

The Role of the Bulog Jadirejo Warehouse in Maintaining Food Stability in Pekanbaru

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyse the role of the Logistics Agency (Bulog) in maintaining food stability in Pekanbaru, particularly in relation to its warehousing function at the Jadirejo Warehouse. Bulog has a strategic mandate to manage food reserves, especially rice, and to distribute them in order to maintain price stability and food availability. This study uses a qualitative approach with descriptive methods, collecting data through observation, interviews, and documentation. The results show that Bulog Pekanbaru faces challenges in ensuring the quality of the rice it distributes, with cases of quality decline due to imperfect harvests. However, Bulog has implemented a strict quality control system, including rice inspection before distribution and regular rice stock maintenance to maintain quality. This study contributes to strengthening the understanding of Bulog's warehousing function in maintaining food security in the region.

INTRODUCTION

The Logistics Agency (Bulog) is an official institution established by the Indonesian government as the main operator in national food policy (Suhayati, M., & Pratama, R. A. Z. 2024). Since its establishment on 10 May 1967 as a Non-Departmental Government Agency (LPND) and its change of status to a Public Company (Perum) in 2003, Bulog has had the function of maintaining national food security. Perum BULOG is responsible for managing staple food reserves and maintaining price stability, especially for rice, using state assets set aside as business capital. This responsibility is reinforced by Presidential Regulation No. 48 of 2016, whereby Bulog manages 11 types of staple foods, ranging from rice, corn, soybeans, sugar, cooking oil, to shallots, in order to maintain food availability and price stability in the community (Ruspayandi et al., 2023).

At the local level, particularly in the city of Pekanbaru, Bulog faces serious problems related to warehousing activities. For example, at Perum BULOG Pergudangan Jadirejo Pekanbaru, there are allegations of rice adulteration in the Government Purchase Price System (SPHP) programme. According to a 2025 report by detik.com, the police revealed that local distributors mixed low-quality rice with medium-quality rice, then repackaged it using sacks labelled SPHP Bulog, even though they were not official Bulog partners (detik.com, 2025). These allegations have caused public unrest and threatened public confidence in the quality of food distributed by Bulog. In response, Bulog issued an official statement emphasising that it was not involved in the adulteration practices and would strengthen its monitoring mechanisms for the distribution of SPHP rice to prevent misuse by irresponsible parties (Bulog.id, 2025).

In addition to the issue of rice quality, Bulog's warehousing activities in Pekanbaru also face considerable distribution challenges. These challenges include the ability to maintain stock quantities so that they remain available in deficit areas, as well as maintaining the quality of rice so that it remains fit for consumption during storage and delivery to the market. This condition is in line with the results of research by Alhori, Machfud, & Rokhani Hasbullah (2020) in the REKOMEN (Economic Management Research) Journal, which found that the level of utilisation of Bulog warehouses in various regions showed significant differences between surplus and deficit areas. Some warehouses experienced low utilisation while others experienced excess capacity of more than 100%, which had an impact on increased operational costs and decreased distribution efficiency. This inefficiency could hamper the smooth running of the supply chain and potentially cause supply imbalances between regions. A similar phenomenon was also observed at the Bulog Jadirejo warehouse in Pekanbaru, where issues such as stock management, uneven distribution flows, and the potential for rice quality deterioration due to suboptimal handling require serious attention (Alhori et al., 2020).

This research is based on strong logical and phenomenological reasons, namely to comprehensively understand Bulog's role in maintaining food stability in Pekanbaru amid issues of rice quality, distribution challenges, and warehouse operational dynamics. It is hoped that this study can provide empirical contributions

in describing Bulog's operational functions and the obstacles it faces in maintaining the availability, quantity, quality, and stability of staple foods. In addition, this research aims to answer the main question: What is Bulog's role in maintaining food stability in Pekanbaru? Thus, the results of this study are expected to form the basis for policy recommendations to strengthen food security while ensuring the availability of quality and sustainable food for the people of Pekanbaru.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Public Policy

Etymologically, the term policy comes from the Greek word "polis," meaning state or city, which later entered Latin as "politia," meaning state. It was then translated into English as "policie," which means relating to the control of public issues or government administration. The term "policy" is used to refer to the behavior of an actor (e.g., an official, a group, or a government agency) or a number of actors in a particular field of activity. Stephen R. Covey said that wisdom is the child of integrity, namely integrity to principles, and its mother is humility and its father is courage (Nur & Guntur, 2019). Thomas R. Dye (2008) defines government policy as "whatever governments choose to do or not to do". It is argued that if the government chooses to do something, there must be a purpose, and the policy must encompass all government actions, so it is not merely a statement of the government's wishes or the government alone (Thomas R. Dye, 2008).

Logistics Management

Management can be defined as the ability to achieve results through various activities carried out by others. Logistics refers to materials used in operational activities and are non-permanent in nature. Logistics management is the science and/or art that involves the process of planning and determining the needs for procurement, storage, distribution, maintenance, and disposal of tools or materials (Museliza. Virna, 2025). Thus, Logistics Management can provide solutions to achieve goals and ways to achieve them, ensuring the availability of logistics whenever needed and used in an efficient and effective manner.

Warehousing is an important component of logistics management that serves to temporarily store goods to maintain availability, regulate distribution flows, and stabilize supply and demand. In the context of food, warehouses act as buffer stocks to anticipate supply shortages and spikes in demand. Research on rice storage shows that good stock management practices, including inventory rotation and quality control, play a role in maintaining quality and reducing losses (Fathurrohman & Pambudi, 2020). Another study emphasizes the importance of effective warehouse layout for efficient distribution operations (Arifin & Pamungkas, 2019).

Several studies show that Bulog's warehousing function contributes significantly to the effectiveness of food distribution and stabilization. Research in Karawang found that improving warehouse layout can increase storage efficiency and reduce logistical losses. Another study confirms that Bulog's rice management and distribution functions are greatly influenced by the strategic location of warehouses

and coordination with local governments (Syamsudin et al., 2023). A logistics analysis at the Bulog warehouse in Klaten also highlights the importance of inventory management and stock rotation in maintaining rice quality until it reaches consumers (Dianti & Sari, 2024).

In addition, warehousing also functions as a storage facility. In the context of Bulog, warehousing is an important aspect of storing and managing food availability. Food is a basic human need that is directly related to the right to life and well-being. Law Number 18 of 2012 concerning Food emphasizes that food must be available in sufficient quantities, safe, nutritious, evenly distributed, and affordable. Within the framework of national policy, food security is not only about the physical availability of food, but also access, price stability, and nutritional utilization (Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Indonesia, 2023). Therefore, food system management must be integrated between production, distribution, and consumption. Bulog plays an important role in food distribution and stabilization so that prices remain under control and the community can easily obtain basic necessities (Perum Bulog, 2024). Thus, the sustainability of Bulog's warehousing functions, including at the Jadirejo Warehouse in Pekanbaru, is an integral part of the national food security system that is oriented towards community welfare.

The concept of food availability refers to the availability of sufficient, high-quality, and sustainable food to meet the needs of the people in a region. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), food availability includes domestic production, imports, food reserves, and an effective distribution system (FAO, 2022). In Indonesia, food availability is highly dependent on the government's ability to manage stocks through institutions such as Bulog, which is responsible for maintaining national food reserves (INDEF, 2025). Factors such as climate, logistics infrastructure, warehouse capacity, and distribution efficiency are key determinants in ensuring a stable supply in various regions (Gunawan, 2024). In the context of Pekanbaru, maintaining food availability means ensuring that rice supplies in BULOG warehouses are sufficient to cope with periods of famine, disasters, or sudden increases in demand.

Logistics Agency (Bulog)

Perum Badan Urusan Logistik (Perum BULOG) is a non-ministerial government agency mandated to maintain price stability, supply availability, and distribution of national staple foods, especially rice.

BULOG performs a strategic function in national food provision through the procurement of farmers' harvests, management of the Government Rice Reserve (CBP), and implementation of market operations in the Food Supply and Price Stabilization (SPHP) program (Perum BULOG, 2023). BULOG also functions in distributing social food assistance and maintaining a balance between the interests of producers and consumers. In the regional context, the existence of the BULOG Jadirejo warehouse in Pekanbaru is a vital means of maintaining a secure rice stock that is ready to be distributed when market prices fluctuate or supplies are disrupted

(Pekanbaru City Government, 2025). Therefore, efficient warehousing and good stock management are key to supporting food security and stability in the region.

Perum BULOG has a mandate under Presidential Regulation No. 48 of 2016 to maintain the availability of staple foods, manage CBP, and conduct market operations to stabilize prices. Through its warehousing network, Bulog distributes rice to various regions to ensure availability at the consumer level. The government's policy summary emphasizes that Bulog must play an active role in distributing food reserves for price stabilization and national food security (Setkab, 2021).

In addition, the study also revealed the effectiveness of Bulog's performance in ensuring rice availability, which has an impact on stability in the local market (Santoso & Angela, 2023). Existing literature mostly focuses on Bulog's functions at the national and regional levels, examining aspects of stock management and distribution in general. However, studies that specifically examine warehousing functions at the local level, such as the Bulog Jadirejo Warehouse in Pekanbaru, are still very limited. This study attempts to fill this gap by analyzing the warehousing function of Bulog Jadirejo in maintaining food security in Pekanbaru.

METHODOLOGY

The type of research used in this study is qualitative with a descriptive approach. According to Bogdan and Taylor, qualitative research is defined as a research procedure that produces descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words from people and observed behavior (Waruwu, 2023). Creswell, in (Murdiyanto, 2020), defines qualitative research as a process of investigating social phenomena and human problems. Creswell, in (Murdiyanto, 2020), defines qualitative research as a process of investigating social phenomena and human problems. This study specifically aims to describe the function of the Jadirejo Bulog Warehouse in maintaining food stability in Pekanbaru. To achieve this objective, the researcher used a descriptive qualitative research method to gain a deeper understanding of the phenomena experienced by the research subjects. Data in this study were collected. Observations were conducted with direct involvement in activities related to the Jadirejo Bulog Warehouse, so that researchers could witness the processes and interactions that occur in the warehouse. Documentation included analysis of records, reports, and relevant literature related to the Bulog Warehouse and food stability in Pekanbaru.

Interviews were conducted with stakeholders, including warehouse managers and staff, to gain insight into their experiences and perspectives regarding the function of the BulogJadirejo Warehouse in maintaining food stability in Pekanbaru. The interviews were semi-structured, allowing for in-depth discussion while ensuring that certain topics relevant to the research focus were discussed.

The collected data was analyzed using thematic analysis, in which the researcher identified and categorized the main themes and patterns that emerged from the observations, documents, and interview transcripts. This analytical approach facilitates a comprehensive understanding of the function of the Bulog Jadirejo Warehouse in maintaining food stability in Pekanbaru.

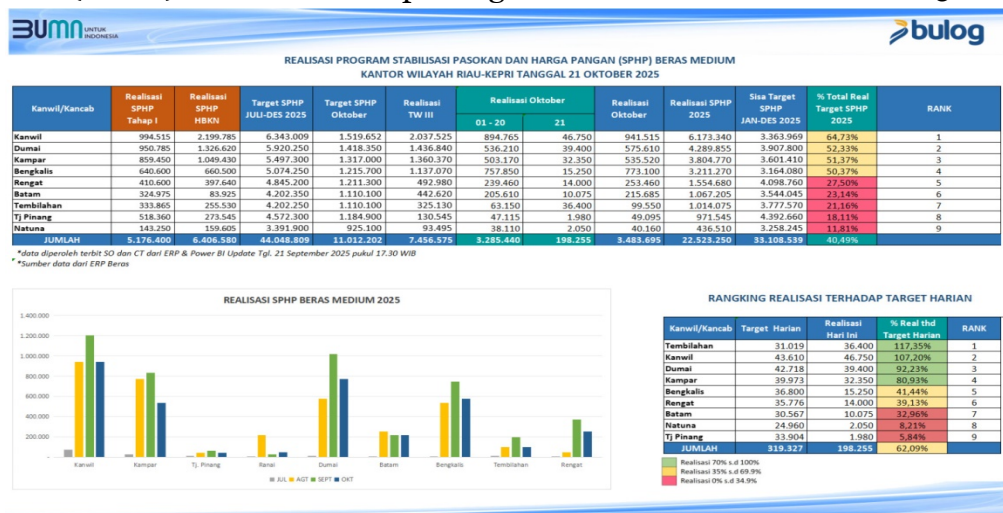
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Distribution & Disbursement of Bulog Products

In this section, we will discuss the findings from research on the distribution and disbursement system of Bulog goods, especially at the Bulog Jadirejo Pekanbaru warehouse complex. This place plays a crucial role in ensuring food stability in the Riau region. Generally, the process of distributing and dispatching Bulog products from the center to the Pekanbaru area and its surroundings runs smoothly. From interviews conducted with the Bulog Jadirejo warehouse complex, no major obstacles were found in the process of delivering foodstuffs, especially rice, from the center to Pekanbaru to date. Deliveries are made by road using covered trucks protected with tarpaulins so that the goods are protected from the weather. However, in island regions, such as the Riau Islands (Kepri), some technical problems sometimes arise during distribution. Bad weather, such as storms in transit areas, can slow down the delivery of Bulog trucks to their distribution destinations. Despite these delays, the impact is temporary and does not significantly affect the smoothness of the distribution chain. The Bulog Jadirejo warehouse complex emphasizes that the delivery system has been designed to be flexible and adaptable to changes in the field.

To overcome these obstacles, coordination between regions and distribution scheduling that takes into account weather and transportation conditions is carried out. This demonstrates the commitment of the Bulog Jadirejo warehouse complex in maintaining timeliness and product quality during the distribution process. From a logistics management perspective, this function aligns with the principles of logistics management that emphasize the importance of efficiency and reliability in the supply chain. This efficiency is evident in Bulog's ability to maintain delivery speed despite geographical and natural challenges. Additionally, Regular distribution to Pekanbaru is carried out in large quantities reaching hundreds of tons of rice each period, which requires effective coordination of the fleet and delivery routes, both land and sea. This condition shows that the Bulog distribution system not only focuses on timeliness, but also on the sustainability of food supplies for the local community, thereby supporting food stability and the availability of basic commodities in the Riau region.

Table 1. Realisation of the Medium Rice Supply and Price Stabilisation Programme (SPHP) for the Riau-Kepri Regional Office on 21 October 2025



Product Quality

Sometimes the quality of rice is not good, such as broken grains, and this is not Bulog's fault, but in its production, Bulog needs 800 tons of rice from farmers in Indonesia. So sometimes, because a lot is needed, there are problems such as poor or imperfect harvests (not completely dry or cooked), which makes the quality of the rice slightly poor. However, Bulog always strives to ensure that the products it sells and distributes are of the highest quality.

Bulog's annual distribution needs in each province and region vary greatly depending on government assignments and national supply conditions. Bulog always has storage in its warehouses even on major holidays, but Bulog will still distribute goods without fear of running out because the warehouses are never empty (Perum BULOG, 2025).

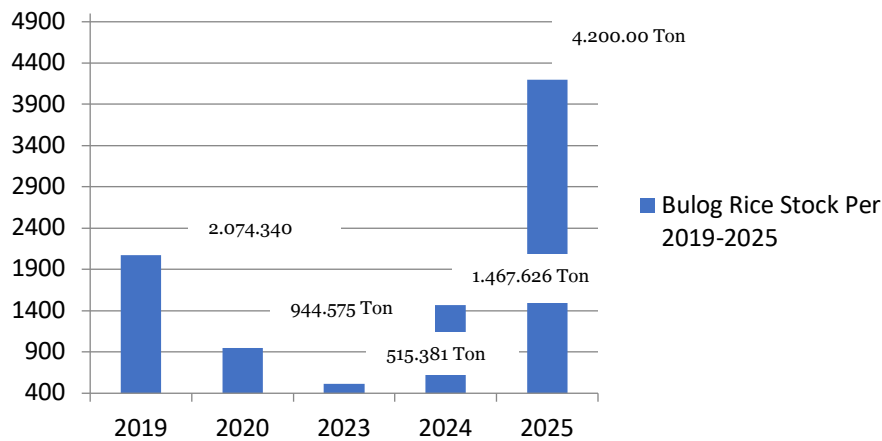
To maintain the quality of the Government Rice Reserve (CBP), Perum BULOG continues to strengthen its rice monitoring and maintenance system in all of its warehouses. This is an important part of Bulog's role in ensuring safe, consumable, and high-quality food for the people of Pekanbaru. Monitoring is carried out in a structured and professional manner so that every grain of rice stored or distributed remains in the best condition. In each warehouse, Bulog assigns special officers whose job is to monitor and test the quality of grain and rice received from farmers. Before entering the warehouse, rice must undergo a thorough inspection involving independent surveyors. The aim is to ensure that all processes are transparent, accurate, and in accordance with the specified quality standards. "Quality control is carried out from the time of receipt to the storage period. We ensure that quality is maintained to support national food security," said Mokhamad Suyamto, Director of Operations and Public Services at Perum BULOG.

In addition to the receiving stage, Perum BULOG also implements a periodic maintenance system for stored rice stocks. The Integrated Warehouse Pest Management (PHGT) principle is the main basis for this maintenance. PHGT includes maintaining warehouse cleanliness, routine monitoring, preventive measures such as spraying, and control measures such as fumigation in the event of a pest infestation. These various monitoring and maintenance steps demonstrate Bulog's commitment to maintaining rice quality to support its two main programs, namely Food Supply and Price Stabilization (SPHP) and Food Assistance (Banpang).

Perum BULOG's Efforts to Balance Rice Quality and Quantity

Perum BULOG continues to demonstrate its commitment to maintaining a balance between rice quality and quantity, especially amid increased absorption volumes in 2025. By mid-May 2025, Bulog had successfully absorbed more than 2.1 million tons of rice equivalent, a figure that demonstrates the agency's high level of responsibility in strengthening national food security (Perum BULOG, 2025). Despite facing enormous pressure to meet the needs of the Government Rice Reserve (CBP), Bulog continues to prioritize rice quality through a structured monitoring and maintenance system in all storage warehouses.

Histogram 1. Bulog Rice Stocks per Year 2019-2025



Efforts to maintain quality begin at the stage of receiving rice from farmers. All rice entering Bulog warehouses must undergo a thorough inspection process, involving independent surveyors to ensure transparency and accuracy of quality standards. This was confirmed by the Director of Procurement at Perum BULOG, Prihasto Setyanto, who stated that all rice has undergone a quality testing process by a third party to ensure compliance with established standards. In addition, Bulog implements a routine maintenance mechanism for rice stocks in warehouses to maintain quality until distribution. This process includes the application of the Integrated Warehouse Pest Management (PHGT) principle, which covers warehouse cleanliness, periodic monitoring, preventive measures such as spraying, and fumigation. Preventive measures such as spraying and fumigation are taken when pest infestations are detected.

In terms of absorption, Bulog uses a flexible approach so that it can still meet its quantity targets without compromising quality. Through a policy of purchasing grain and rice according to quality and the Government Purchase Price (HPP), Bulog only absorbs grain or rice that meets certain moisture and emptiness content requirements. If the quality of the raw materials is outside the standards, price adjustments (rafaksi) are made to maintain fairness for farmers while ensuring that quality remains within reasonable limits (Perum BULOG, 2025). In addition, the development of Rice Milling Centers (SPP) in various regions also helps shorten the supply chain, so that absorption can be carried out directly at the production site with more effective quality control. BULOG also implements the FIFO (First In, First Out) and FEFO (First Expired, First Out) stock rotation systems in its warehouse management. This system ensures that older rice or rice that is nearing its distribution expiration date is removed first, so that quality is maintained even when stock volumes are very large. If a decline in quality is found during storage, Bulog re-sorts and reprocesses the rice using modern sorting machines to improve its quality so that it remains fit for consumption. This step demonstrates a balance between the need for large quantities and a commitment to consistent quality.

Through these various measures, Perum Bulog has succeeded in balancing two important aspects: large quantities to ensure national food security and consistent quality so that the public receives rice that is safe and fit for consumption (Perum

BULOG, 2025). This function proves that an increase in absorption volume does not always have to be inversely proportional to quality, as long as there is a strong system of supervision, maintenance, and quality control at every stage of the supply chain. With measurable and sustainable management, Bulog continues to be at the forefront of maintaining national food supply and stability.

CONCLUSION

From the results of the research that has been conducted, it can be understood that the role of Perum BULOG through the Jadirejo Warehouse is very important in maintaining food stability in the city of Pekanbaru. This warehouse not only functions as a place to store rice, but also as a control center that ensures the community continues to have access to food. Smooth distribution, strict quality control, and the ability to respond quickly to situations have proven to be the keys to Bulog's success in maintaining food availability. This study has limitations. The research was only conducted at one warehouse, so it does not fully describe the situation in other BULOG areas. In addition, the limited quantitative data means that the analysis of the impact on BULOG availability cannot be presented in greater depth.

Based on these findings and limitations, several recommendations can be made. For Bulog, strengthening the digitization system and real-time supply chain monitoring will help improve efficiency and prevent abuse. For local governments, it is important to strengthen cross-sector coordination to ensure smooth food distribution, especially when market conditions are unstable. Meanwhile, for future researchers, expanding the scope of research and combining quantitative data with qualitative analysis will provide a more complete picture of warehouse food availability and its impact on food stability.

Overall, the experience of dealing with the adulterated rice crisis shows that the function of the Jadirejo Warehouse is more than just storage. It has become the front line in maintaining food stability and public trust. If this function continues to be strengthened and developed, Bulog can become an important foundation in creating a resilient, transparent, and sustainable food system for the people of Pekanbaru.

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