# Public Policy Implementation of the Government of Indonesia and the Government of Timor-Leste to Provide Free Visa to Citizens

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**Abstract:** Indonesia as a developed country in various development sectors and Timor-Leste as a newly independent country which is still lacking in various development sectors, but seen from the aspect of relations between citizens who are very friendly because of blood relations, traditional houses and culture, therefore the second political policy countries, do not look at the national development process but look at how to run harmonious relations in the future. The theoretical basic in this research are: theory of implementation of public policy, theory of government, theory of society, theory of public service. The research method is descriptive qualitative, where the research is: the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry Interior of Timor-Leste. Data collection techniques are: interviews and documentation, Data Analysis Techniques using the analysis of Ian Dey (1993).

The results show that: the political policy strategy of the Indonesian government and the Timor-Leste government for the formulation of a visa-free policy for citizens, politically as the implementation of the foreign policy of the two countries that the government has the obligation and power to carry out cooperative relations as an alternative to meet the needs and interests of the community and the government, because looking at the history of Timor-Leste as a country that once joined Indonesia, the relations between the people of Timor and Indonesia are very close and friendly, and cannot be separated politically and legally, because they have blood ties, traditional houses, and cultures since their ancestors until now.

**Conclusion:** In the process of implementing the visa-free policy of the government of Indonesia and the government of Timor-Leste, it shows that there are good benefits such as increasing the number of Indonesian people visiting Timor-Leste, being able to reduce public visits through short trips and improving harmonious relations between communities.

**Keywords:** Implementation, Government Political Policy, Free Visa and society.

# 1. Background Problem

Indonesia as a developed country in various development sectors and Timor-Leste as a newly independent country which is still lacking in various development sectors, but seen from the friendly relationship between the two citizens who are related to blood ancestry, traditional houses and local culture, therefore the politics of the two countries not seen from the aspect of national development but seen from how to build good relations in the future between the two countries and citizens.

Problems with basic needs such as housing, land, houses, food and clothing, employment, political problems in the development of the economic sector, transformation of the development of the agricultural sector into the industrial and service sectors, and how to reduce poverty rates due to age and health that make it impossible to seek and obtain The government of both countries is still dealing with work, but the governments of both countries pay very serious attention to the needs and interests of the general public.

The political decisions of the two countries, viewed from various aspects, can be detrimental and beneficial to both countries and society, depending on understanding and analysis based on the value of the implementation results. Indonesia and Timor-Leste, as neighbors with land borders, and it is difficult to build a boundary with a wall, therefore, visa free political considerations may also serve as a wall to ensure security and interact in carrying out economic and cultural activities for the community. This political formulation gives priority to the interests and needs of the community, as well as a concern in providing public services from the government to the community, reducing public complaints in the era of independence to the government, it may also mean that this political policy wraps up and reduces problems.

# 2. Research Problem Formulation.

Based on the description of the background of the problem, you can formulate the research problem as follows: Why did the Indonesian government and the Timor-Leste government formulate a visa-free policy to be implemented for citizens?

# 3. Research Objectives

To find out why and the benefits of implementing the policies of the Indonesian government and the Timor-Leste government to formulate a visa-free policy for citizens!

## 4. Theory of Public Policy Implementation

Van Meter and Van Horn (1975) define that the implementation of public politics, as an activity carried out by individuals or officials of groups of public or private institutions to achieve the goals of public political decisions.

## 5. Theory of Government

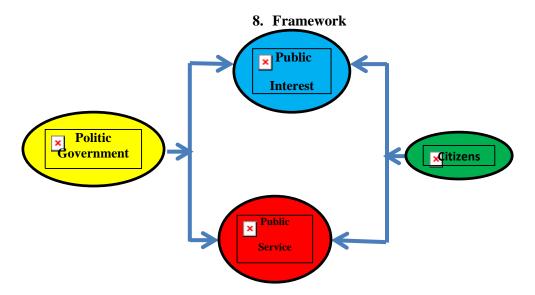
Robert Mac Iver (1960:5), Government is the organization of men under authority. how man can be govern

# 6. Society Theory

Koentjaraningrat. (2002: 150), defines that society is a group of people who gather to "hang out", or in other words, "interact with each other".

# 7. Public Service Theory

Sadu Wasistiono, (2001: 5152), said that public service is the provision of the best services from the government, the private sector on behalf of the government to citizens and does not pay to complement the needs or interests of the community.



## 9. Reason for Using Research Methods

This study uses a descriptive qualitative method because the method is based to find out in more detail and describe the problem under study. Because researchers want to know in depth about social phenomena that exist in the field, to describe according to the situation based on data and facts, so that it can be trusted by competent parties, it can also be considered as scientific research according to the title and formulation of the problem. Mukhtar (2013:10)

# 10. Place and Research Informants

- 1. Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, Immigration attaché Section 1 person
- 2. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, General Director of Consular Affairs e Protocol, 1 person
- 3. Ministry of Home Affairs, Dili Migration Director, 1 person.

# 11. Data collection techniques are as follows:

## 11.1. Interview

The technique of collecting data by interview means getting information directly from the first informant who is considered a respondent to questions from the researcher. To get a good answer, prepare questions before

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meeting the respondent. Interview means interacting between researchers and informants with a specific purpose. Moleong (2009: 186).

## 11.2. Documentation

Documentation means getting data or information directly from books, regulations, reports, photographs and other documentation relevant to the problem under study.

## 12. Data Analysis Techniques

Ian Dey (1993), says the stages of data analysis are as follows. In qualitative data analysis there are three (3) related principles, such as: describe phenomena, classify and see how emerging concepts relate to one another. This process is a cyclical process. To show that these three (3) processes are related. Moleong, (2010:29)

#### 13.1. Reasons for the Government of Indonesia and the Government of Timor-Leste **Formulation** Visa Free Political Policy to Citizens.

The reason for the Indonesian government's political policy is because based on the history of Timor-Leste as a country that was once colonized by Indonesia, good relations between the citizens of the two countries are closer, cannot be separated politically and legally, because they are related to blood ancestry, traditional houses, and culture from their ancestors to the past to now.

It is also seen from the economic aspect that Timor-Leste as a neighboring country that borders on land, the people of both countries carry out economic activities very quickly and easily, the reality shows that the people of Timor-Leste are enthusiastic about going to Indonesia to do business from small to large, so they can help the government through the tax payment process.

A visa-free policy can design people's good intentions to visit each other between family and friends, visit beautiful tourist attractions to increase the enjoyment of life.

(Indonesian Immigration attaché in Dili Mr. Eben R. Taufan, 21 January 2022)

Likewise, the process of formulating a visa-free political policy from the government of Timor-Leste for the Indonesian people who visit Timor-Leste, with the reasons, the government's premise that Timor-Leste and Indonesia have a history that is not the same as other countries and relations between people that have existed since Long ago before Indonesia colonized Timor-Leste politically until it was released until Timor-Leste became independent, also Indonesia has produced qualified human resources, built quality infrastructure and is used to this day, also many East Timorese children are enthusiastic to continue their studies to public and private universities at the undergraduate, masters and doctoral levels in the area of scientific specialization, some Indonesians still live in Timor-Leste, people visit each other, Many Indonesian people want to carry out economic activities, ranging from small to large businesses while providing jobs to the people of Timor-Leste, it is on the basis of this reality that the Timor-Leste government formulates a visa-free policy for the Indonesian people, but based on the requirements set by the two countries, visa free is only for one (1) month or thirty (30), after one month it can be extended but through an application with the right reasons, visa free is only for visiting family, visiting tourist attractions, not looking for work. This political policy is very interesting because it can invite Indonesian tourists to Timor-Leste to see new tourist attractions in Timor-Leste, although it has not been repaired as well as foreign tourists hope. (Director General of Consular and Protocol Affairs of MNEC, Mr. Jose A. Amorin Diaz. 06 December 2021)

## 13.2. The Beginning of the Visa-Free Policy Formulation Process.

The Indonesian government began the process of formulating this visa-free policy since 2003, with government decree no 21/2016 on visa-free for visitors from Timor-Leste to Indonesia, after conducting a feasibility study taking into account various aspects of the needs and interests of the community and the government, starting with implementation in 2016 and Timor-Leste as the 169th country.

(Indonesian Immigration attaché in Dili Mr. Eben R. Taufan, 21 January 2022)

The Government of Timor-Leste began the process of formulating this visa-free policy in 2019, based on government resolution number 25/2019, 18 September, only for visa as tourist and Indonesian citizens as a principle of reciprocity, meaning we give each other, but must meet the specified criteria.

(Director General of Consular and Protocol Affairs of MNEC, Mr. Jose A. Amorin Diaz. 06 December

2021)

# 13.3. The process of implementing the Visa-Free Politics Policy.

The process of implementing the visa-free policy is through those who serve on immigration in the Indonesian Embassy and those who work on land borders and aero ports, such as Timor-Leste in Batugade, Salele, Sakatu and Wini. The reason for implementing this political policy is the government's political strategy in order to reduce people who make illegal visits, the community costs for visa.

(Indonesian Immigration attaché, Dili Mr. Eben R. Taufan, 21 January 2022)

Government resolution number 25/2019, September 18 regarding visa-free for Indonesian people as tourists in normal situations before the Covid-19 pandemic. This government resolution is progressive, because it facilitates the mobility of Indonesian tourists to Timor-Leste. However, currently being hit by the Covid-19 pandemic in all countries in the world, including Timor-Leste, this political policy must have a re-study, because there is potential or it brings the transmission of the Covid-19 pandemic in Timor-Leste.

In the process of implementing this political policy, there are positive values such as: (1) Increasing the number of visitors from Indonesia to Timor-Leste, (2) It can reduce the number of people from Indonesia to Timor-Leste through a short route, (3) Transforming Technology from Indonesia to Timor-Leste, (4) An opportunity for the people of Timor-Leste in Indonesia to visit Timor-Leste, (5) Creating better and friendly relations between the people of the two countries.

There are also negative impacts such as: (1) misuse for work, (2) misuse for small business activities in a short time. (prostitution, selling goods on the roadside, selling goods from house to house).

The implementation of this political policy also gives the public freedom to visit the territory of the two countries, but must comply with applicable regulations. Besides, as an alternative to improve the domestic economy, the government and the people of the two countries through the sale and purchase of handicraft production.

This Political Policy is a follow-up to Article 8 of the RDTL Constitution concerning international relations, "The Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste continues to maintain special relations with neighboring countries and regional countries.

(Director General of Consular and Protocol Affairs of MNEC, Mr. Jose A. Amorin Diaz. 06 December 2021)

The service process can be carried out at the border because many people use public and private transportation, and immigration services at the aero port because there are people who use planes. Visa-free service process with the following criteria:

- 1. Free visa valid for 30 days (1 month).
- 2. There is an important business can apply for one time extension
- 3. More than that must return to the place

During the implementation process, the Indonesian people were less illegal, but the East Timorese were mostly illegal to Atambua.

There is a difference between the implementation of a visa-free and visa-paying policy.

**Visa-pay:** Indonesian citizens to Timor-Leste less, depending on the needs and interests of personal, cultural and economic importance.

**Visa-free:** Indonesian citizens are very enthusiastic about visiting Timor-Leste, because there are historical connections and some Indonesian people still lived in Timor, before independence, and some came as tourists, some were wrong to use them for short-term business activities such as street vendors. (*Mr. Luis S. Barreto, in the office, 30 december 2021*)

# 13.4. Supporting and inhibiting factors in the implementation process.

Factors supporting the implementation of this political policy are Indonesian government regulation no 21/2016, professionally available human resources and receiving support facilities and understanding of the visa user community.

The inhibiting factor for the implementation of this political policy does not exist, because the working coordination relationship between the two countries is very good and correct. Public servants in immigration carry out their work professionally and responsibly.

(Indonesian Immigration attaché in Dili Mr. Eben R. Taufan, 21 January 2022)

In addition, a supporting factor for the implementation of this political policy is Government Resolution number 25/2019, concerning visa-free for the Indonesian people to Timor-Leste and receiving cooperation

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support from PNTL, FDTL and Alfandega at the border. In the implementation of this political policy, all relevant public institutions can be supported and there are no inhibiting factors because this is the government's political policy.

(Mr. Luis S. Barreto in the office on 30 december 2021)

# 13.5. Benefits of implementing visa-free political policies

The benefits of implementing a visa-free policy for the government show that the government pays serious attention to the basic needs and interests of the community, so that government leaders gain the trust of the community.

The benefits for the community can be, they can visit only with a passport, the length of time is one month, if there are very important matters, they can apply for an extension for another month. (Indonesian Immigration attaché in Dili Mr. Eben R. Taufan, 21 January 2022)

On the other hand, the formulation and implementation of this political policy is part of the development of bilateral relations between the two countries based on the principle of mutual benefit and the principle of reciprocity and Timor-Leste's foreign policy which emphasizes cooperation with neighboring countries according to developments in the era of globalization. (Mr. Luis S. Barreto in the office, 30 december 2021)

Benefits in the economic sector because Indonesia as an important trading partner for Timor-Leste. Cooperation in the economic field between the two countries in various sectors.

Indonesian citizens have built many private sectors such as: Telkomsel, BRI, Bank Mandiri, Pertamina and others.

In addition, many East Timorese sons and daughters are interested in continuing their studies to universities in Indonesia and getting easy student administration services.

Judging from the development of the administration and government systems, the formulation and implementation of visa-free political policies as a strategy for promoting the government system to achieve good governance. Also currently Indonesia is trying to support Timor-Leste to become an ASEAN member state.

(Director General of Consular and Protocol Affairs of MNEC, Mr. Jose A. Amorin Diaz. 06 December 2021)

# 13.6. Duration of Visa-Free Policy.

The visa-free political policy, started to be implemented since March 16, 2016, and was dismissed during the covid19 pandemic, due to the reason that disease is easy to contract and quickly kills people until now. But from a humanitarian perspective, the Indonesian government still provides opportunities to fulfill the interests and needs of the people and the government of Timor-Leste, such as in the health sector, deceased family and education.

(Indonesian Immigration Attaches Dili Mr. Eben R. Taufan, 21 January 2022)

Furthermore, the covid19 pandemic began to develop, after the government's resolution on the prohibition of foreign visits, and family visits as well, but because of the needs and interests of the government, because newly independent Timor-Leste lacked many facilities, the Timor-Leste government continued to carry out the country's economic activities.

(Mr. Luis S. Barreto in the office, 30 december 2021)

## 13.7. Data Interpretation

Political strategy of the Indonesian government and the Timor-Leste government in the formulation and implementation of a visa-free policy to citizens, politically as the development of the foreign policy of the two countries that the government has the power to carry out cooperation with the aim of helping to meet the needs and interests of the community and government, based on history Timor-Leste once joined Indonesia, family ties are very close and cannot be separated by politics and law because there are ties of blood descent, traditional house, culture since our ancestors

This visa-free policy has attracted the enthusiasm of the people of the two countries to visit each other as a family and to beautiful tourist attractions according to their will and ability. Furthermore, in the field of education, the sons and daughters of Timor-Leste are still enthusiastic to continue their studies at public and private universities at various levels of education such as bachelor, master and doctorate in various fields of science according to their abilities and wishes, they are financed by the government, parents and agencies other, in accordance with applicable educational regulations.

The process of implementing this political policy is through immigration on duty at the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia and immigration on duty at the border and aero port, in Timor-Leste such as in Batugade, Salele, Sakatu and Wini. The reason for implementing this political policy is the government's political strategy to reduce the number of people visiting illegally, reducing the public's cost to get a visa.

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Implementation as a public service from the government to the community, the results of the discussion can be justified by the theory of Sadu Wasistiono, (2001: 5152), that public services are the best services from the government, the private sector is on behalf of the government to help the community, and does not get payments only to meet needs. and the interests of society. In the process of public service as an alternative to developing the role of government to the community, so that it can get attention and trust from the community, to ensure the quality of good public services as a process of application of a good government system (*good governance*).

## 14.1. Conclusion

The process of implementing the visa-free policy from the Indonesian government and the Timor-Leste government shows that there are good benefits such as increasing the number of Indonesian people visiting Timor-Leste, reducing the number of illegal visits between the people of the two countries, creating friendlier family relations. Unfavorable benefits such as misuse of visa-free to find work and carry out illicit activities.

The implementation of this political policy gives freedom to citizens to visit according to their will, ability and interests between the two countries, visa-free only applies to visiting as tourists and family, not for business, not for institutional activities, both public and private, must comply with the decisions made in the content of political policy.

# 14.2. Suggestions

According to the source of this research data, it is recommended to:

# 1. Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, Immigration Attach in Timor-Leste

The process of implementing the Indonesian government's political policy number 21/2016 regarding visa-free for the people of Timor-Leste to Indonesia is now temporarily suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic, if Covid19 ends, please continue.

## 2. Director General of Consular and Protocol Section in the MNEC.

The process of implementing a visa-free policy for the people of Indonesia to Timor-Leste needs to be carried out in coordination with the Dili Migration process, so that the public service process for the people of the two countries establishes a harmonious relationship to ensure the quality of good and correct government services.

# 3. Director General of Immigration Dili.

As an implementer of the visa-free policy according to government resolution number 25/2019, dated 18 September 2019, giving Indonesian people freedom to visit Timor-Leste, as tourists and to visit family, needs good verification, strict controls so that visitors don't misuse them.

## 4. Society

To the public as visa-free users, it is necessary to know that:

- 1. Free visa is only valid for thirty (30) days.
- 2. If there are important matters, you may apply for an extension for one (1) another month.
- 3. More than (2) two months, the community must return to the place.
- 4. The community must comply with the regulations in the visa-free policy.

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