



## Human Security Issues at the Border, Case Study: Karimun District Government Strategies Anticipate the Spread of Coronavirus from Malaysia in 2020

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### **Abstract**

After the Malaysian Government issued a lockdown policy, a total of 5,985 Indonesian Migrant Workers were repatriated through the Tanjung Balai Karimun port. This is because only Karimun Regency still opens access for workers so that this area is the only main door for repatriated Indonesian Migrant Workers to enter Indonesia. As the only transit route for Indonesian Migrant Workers from Malaysia, the Karimun Regency area has the potential to face an explosion in the number of COVID-19 cases. The Karimun Regent has also realized the potential for explosive spread from clusters of Indonesian Migrant Workers transiting and returning to Karimun, so he immediately ordered the relevant agencies to make policies, one of which was the KSOP instructing to limit shipping to and from Malaysia. The theoretical framework used to support the analysis of this research is the concept of human security. The research method used by the author to support this research is a qualitative approach with secondary data library research techniques. The efforts made by the Karimun Regency Government are to issue several policies that involve several authorized agencies in handling the COVID-19 outbreak related to the return of Indonesian Workers through the Tanjung Balai Karimun port to prevent a spike in the spread of COVID-19 in Karimun Regency. These efforts have yielded significant results where the Karimun Government has succeeded in reducing the number of residents who have been positively exposed to COVID-19.

**Keywords:** *Indonesian Migrant Workers; COVID-19; Karimun Regency Indonesia*

### **Introduction**

The Covid-19 virus has made many countries in the world feel the impact from various sectors and among them the most significant in the health, economic, and social sectors. In Indonesia, Covid-19 has become an extraordinary fear, apart from being life-threatening, Covid-19 also makes the government issue policies and results in the limited human movement for both economic and other activities.

With a large number of cases and the ease of transmission of the virus, it has an impact on various sectors of human life, one of which is the repatriation of workers to their respective countries. Indonesia is the second largest contributor to labor in ASEAN after the Philippines, many Indonesian Migrant

Workers are sent to Malaysia. (Azzura, 2018) In repatriating Indonesian Migrant Workers at the Malacca Strait border, before the port was closed, there were three access points for workers who wanted to go abroad, namely Riau Province and Riau Islands Province. For Riau Province, the areas that are the main entrance and exit access for workers are Bengkalis and Dumai Regencies. Meanwhile, in the Riau Islands, the main gate is in Karimun Regency. Unfortunately, during the repatriation, only Karimun Regency opened access for workers. This area became the only main door for repatriated Indonesian Migrant Workers to enter Indonesia.

The repatriation of Indonesian Migrant Workers carried out after the Malaysian Government implemented a lockdown policy. A total of 5,985 Indonesian Migrant Workers repatriated through the Tanjung Balai Karimun port. This information was conveyed directly by the Regent of Karimun Regency, Mr. Aunur Rafiq, during a meeting with the Karimun Regency Corona Task Force Team. Of the total 5,985 people who enter Karimun, only 20 percent do not live in Karimun, rest of these workers are located and scattered in several sub-districts and islands around Karimun Regency.

However, in repatriation, the people of Karimun Regency are worried about the increasing spread of the virus. It is because workers who return to Indonesia through the Tanjung Balai Karimun International Port, do not only pass through the port on that day, but these workers accommodated in a shelter provided by the Karimun Regency Government, Indonesian Migrant Workers are unlikely to continue their journey because the lack of public transportation that operates so it is not enough available on the same day. They will be sent home the next day or the day after their arrival. So that the fear of the spread of COVID-19 in Tanjung Balai Karimun is increasingly felt by the community, especially around the shelter for Indonesian Migrant Workers.

As the only transit route for Indonesian Migrant Workers from Malaysia, the Karimun Regency area has the potential to face an explosion in the number of COVID-19 cases. The Regent of Karimun has also been aware of the potential for an explosion in the spread of clusters of Indonesian Migrant Workers transiting and returning to Karimun, so he immediately ordered the relevant agencies to make policies, one of which was to the Head of the Harbormaster and Port Authority (KSOP) Office, in which the Regent instructed to limit shipping to go or return from Malaysia (Milna, 2020).

This phenomenon is very problematic for the Karimun Regency Government. The first dilemma is related to safety for the people of Karimun Regency because, in a short time, the virus can spread quickly if one of the Indonesian Migrant Workers is exposed to the COVID-19 virus. With an area that is not large enough and a population that is quite crowded, it was making the phenomenon of returning Indonesian Migrant Workers through Karimun Regency a considerable threat, considering that positive cases in Malaysia from where Indonesian Migrant Workers work continue to increase. The second is that the Karimun Regency Government is humanitarian. Therefore, it is impossible to refuse the arrival of Indonesian Migrant Workers. This, of course, can trigger the occurrence of returning home via illegal routes and is full of risks for Indonesian Migrant Workers who travel home via illegal routes. This then became a research topic to discuss how the Karimun Regency Government, as the only entry point from Malaysia, suppressed the number of COVID-19 cases in Malaysia in 2020.

In writing this article, the author refers to several articles that have previously been written related to the problem of handling pandemics at the border, including the article written by H.van Kolfshoeten with the title *EU Coordination of Serious Cross-Border Threats to Health: The Implications for Protection. of Informed Conestion National Pandemic Policies*, which explains that the European Union as a supranational organization regulates the risk of a threat through the border related to the threat of a pandemic. In addition, this article explains how the European Union dealt with the avian flu, swine flu, and Ebola outbreak in Africa. (Kolfshoeten, H. . 2019)

In addition, there are articles from Jacklien H.J. Maessen et al. entitled *How Prepared are we for Cross-Border outbreaks? Exploratory analysis of Cross-Border Response networks for Outbreaks of*

*Multidrug-Resistant Microorganisms in the Netherlands and Germany.* This article describes the potential for cross-border cooperation or two parties in dealing with an MDRO or Multidrug Resistant Microorganisms outbreak. This article then responds to calls to strengthen transnational or cross-border cooperation in managing antibiotic resistance. (Maessen,2020)

In addition, an article written by Engkus Nanang Suparman, Fajar Tri Sakti, and Husen Saiful Anwar titled *Covid-19: Mitigation Policies for Dissemination and Socio-Economic Impacts in Indonesia.* This article describes handling the spread of mitigation policies and minimizing socio-economic impacts with the right policies. In addition, this article also discusses how the Indonesian government is unprepared to deal with Covid-19, which is followed by wrong policies or blunders (Suparman, Sakti, & Anwar, 2020)

There is also an article entitled *Regional Government Tactical Steps in Preventing the Spread of the Corona Covid-19 Virus in Indonesia* written by Zahrotunnimah. This article is the research that provides education to the public to deal with disasters globally. As the title implies, this article discusses the tactical steps of several regional heads in dealing with Covid-19 with various communication strategies. (Zahrotunnimah,2020)

By reviewing and looking at previous studies, this article aims to explain the handling of a pandemic at a country's borders and how to provide services to citizens of a country when they return to their country of origin.

### **Theoretical Framework**

To explain the policy of the Karimun Regency Government to anticipate the spread of the coronavirus from Malaysia in 2020, the author generally uses the concept of human security in understanding the phenomenon that is the focus of this research. Epistemologically, security comes from the Latin "se" which means "without," and "curus" which means "anxiety," and it can be concluded that security is a state without risk or a situation without threats.

The concept of human security is a concept that comes from the concept of security. The concept of security is a formulation carried out by Barry Buzan in his book *People, State, and Fear*. Security is the goal of many parties, both in the form of states and individuals, which causes issues and studies on security to become dominant in the study of International Relations. At the beginning of its existence, the study of International Relations often focused on studying a country's national security in international politics. In applying this, the concept of security is dominated by the behavior of the state in order to anticipate threats to its national security by using a military approach, which is influenced by the current world conditions that are running the cold war.

Security Studies in the Study of International Relations are not taboo in recognizing the division of issues based on their periodization, such as traditional and non-traditional issues. *Traditional issues* are defined as phenomena that previously dominated the field of study, such as wars between sovereign states, increasing military power, regional security alliances, and competing for power between significant countries in international politics. Meanwhile, non-traditional issues are a comprehensive discussion of what traditional issues mean. In addition, non-traditional issues have a broad scope, such as the economy, human rights, preservation of human cultural heritage, and education.

The concept of human security emerged, one of which was through a report by the UN agency UNDP (United Nations Development Program) in 1994. According to the UN, conflicts that occur more often occur domestically than conflicts between countries, and for many people, feelings of insecurity are born more in daily life rather than in international conflicts. In the meaning of human security in the 1994 UNDP Report, the concept of human security does not look at national borders, whoever he is, what ethnicity, or any religion. Instead, this concept focuses on humans (individuals) by interpreting security in

seven aspects, namely economic security; food security, health security, environmental security, personal security, community security and political security. (Soedirham, 2013)

### **Research Methodology**

For this research, the author uses a descriptive-analytical method or literature study, which is then added with direct data from related sources or primary data. The data collection techniques used by the author are:

1. Interview, which the author carries out with informants who are willing to be interviewed
2. Observation, which is carried out in the work environment or office of the stakeholders of the Karimun Regency Government
3. Use of documentation, which aims to support data obtained from interviews (primary data)

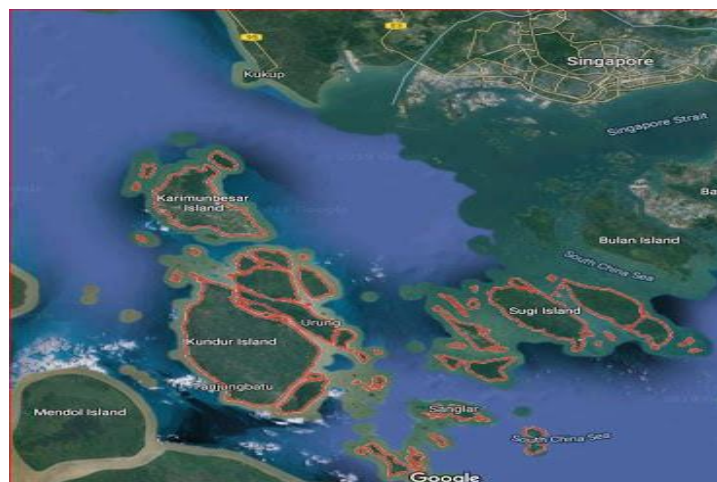
Furthermore, in processing the data obtained, the author uses qualitative data analysis techniques in which the problem is described based on the existing facts and then connected with other facts to draw a conclusion.

### **Result and Analysis**

This section will be presented in three subsections: 1) the General condition of Karimun Regency, which is located in the Border Area; 2) The emergence of the COVID-19 virus in Indonesia and the dangers that threaten it; 3) The efforts of the Karimun Regency Government to anticipate the spread of the COVID-19 virus after the arrival of Indonesian Migrant Workers from Malaysia.

#### **General Conditions of Karimun District Located in the Border Area**

Karimun Regency is a strategic area for a district because Karimun Regency is directly adjacent to Singapore and Malaysia in the north, East with Batam, one of the fastest growing cities in Indonesia. Then in the west, Karimun Regency is bordered by Riau Province, with Bengkalis Regency and Kampar Regency, and on the south side, it borders Indragiri Hili Regency. (*Pemkab Karimun, 2016*).



Kepulauan Riau Maps  
Source: Google Maps

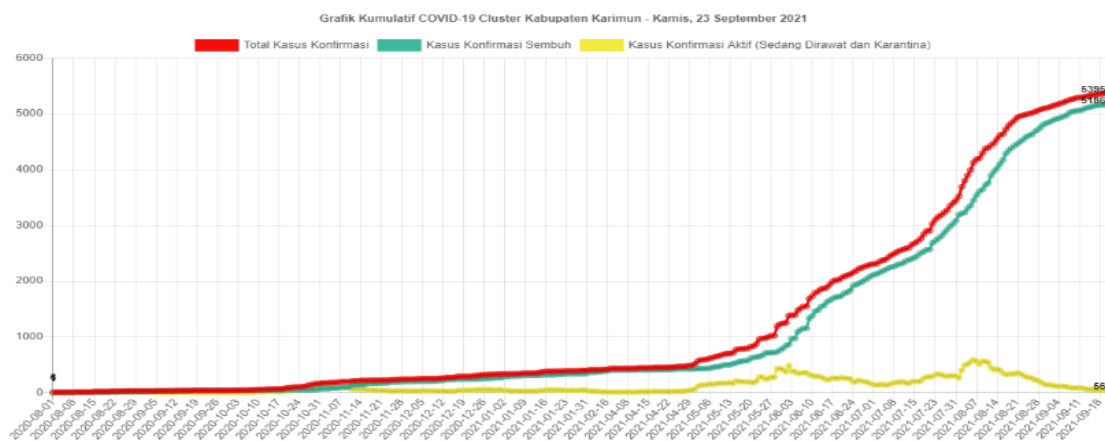
Before COVID-19, Karimun Regency was a place of traffic for migrant workers from Indonesia who crossed to Malaysia via the Tanjungbalai Karimun International Port. Most people in Karimun Regency prefer to work as Indonesian Migrant Workers in Malaysia. This is because the availability of job opportunities in the Karimun Regency area is not much and the wages offered when working in Malaysia are higher than those found in Karimun Regency.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, many impacts have been felt by the people of the Karimun Regency. As in the labor sector, the people of Karimun Regency who work as workers abroad have to lose their jobs indefinitely due to the Lockdown policies imposed by various countries. It is estimated that around 3000 workers from Karimun Regency who worked in Malaysia and Singapore were returned to Indonesia in March 2020. In the inter-district traffic sector via sea routes, COVID-19 has also been affected. The lack of activity evidences this at the Tanjungbalai Karimun International Port a few days before the fast. In one day, the ship that sails only carries a maximum of 20 passengers, different from when conditions were still normal, which was more than 20 people (TribunBatam.id, 2020).

In the tourism sector, the Head of Regional Revenue of Karimun Regency, Raden Ricky, stated that the decline in the tourism sector was 60 percent. This was also conveyed by the Regent of Karimun Aunur Rafiq, that the tourism sector, especially hotels, was affected quite significantly, namely from a total of 300 workers who were laid off, the majority came from hotel services. Based on the Indonesian Hotel and Restaurant Association (PHRI) of Karimun Regency, eight hotels and four guesthouses have been closed since March 2020. Apart from the 300 layoffs, there are also around 700 workers whose contracts have expired and cannot be extended due to the impact of this pandemic. (InfoPublik.id, 2020).

Since the entry of the Covid-19 Virus in Karimun Regency in the health sector, the cases identified have not progressed quickly. Therefore, it can be said that the spread of Covid-19 cases in the Karimun Regency is quite sloping unless it increases in May 2021 until a total of 5,000 more cases of Covid-19 exposure in Karimun Regency until September 2021.

### Cumulative Graph of the Covid-19 Cluster of Karimun Regency as of September 23, 2021



Source: Daily Report of the Karimun Regency Covid-19 Task Force Team

### The Emergence of the Covid-19 Virus in Indonesia and the Threatening Danger

Corona Virus, or COVID-19, is a virus that attacks human respiration. This disease causes respiratory tract infections such as flu and ends like MERS or Middle East Respiratory Syndrome or SARS, better known as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (stoppneumonia, 2020). When this virus has been transmitted, it enters the upper respiratory tract and replicates in upper respiratory epithelial cells to

carry out its life cycle. Then it spreads into the lower respiratory tract. The incubation period for this virus is up to the appearance of symptoms or disease, which is 3 to 7 days (Syauqi, 2020). The symptoms caused by this virus are divided into mild, moderate, and severe levels. Some patients have shortness of breath starting from asymptomatic, fever, stones, and runny nose. However, the main symptom is a fever with a temperature above 38 degrees Celsius, coughing, and difficulty breathing.

The first case of this virus came from China, precisely from Wuhan, Hubei Province, in 2019. Then at the beginning of 2020, cases in Wuhan increased to 40 cases, and in less than a month, this virus has spread to various provinces. In China to other neighboring countries. The virus, initially transmitted from animals to humans, can now be transmitted from human to human and then has spread to all corners of the world. Furthermore, more than 190 countries have been exposed to COVID-19, so in early March, WHO announced that the Coronavirus had become a pandemic. Of course, this is because, within three months, the total cases have reached 634,835, with 33,106 deaths worldwide (A. Susilo, 2020).

COVID-19, or Coronavirus, began to enter Indonesia in February 2020 or more than one month after spreading at its origin. This is known by discovering two positive cases and being treated at a hospital in Depok. In response to this discovery, on March 2, 2020, the President of the Republic of Indonesia, Joko Widodo, officially stated that the two patients were positive for the COVID-19 virus (Fadli, 2021). Pando Riono also said that this case is a case of local transmission and not congenital from outside Indonesia (Pranita, 2020).

In an emergency, it is undoubtedly a must for the Indonesian government to do prevention quickly and effectively. However, instead of preparing policies to prevent the spread of this virus, the government seems to underestimate and does not listen to the warnings conveyed by the WHO and researchers from various parties in the world. For example, in a limited meeting held by President Joko Widodo after the WHO issued a statement, the government did not prioritize health mitigation and only focused on the economic impact. On the other hand, the Indonesian government spent 72 billion rupiahs to fund social media influencers to promote tourism and get many people to choose Indonesia to travel during the Covid-19 pandemic (Adam, 2020).

It is undeniable that the Indonesian people feel much resentment over the slow movement of the Indonesian government in preventing the spread of COVID-19 in Indonesia. Anxiety was felt when several representatives from the Indonesian government issued statements that underestimated the spread of the COVID-19 virus. For example, Luhut B. Pandjaitan said, "From our existing modeling results, Indonesia's equatorial weather is hot, and also the high humidity for COVID-19 is not strong" (Mawardi, 2020). There is also a statement from the Minister of Health of the Republic of Indonesia, Terawan, who said: "that prayer is the cause of the coronavirus not entering Indonesia." Another statement was, "Even though we have the flu, which usually happens to us, the cough and cold has a higher mortality rate than this corona, but why is this such an extraordinary scene" (Judge, 2020). This statement was issued shortly after indicating the first COVID-19 case in Indonesia.

The Indonesian government can be said to be late in preparing efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in Indonesia, but that does not mean the Indonesian government is not making efforts to inhibit or even stop the spread of COVID-19 in Indonesia. From a legal perspective, several regulations based on Law (UU) Number 6 of 2018 concerning Health Quarantine. In addition, there are several regulations issued by the government after or during the pandemic, including Government Regulation Number 21 of 2020 or known as the Large-Scale Social Restriction (PSBB) policy; Presidential Decree Number 7 of 2020 concerning the Covid-19 Handling Acceleration Group headed by the Disaster Management Agency (BNPB); Financial Services Authority Regulation (POJK) Number 11/POJK.03/2020 concerning National Economic Stimulus; MUI Fatwa Number 18 of 2020 regarding the management of corpses according to the Shari'a (Religious Law); Decree of the Chief of Police Number

Mak/2/III/2020 concerning Compliance with Government Policies in Handling the Spread of the Corona Virus, as well as several other updated regulations.

Related parties have made various efforts to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus and protect the public from this virus. One of the efforts is the development of a particular vaccine for COVID-19. Until January 2022, 10 types of vaccines have been received and used in Indonesia. These vaccines, before being circulated, met the requirements before being injected into the Indonesian people, according to the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) requirements, as well as the Food and Drug Supervisory Agency (BPOM). According to government data, as of January 18, 2022, the number of people who have carried out the first stage of the COVID-19 vaccination is 177,259,377 million. Meanwhile, of those who have carried out the first vaccination, as many as 120,621,088 million people have carried out the second vaccination. Finally, of the total number who have carried out the second vaccination, there are 1,344,204 million people who have carried out the third vaccination, known as the booster vaccine (KOMINFO, 2022).

Since the beginning of the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus in parts of the countries in the world, international health institution has contributed and played a role in overcoming the pandemic. WHO quickly issued the Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan (SPRP) one month after the initial case of COVID-19 in Wuhan, China. The SPRP helps to identify, isolate and treat patients in the most vulnerable countries. In addition, which has also prepared a budget for handling COVID-19 of 9.2 trillion rupiahs, which is expected to be able to inhibit the spread of the COVID-19 virus, such as protecting countries vulnerable to COVID-19 (Widowati, 2020)

### **Karimun District Government Effort to Anticipate the Spread of the Covid-19 Virus Post Arrival of Indonesian Migrant Workers from Malaysia**

After the issuance of the Lockdown policy by the Malaysian government in March 2020, Indonesian Migrant Workers in Malaysia became confused. Finally, with the insistence of policies in the country, Indonesian Migrant Workers were repatriated through various routes, starting from the air and, most importantly, by sea. When many entrances from Malaysia apart from Tanjung Balai Karimun were closed, the Karimun Regency Government decided not to take immediate action to close access from abroad directly (Firmansyah, 2020)

The Karimun Regency Government carries out several policies to anticipate the spread of the COVID-19 virus after the return of Indonesian Migrant Workers to the Karimun Regency (Firmansyah, 2020).

#### **a. Coordination between relevant stakeholders**

The Karimun Regency Government, together with other stakeholders such as the Harbormaster Office and Port Authority (KSOP), PELINDO, the Navy, the Port Security Implementation Unit (KPPP), and the Port Health Office (KKP), held a meeting to form a special task force at the port in preparation for the return of workers. Indonesian migrants passing through Karimun.

#### **b. Anticipating early arrival**

This is an initial action after confirming that Indonesian Migrant Workers returning from Malaysia will pass through and transit in Karimun Regency. Tightening is the initial key for related parties to supervise incoming Indonesian Migrant Workers by implementing standard health protocols circulated by the central government to local governments.

#### **c. Direct monitoring of Indonesian Migrant Workers from Karimun**

This Task Force Team will monitor Indonesian Migrant Workers during the incubation period of the Covid-19 virus for 3-14 days. If during that time, the monitored Indonesian Migrant Workers are not exposed to anything, then the Indonesian Migrant Workers are declared COVID-19-free from the cluster.

The return of Indonesian Migrant Workers after Malaysia's Lockdown Policy. Indonesian Migrant Workers who return home and come from Karimun are first recorded, then applied according to health protocols, then immediately sent back to the area where each Indonesian Migrant Worker lives. Then on the beach, the Task Force team, so that if Indonesian Migrant Workers who return home are found to have symptoms according to the issued by the Ministry of Health, they can be handled regularly and immediately.

#### d. Monitoring of Indonesian Migrant Workers from Indonesia other than Karimun

As for Indonesian Migrant Workers who come from outside Karimun, if ships are still available on the same day. After arriving from Malaysia, Indonesian Migrant Workers are recorded, then checked for temperature and also asked whether they have symptoms related to Covid-19, and if there are Indonesian Migrant Workers who have related symptoms, monitoring will be carried out. Intensely from the Task Force team. Meanwhile, for Indonesian Migrant Workers who cannot go directly to their destination on the same day, the Karimun Regency Government has prepared a special quarantine place for Indonesian Migrant Workers who come from outside the Karimun Regency, namely in the Closed Sports Building (GOR) located in Sei. Bati, Tebing District, Karimun Regency.

The Karimun Regency Government, in addition to making specific policies related to the return of Indonesian Migrant Workers from Malaysia to Karimun Regency, also made other policies related to anticipating and controlling COVID-19 cases in Karimun Regency. From this policy, the Karimun Regency government is also included in the nomination for the 2021 Adhiwirasana Anugerah (ATA) organized by the National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB). This nomination is an award given to related parties which are considered successful in carrying out disaster management efforts. One of the reasons for the inclusion of the Karimun Regency in the nomination is the success of the Karimun Government and other stakeholders in handling the return of thousands of Indonesian Migrant Workers from Malaysia and Singapore and handling them quickly and responsively (U&A.Com, 2021).

As for the policies implemented by the Karimun Regency government, there are 13 kinds of COVID-19 control strategies, namely (Karimun Regency COVID-19 Task Force Team, 2021):

- a. Establishing organizational institutions that contribute to the handling and control of the COVID-19 Pandemic;
- b. Issued various regulations and policies related to the handling of COVID-19 and acceleration of Vaccination in Karimun Regency through several Regent Regulations, Regent Circulars, and Regent Decrees and Official Letters, including:
  - a) Acceleration of COVID-19 Vaccination for Teachers and Teaching Personnel
  - b) Regulation of the Regent of Karimun Related to Prokes Enforcement
  - c) Enforcement of Night Curfew
  - d) Circular Regarding Health Protocols and Acceleration of Vaccination
  - e) Circular regarding the Implementation of Worship in a Pandemic Period
  - f) PPKM Implementation Circular
  - g) Circular on Domestic Travelers
  - h) Regent's Letter on Acceleration of Vaccination
  - i) Regent's Letter Regarding Installation of Isoman Stickers and Distribution of Brochures for Socialization:
- c. Conduct regular weekly and monthly Coordination Meetings by the district to sub-district COVID-19 Task Force teams to produce policies and steps in handling COVID-19;
- d. Provide an integrated quarantine center in Karimun Regency, namely on Kundur Island and Karimun Island, intended to isolate/quarantine people exposed to COVID-19 for their residences, where it is not possible to self-quarantine as well as people who travel to Karimun Regency where COVID-19 is detected.



- e. Provide a COVID-19 treatment center in West Meral District as a place to quarantine people who are exposed to COVID-19 with mild symptoms;
- f. Conducting Active Integrated Team Operations related to the application of discipline and enforcement of the Karimun Regency health protocol, which consists of elements of the Civil Service Police Unit (Satpol PP), Kesbangpol OPD, Health Service, Transportation Service, Tourism Office, Regional Revenue Service and elements of the Indonesian National Police to conduct raids in the center crowds, entertainment venues, shopping centers/markets;
- g. Forming volunteers to supervise and socialize the implementation of Prokes implementation in the market in order to realize the adaptation of new habits of people who comply with Prokes;
- h. Carrying out Joint Operations and Monitoring FORKOPIMDA to homes of people who are self-isolating through the distribution of essential food assistance and installation of isoman stickers at homes of residents who are doing isoman to get moral and material support and supervision from the surrounding community;
- i. Implementing Government Programs through the acceleration of COVID-19 Vaccination by involving support and collaboration of all elements in the region, including the TNI/POLRI, regional and vertical government agencies, companies, educational institutions, community organizations, professional organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and mass media to make Vaccination successful in Karimun Regency;
- j. Conducting socialization related to the implementation of health protocols and the implementation of massive and sustainable vaccinations through mass media and print media as well as utilizing social media;
- k. Refocusing the budget intended for handling COVID-19;
- l. Establishment of PPKM posts in 12 sub-districts, 29 sub-districts, and 42 villages in collaboration with the TNI/POLRI and members of the ranks in sub-districts, sub-districts, and villages;
- m. Utilization of Village Funds and APBD for the infrastructure sector through the Intensive Work Program to reduce unemployment as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic;
- n. In order to maintain the availability of safe BOR, an increase in the capacity of beds for the inpatient hospital/clinic room is carried out so that there is no patient rejection;
- o. Quarantine for three days for residents who come to Karimun who are not equipped with health documents and have unclear goals;
- p. Simultaneous spraying of disinfectant.

Apart from controlling efforts, the Karimun Regency government has also made innovations to handle COVID-19 along with accelerating vaccinations. In terms of innovations carried out, the Karimun Regency Government launched several innovations such as the formation of a COVID-19 resilient village pioneered by the Indonesian National Police; The realization of COVID-19 resilient tourism through the Department of Tourism, Arts and Culture; The realization of a solid COVID-19 company/industry under the coordination of the Department of Manpower and Industry in collaboration with companies in Karimun Regency to support the implementation of Health Protocols and the implementation of vaccinations for employees; The realization of a substantial mosque for COVID-19; The realization of a COVID-19 resilient village supported through the APBDes; and, The realization of a COVID-19 resilient market is marked by the availability of Health Protocol facilities and infrastructure and the existence of a Health Project Task Force in the markets. Furthermore, efforts to speed up the vaccination process for the people of Karimun Regency carried out by the government are collaborating with the Karimun POLRES, LANAL Karimun, and puskesmas in each sub-district to carry out vaccination activities according to the prepared schedule.

In implementing policies that have been carried out by related parties, of course, there are supporting and inhibiting factors. The supporting factor for implementing all policies that have been directed related to the arrival of Indonesian Migrant Workers is the establishment of cooperation and communication between related parties, such as the Karimun Regency Corona Task Force Team PELINDO, KSOP, Navy and also KPPP and KKP. The second is the swiftness of the government in

receiving instructions from the central government or the provincial government and the hastening of the formation of a Task Force team consisting of various related elements.

Furthermore, the inhibiting factor faced by the Karimun Regency Government is the lack of available infrastructure for transit. The Karimun Regency Government ensures that Indonesian Migrant Workers who are not from Karimun Regency will only transit for one day and be isolated in a closed Sports Building (GOR). The next day they are immediately directed and sent home according to the direction and purpose of each Indonesian Migrant Worker (Firmansyah). 2020). Another inhibiting factor is related to the geographical condition of the Karimun Regency, which is one of the difficulties in controlling the entry and exit of migrants, the number of accesses besides Karimun (main island), other islands have access to enter Karimun Regency. Of course, this becomes a vulnerability if migrants enter through illegal channels without data collection for monitoring which can create a new cluster for Karimun Regency.

Awareness of health and the dangers of the virus in the community is another obstacle, so the implementation of health protocols by the community is felt to be very low. This is evidenced by the fact that many people still do not wear masks when they are in a crowd. The lack of compliance from the people of Karimun Regency, which has been confirmed by showing symptoms to the officers, makes it difficult for the Task Force Team and can cause COVID-19 to spread widely among the community.

However, since the arrival of thousands of Indonesian Migrant Workers from Malaysia, the Karimun Regency Government has implemented various efforts to prevent and anticipate the spread of Covid-19 in Karimun Regency originating from Indonesian Migrant Workers returning to Indonesia via Tanjung Balai Karimun. Of the total thousands of Indonesian Migrant Workers who entered Karimun Regency, both from Karimun and transiting Karimun, there was only one case after the last April 14, 2020, the transport ship carrying Indonesian Migrant Workers crossing from Malaysia to Indonesia last carried passengers (Firmansyah, 2020)



Table of Cumulative Data on the Development of Positive Cases of Covid-19 in Karimun Regency March 2020-September 2020

Source: Karimun Regency Covid-19 Task Force Team

The table above is a cumulative data diagram of positive COVID-19 cases in the Karimun Regency. The cluster of Indonesian Migrant Workers is the first COVID-19 case in Karimun Regency. When viewed from a distance between the first and second case, it has a period of 1 month. While the case on April 21, 2020, was not a COVID-19 case from the Indonesian Migrant Workers cluster but a case from other local transmissions. If you look at the existing data, the last passenger ship that entered carrying Indonesian Migrant Workers was on April 14, 2020. If it was added to the incubation period for

the COVID-19 virus and the quarantine period, then after April 28, 2020, if there were no cases from the Indonesian Migrant Workers cluster. It can be said that the Indonesian Migrant Workers cluster is no longer sustainable (Karimun Regency COVID-19 Task Force Team, 2021).

In addition, as one of the stakeholders in Karimun Regency, the Regional Secretary of Karimun Regency stated that what has been done by the Karimun Regency Government with various policies, it can be said that the policies and actions taken toward the return of Indonesian Migrant Workers through the Tanjung Balai Karimun International Port can be said to be going well and was successful. Because, apart from the first case originating from the Indonesian Migrant Workers cluster, there are no other cases originating from Indonesian Migrant Workers (Firmansyah, 2020).

## **Conclusion**

Indonesia, with a bustling population, is one of the contributors to workers for countries around Southeast Asia, one of the largest being Indonesian Migrant Workers who work in Malaysia. When the emergence of the spread of COVID-19 in Malaysia, Malaysia issued a Lockdown policy which caused a wave of Indonesian Migrant Workers to return from Malaysia to Indonesia using land, sea, and air routes in several areas of Indonesia. As for the return of Indonesian Migrant Workers from Malaysia, especially the western part of Malaysia (the majority of Peninsular Malaysia even 100 percent returning by sea. Before the Karimun Regency was left behind as the only access, the people of Karimun Regency were already worried about the return of Indonesian Migrant Workers through Karimun Regency, and when Karimun was the only sea route, the Karimun people's worries grew.

Thousands of Indonesian Migrant Workers arrived. Concerns about the spread of COVID-19 from Malaysia through Indonesian Migrant Workers were quite troubling, and this was later made worse by the discovery of the first case of COVID-19 in Karimun Regency on March 13, 2020, from Indonesian Migrant Workers from Karimun who had just been repatriated.

However, with a quick response from the Karimun Regency Task Force Team, handling and matters related to applicable health protocol standards were carried out, the Task Force Team succeeded in suppressing the rate of covid, and only patient 01 was exposed to the COVID-19 virus.

Indeed, the Indonesian Migrant Workers cluster does not continue after one month from the first case. The second case that appeared in Karimun Regency was not a case from the Indonesian Migrant Workers cluster because if the incubation period is calculated, then the quarantine period only takes 3-14 days for the development virus and healing of the COVID-19 virus in the human body. Therefore, looking at the period of the first and second Covid cases, the gap is 30 days. In addition, this was also emphasized by the chairman of the Task Force Team, who stated that the actions and policies implemented by the Karimun Regency Government, especially the Task Force Team, to anticipate the spread of COVID-19 in Karimun Regency were quite successful, and there was only 1 of the Migrant Workers cluster, Indonesian originated from Malaysia.

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