PREVENTIVE EFFORTS OF THE DRUG AND FOOD SUPERVISORY AGENCY (BPOM) ON THE CIRCULATION OF DRIED ANCHOVY THAT CONTAINS FORMALIN IN THE CITY OF DENPASAR

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Received 28 Feb 2022 • Revised 30 Apr 2022 • Accepted 20 May 2022

Abstract

Since the pandemic, there have been many layoffs and many employees have been laid off. Some of them turn into business actors, they often change their direction to become agents of dried anchovies, but dried anchovies because dried anchovies cannot last long so business actors use fraudulent methods such as using formalin on their dried anchovies. The research method in this research is using empirical legal research, namely scientific research that explains legal phenomena about the occurrence of gaps between norms and community behavior (the gap between das sollen and das sein). The conclusion in this study is that BPOM's efforts on the circulation of dried anchovy containing formalin in Denpasar City, namely supervision, guidance, and testing of dried anchovy are positive for formalin or not, after testing it was found a product that was positive for formalin after that coaching was carried out by the Agency POM so as not to be resold. Obstacles in preventing the circulation of dried anchovy containing formalin in Denpasar City are: legal factors, supporting facilities and facilities, cultural factors, and other factors that hinder law enforcement such as economic factors, community factors, and law enforcement factors apart from that. the factors of traders who are difficult to be given guidance on cheating traders, lack of awareness of producers about the dangers of food containing formaldehyde.

Keywords: Consumer Protection, Formalin Anchovy

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INTRODUCTION

In order to maintain life, humans always try to meet their needs, be it the needs of clothing, food, and housing. For this reason, humans in a single position/alone or in groups with other people, under any circumstances must be consumers for a certain product or service. This universal situation on several sides shows the existence of various weaknesses in consumers so that consumers do not have a safe position.\(^1\)

Consumers whose existence is very unlimited with very varied strata cause producers to carry out activities to produce, market and distribute goods or services in the most effective way possible, in order to reach these very diverse consumers. For this reason, all approaches are pursued so that they may cause various impacts, including situations that lead to negative and even disgraceful actions that originate from bad intentions.\(^2\)

The importance of product standardization, Law No. 18 of 2012 concerning Food, that food safety is a necessary condition and effort to prevent food from possible biological, chemical, and other objects that can interfere, harm, and endanger human health and do not conflict with religion, belief, and culture of the community, so it is safe for consumption.

Regarding Consumer Protection, it has been regulated in Article 1 of Law Number 08 of 1999 concerning Consumer Protection which contains Consumer protection is all efforts that guarantee legal certainty to provide protection to consumers in order to provide compensation for damage, pollution and or consumer losses due to consumer protection. from consuming goods and or services produced or traded. So that the rights of consumers can be fulfilled properly, considering that meat in the market is not packaged and does not have a certain label, to find out what information is contained therein.\(^3\)

Regulations regarding consumer rights have been regulated in Article 4 of Law Number 08 of 1999 concerning Consumer Protection, where consumer rights are the right to comfort, security and safety in consuming goods and/or services, the right to choose goods and/or services and obtain the goods and/or services are in accordance with the exchange rate and the promised conditions and guarantees, the right to correct, clear, and honest information regarding the conditions and guarantees for the goods and/or services, the right to have their opinions and complaints heard on the goods and/or services provided. being used, the right to get advocacy, protection, and efforts to settle consumer protection disputes properly, the right to get consumer guidance and education, the right to be treated or served correctly and honestly and not discriminatory, the right to obtain compensation, compensation and/or replacement, if the goods and/or services received are not in accordance with the agreement or not properly and the rights regulated in the provisions of other laws and regulations.

The obligations of business actors are regulated in article 7 of Law Number 8 of 1999 concerning Consumer Protection, which requires business actors to have good intentions in carrying out their business activities, to provide correct, clear and honest information regarding the conditions and guarantees of goods and/or services and to provide explanations on the use repair and maintenance, treat or serve consumers correctly and honestly and non-discriminatory, guarantee the quality of goods and/or services produced and/or traded based on the provisions of the applicable quality standards for goods and/or services, provide opportunities for consumers to test, and / or try certain goods and / or services and provide guarantees and / or guarantees for goods made and / or traded, provide compensation, compensation and/or compensation for losses resulting from the use, use and utilization of traded goods and/or services, and provide compensation, compensation and/or replacement if the goods and/or services received or utilized are not in accordance with the agreement.

Consumer protection is part of the law that contains principles or rules that are regulating and also contain properties that protect the interests of consumers. Meanwhile, consumer law is defined as the whole of the principles and legal rules governing the relationship and

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\(^2\) Miru. Ahmad and Yodo, 2011, Consumer Protection Law, PT. Raja Grafindo Persada, Jakarta. page 11

\(^3\) Ibid. page 33
problems between various parties with one another relating to consumer goods and/or services in social life. Business actors, especially in Indonesia, must be increasingly aware that the future of their business is largely determined by consumers. Thus, business relations must be based on mutually beneficial relations between the parties, namely consumers and business actors.

The era of free trade is an era of openness and without production barriers which are expected, creating a trading condition based on the principle of fair competition. The development of changes in trade principles from the era of closed, traditional, monopoly and protection to the era of openness without protection is a reflection and growth of thought towards the modernization of relations between nations.

Foodstuffs in the form of fish that do not meet the quality, can cause havoc for consumers. In addition to harming consumers from a financial point of view, meat that does not meet these quality requirements can also threaten the safety and security of society in general.

In Indonesia, there are provisions of laws and regulations that regulate, but there is always the possibility of deviant behavior from producers-business actors. In the form of not obeying existing regulations, either intentionally or negligently. The need for the responsibility of producers - business actors for their products that are circulated to consumers (markets), is an important issue in consumer protection.

Since the pandemic, there have been many layoffs and many employees have been laid off. The number of formal workers who have been laid off and laid off since the Covid-19 pandemic on the island of Bali continues to grow. According to the Head of the Bali Province Manpower and ESDM Office, Ida Bagus Ngrurah Arda when confirmed, Tuesday (12/4) of the formal workers who were laid off and laid off, most of them worked in hotels, restaurants and other places. "Formal workers who were laid off 65,594 (people) and laid off 2,189 (people)."

Some of them turn into business actors, they often change their direction to become agents of dried anchovies, but dried anchovies because dried anchovies cannot last long so business actors use fraudulent methods such as using formalin on their dried anchovies.

The characteristics of anchovy that contain formalin are usually when the meat is smelled it will smell of medicine and the color will be paler. As in the BPOM data below:

| Table 1.1 |
|---|---|
| Number Year | Number of cases of dried anchovy with formalin |
| 1 | 2018 | 88 |
| 2 | 2019 | 76 |
| 3 | 2020 | 91 |

Source: Denpasar City BPOM

Based on the data above, there are still many cases of dried anchovy containing formalin where formalin is actually a dangerous substance and is not for consumption. Formalin if

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5 Anak Agung sagung Ngrurah Indradewi, 2014, Juridical responsibility of advertising broadcasters in ensuring legal protection for consumers, Dwijendra University, Bali.hlm.74
swallowed can cause a burning sensation in the mouth and throat, if inhaled is very dangerous in the long term can cause nose cancer. Based on this background, the authors formulate the problem as follows: How are the efforts of the Food and Drug Supervisory Agency (BPOM) on the circulation of dried anchovy containing formalin in the city of Denpasar and what are the obstacles in preventing the circulation of dried anchovy containing formalin in the city of Denpasar.

METHOD

The research method in this research is using empirical legal research, namely scientific research that explains legal phenomena about the occurrence of gaps between norms and community behavior (the gap between das sollen and das sein). This research is descriptive, the data needed in this study are primary data as the main data source in addition to secondary data in the form of legal materials as a data source, data collection techniques in this study used observation, interviews and documentation techniques and analysis techniques in this study were qualitative, namely by describing or describing systematically with an emphasis on quality legal materials.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Efforts by the Food and Drug Supervisory Agency (BPOM) Against the Circulation of Dried Anchovy Containing Formalin in Denpasar City.

Along with the development of technology and information, food producers also develop ways to get big profits from the products they sell. One of them is by not maintaining the quality and quality of these processed foods. The public certainly really expects the safety of processed food products that already have a distribution permit. Consumers often get apprehensive results from a health perspective as a result of emphasizing these practical effects.

Formaldehyde which is better known as formalin is one of the prohibited food additives. Although most people already know, especially producers, that this substance is dangerous if used as a preservative, its use is not decreasing but is actually increasing due to the reason that the price is relatively cheap compared to preservatives that are not prohibited and with other advantages. Salted fish containing formaldehyde is still widely circulated and consumed, although the impact is very detrimental to health.

Formalin is used because it can extend the shelf life of anchovy. The use of formalin in anchovies is intended to extend the shelf life, because formaldehyde is an antimicrobial compound that is effective in killing bacteria, even viruses. If foods containing formaldehyde are consumed in the long term, formaldehyde can damage the liver, kidneys, spleen, pancreas, brain and cause cancer, especially nose and throat cancer. Acute formalin poisoning can cause vertigo and feelings of nausea and vomiting. Acute poisoning with methyl alcohol in food can cause blindness, damage to the liver and nerves and cause cancer in subsequent generations. So the combination of Formaldehyde and methyl alcohol in formalin actually has a double carcinogenic effect.

Recently, food products have appeared in society which apparently use chemicals in food that are actually not fit for human consumption. Some of these food additives are formalin, according to the Regulation of the Minister of Health Number 1168/Menkes/PER/X/1999 concerning Food Additives, it is stated that formalin is a food additive which is prohibited from being used in food. It is clearly stated in Article 10 paragraph (1) of the Food Law, that every person who produces food for distribution is prohibited from using any material as food additive which is declared prohibited or exceeds the maximum limit set. Article 16 paragraph (1), reads

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that every person who produces food for distribution is prohibited from using any material as food packaging which is declared prohibited and or which can release contaminants that are detrimental or harmful to human health. It is also stipulated in Article 21 letter a, that everyone is prohibited from distributing food that contains toxic, dangerous, or which can harm or endanger human health or soul.

The institution that has the authority to carry out supervision of processed food in circulation is the Food and Drug Supervisory Agency (BPOM) of the Republic of Indonesia. hereinafter abbreviated as BPOM is a non-ministerial government agency that carries out government affairs in the field of drug and food supervision.

Furthermore, in article 4 of Presidential Regulation Number 80 of 2017 concerning the Food and Drug Supervisory Agency, it reads: “In carrying out the task of controlling Drug and Food, BPOM has the authority to:

a. Issuing product distribution permits and certificates in accordance with the standards and requirements for safety, efficacy/benefit and quality, as well as testing of drugs and food in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations;

b. Conduct intelligence and investigations in the field of Drug and Food control in accordance with the provisions of the legislation; and

c. Provision of administrative sanctions in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations.

The supervision carried out by BPOM covers very broad aspects, starting from the process of preparing standard facilities and products, evaluating products registered (registered) and issuing Marketing Permit Numbers (NIE), supervision of marking and advertising, taking and testing samples of products in circulation/facilities, distribution, inspection of production and distribution facilities, supervision of illegal/counterfeit products, to initial investigations and law enforcement processes against various parties who deviate from production and distribution methods, as well as product distribution that does not comply with applicable regulations.

Based on the results of interviews with Mrs. Luh Putu Witariathi, APT. as Head of the Information and Communications Division of the Denpasar City BPOM stated that BPOM in Denpasar City carried out several settlement efforts to minimize the circulation of processed food products that were not in accordance with the distribution permit standards, efforts were carried out in tackling the circulation of anchovy containing formalin, namely monitoring, coaching, and testing of anchovy whether formalin positive or not, after testing it was found that the product was positive for formalin, after that guidance was carried out by the POM so that it would not be re-traded.12

1) Supervision

A comprehensive supervision system or supervision that is broad and complete is carried out in accordance with the authority of BPOM as stated in Presidential Regulation Number 80 concerning the Food and Drug Supervisory Agency article 3 letter d which states that BPOM carries out several functions, including “implementing supervision before circulation and supervision after circulation”. In this case, BPOM in Denpasar City carries out its scope through a monitoring pattern, namely by implementing Pre-Market and Post-Market programs which aim to reduce the circulation of products that are not in accordance with marketing permit standards in Denpasar City. The monitoring pattern also aims to ensure that the quality of the circulating processed food products is guaranteed and able to compete in a healthy manner.

Pre-Market Supervision is supervision carried out before the circulation of products in the community through assessment of supporting data and laboratory testing as well as certification of production facilities in accordance with Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) requirements. Pre-Market is carried out through several stages of the process, namely the first is standardization in the form of the

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12Interview with Mrs. Luh Putu Witariathi, APT. as Head of the Information and Communications Division of the Denpasar City BPOM, on February 16, 2022
preparation of standards, regulations and policies related to supervision so that they can become a centralized reference, which is intended so that the product to be distributed has a valid and nationally recognized distribution permit. Followed by regulation, namely the implementation of which is supported by resources both in quality and quantity with a quality testing laboratory that is competent, independent, and transparent.

Post-Market supervision is supervision carried out after a product has a registration number or distribution permit from BPOM. This is carried out by inspecting production facilities, distribution, and service as well as carrying out sampling followed by testing for pharmacovigilance monitoring and label monitoring. This Post-Market supervision is carried out to see how the consistency of the quality of a product, product safety and information is carried out the same as other processes, namely in an integrated, consistent and standardized manner involving BPOM in all provinces in Indonesia, while in areas that are difficult to reach then supervision This is carried out by the Food and Drug Monitoring Post (Pos POM).

2) coaching

The guidance carried out by BPOM is direct guidance to business actors whose merchandise is positive for formalin, so that they are not re-traded.

Administratively, by giving a warning letter to business actors issued by BPOM officials, if it is still not heeded, a stern warning letter will be given. The revocation of a permit can also be carried out by BPOM directly if it is BPOM that issued the permit. If the permit is issued from outside BPOM, BPOM has the right to provide a letter of recommendation for the revocation or suspension of the business license addressed to the relevant agency that issued the permit. And finally, administrative efforts can be made in the form of closing businesses that violate the standard provisions of the distribution permit

3) Test

When conducting supervision at distribution facilities, BPOM also purchases products when conducting direct supervision/inspection in the field for sampling inspection, sampling testing is carried out in the BPOM laboratory.

Laboratory testing, the products are sampled based on risk and then tested through the laboratory to find out whether the Drugs and Foods have met the safety, efficacy/benefit and quality requirements. The results of this laboratory test are the scientific basis used to determine the product does not meet the requirements used to be withdrawn from circulation.

On examination results found to contain formalin or do not meet existing standards, BPOM will take firm action in the form of reprimands, warnings and product recalls circulated by law enforcement in the field of Drug and Food supervision.

The Denpasar City Food and Drug Supervisory Agency routinely conducts direct supervision of markets such as the Agung market, Badung market, and several other markets in the Bali area. Inspections are carried out to ensure the quality of food circulating freely in the market because food safety is very important for consumers.

Obstacles in Preventing the Circulation of Dried Anchovy Containing Formalin in Denpasar City.

In order to provide legal protection to the community as consumers, it is necessary to apply legal protection even from the production process. Law is an important system in the implementation of a series of authority and institutional powers of the State and Government in a narrow aspect. The law functions as the government's frame and boundary in determining legal policies or legal politics in order to promote and provide legal protection, legal certainty, justice and legal benefits for all humans and uphold human rights.

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Legal protection means that legal subjects get immunity related to the protection of their rights as a human being. The protection of these rights is used so that there is no arbitrariness carried out by certain parties, so that the existing legal rules and norms provide guarantees for the rights of legal subjects. If it is associated with consumers, then consumer legal protection is defined as the fulfillment of the rights of consumers due to something that causes these rights not to be fulfilled.\(^\text{14}\)

One of the weak factors in consumer protection is the lack of education to consumers about the importance of consumer protection. In addition, what makes the consumer's position weak is the consumer's ignorance of the composition of the food consumed. In addition to ignorance of the composition of food, consumers are also aware of their rights as consumers, the right to health to consume an item and or in this case food, and the right to safety in consuming food. One of the rights of consumers is correct and clear information about the condition of an item or in this case food. Supposedly, consumers must be aware of what the composition or ingredients of the food to be consumed, because, this concerns their own safety in consuming food. In addition, consumers should know,

Weaknesses that exist in consumers, by producers and distributors of consumer goods who are not honest, are often used to make profits for themselves. Consumer goods are presented in a variety of misleading ways.

There are still many producer actions that harm consumers. Most consumer losses are not reported, because consumers have a "surrender" nature and just accept the losses that befall them. Ignorance of their rights is also the reason why consumers do not complain. In addition, they also do not want to prolong the problem, let alone have to go to court.\(^\text{15}\)

Consumer problems in the food sector are increasingly complex. Starting from the lack of education on the protection of consumer rights, weak supervision by government agencies on food products in circulation to fraudulent acts committed by business actors or food producers in processing or producing food that is consumed.\(^\text{16}\)

The widespread distribution of foods containing formaldehyde in the community should be a concern for all of us as consumers. Because foods containing formaldehyde are very easy to find, from the form of tofu, wet noodles, anchovies, canned food and others. Society as consumers must be able to distinguish and avoid foods that contain these harmful substances. We often hear and know that government agencies conduct raids on foods containing formalin in the community, both in traditional markets and supermarkets.

Formalin if ingested will cause a hoarse throat, burning stomach, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, headache, hypertension and convulsions while the use of borax for a long time will cause cumulative occurrence of brain, liver and kidney, anuria, coma, stimulates the central nervous system, depression and so on can even cause death.

The procurement, distribution and use of formalin in Indonesia continues to increase and is easily available in the market. Therefore, the role of the State is urgently needed in conducting guidance and supervision in order to protect consumers in consuming safe and healthy food.

The Food and Drug Supervisory Agency as a consumer complaint service unit has one of the responsibilities to supervise every product produced and traded by business actors, with an effective and efficient supervision system. Supervision by BPOM is carried out by detecting, preventing, and supervising products circulated by business actors, with the aim of being able to protect the security, safety and health of their consumers from goods and/or services that can interfere with health.

The non-maximal function of BPOM supervision is caused by several factors, namely:

1. Legal Factor

\(^{14}\)Hadjon, PM 1987. Legal Protection for the Indonesian People. Surabaya: Science Development, p. 25


\(^{16}\)Indradewi, ASN (2020). Law Enforcement Against Bottled Drinking Water Business Actors Not Equipped with Circulation Permits to Maintain Food Safety, Kerta Dyatmika, 17(1), 1-10.
From the phenomenon that occurs, it can be identified that the law that was formed is seen as not reflecting the existence of justice.

2. Factors of Supporting Facilities and Facilities
   The understanding of law enforcement officers is still conventional in nature so that there are many obstacles in carrying out their functions. People do self-complaints where law enforcement is unable to explain the side effects caused by the use of these substances and often acts to dominate the community for no apparent reason.

3. Cultural Factor
   People's habits in using these products as components of traditional foods have been entrenched from generation to generation so it is not easy to abandon them. Other factors that hinder law enforcement are:
   1. Economic Factor
      The thought orientation of a business actor to gain profits and monopolize profits excessively can lead to unlawful nature. The financial condition of the community is one of the reasons why people ignore the legal snares that have been affirmed by the government.
   2. Community Factor
      Public awareness of foods containing formalin is still very low due to limited knowledge and information and the information received is still very minimal so that people tend to ignore it.
   3. Law Enforcement Factor
      The understanding of law enforcement officers regarding the complexity of the rule of law and the material content of the laws and regulations is the main basis for law enforcement cannot be maximized in carrying out its main duties.

Based on this description, it can be concluded that the function of law enforcement carried out by law enforcement officers through the Denpasar City Food and Drug Administration (BPOM) has not been fully maximized. The obstacles described above are problems that have been integrated with the pattern of law enforcement in Denpasar City.

Based on the results of an interview with Ms. Luh Putu Witariath, as the Head of the Information and Communications Division of the Denpasar City BPOM, the obstacles in preventing the circulation of dried anchovy containing formalin in South Denpasar District are that it is difficult for traders to be given guidance on cheating traders, lack of awareness of producers about the dangers of food containing formaldehyde, because the effect given is not directly on the buyer. Business actors/traders who are less open to the food being sold and traders who only think about profit without providing quality food that is safe for consumption for the community.¹⁷

There is still low legal awareness of consumers to make complaints or reports to the government or non-governmental consumer protection institutions regarding the existence of food products that contain hazardous materials for consumers. The factor of the lack or still low legal awareness of consumers to make complaints or reports to both national consumer protection agencies and non-governmental consumer protection institutions will certainly also affect the quality of supervision by BBPOM. Although it is realized that there are some consumers who report or complain related to food products that are harmful and detrimental to these consumers, when compared to the number of consumers in Pekanbaru, the percentage of complaints is very small. The number of consumers who do not report or complain is much larger than those who do or do. This report or complaint of course also affects the weak supervision aspect of the community which in the end also affects the supervision of the POM Center because it is not uncommon for supervision by BBPOM to only be carried out when there are reports or complaints from the public that enter BBPOM. Therefore, the legal awareness of consumers to report or complain about their problems when consuming a product has a very positive effect on the implementation of supervision carried

¹⁷Interview with Mrs. Luh Putu Witariath, as the Head of Information and Communication of the Denpasar City BPOM, on February 23, 2022
out by the POM Center for formalin food products in Denpasar City. This report or complaint of course also affects the weak supervision aspect of the community which in the end also affects the supervision of the POM Center because it is not uncommon for supervision by BBPOM to only be carried out when there are reports or complaints from the public that enter BBPOM. Therefore, the legal awareness of consumers to report or complain about their problems when consuming a product has a very positive effect on the implementation of supervision carried out by the POM Center for formalin food products in Denpasar City. This report or complaint of course also affects the weak supervision aspect of the community which in the end also affects the supervision of the POM Center because it is not uncommon for supervision by BBPOM to only be carried out when there are reports or complaints from the public that enter BBPOM. Therefore, the legal awareness of consumers to report or complain about their problems when consuming a product has a very positive effect on the implementation of supervision carried out by the POM Center for formalin food products in Denpasar City.

CONCLUSION

Efforts by the Food and Drug Supervisory Agency (BPOM) on the circulation of dried anchovy containing formalin in Denpasar City BPOM in Denpasar City, namely monitoring, coaching, and testing dried anchovy whether positive for formalin or not, after testing it was found that the product was positive for formalin After that, the POM agency will provide guidance so that they are not traded again. The Denpasar City Food and Drug Supervisory Agency also routinely conducts direct supervision of markets such as Agung market, Badung market, and several other markets in Denpasar City.

Obstacles in preventing the circulation of dried anchovy containing formalin in Denpasar City are: legal factors, supporting facilities and facilities, cultural factors, and other factors that hinder law enforcement such as economic factors, community factors, and law enforcement factors apart from that. the factor of traders who are difficult to be given guidance on cheating traders, lack of awareness of producers of the dangers of food containing formaldehyde, because the effects are given indirectly to buyers.

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