

THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF HUMAN SECURITY: EVALUATING FISCAL TRADE-OFFS, CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNANCE, AND FOOD SAFETY IN INDONESIA'S FREE NUTRITIOUS MEAL PROGRAM (MBG)

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Abstract:

Indonesia's Free Nutritious Meal Program (Makan Bergizi Gratis / MBG), administered by the newly established Badan Gizi Nasional (National Nutrition Agency), represents an unprecedented expansion of the Indonesian welfare state. Designed as a strategic intervention to eradicate structural malnutrition, reduce stunting, and capture the nation's demographic dividend ahead of the "Golden Indonesia 2045" vision, the program aims to feed over 63 million beneficiaries. However, this paper argues that the MBG program introduces severe systemic vulnerabilities when analyzed through the dual lenses of Non-Traditional Security (NTS) and neoclassical political economy. By critically examining the massive fiscal burden of the program—costing tens of trillions of Rupiah—this study highlights the macroeconomic risks and the intense political contestation over the constitutionally mandated 20% education budget. This fiscal friction culminated in the landmark July 2026 Constitutional Court (MK) ruling, which strictly ring-fenced educational funds from being cannibalized by the MBG. Furthermore, the paper investigates the micro-governance challenges of operating a highly decentralized procurement network, emphasizing the dual threats of localized rent-seeking and acute public health crises caused by inadequate food safety standards, as evidenced by recent National Agency of Drug and Food Control (BPOM) data. The article concludes that without strict fiscal discipline, dynamic poverty targeting, and the rigorous enforcement of sanitation regulations, the MBG risks undermining the very human and economic security it seeks to protect.

Keywords: Free Nutritious Meal Program (MBG), Fiscal Sustainability, Food Safety, Constitutional Law, Indonesia.

INTRODUCTION

In contemporary statecraft, the parameters of national security have progressively expanded far beyond the traditional, state-centric focus on military defense and territorial integrity (Wu, 2025). For emerging middle powers such as Indonesia, the persistence of structural socioeconomic deficits—most notably malnutrition and stunting—poses a critical Non-Traditional Security (NTS) threat that fundamentally undermines long-term national resilience (Yusriadi et al., 2026). A stunted generation directly jeopardizes a state's capacity to harness its demographic dividend, threatening future labor productivity, exacerbating chronic healthcare burdens, and ultimately constraining the state's ability to project economic power in an increasingly multipolar global system.

To mitigate this systemic vulnerability, the administration of President Prabowo Subianto initiated a paradigm shift in Indonesia's social policy through the promulgation of Presidential



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Regulation (Perpres) No. 83 of 2024, which institutionalized the Badan Gizi Nasional (BGN) to oversee the flagship Makan Bergizi Gratis (MBG) program (Presiden Republik Indonesia, 2026). Scaling rapidly to encompass over 63 million students, toddlers, pregnant women, and lactating mothers, the MBG stands as one of the most ambitious and logistically complex welfare interventions in Southeast Asian history (Megananda & Farras, 2026)

However, large-scale nutritional interventions are intrinsically bound by the unforgiving laws of political economy and resource allocation. The sheer scale of the MBG – commanding an initial 2025 budget allocation of Rp 71 trillion that subsequently expanded as implementation broadened – generates intense macro-fiscal and administrative friction (Indonesia Baik, 2024; Muhid et al., 2024). When a state implements a massive, quasi-universal subsidy, it inevitably confronts the "welfare trilemma": the perpetual struggle to balance broad population coverage, adequate benefit quality, and long-term fiscal sustainability. If fiscal sustainability is breached, the resulting macroeconomic instability – manifested through debt distress, inflationary pressures, or currency depreciation – disproportionately harms the very vulnerable demographics the program was ostensibly designed to protect (Ito & Kawai, 2024).

While existing studies on Indonesian welfare policies have primarily focused on targeted poverty alleviation (e.g., conditional cash transfers), the systemic implications of universal nutritional interventions remain underexplored. This article addresses this gap by evaluating the MBG program through a multi-dimensional analytical framework, integrating macro-fiscal political economy with micro-level governance and biopolitics. By synthesizing these lenses, this study provides a novel theoretical contribution regarding how massive biological security interventions interact with fiscal sovereignty. The study investigates three central research questions: (1) How does the funding mechanism of the MBG threaten macroeconomic stability and the constitutional mandate for national education funding? (2) What are the political economy risks associated with the program's vast, decentralized procurement network? and (3) How do localized food safety vulnerabilities transform a state welfare program into an acute public health risk?

By tracing the trajectory of the MBG from its theoretical foundations to its empirical implementation hurdles throughout 2025 and 2026, this study provides a critical, evidence-based assessment of Indonesia's evolving welfare state. The subsequent sections explore the theoretical underpinnings of human security, the historical evolution of Indonesian social policy, the macro-fiscal clash over the education budget, and the micro-security threats of food contamination.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The Copenhagen School drastically broadened the security lexicon by arguing that threats to the state increasingly emanate from economic, societal, and environmental sectors. Within this paradigm, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) 1994 framework of human security shifted the referent object of security from the state to the individual. Human security demands the protection of individuals from chronic, structural threats such as hunger, disease, and extreme poverty (Rizkyta & Al Jannah, 2024).

Food security occupies a hybrid position within this framework, acting as a critical nexus between individual well-being and national stability (Firdaus, 2026). However, a paradox frequently emerges in developing nations: the aggressive pursuit of human security (e.g., massive social spending) can inadvertently compromise the state's economic security (the capacity to maintain fiscal sovereignty and macroeconomic stability). The MBG sits squarely at the intersection of these competing NTS dimensions, requiring policymakers to balance the biological necessity of caloric intake against the macroeconomic necessity of fiscal prudence.



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Welfare state literature examines how governments balance the distributional benefits of public goods against the opportunity costs of their provision. Historically, welfare regimes are categorized into universal, corporatist, and residual models (Yuda, 2018). The MBG represents a significant departure from Indonesia's traditionally residual, highly targeted welfare approach (which focused only on the absolute poorest), moving toward a more universalized, Scandinavian-style welfare aspiration. However, implanting a universalist program within a developing political economy characterized by institutional fragmentation, decentralized governance, and entrenched patronage networks generates profound structural friction (Karyono et al., 2026; Mas'udi & Hanif, 2011).

METHODS

This study employs a qualitative, explanatory single-case study design to investigate the complex political economy and Non-Traditional Security (NTS) dynamics of Indonesia's Makan Bergizi Gratis (MBG) program. A case study approach is uniquely suited for examining contemporary, highly contextual phenomena where the boundaries between the phenomenon (the MBG program) and its real-world context (macroeconomic constraints, constitutional mandates, and decentralized governance) are not clearly evident (Yin, 2018). Epistemologically, the research is grounded in a neoclassical realist and critical political economy paradigm. This paradigm facilitates a structural analysis of how state extraction capacity and elite bureaucratic interests interact with domestic legal frameworks and grassroots human security vulnerabilities (Creswell & Poth, 2018).

Given the contemporary and rapidly evolving nature of the MBG program, this research relies on extensive document analysis and rigorous desk research (Bowen, 2009). Data was systematically collected from multi-tiered secondary sources spanning the period from the program's conceptualization in early 2024 to the landmark constitutional adjudications on July 30, 2026. The dataset encompasses all relevant empirical and statutory developments available up to the time of writing in August 2026

First, Statutory and legal documents. The foundational tier includes primary state documents, notably the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia (specifically Article 31 regarding the 20% education mandate), Presidential Regulation (Perpres) No. 83 of 2024 concerning the establishment of the Badan Gizi Nasional (BGN), and the official APBN (State Budget) fiscal posture reports for 2025 and 2026 issued by the Ministry of Finance. Crucially, this tier also includes the full legal dossier and written verdict of the Constitutional Court (Mahkamah Konstitusi / MK) ruling issued on July 30, 2026.

Second, institutional and bureaucratic reports. To evaluate the micro-governance and biopolitical risks of the program, the study synthesized quantitative and qualitative reports from state agencies. This includes stunting prevalence data from the Indonesian Nutrition Status Survey (SSGI) under the Ministry of Health, socio-economic baseline data from Statistics Indonesia (BPS), and formal investigatory reports from the National Agency of Drug and Food Control (BPOM) detailing localized food poisoning incidents and sanitation compliance throughout 2025 and 2026.

Third, academic literature, think tank output, and media coverage to capture the political contestation and civil society response, the study reviewed policy briefs and reports from domestic think tanks (such as Transparency International Indonesia and the Institute for Essential Services Reform/IESR methodologies applied to public policy), as well as investigative journalism from credible, verified media outlets (e.g., Tempo, Detik) that covered parliamentary budget hearings and grassroots implementation failures. To capture this nascent phenomenon, the dataset



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encompasses all relevant empirical, statutory, and media coverage available up to the time of writing in August 2026. Methodologically, peer-reviewed literature was synthesized to construct the theoretical framework, while institutional data (e.g., BPOM, BPS) and verified investigative media reports were triangulated strictly to track real-time empirical events, operational failures, and public contestation that lack retrospective academic coverage. The data was coded to distinguish between macro-fiscal policy intent (state budget allocations) and micro-governance outcomes (BPOM food safety interventions).

The data analysis was conducted using a hybridized qualitative approach. First, the interactive model of qualitative data analysis proposed by Miles, Huberman, and Saldaña (2014) was applied. This involved three concurrent flows of activity of data condensation, data display, and conclusion and drawing verification. Furthermore, to analyze the specific chronological conflict over the education budget, the study utilized Process Tracing (Collier, 2011). This analytical technique allows the researcher to unpack the causal mechanisms and political maneuvering that occurred between the initial executive proposal to subsume the MBG under the 20% education budget, the subsequent pushback from civil society, and the definitive judicial intervention by the Constitutional Court in July 2026.

To ensure analytical rigor and mitigate researcher bias, the study employed rigorous data triangulation (Denzin, 2012). Government fiscal projections and BGN success narratives were critically cross-examined against dissenting civil society reports, international credit rating agency warnings, and the empirical, on-the-ground epidemiological data provided by BPOM. By triangulating statutory intent with empirical outcomes and judicial constraints, the methodology ensures a highly valid, multi-dimensional critique of the MBG program's political economy.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The Historical and Constitutional Evolution of the Indonesian Welfare State

To understand the magnitude of the MBG, one must locate it within the broader historical trajectory of Indonesian social policy. The ideological foundation of the Indonesian welfare state is deeply embedded in the 1945 Constitution. As noted by legal scholars, the preamble of the constitution explicitly mandates the government to "advance general prosperity" and "protect the whole people of Indonesia," laying the groundwork for state-driven welfare (Pakpahan, 2010).

Pakpahan (2010) argued that throughout the New Order era, welfare provision was largely subordinated to rapid macroeconomic growth, heavily reliant on a corporatist economic structure. Social protection was rudimentary, often utilized as a mechanism for political patronage rather than a universal citizen right. Following the 1997 Asian Financial Crisis and the subsequent Reformasi period, the Indonesian state was forced to radically reinvent its social safety nets. The initial responses were crisis-driven and highly residual, such as the Social Safety Net (JPS) and Rice for the Poor (Raskin) programs.

By the late 2000s, Indonesia began adopting globally constructed conditional cash transfer (CCT) models, most notably the Program Keluarga Harapan (PKH). Research indicates that while PKH successfully buffered vulnerable households from extreme poverty, it struggled to deliver transformative, intergenerational gains in human capital quality due to structural supply-side deficits in rural education and healthcare infrastructure (Karyono et al., 2026).

The MBG represents the next evolutionary leap in this trajectory. Institutionalized via Perpres 83/2024, the program moves away from pure cash transfers toward direct, in-kind nutritional provision (Presiden Republik Indonesia, 2026). By establishing the Badan Gizi Nasional as a



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centralized coordinating agency, the state recognized that piecemeal cash handouts were insufficient to alter deeply ingrained consumption habits or combat the specific micronutrient deficiencies causing widespread stunting (Virlana & Tjoneng, 2025). The MBG thus reflects a profound political commitment to actualize the constitutional mandate for public welfare, shifting from residual poverty alleviation to structural human capital formation.

The Strategic Logic of MBG: Demographics, Stunting, and Human Capital

The primary catalyst for the MBG is Indonesia's demographic urgency. The nation is currently traversing a critical demographic window, characterized by a surging working-age population. However, this demographic dividend will devolve into a demographic disaster if the incoming workforce is cognitively and physically impaired by childhood malnutrition.

According to the Indonesian Nutrition Status Survey (SSGI), while the national stunting prevalence demonstrated a downward trend from 21.6% in 2022 to slightly lower figures in subsequent years, it remained stubbornly resistant to rapid eradication, hovering around the 20% mark entering 2025 (Badan Kebijakan Pembangunan Kesehatan, 2025). This figure severely lagged behind the ambitious national target of 14%. Stunting is not merely a condition of short stature; it is a profound marker of chronic micronutrient deficiency that irreversibly damages neurocognitive development (Azzahra' & Damayanti, 2026).

The MBG was designed to aggressively intervene in this biological crisis. By providing guaranteed, nutritionally balanced meals to students from early childhood education (PAUD) through senior high school, the program seeks to eliminate the caloric and micronutrient deficits prevalent in lower-income households. Preliminary empirical evaluations of similar, smaller-scale localized interventions suggest that guaranteed school meals not only improve physical growth metrics but also drastically reduce school absenteeism and enhance classroom concentration (Rahmah et al., 2025).

Furthermore, the program strategically targets pregnant women and toddlers, recognizing that the first 1,000 days of life represent the critical, non-negotiable window for neurological development. By integrating nutritional provision with maternal empowerment, the MBG serves as an essential instrument of human security at the grassroots level.

The Macro-Fiscal Trilemma: Budget Ceilings and Economic Security

Despite its strategic rationale, the MBG introduces massive macro-fiscal vulnerabilities. The political economy of funding a quasi-universal meal program for over 60 million individuals requires a budgetary commitment unprecedented in Indonesian history. In the 2025 State Budget (APBN), the government officially allocated Rp 71 trillion to initiate the first phase of the MBG (Muhid et al., 2024). However, as the program scaled to wider demographics, projections for the 2026 fiscal year indicated funding requirements expanding dramatically, running into hundreds of trillions of Rupiah.

From a macroeconomic perspective, this expenditure actively triggers the welfare trilemma, pitting biological human security imperatives against the state's economic security constraints. The state must balance the MBG's funding against its rigid legal mandate to maintain the national fiscal deficit below 3% of GDP, while simultaneously servicing existing sovereign debt and funding other critical infrastructure projects. International credit rating agencies and bond markets monitor Indonesia's fiscal posture with intense scrutiny established in broader political economy literature, financing massive consumption-based welfare programs through aggressive debt issuance rather



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than corresponding domestic revenue mobilization introduces systemic macroeconomic vulnerabilities (Ito & Kawai, 2024). Consequently, it is logically deduced that if the market perceives the MBG's fiscal expansion as unsustainable, Indonesia faces highly probable risks of capital flight, currency depreciation, and increased sovereign borrowing costs. The political economy of the MBG thus requires the Ministry of Finance to orchestrate a delicate balancing act: generating sufficient tax revenues to fund the BGN without stifling domestic corporate growth or triggering inflationary pressures that would disproportionately hurt the poor.

The Constitutional Crisis of the 20% Education Budget Allocation

The most acute political economy conflict surrounding the MBG emerged over the mechanism of its funding, specifically its intersection with the national education budget. Article 31, Paragraph (4) of the 1945 Constitution strictly mandates that the state prioritize at least 20% of the State Budget (APBN) and Regional Budgets (APBD) to meet the needs of national education (Pakpahan, 2010). In the complex political economy of the education workforce, budget allocation is frequently contested by competing bureaucratic interests (Aslam & Rawal, 2019). As the fiscal reality of the MBG's cost became apparent, early policy discourse within the legislature and executive branch explored the possibility of subsuming the MBG budget under the constitutional 20% education quota. Proponents of this integration argued a seemingly logical premise: feeding students is an intrinsic prerequisite to educating them; therefore, nutritional provision qualifies as an educational expenditure.

However, this maneuver introduced a significant opportunity cost. Funneling tens of trillions of Rupiah into food procurement meant effectively diverting funds from core pedagogical investments. A well-nourished student cannot optimize their cognitive potential in a crumbling classroom environment with an underpaid, poorly trained teacher. Civil society organizations and educational scholars vehemently opposed the integration, arguing that reallocating the 20% mandate for physical consumption would diminish the structural components of the education sector, including teacher welfare, school rehabilitation, and higher education endowments.

This intense fiscal friction culminated in a landmark constitutional adjudication. On July 30, 2026, the Constitutional Court (Mahkamah Konstitusi / MK) (2026) issued a definitive ruling explicitly prohibiting the integration of the MBG budget into the mandatory 20% education quota. The Court affirmed that the 20% allocation is a strict constitutional baseline meant solely for the operational and foundational components of pedagogy and educational infrastructure.

This ruling fundamentally altered the political economy of the MBG. By legally ring-fencing the education budget, the MK forced the government to confront the true fiscal cost of the nutritional program. The state can no longer utilize the education budget as a fiscal buffer; it must now seek authentic, alternative revenue streams—such as widening the tax base or reducing fossil fuel subsidies—to sustain the MBG without breaching overarching fiscal deficit limits.

The Political Economy of Decentralized Procurement and Micro-Governance

Beyond the macro-fiscal arena, the success of the MBG relies entirely on its micro-level execution. The BGN is tasked with orchestrating tens of thousands of Nutrition Fulfillment Service Units across an archipelago characterized by vast geographical disparities and infrastructural deficits.

To operationalize the program, the government adopted a highly decentralized procurement strategy, leaning heavily on local Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), regional farmers, and local catering syndicates. In theory, this decentralized architecture is designed to generate



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localized economic multiplier effects. By integrating local agricultural supply chains, the MBG theoretically acts as a sub-national economic stimulus, injecting liquidity directly into rural economies and empowering local female entrepreneurs.

However, the political economy of decentralized procurement in Indonesia is historically fraught with deeply entrenched clientelism and rent-seeking. The distribution of massive, continuous procurement contracts across thousands of local nodes creates severe principal-agent problems. Without a robust, flawlessly transparent e-procurement infrastructure, local service units are highly vulnerable to elite capture. Local political actors, bureaucratic gatekeepers, and cartelized catering networks possess the capacity to monopolize vendor contracts. This monopolization inevitably leads to price mark-ups and the intentional degradation of ingredient quality to widen profit margins, directly subverting the nutritional objectives of the program.

The governance of the MBG therefore requires a transition from analog bureaucratic oversight to rigorous, digital supply-chain auditing. The sheer logistical complexity of verifying that a vendor in a remote district in Papua or Maluku is delivering the exact gram-weight of protein stipulated by the BGN requires an administrative capacity that the Indonesian state is still struggling to perfect.

Food Safety, Biopolitics, and Public Health Risks

From a governance perspective, the outsourcing of nutritional provision to thousands of decentralized, disparate units has created an immense supervisory vacuum. The state's attempt to regulate biological outcomes of the MBG is fundamentally undermined when it lacks the administrative capacity to monitor the granular, micro-environments of production. To understand how solid governance regarding the MBG deployment is significant to the success of biopolitics targets, we should investigate deeper into the framework of Non-Traditional Security of food safety.

In the framework of Non-Traditional Security (NTS), food safety represents the most immediate, visceral biological threat to human security. The logistical complexity of delivering millions of highly perishable meals on a daily basis in a tropical climate requires an immaculate cold-chain and sanitation infrastructure. The failure to maintain this infrastructure transforms the MBG from a nutritional asset into an acute public health liability, effectively violating the implicit social contract between the state and its citizens. When the state assumes the role of the primary food provider, it assumes a non-delegable duty of care; failing to uphold this, it inadvertently produces the very insecurity it claims to eradicate.

Empirical evidence from the program's trial and early implementation phases throughout 2025 and 2026 exposed severe vulnerabilities in this domain, revealing a profound disjunction between high-level policy design and grassroots execution. A series of localized crises underscored the systemic fragility of the supply chain. Notably, data from the National Agency of Drug and Food Control (BPOM) documented 17 distinct "Extraordinary Events" (Kejadian Luar Biasa) involving mass food poisoning connected to the MBG program from January until May 2025 (Abdurrahman, 2025). These incidents are not merely operational malfunctions; they serve as critical indicators of systemic governance deficits and the failure of regulatory oversight.

Investigations into these incidents revealed deep-seated, biopolitical failures at the vendor level. The primary catalysts for the contamination included dismal kitchen sanitation standards among untrained MSME operators, severe bacterial proliferation due to extended transit times in high-temperature environments, and widespread operation by caterers lacking the mandatory Food Safety Extension Certificate (SPP-IRT/SPPG) (Prawira, 2025). From a governance perspective, the outsourcing of nutritional provision to thousands of decentralized, disparate units has created an



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immense "supervisory vacuum." The state's attempt to regulate biological outcomes—a quintessentially biopolitical act of governing populations through their nutritional intake—is fundamentally undermined when it lacks the administrative capacity to monitor the granular, micro-environments of production.

Furthermore, regulatory controversies arose regarding the material safety of mass-produced food trays, prompting BPOM to conduct rigorous laboratory testing on food containers suspected of utilizing hazardous chemical coatings (Prawira, 2025). This raises profound questions regarding the state's oversight of supply-chain inputs. When the physical delivery mechanism itself poses a toxicological risk, the state's role as the guardian of population health is inverted, transforming a welfare intervention into a vector for biological harm. These incidents underscore the reality that without a rigorous, centralized oversight mechanism—one that treats food safety as a non-negotiable security protocol rather than a bureaucratic checkbox—the MBG risks eroding the very public trust and biological resilience required to sustain such an ambitious state intervention.

CONCLUSION AND POLICY RECOMMENDATION

Indonesia's Free Nutritious Meal Program (MBG) is a profound paradox of modern developing statecraft. Driven by the strategic, neoclassical realist imperative to optimize human capital and secure the nation's demographic dividend, the program represents a bold leap toward a more universalized welfare state. It aims to eradicate the silent, structural violence of stunting that has plagued Indonesian human security for decades.

However, as this analysis demonstrates, the pursuit of human security through massive logistical interventions inevitably generates intense friction within the broader political economy. The colossal fiscal footprint of the MBG immediately threatened the macroeconomic stability of the state and sparked a constitutional crisis over the sanctity of the 20% education budget—a crisis only resolved by the decisive intervention of the Constitutional Court in July 2026. Simultaneously, the realities of decentralized implementation exposed the program to the dual NTS threats of localized rent-seeking and acute food safety crises, as evidenced by recurring BPOM interventions.

Ultimately, the success of the MBG will not be measured by the sheer volume of meals distributed, nor by the political capital it generates. Its true efficacy will be determined by the state's capacity to master the micro-governance of 21,000 decentralized kitchens, rigorously enforce biopolitical sanitation standards, and finance the initiative without compromising fiscal sovereignty. Theoretically, this study demonstrates that pursuing human security via massive biological interventions—without aligned state extraction capacity—can inadvertently produce new structural insecurities. While this qualitative research is contextually limited by its reliance on early-phase rollout data up to August 2026, future research should prioritize longitudinal quantitative analyses of the MBG's actual impact on regional inflation and local stunting metrics. If these governance hurdles are not systematically addressed, the MBG risks devolving into a fiscal labyrinth that undermines the very human and economic security it was designed to protect.

To harmonize the Free Nutritious Meal Program with the dual imperatives of national economic security and human security, policymakers must implement robust structural reforms. The following interventions are urgently recommended.

Strict Fiscal Ring-Fencing and Macroeconomic Prudence. The Ministry of Finance and BGN must absolutely quarantine the MBG budget from the 20% national education allocation, strictly complying with the July 30, 2026, Constitutional Court ruling. Educational infrastructure and teacher salaries must not be undermined by these expenditures. Furthermore, to reassure



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international markets, the MBG budget must be legally tethered to domestic revenue mobilization (tax ratios) rather than sovereign debt issuance, ensuring the fiscal deficit remains strictly below 3% of GDP.

Progressive Re-Targeting Over Universal Blanket Coverage. To prevent fiscal exhaustion, the BGN should strongly consider transitioning the MBG from a universal entitlement to a progressively targeted program. Utilizing precise geospatial and socio-economic data from the BPS and SSGI, the state should heavily prioritize funding allocation toward high-stunting provinces and regions with extreme poverty, while gradually phasing out blanket subsidies in affluent urban centers where private nutritional capacity is already sufficient.

Digital Transparency and Anti-Corruption Architecture. The mitigation of localized rent-seeking requires the mandatory, exclusive use of a centralized e-Katalog for all thousands of Nutrition Fulfillment Service Units. This transparent, blockchain-enabled ledger must handle all vendor contracts to prevent local political capture, price mark-ups, and nepotism. Additionally, School Committees (Komite Sekolah) must be legally empowered with independent auditing rights to monitor the daily quality of food distributed.

Stringent Food Safety Enforcement (BPOM Integration). BPOM regulations must be enforced with zero tolerance. No MSME or catering service should be permitted to participate in the MBG program without first acquiring a verified Food Safety Extension Certificate (SPPG) and passing a rigorous physical sanitation audit of their kitchen facilities. Furthermore, strict "Safe Consumption Limit" protocols must be legislated, dictating strict time windows between food preparation and consumption to eliminate bacterial food poisoning risks in tropical climates.

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