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### **Prof. Kumba Digdowiseiso Dismissed from Unas**

Jakarta (UNAS) - Tim Pencari Fakta (or the Fact Finding Team – TPF henceforth) of the Universitas Nasional (or National University – Unas henceforth) has recommended two points related to the alleged misappropriation of co-authorships in international journal publications conducted by Prof. Kumba Digdowiseiso. Firstly; the dismissal of Kumba Digdowiseiso from his position as Unas's Dean of Faculty of Economics and Business (FEB). Secondly; temporarily suspending Kumba Digdowiseiso from academic/functional position as a lecturer for a maximum period of three years.

"The decision has been made considering both aggravating and mitigating factors applicable to current policies alongside Unas's Rectors's regulationa and other provisions", said the Special Staff for Communication and Mass Media of Unas Rector, Selamat Ginting, at Unas Campus, Jakarta, Monday (27/5/2024).

Two Universitas Nasional's Rector's Decree has been issued following the recommendations set by TPF. Decree Number 116 of 2024 concerning the temporary suspension of Prof. Kumba Digdowiseiso as a permanent lecturer at Unas for two years from May 21, 2024 onwards. Additionally, Decree Number 117 of 2024 concerning the dismissal of Prof. Kumba Digdowiseiso as Dean of FEB on May 21st, 2024.

"Should Kumba Digdowiseiso show good academic ethics (through his practices), then sanctions as stated in the TPF result report on May 6, 2024, will be reviewed," said Selamat Ginting quoting the Decree of Unas Rector, El Amry Bermawi Putera.

### **Fact Finding**

As stated in the findings and analysis from the information obtained by TPF, it has been concluded that Kumba Digdowiseiso committed a misconduct of academic ethics, scientific propriety, as well as integrity violation as a lecturer.

"The analysis and recommendations has been a result put forward by 10 TPF members led by the Chairperson, Prof. Ernawati Sinaga whom is also Unas Vice Rector of Research, Community Service, and Cooperation. ," said Selamat Ginting.

As an information, the TPF consists of Prof. Ernawati Sinaga, member of Unas Senate; Prof. Sutikno, academic member from Universitas Negri Semarang (or Semarang State University (UNNES)); Prof. Syarief Hidayat, researcher at the National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN); Prof. Eddi Sugiono, member of Unas Senate; Prof. Romainur, member of Unas senate; and Dr Mustakim, member of Unas Disciplinary Commission.

TPF was formed based on Unas Rector's Decree Number 95/R/IV/2024 dated April 19, 2024. "TPF has carried out a process of data gathering, seeking clarifications from various related parties, building a chronological timeline analysis of information and preparing further recommendations," as stated by Selamat Ginting.

Based on the information gathered, several factors incriminating the position of Kumba Digdowiseiso has been found in relation to his position as the dean and professor of the Faculty of Economic and Business (such that of academic ethics misconduct). Meanwhile, several factors were considered to alleviate further retributions due to this being Kumba's first offence and never has been found to commit any other violations.

#### **No relation to the Professorship application process**

Furthermore, in relation to the application process toward professorship, the investigation has found no evidence of unlawful advantages. In applying for Professorship, only scientific publications from 2021 to 2022 was considered, and has not included the publications in question from 2023 to 2024. Therefore, the Professorship granted through the Decree of the Minister of Research and Technology has no relation to the alleged academic misconduct that has been investigated.

"Based on the findings, it can be stated that no correlation was found between the submission of Kumba Digdowiseiso professorship, with publications related to unlawful co-authorship of UMT (Universiti Malaysia Terengganu) lecturers," said Selamat Ginting.

He added that the Unas Rector has asked Kumba Digdowiseiso to carry out two action points related to this matter. Firstly; Kumba is required to make a public apology to all Universiti Malaysia Terengganu lecturers whose names are listed in the journal article mentioned without the consent or knowledge of the lecturer. Secondly; remove the names of the Universiti Malaysia Terengganu lecturers that has been unlawfully listed as co-authors in Kumba Digdowiseiso's journal article, followed by retracting all publications concerned with the misappropriation on the use of University of Malaysia Teranggany's lecturers' names.

The Unas Rector and TPF Chairperson met UMT leaders on May 5, 2024 as part of data gathering process and to discuss Kumba Digdowiseiso's case. "The request of the Unas Rector to Kumba was a result of a letter addressed to Unas Rector from UMT Rector Prof. Dato Mazlan bin Abd Ghaffar regarding the request to retract the publications which included the names of unauthorised co-authorships," said Selamat Ginting.

### **Coordination with LLDikti III**

It was further explained that in relation to this case, the Unas Rector and the Chairperson of TPF had held a meeting with the Head of the Higher Education Service Institution (LLDikti) Region III on May 20, 2024. Additionally a coordination meeting with vice rectors, the Chairman of Yayasan Memajukan Ilmu dan Kebudayaan (or Foundation for Advancing Science and Culture - YMIK), and Unas Management Advisors was conducted to discuss the results of the TPF review on May 21, 2024.

"The Rector and Chairperson of TPF reconvened with LLDikti III on May 22, 2024 and during the Rector's meeting, the vice-rectors and the chairman of YMIK reported the results of the meeting with LLDikti III on May 22, 2024. So all decisions have been reported to LLDikti III as part of the Ministry of Education and Culture," concluded Ginting. (\*)

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