere/as if people don't care and don't want to help the state in dealing with all these problems. The PPKM policy launched by the government is widely opposed by the people as if we are in a civil war and many other problems which are problems for all Indonesian people, not just the government's problem. It seems that we all forgot how the State of Indonesia used to get independence from the Dutch colonialists, didn't we do it with our own hands by promoting the spirit of "United We Stand, Divorced We Fall" and the principle of "Gotong Royong", why when there is a pandemic like this, where are the values of Pancasila which extol the values of Pancasila democracy as the basis of the Indonesian state. So that the author feels interested in researching "The Strength of Pancasila Democracy in the Covid-19 pandemic", then how is the implementation of Pancasila democracy in Indonesia today? And how is the application of the democratic principle of Pancasila in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic?

## 2 Research Method

This research was conducted using a juridical-normative approach oriented to a holistic study, where legal science received assistance from related disciplines. This study aims to find and discover models and implementations of the democratic conception of Pancasila through normative and empirical legal research methods as well as comparative studies. Starting from conducting studies, field investigations, and analyses. The analysis of the research object is carried out through legal analysis.

## 3 Findings and Discussion

### 1. The Implementation of Pancasila Democracy Now In Indonesia

Indonesia's independence on August 17, 1945 with incomplete independence (also known as *de facto* recognition) because it has not received *de jure* recognition (juridically on paper) from most countries in the world including the Netherlands, England and other countries, although there are indeed several countries that have given *de jure* recognition, so this has caused Indonesia at the beginning of its independence (which was the result of the struggle of the Indonesian people who went through a long process from the formation of BPUPKI then PPKI and Committee 9 in charge of setting the goals and policies of the Indonesian state), had to go through various Conferences with European countries, especially the Netherlands which had long colonized Indonesia to get the *de jure* recognition, in the process of struggle after Indonesia's independence, Indonesia underwent a change in the form of the state from the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia (NKRI) to the form of the United States of Indonesia, which later changed again. Become the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia until now, these changes provide lessons for the Indonesian people that the form of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia is the most appropriate form of state for the State of Indonesia.

The independence of the State of Indonesia is inseparable from the declaration of the Youth Pledge on October 28, 1928, which stated the existence of unity and integrity in one homeland, namely the homeland of Indonesia, as one Indonesian nation and one Indonesian language. The birth of the Youth Pledge is a milestone in the birth of the unity and integrity of the nation and state, and also as the basis for continuing the struggle for the independence of the Indonesian State. If you quote Kranenburg's opinion that the essence of the state is an organization of power created by a group of people called a nation, which means that Kranenburg classifies that in the formation of a state, a nation has previously been formed. Likewise, the State of Indonesia was born first, namely the existence of a unifying nation with the initiation of unity and unity marked by the Youth Pledge of October 28, 1918, then the new State of Indonesia was born which was marked by independence on August 17, 1945.

Indonesia's independence is purely the result of the struggle of the Indonesian people, unlike other ASEAN countries whose independence was a gift from their colonies without any historical struggle that incised the twists and turns to get this freedom. One of the outcomes of the journey to independence was to establish what would become the basis of the state.

The process of determining the Basic State of Indonesia went through a long journey, starting with the establishment of BPUPKI, which prepared for the independence of the State of Indonesia, which was then formed by a small committee to be the formulator of the basis of the state, then a committee was also formed which involved figures in Indonesia from various elements to establish the basis of the state. This later resulted in the Jakarta Charter, also known as the preamble or the preamble to the 1945 Constitution, which contained the state goals which were later known as Pancasila which was successfully formulated by the 9th Committee under the leadership of Soekarno and Moh. Hatta was later declared the first President and Vice President of the Republic of Indonesia.

Democracy rolls like a big current that is difficult to control, it crashes into the lifelines of the nation's elements. So that everything becomes shattered falling to pieces without any residue and power. As a result, Indonesia no longer knows its national identity. The current globalization which has a negative influence on morals/also threatens the existence of Pancasila. Thus, Pancasila should continue to be explored and explored by the Indonesian people, especially the younger generation, so that it becomes a solid guide for life [1].

We need a guide who can return the direction of democracy in the right direction. Returning democracy to a democratic model based on Pancasila. Democracy that makes Pancasila the main guide in the basic principles to the practical level [2]. The idea that Indonesia is a democratic country is contained in Pancasila, in particular the fourth precept, and in Article 28 of the 1945 Constitution which regulates freedom of opinion and assembly, which are essential elements of democracy [3, 4].

The problem is how to reduce the ideals that have been formulated by the nation's elders and the best sons this nation has ever had into policies and praxis that can overshadow all the bloodshed. It is a journey that never ends/because Indonesia will always face the challenges of the times, temptations, dynamics, and tests that cannot be separated from the context of space and time [5].

Pancasila democracy has several principles which include: First, Equality for all Indonesian people, which means that the rights and obligations of the Indonesian people are equal and equal. Second, the principle of balance between rights and obligations, and Third, realizing a sense of social justice for all citizens. Fourth, is the implementation of freedom that is morally responsible to God Almighty, oneself, and others. These four principles are inseparable from the respect and recognition of human rights in the concept of a Pancasila democracy state [6].

The main objective of the democratic process is to guarantee the right of the Indonesian people to run a country. In general, the function of Pancasila democracy is to ensure the involvement of the community in the implementation of state life [7] Pancasila as the basis of the Indonesian State upholds the noble values of the culture of the Indonesian State which consists of various ethnic groups and cultures and religions, but although they are different, the Indonesian State upholds *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika* which has different meanings but is one, understands *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika*. This is very appropriate to be applied to the State of Indonesia which consists of various tribes and cultures from Sabang to Merauke.

Democracy is a form of government that is carried out from, by, and for the people, this is by following the meaning of democracy itself which comes from two words, namely *demos* which means people while *cratos* means government. Democracy develops by following the development of the world, namely the existence of ancient democracy and modern democracy. Ancient democracy is a government that implements direct democracy where the people are gathered in a field known as *ecclesia* to be asked for their opinion about the policies that will be taken by the state where the people here are not slaves, while modern democracy is a democracy that uses a representative system, where the people conduct elections for people's representatives who will sit in government or what is known as indirect democracy.

Modern democracy is based on its development into many kinds, based on Montesquieu's opinion on *Tria Politica*, then democracy is divided into several types, namely: Democracy with a presidential government system, modern democracy with a parliamentary system, modern democracy with a referendum system, constitutional democracy, and people's democracy.

While Pancasila democracy is not one of the democracies mentioned above because Pancasila democracy is a form of government implemented in Indonesia based on the state foundation, namely Pancasila which has very special characteristics by following the culture of the Indonesian State. Pancasila democracy is a system of government where state power and government power are in the hands of the President who is assisted by his representatives and ministers, meaning that there is an element of a presidential system but Indonesia also adheres to the principle that everything that is carried out in Indonesia in government must be based on the constitution. Given the freedom to its citizens to do business, then based on Article 33 paragraph 3 of the 1945 Constitution, Indonesia adheres to a people's democracy where the economic sector that controls the lives of many people is controlled by the state, and in Indonesia, Referendum is also held based on Law No. also.

This can be evidence that the State of Indonesia with its democratic system of government Pancasila has specific characteristics, but it is clear that these characteristics are very in line with the characteristics of the culture and culture of the State of Indonesia itself which is a maritime country or an archipelagic country where the sea area is wider than the land area. Who has different customs and traditions of each ethnic group? And this diversity can be united in a state basis called Pancasila which is contained in the preamble of the 1945 Constitution as the direction and goal of the Republic of Indonesia.

The Pancasila democracy implemented in Indonesia has gone through various difficult trials and has succeeded in overcoming it with the principles contained in the precepts of Pancasila, just mention it when Indonesia became independent, when the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia was asked to change to RIS, with the issuance of a Presidential Decree, then history incised the G 30 S PKI, then when the Reformation was born in 1998 and finally when the State of Indonesia was hit by the covid 19 pandemic that hit the world, how this country was rocked by various hoaxes, which wanted to destroy the country, with many undermining from various elements who wanted to divide the country. Divide Indonesia.

So many events that test the strength of Pancasila democracy are lessons and as a reflection that what is stated in the state foundation, namely Pancasila, is a characteristic

of the Indonesian state which is used as the basis of the state to realize the unity and integrity of the nation that is *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika*, so that it does not it is necessary to doubt the strength of this Pancasila to overcome and resolve various problems of the nation and state, one of which is the Covid 19 pandemic. About how this covid 19 pandemic hit the country of Indonesia where hospitals collapsed due to lack of equipment and lack of medicines, high mortality rates, food difficulties, lockdown, how the economy of the small people, massive layoffs, a deficit economy, and a few other problems. Moreover, this pandemic that has hit the world has hit our country for several periods, even for up to two years, our economy has been limping, leaving behind a lot of debt with the aim that the Indonesian state is free from the crisis that hit the world because of the long pandemic.

## 2. Application of Pancasila Democracy Principles in Dealing with the Covid 19 Pandemic

As stated above, the COVID-19 pandemic that has hit the world, including Indonesia, has had a long impact and caused various crises in all fields, be it health, education, or the economy. The problem of this pandemic is not only a problem for the State of Indonesia but has become a world problem, what about a pandemic that has occurred over a long period had destroyed various existing arrangements, both in the fields of education, health and economy, many countries are comfortable with the existing situation and feeling qualified in all things with existing technology, it turned out that when the pandemic hit and community interaction was required, both in the fields of education and the economy, to use existing digital sophistication, which of course for the State of Indonesia, this was very new.

How digital sophistication is needed when the covid pandemic hits where everyone has to stay at home and carry out all their activities from home with WFH (Work From Home) for workers or BDR (Learning From Home) for school children, this is something new where people have to meet and do all their daily activities in cyberspace.

This new order and habit is something that is not easy for the Indonesian people because the digital world in Indonesia before the pandemic could be categorized as still low, but when the pandemic hit inevitably all elements of society had to use the internet and learn it, especially in the field of education, what was announced by the Minister of Education and culture Nadiem Makarim is very appropriate if it is carried out during this pandemic with the MBKM learning system (Merdeka Belajar Kampus Merdeka).

In the economic field, how our inflation has fallen sharply, this is spurred by a high rate of layoffs, unemployment everywhere, many businesses in the clothing and board sector as well as tourism out of business, and state revenues from taxes and imports and exports decreased sharply, the threat of starvation for residents in Indonesia. Remote areas of the country threatened, the ability of people's spending to decrease in line with decreasing per capita income, the state is trying to provide covid subsidies to the lower classes of society in the form of food and clothing so that hunger does not occur which will result in low health levels and will later result in malnutrition and can lead to malnutrition cause other diseases, especially in children.

Various efforts have been carried out by the State of Indonesia, such as providing low-cost care, treatment, and self-isolation for people affected by COVID-19, subsidizing wages for workers while they are waiting for new jobs, and providing social assistance both cash and non-cash such as food assistance for residents poverty recorded in the Ministry of Social Affairs, education assistance for school-age children, and other assistance provided by the state to stabilize the Indonesian economy and to stop the inflation rate, although the funds provided were by borrowing foreign loans which caused Indonesia's national debt to swell. There is even a foreign media that states that the State of Indonesia is the most generous country in the world because it distributes funds to its people even though it is from debt funds.

But unfortunately, the assistance provided by the State turned out to be unable to reach remote areas of the country and all levels of society due to limited funds and inaccurate data and the state of Indonesia, which is an archipelagic country. The principle of Pancasila as the basis of the Indonesian state when this pandemic was the biggest test because with this pandemic it turned out that the spirit of Pancasila in the community created a high sense of humanity with others, such as many people who shared food and medicine with fellow human beings. The nature of the cooperation carried out by the community in various parts of Indonesia is what can overcome the crisis that is currently engulfing the State of Indonesia.

How are the precepts in Pancasila implemented by our society to beat this pandemic together, such as awareness from the public to carry out vaccinations as an effort to prevent and overcome the covid 19 pandemic, the level of public awareness of the importance of wearing masks and washing hands, reminding each other about the importance of wearing masks and washing hands. Implementing health protocols, the existence of cooperation activities to share food and medicine carried out by residents in various parts of the country, these actions can be categorized as the embodiment of the 2nd Precept, namely civilized humanity where the state together with its people mutually work for hand in hand and work together so that all citizens can get clothing, food and adequate housing for humanity.

How can our community unite to help overcome this pandemic as an embodiment of the 3rd Precept of Indonesian Unity? The implementation of Precepts 1 of Pancasila, namely Belief in One God, also plays a very important role here places of worship are improving themselves to anticipate and deal with this pandemic, such as maintaining distance/and implementing health protocols, and other activities aimed at dealing with the pandemic. The state strives for equitable distribution of the use of the COVID-19 vaccine for all its citizens by making it free and President Jokowi also appeals to developed countries in the world to help distribute vaccines to developing countries and poor countries in the world so that this pandemic is done immediately. This is an embodiment of the precepts. 5 Social justice for all Indonesian people.

The embodiment of the 4th Precept, which is Democracy Led by Wisdom and Wisdom in Deliberation, is realized that despite all its limitations, the government always puts the interests and needs of its people above the needs of other countries, even though in reality the prices of necessities are rising but still trying to be met, for example with the ban on the export of CPO and cooking oil to meet domestic needs and other actions taken by the state to meet the basic needs of its people, even though they are limited.



## 4 Conclusion

The Pancasila democracy implemented in Indonesia has gone through various difficult trials and has succeeded in overcoming them with the principles contained in the precepts of Pancasila, just mention it when Indonesia became independent, when the Unitary Republic of Indonesia was asked to change to RIS, with the issuance of a Presidential Decree, then history incised the G 30 S PKI, then when the Reformation was born in 1998 and finally when the State of Indonesia was hit by the covid 19 pandemic that hit the world, how this country was rocked by various hoaxes, which wanted to destroy the country, with many undermining from various elements that want to divide Indonesia. So many events that test the strength of Pancasila democracy are lessons and as a reflection that what is stated in the state foundation, namely Pancasila, is a characteristic of the Indonesian state which is used as the basis of the state to realize the unity and integrity of the nation that is *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika*, so that it does not It is necessary to doubt the power of Pancasila to overcome and resolve various problems of the nation and state, one of which is the COVID-19 pandemic. The principle of Pancasila as the basis of the Indonesian state when this pandemic was the biggest test because, with this pandemic, it turned out that the spirit of Pancasila in the community created a high sense of humanity with others, such as many people who shared food, medicine with others. Fellow human beings. The nature of the cooperation carried out by the community in various parts of Indonesia is what can overcome the crisis that is currently engulfing the State of Indonesia.

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