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# Policy Implication of Prohibition of Using Plastic Bags at Shopping Centres

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**Abstract**---This paper aimed to discuss issues policies on plastic use prohibition at shopping centers in the Biak district. The Biak district's plastic prohibition program's success or failure is closely related to compliance with and sanctions against this rule's violators. To understand how this policy's implementation and success, we have conducted a series of data collection on ten international publications that raise the issue of prohibiting plastic bags in the Biak area. After collecting the data, it is then continued with in-depth analysis under the phenomenological approach. To ensure our findings are valid and reliable, we relate them to study questions. By considering existing data and evidence from previous studies, we can conclude that our results are, among others. Implementing the regulation on the prohibition of using plastic bags in Biak has not been effective because of the community's readiness and inadequate sanctions. The policy has not been very effective.

**Keywords**---Biak regional policy, fewer firm policies, plastic bag ban, qualitative analysis.

## Introduction

The policy to prohibit the use of plastic bags implemented by several local governments has drawn various objections. This policy is considered burdensome to the community and violates a higher legal rule, namely the Civil Code. A public policy observer from Trisakti University, Tribus Rahadiansyah, said that the government and regional governments were mistaken for banning plastic bags, PS-foam or plastic straws on the grounds of reducing plastic waste. It should be improved in waste management. Moreover, currently, no one has been able to find a replacement for plastic bags to carry groceries. The ban on plastic bags is an instant, non-solution policy. Until today, there has been no explanation about the use of this environmentally friendly bag. Substitute what from cloth or what. According to this plastic expert, the main obstacle is changing the habit of using plastic bags (Zhu, 2011). It is mainly the government's responsibility to provide a massive, consistent, and well-targeted understanding for market traders. For this reason, we will understand to what extent the implementation of the policy is in the city of Biak district and its surroundings.

Public policy should provide a solution, not burden the community. If middle-low traders in the market are given heavy sanctions up to IDR 25 million in fines, it becomes a question of whether or not they are appropriate. Using plastic bags is not a criminal act that must be fined tens of millions of rupiah. Imposing fines to retail stores violate the Civil Code, which has a higher position than regional regulations. In the legal rules of buying and selling practices in Article 612 and Article 1320 of the Civil Code, it is the obligation of modern or retail stores to serve

their buyers by submitting the finished goods together with the shopping bag because the consumer has paid for the goods and the cost of the shopping bags.

Environmentalists say there must be central government control in reducing plastic waste. The Ministry of Environment and Forestry should issue a Ministerial Regulation to harmonize the government's attitude. Meanwhile, what is currently happening is that the regulations prohibiting the use of plastic bags in the regions are only based on the rules of the Governor, Mayor, or Regent. As a result, consumers are confused about the applicable regulations. Several areas that have implemented this policy include Banjarmasin and Balikpapan and the future Bogor, Bandung, and DKI Jakarta, which is planned to take effect in January 2019. A stiffer rejection came from the Green Indonesia Foundation, through its Director Asrul Hossein, conveying criticism; according to him, the local government was too premature to take a policy to tackle plastic waste because, until today, there has been no official research result which states that there is environmentally friendly quality plastic. There is no alternative. Other for cheap and bulk bags besides conventional plastic bags.

The Biak City Government will begin banning single-use plastic bags in July through Governor Regulation Number 142 of 2019, which requires environmentally friendly shopping bags in shopping centers, people's markets, and convenience stores. With a population of around 140,631 people, Biak's capital city produces 765 tons of waste per year based on the 2018 World Bank report. The amount is not as bad as Surabaya or Jakarta, which has a population of 2.8 million people but produces up to 2,482 tons of waste per day. Therefore, if Jakarta succeeds in limiting plastic bags, other local governments are expected to issue similar policies. Some other areas that have done this are Bali and Bogor. Although the policy is already in line with the national target of reducing waste by 30% by 2025, many believe that environmental law researchers see at least four deficiencies in this government regulation that hinder the implementation of this rule in the field. There has been no transition period.

This regulation does not specify the transition period given to business actors in shopping centers and markets and managers in supermarkets to ensure the transition from using single-use plastic packaging bags to packaging bags more environmentally friendly. This packaging bag is usually used to wrap food ingredients that are not covered by packaging. It can be a legal loophole for both plastic producers, managers, and business actors in shopping centers, markets, and supermarkets, to continue to provide single-use plastic packaging bags. As a result, business managers and actors can continue to provide single-use plastic packaging bags as long as more environmentally friendly packaging alternatives are not available. As this is a new rule, the previous regulation did not stipulate a more environmentally friendly definition of packaging bags as an alternative to single-use plastic packaging bags, whether made of paper, dried leaves, or cloth. It will lead to various interpretations. Clarity of definition will transition to environmentally friendly packaging bags more measurable, both in terms of time and target outcomes. The definition of free plastic bags or plastic bags is wrapping bags made of plastic (polyolefin or polyvinyl chloride). Plastic bags are used for loading and carrying consumer goods. Therefore, in addition to being empowered by recycling, we often recommend bringing a grocery bag from home or carrying a bag.

There are no social sanctions for violators. Sanctions are an essential instrument that determines the effectiveness of implementing regulations. The existing regulations stipulate administrative sanctions for business managers and actors who do not comply, such as written warnings, forced money, license suspension, and license revocation. This government regulation's weakness is that there is no follow-up to publish subjects subject to sanctions, including the names of managers or business actors who violate the Jakarta website or the mass media. It is so that the public control mechanism can work. This mechanism cannot work if the public does not know which business managers or actors violate it. Affordable prices for environmentally friendly shopping bags So far, the ban on plastic bags in several parts of the world has been ineffective because the cost of environmentally friendly shopping bags is not affordable. The lack of plastic substitutes at affordable prices has led to the rampant smuggling of plastic bags, as happened in Rwanda.

Reasonable prices for environmentally friendly shopping bags. So far, the ban on the use of plastic bags in effect in several parts of the world has been ineffective because the price of environmentally friendly shopping bags is not affordable. The lack of plastic substitutes at affordable prices has led to the rampant smuggling of plastic bags. What is wrong with plastic bags? So we have to reduce the use of plastic bags. Plastic bags are classified as single-use items, thus increasing waste. If we shop weekly at the supermarket, we will use at least four plastic bags of various sizes once we do our shopping. For example, Jakarta produces around 7,000 tonnes of waste per day, more than half of non-organic waste, especially plastic and paper. Plastic bag waste dumped in Jakarta can cover 2600 football fields. New plastic bags can decompose in nature within 500 - 1,000 years. If they are scattered on the ground, it will damage the environment, inhibit water infiltration, cause flooding, and damage soil fertility. The Bangladeshi government bans plastic bags because they are considered the cause of flooding in the rainy season. Only 1% of used plastic bags can be recycled, mainly due to the difficulty of sorting out the various types of plastic used and the recycling costs being not comparable with the selling price. Almost all plastic bags become trash. Scavengers do not

even want to pick up plastic bag waste. To produce plastic each year, it takes 12 million barrels of oil, which produces large greenhouse gas emissions, plus there is now an oil crisis that has resulted in soaring fuel prices.

Not only fines and sanctions, but environmentally friendly pocket policies also need social sanctions. Since the city of Biak has made it mandatory for shopping centers, convenience stores, and public markets to use environmentally friendly shopping bags since July 1. There are sanctions for violators, but it is considered that there are some that are lacking. Starting July 1, 2020, the Governor of DKI Jakarta, for example, will implement the Governor of DKI Jakarta Regulation No. 142 of 2019 concerning the Obligation to Use Environmentally Friendly Shopping Bags. The targets of this regulation are shopping and market management centers. It includes supermarkets, traders, or shop owners. This regulation states that there is a prohibition on the use of single-use or plastic shopping bags. Furthermore, some sanctions will be accepted if this prohibition is violated. The sanctions given are written warning, forced money, license suspension, and license revocation.

LIPI researcher with a microplastic specialist assesses that there are still insufficient sanctions for the Governor Regulation's violators regarding the mandatory use of environmentally friendly shopping bags and prohibiting the use of plastic bags, namely social sanctions. Fines for violating this policy need to be accompanied by social sanctions. Apart from the implementation that has not been maximal, the lack of this policy is social sanctions. Moreover, that needs to be strengthened again, in the opinion. For example, if someone uses a plastic bag, they cannot enter the shopping area. Alternatively, for those who violate their photos are displayed in large sections or other means. Maybe regarding social sanctions, fellow social experts will understand better because Jakarta residents' approach is unique. After all, Jakarta residents are very heterogeneous. Now here is the challenge that must be answered by the capital in implementing policies.

Regarding the Regulation of the Governor of DKI Jakarta No. 142 of 2019 concerning the obligation to use environmentally friendly shopping bags, researchers have hoped. Mostly less garbage in the sea. We hope that there will be less waste entering the sea with this policy because garbage is a global problem. It is also hoped that the public will be more aware that life is only for a short time and that we will inherit the present environment to our children and grandchildren in the future. Of course, we do not want to pass on bad things to our children and grandchildren. In addition to the people who are aware of the waste produced, we also hope that the industry will increase its biocomposite plastics production. Do not make too many conventional plastics because later, new problems will arise. From data from the DKI Jakarta Environmental Service, plastic waste is a problem in itself. The number is increasing by seven percent per year. DLH Jakarta hopes that Governor Regulation Number 142 of 2019 concerning the Obligation to Use Environmentally Friendly Shopping Bags in Shopping Centers, Supermarkets, and People's Markets can reduce plastic waste

## Method

This paper reviewed the strategy effectiveness of leadership and management practices in primary school—review on local issues in Aceh. Many studies have confirmed that many of the low quality and achievement of student academic achievement in Aceh are due to the low quality of leadership and school governance management, especially at the primary school level compared to other developed countries. One of the causes is the low ability to adopt various leadership approaches, especially management and teaching and learning based on Islamic sharia, which is being actively applied in Aceh as local content. To prove this assumption, we have collected a large amount of literature on reading leadership and management. We review this to obtain scientific evidence to obtain support and explanations for solutions to overcome managerial crises that can be recommended in promoting leadership to elementary and beginner schools to introduce the world of learning.

Because this study chose how to describe the data, we took a phenomenological data analysis approach with in-depth interpretations to get valid and reliable answers according to the research questions (Jogiyanto Hartono, 2018; Creswell, 2017; Creswell & Poth, 2016; Bengtsson, 2016). We have conducted this review of search methods for online search engine systems with the help of keywords such as the words "plastic bag regulation," "effectiveness of government policy methods," community education, "international scientific publications. By linking the study objectives and the information we analyze, we finally summarized garbage plastics management findings. Sources of data information that we reviewed include scientific publications, books, websites.

## Result

Normajatun & Haliq (2020), regarding the Order to Reduce Plastic Bags' Use in Traditional Markets in Banjarmasin City has confirmed the community service activities are carried out at the development Market, development Village, Banjarmasin City. The action was held for three days, 23 and 24 December 2019, and December 30, 2019. The first day of internal socialization was in the form of counseling on reducing the use of plastic bags in collaboration with the Environmental Office of the City of Banjarmasin. The second day of external socialization was to put up a banner containing information and an invitation to reduce the use of plastic bags.

Yustiani & Maryadi (2020), examined the implementation of plastic bag policies in the Indonesian tax journal. Environmental tax reform is a term that has been popular for changes and improvements to the taxation system where the tax object shifts from a reasonable basis such as labor, capital, or consumption to a low base such as activities that lead to pollution and destruction of nature. These changes are the key to environmental and eco-friendly fiscal policies. This study aims to report regional policies on plastic consumption in several countries and implement the intended systems. Implementing the plastic bag ban policy significantly reduced the level of plastic bag consumption in Ireland. In Botswana, Canada, South Africa, and China, plastic bag consumption reductions were only short-term. They think this step is correct, but it will take a long time for the future results to be felt.

Vikalista (2018), Implementation of Banjarmasin Mayor Regulation No. 18/2016 reduces plastic bags. The results showed that Government Regulation Number 81 of 2012 concerning the use of biodegradable plastics, and Regulation of the Mayor of Bogor Number 61 of 2018 concerning Reduction of Plastic Waste, still cracks down on various problems of using residual plastics for ready-to-eat food ingredients, socialization of single-use plastics has not been fully realized. It was shown that 20.4% were aware of the plastic diet; 31.5% agree but not used to it; 9.7% there is no socialization yet; 7.7% there is no alternative to plastic bags; 1.2% do not know the plastic bag program, and other factors influence the rest.

Hidayat (2018) managed to find the legal politics of the paid plastic bag policy. According to him, these traditional politics originated from a circular letter from the ministry of environment and forestry under the Directorate General of Waste Management, Waste and Hazardous and Toxic Materials. This letter contains the application of paid plastic bags in modern retail businesses. The appeal through the two Circular Letters was made because Indonesia was second place in using environmental pollutant bags after China. These findings, which have policy and political nuances, have changed political, sociological, economic, and philosophical perspectives. With the content of this policy's legal politics, we can conclude that this policy is needed to change people's behavior so that it is not more consumptive, especially the cultural view of waste can be achieved (Maulana, 2020).

Irmayani & Syahril (2020), the study of the plastic bag excise policy as an impact of environmental externalization has made her realize that plastic reduction in Indonesia continues to increase from time to time. Plastic bags are an enormous waste that causes environmental pollution. Find a solution; plastic waste does not increase; this study has included external costs in production costs. Exterior prices are the costs of destruction due to environmental pollution. Their study results are expected to be part of the evaluation materials to minimize consumer dependence on plastic bags. Also, as an alternative policy to regulate plastic use, which is now almost uncontrollable, which has become a national and international issue. Therefore, federal intervention is needed by prohibiting plastic bags with individual contents or controlling specific plastic product fees.

The study of Saraswaty (2018), on the modern consumer retail community's policies, has confirmed the analysis of systems on the prohibition of using paid plastics. From the contemporary retail perspective, the results of this study show that there is a tendency not to charge plastic bags to consumers because they do not want to lose consumers. So it can be concluded that the modern retail business does not feel a significant improvement from an economic side with the paid plastic bag policy. Consumers are still willing to pay the government's price, and most modern retailers choose not to adopt a paid plastic policy. So in the future, the paid plastic policy can be complemented by a system on the use of alternative materials for shopping bags and the application of higher rates so that that plastic bag users can be reduced and replaced with environmentally friendly materials. This Kajin strongly supports government policy (Gultom, 2018; Hakim et al., 2019).

Radhiansyah et al. (2019), reviewed the Lebak Pilar search partnership program to reduce plastic waste in Bogor City. This study seeks to reduce plastic waste to realize the Bogor city program without plastic bags. Admittedly, the policy prohibiting plastic bags in modern retail stores and shopping centers is regulated in Mayor Regulation Number 61 of 2018. Even though Bogor City's public awareness of reducing plastic bags and its impact is still low, the community service program Telusur Lebak Pilar is very high, namely environmental clean-up action at Semper Bogor Field. This study was followed by an ecological seminar or talk show with the theme "Partnership in Environmental Conservation Integrity to Support SDGs 2030". The results of this study present a spirit of partnership between sectors, namely the government, educational institutions, and NGOs, in protecting the

environment from plastic waste by providing information about the dangers of plastic waste and providing insight into creative thinking to change plastic waste so that it has added value.

## Discussion

The point of efforts to reduce plastic waste is a joint effort initiated by the government. Thus, please help save the earth by carrying bags when shopping at supermarkets or traditional markets by remembering our mothers or grandmothers' good habits or grandmothers who always shop at conventional markets by bringing their shopping bags from home. We recommend that use an environmentally friendly bag made of fabric that can be recycled. Carry this eco-friendly bag with in-car or purse, so it is always available whenever needed it. So there is no reason, forced to accept plastic bags. If only buying a small amount, refuse the store's plastic bags and put the groceries in their pockets. Remember, the plastic bag is a worthless bonus. Reduce the use of plastic bags now. If the customer cannot stop it completely, do it gradually; for example, it is only used for disposing of garbage, turning into plastic waste. Do not be a hoarder and collector of unused plastic bags that fill the house. Get rid of the house immediately.

The problem of waste management, especially plastic waste, from time to time never ends; even though the government has disbursed trillions of funds for community outreach programs and the provision of waste processing facilities and infrastructure, it still does not solve the problem but instead actually prolongs the pain. Because the residual waste of public consumption that must be disposed of is much greater than the volume of waste that is successfully processed or recycled, therefore, the support of scientists and plastic waste observers should be encouraged. [Pratama & Yusri \(2018\)](#) have understood the importance of plastic waste management in Pekanbaru City so that in the future, there will be more concern about controlling waste and plastic waste, which can increase environmental pollution.

If we look at the issue of concern and waste management, [Putri \(2019\)](#), said that it is the government's duty and the collective task of controlling the company through policy. Although recycled packaging technology that is environmentally friendly has been implemented, this has not yet been able to encourage companies to immediately replace plastic packaging with packaging that is 100% environmentally friendly and can be recycled or readily biodegradable if released into the environment. Through government policies, companies that do not use recycled packaging impose higher taxes than companies that use recycled packaging. It is no longer useful to carry out or implement waste reduction activities through programs targeting community involvement. It is not adequate to sell plastic bags no matter how expensive they are as long as people still need them as long as there is no other environmentally friendly packaging available at low prices.

Banning the use of plastic bags can reduce plastic waste management in Biak. in this case - The Biak Numfor Regency Government, Papua, will impose a ban on the use of plastic bags in shops and markets from June 1, 2019, to reduce plastic waste in eastern Indonesia. The Biak Numfor Regency Government, Papua, will impose a ban on plastic bags in shops and markets plastic waste in eastern Indonesia. The ban on plastic bags is a follow-up to regional strategic policies in waste management and the 2018 Regional Regulation concerning waste and government regulation Number 81 of 2012 concerning waste management. Therefore, the government has the right to implement a regulation prohibiting plastic bags in shopping centers and shops that are considered useful in reducing plastic waste, which is quite dominant in the waste load in Biak Numfor Regency, where the government asks the public and shopkeepers to comply with the provisions prohibiting the use of plastic bags ([Wijayanto, 2016](#)).

Because this is the government's policy in reducing the burden of plastic waste followed by other policies, this study's findings are expected that this socialization can provide clear information to all society elements, especially shop, kiosk, and supermarket business actors. Likewise, with all agencies related to the environment launching a ban on the use of plastic bags will be carried out by the Regent of Biak Numfor, which has set it to coincide with the National Awakening Day on May 20, 2019. With the Biak Numfor district government policy that implements a ban on plastic bags, it can reduce plastic waste management in Biak. Shop owners support plastic bags' government policy, but this regulation must be intensively socialized to residents. It is just that this policy needs to be more intensive and mass socialized. The socialization of the use of the plastic bag ban was attended by many business actors in kiosks, shops, minimarkets, village heads, sub-district heads, and stakeholders in the environmental sector, which was opened by Assistant II of the Regional Secretary.

## Conclusion

This study aimed to determine the policy of prohibiting plastic bags by the central government in the Biak Regency. From the exposure to the findings and discussion of these findings, it can be concluded, among other things, that by considering the available data and evidence from previous studies, it can be concluded that the results of our research include, among others. Implementing regulations on the prohibition of using plastic bags in Biak has not been effective because many parties are not ready for this policy, especially the community and lack of sanctions. This policy was not very useful, as was the case with several cities on Java and Sumatra's islands. Based on our data findings and various publications that we have reviewed, the discourse on prohibiting plastic bags is still in the socialization stage—the movement for a healthy environment without plastic. Therefore, we as researchers continue to participate in efforts to support the government to continue to be active in socialization with a small contribution so that the community and supermarket entrepreneurs can fully support it.

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