STATE – PANDEMIC - GENDER REPRESSIVE POWER IN INDONESIA

WILL DEMOCRACY BE THE NEXT PANDEMIC VICTIM?

Kartika Natalia Manurung
Labour Policies and Globalisation, member of Across Factory Workers Federation (FBLP), Transnational Palm Oil Labour Solidarity
CONTROVERSIAL NEW LAWS DURING THE PANDEMIC

• 1. Job Creation / Omnibus Law.
  (more than 1,000 pages, restricts labor rights & dismantles environmental protection)

• 2. Mineral Mining & Coal Law.
  (Removes a limit on the size of mining operations & allows automatic permit extensions up to 20 years)

• 3. New Amendment to the Constitutional Court Law.
  (Minimum age for the judge to be 60 years)
ON THE WAY TO A MORE AUTHORITARIAN STATE: ATTACKING DEMOCRACY

Criminalization of public criticism

Lockdown policy restricts civil society to demonstrate & express political views

Criminalization of activism of indigenous people, police brutality in Papua & continued conversion of forests to palm oil & rubber plantation.

Students and trade unions resume the protest against omnibus law, heading to the parliament headquarters (liputan 6/ Johan Tallo.)
OMNIBUS LAW PROTEST

Criminalization of public criticism

Lockdown policy restricts civil society to demonstrate & express political views

Protest against the government’s proposed labor reforms in Sukabumi, West Java @voanews

Criminalization of activism of indigenous people, police brutality in Papua & continued conversion of forests to palm oil & rubber plantation.

Police stand guard over students arrested for protesting against Omnibus Law – (Antara)
LAND CONFLICTS ESCALATE WITH SPREAD OF COVID-19

Criminalization of activism of indigenous people, police brutality in Papua & continued conversion of forests to palm oil & rubber plantation

Legalization of land grabbing through “Food Estate” projects (30,000 Ha)
GENDER ISSUES: WOMEN HAVE BEEN HIT HARDEST

- The loss of 2.6 million jobs bring most of women back to traditional gender role – domestication.
- Violence against women increased by 75% during the pandemic.
- Job Creation / Omnibus Law creates more systemic precariousness for women workers; low wage, undocumented, no leave.
- Workers in palm oil estates mostly are not allowed to leave the plantation.
- More oppression of indigenous women (land grabbing for plantations & food estate) Less access to sexual & reproduction rights, fewer subsidies for contraception during COVID 19, anti abortion policy.
TRANSGENDER SITUATION DURING COVID 19

The elderly transwomen shelter managed by Yuli, accompanies 831 transwomen in around Jakarta @bbc

More oppression after family reunion

70% transgender lost their job, vulnerable to get COVID

60-70% have no ID to get access for subsidy.

Discrimination: limited access to work and public services.

The majority of transwomen in Jakarta / JABODETABEK live in slums and small housing settlements thus increasing the susceptibility to contracting Covid-19 @sanggarseraja / bbc
CONCLUSIONS

• The Indonesian state – till now not that authoritarian – uses the pandemic to attack and dismantle democratic structures.

• Autocratic Laws and policies during the pandemic accumulate oppression

• The state uses various legal and procedural instruments to break down the targeted social movement.

BUT: New social inclusivity among civil society by melting down the orthodox segregation between labor/ NGOs/ students’ movement