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BETWEEN CUSTOM AND JUSTICE: CONTEMPORARY MUAMALAH REVIEW OF THE WEIGHING SYSTEM IN PALM OIL TRANSACTIONS IN SILAUT DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT This research aims to analyze the weighing system used in the sale and purchase of palm oil plantation products in Silaut District through the perspective of contemporary muamalah jurisprudence. The primary objective is to determine whether the 5-kilogram deduction applied per weighing aligns with the principles of Sharia economic law, particularly justice and mutual consent. This study employed a qualitative field research method, with data collected through interviews involving two palm oil bosses, two farmers, and two loose-fruit collectors selected using purposive sampling. Data analysis followed the Miles and Huberman framework, consisting of data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing. The results show that the 5-kilogram deduction system has been consistently practiced since 2003 and is accepted by all parties because it reflects the estimated weight of the iron base attached to the scale. The findings indicate that this system does not constitute fraudulent weighing as prohibited in Surah Al-Muthaffifin; instead, it operates as an authentic ‘urf upheld by community consensus. The study concludes that the deduction system complies with contemporary Sharia principles of justice and willingness, and it positively influences trust and transactional stability among local palm oil traders.

KEYWORDS Buying and Selling; Palm Oil; Palm Oil Toke; Palm Oil Farmers; and Brondolan Scavenger.

INTRODUCTION

Good trading practices prioritize Islamic business ethics, especially in the trading of oil palm plantation products. The reason is so that no party is harmed, be it the boss, farmers, or scavengers of loose fruit. Moreover, the boss, farmers, and scavengers of loose fruit all rely on oil palm products as their primary source of income. Where the income is used for maintenance costs, harvest costs, education costs, costs to meet daily living needs, and to pay debts. For this reason, trading that prioritizes Islamic business ethics is fundamental to be implemented in the trading of oil palm plantation products. So that no party is harmed in the trading of oil palm plantation products. Currently, oil palm planting continues to be carried out by farmers, both for rejuvenation and new planting. Rejuvenation for land that has been harvested, and new planting for empty land. In addition, farmers also carry out maintenance of oil palm plantations as much as possible. However, there are also some farmers who do not take good care of oil palm plantations. However, oil palm farmers know that the selling value of oil palm is promising in the long term. Because the bosses who want to buy a lot, as long as there are fresh oil palm fruit bunches and loose fruit. Wherever the fresh oil palm fruit bunches are stacked and as long as the car can get in and out, usually it will be picked up directly by car by the boss. Unlike oil palm loose fruit, generally, scavengers deliver directly to the house of the oil palm boss. Although sometimes there are also bosses who directly pick up the loose fruit scavengers at the house. Thus, the conditions of buying and selling oil palm plantation products occur in the oil palm center area.

One of the palm oil center areas is Silaut District, Pesisir Selatan Regency. Here, the palm oil plantation is massive. Every village has a palm oil plantation. Based on the initial survey conducted by the author in Silaut District, Pesisir

Selatan Regency. Every day, the palm oil boss's car goes to the factory dozens of other vehicles a day—the cars owned by the palm oil boss number between one and four vehicles per boss. Every day, the palm oil boss weighs the palm oil results from farmers and loose fruit scavengers. Weighing of palm oil products by the boss uses a weighing system that has been carried out since 2003 until now (Interview with informant 1, Palm Oil Boss, February 5, 2025)—generally, the buying and selling of palm oil plantation products in Silaut District, Pesisir Selatan Regency. Every day, there are buying and selling transactions between the boss and farmers, as well as between the boss and loose fruit scavengers. For this reason, research on the buying and selling of palm oil plantation products is interesting to study. Because this buying and selling is the primary source of income for the boss, farmers, and loose fruit scavengers. Then, buying palm oil plantation products becomes a promising business for the boss.

Many people have researched buying and selling. So far, research on buying and selling has been studied in thirty-three journal articles. Research on buying and selling is divided into five Perspectives. First, the legal perspective (Iwan, Fahmi, & Suhardiman, 2024), (Anantyo, Badriyah, & Prabandari, 2021), (Zubairi & Maulana, 2024), (Endriana & Handoko, 2022), (Prayetno & Putra, 2024), (Annas, Rohman, & Khusnudin, 2022), (Susanto, Angga, & Marwah, 2021), (Arangga & Firmansyah, 2023), (Handayani & Hidayat, 2022), (Nida & Zafi, 2020), (Anas & Hudatullah, 2024), (Simanjuntak et al., 2024), (Rizki & Prasetya, 2022), (Baego, Mardiansyah, Kalibia, & Pujiningsih, 2024), (Rahmah & Hanifuddin, 2021), (Nurjaman, Ayu, Rasyid, & Witro, 2021), (Suyudi, 2021), (Sakti & Budhisulistyawati, 2020), (Johari, Oktasari, & Julita, 2023), (Sudin, Magdalena, Priowirjanto, & Soeikromo, 2022), (Hartana & Karuni, 2022), (Putri, Priyatna, Empy, Yusuf, & Wiryanto, 2023), (Hasibuan & Rahmania, 2020), (I.F, Prayogi, & Pujiono, 2024), (Ardiansyah, Wijayanti, Febriani, & Thalita, 2020), (Ariyanto, Purwadi, & Latifah, 2021), (Kinanty & Salsabilla, 2023), (Apandy, Melawati, & Adam, 2021). Second, the hadith perspective (Haris & Nasrulloh, 2024). Third, management (Hakim, Ramadhan, Wahid, & Ilhama, 2024). Fourth, economic perspective (Faqih, 2024), (Fahriza, Febrian, & Agung, 2023). Fifth, the standpoint of Islamic Business Ethics (A'yun, Chusma, Aulia, Putri, & Latifah, 2021). So far, no legal perspective research has been carried out regarding the weighing system for oil palm plantation products at the toke level, especially in Nagari Talang Binjai, Silaut District, Pesisir Selatan Regency. This research is relevant because the weighing system is part of the process of buying and selling palm oil plantation products. Where the results of oil palm plantations here are fresh fruit bunches of oil palm and brondolan, apart from that, weighing the results of oil palm plantations determines the income of the community, both farmers, fruit scavengers, as well as farm workers, and loaders.

This research focuses on the weighing system in buying and selling palm oil plantation products. Therefore, this research aims to examine the views of contemporary muamalah jurisprudence on the weighing system in buying and selling oil palm plantation products. The question asked in this research is what the weighing system is buying and selling oil palm plantation products in Nagari Talang Binjai, Silaut District, Pesisir Selatan Regency.

It is essential to carry out this research to look at the system for weighing palm oil plantation products at the toke level. Whether it is appropriate or not, with Sharia economics, then, this research will be discussed using the theory of buying and selling principles in contemporary muamalah jurisprudence. Therefore, the author will write an article with the title "Weighing System in Buying and Selling Palm Oil Plantation Products in Silaut District, Pesisir Selatan Regency".

METHODS

This research is a field research with a qualitative approach. The research data were collected using interviews. Interviews were conducted with two oil palm bosses, consisting of informant 1, informant 2. Then, re-interviews were conducted with two oil palm farmers, consisting of informant three and informant 4. Finally, interviews were conducted with two loose fruit scavengers, consisting of informant 5 and informant 6. Data were collected using a purposive sampling technique. The study used data source triangulation by requiring all informants to sign as a sign of approval for the interview results. This study uses Miles and Huberman's data analysis techniques, consisting of three. First, data reduction. Data reduction here is the weighing system in the sale and purchase of oil palm plantation products in Nagari Talang Binjai, Silaut District, Pesisir Selatan Regency—second, data presentation. Data presentation here is to present only essential data, and then discuss the theory of the principles of sale and purchase in contemporary muamalah fiqh. Third, conclusion. The conclusion of the data here contains the results of the research and the results of the discussion.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Weighing System in Buying and Selling Palm Oil Plantation Products in Nagari Talang Binjai, Silaut District, Pesisir Selatan Regency

Weighing system in the sale and purchase of oil palm plantation products in Nagari Talang Binjai, Silaut District, Pesisir Selatan Regency. Where the data was obtained from the results of interviews with oil palm traders as informants 1, the following are the results of the interview.

I am a palm oil boss. I buy fresh oil palm fruit bunches and loose fruit. I buy them from farmers and loose fruit scavengers. I have been in this business for dozens of years. Yes, the weighing uses kilograms. One weighing is 110 kg. However, for every 110 kg, a 5-kilogram discount is given. Because there is a 5 kg iron hanging on the scale, this iron is equipped with a rope as a base. Every time I weigh, oil palm farmers and loose fruit scavengers are present here. (Interview with boss, informant 1, January 24, 2025).

Based on the interview above, it is explained that informant 1 is a palm oil boss. He only buys fresh oil palm fruit bunches and loose fruit. He has been in the palm oil business for decades. The scales used to buy oil palm bunches and loose fruit use kilogram units. Where one scale is 110 kg. However, for each scale, a weight discount of 5 kilograms is given. This discount is because there is a 5-kilogram iron hanging on the scale. This iron is equipped with a rope as a base. To make it easier to weigh fresh oil palm bunches and loose fruit from farmers and loose fruit scavengers. If not given an iron equipped with a rope as a base, it will be difficult to weigh. Then, each boss weighs fresh oil palm bunches and loose fruit. Farmers and loose fruit scavengers are present to see the weighing. The results of this research are a system with a weight cut of 5 kilograms per scale. Then, the author conducted another interview with informant two as a toke. The following are the results of the interview.

I am a palm oil boss. I buy fresh oil palm fruit bunches and loose fruit. I buy them from farmers and loose fruit scavengers. I have been in this business for three years, during my time in this business. I have set two weighing systems for purchasing fresh oil palm fruit bunches and loose fruit. I follow other bosses in setting this weighing system. There are two weighing systems—first, a 5-kilogram cutting system per scale. For example, the weight of fresh oil palm fruit bunches is 100 kilograms, and loose fruit is also 100 kilograms. This weight is then cut by 5 kilograms. Because there is a 5 kg iron hanging on the scale, this iron is equipped with a rope as a base. Every time I weigh, oil palm farmers and loose fruit scavengers are present here (Interview with informant 2, boss, 10 February 2025).

Based on the interview above, it is explained that informant 2 is a palm oil boss. He only buys fresh oil palm fruit bunches and loose fruit. He buys it from oil palm farmers and loose fruit scavengers. He has been in the palm oil business for three years, during his time in this business. He has set up two weighing systems for purchasing fresh oil palm fruit bunches and loose fruit. He followed his fellow bosses in setting up this weighing system—first, a cutting system of 5 kilograms per scale. For example, the weight of fresh oil palm bunches is 100 kilograms, and loose fruit is also 100 kilograms. This weight is then cut by 5 kilograms. Because there is a 5 kg iron hanging on the scale, this iron is equipped with a rope as a base to make weighing easier. Then, each boss weighs fresh oil palm bunches and loose fruit. Farmers and loose fruit scavengers are present to see the weighing. The results of this study are a system with a weight cut of 5 kilograms per scale. Then, the author conducted another interview with informant three, as a palm oil farmer. The following are the results of the interview.

I am a palm oil farmer. I have a 10-hectare palm oil plantation. Some of my palm oil plantations are still bearing sand fruit, and some have already produced large fruit. I have been a palm oil farmer for dozens of years. I go to the plantation irregularly, sometimes three times a *week, sometimes even when harvesting only the fields. For weighing fresh bunches of palm oil and loose fruit, here is the same. There are two weighing systems used by the bosses here—first, a system with a deduction of 5 kilograms per scale. For example, the weight of my fresh bunches of palm oil is 110 kg. The weight is calculated to be only 105 kilograms. Because it is cut with an iron weight and rope with a base of 5 kilograms. In my opinion, a deduction of 5 kilograms is reasonable. I estimate the weight of the iron is indeed 5 kilograms. Then, every time I weigh, I am always present and see the boss weighing* (Interview with informant 3, oil palm farmer, 11 February 2025).

Based on the interview results above, it is explained that informant 3 is a palm oil farmer. He has a 10-hectare palm oil plantation. Some of his palm oil plantations are still bearing sand fruit, and some have already produced large fruit. He has been a palm oil farmer for dozens of years. He visits his plantation irregularly, sometimes three times a week, sometimes even when it is harvest time fields. He went to see the plantation to do maintenance on his oil palms, such as cleaning, spraying, pruning, and harvesting. He said that for weighing the weight of fresh bunches of loose oil palm, the calculation is the same. There are two weighing systems used by the bosses here—*first*, a system with a 5-kilogram cut per scale. For example, the weight of my fresh oil palm bunches is 110 kg. The calculated weight is only 105 kilograms. Because it is cut with an iron weight and rope with a base of 5 kilograms, he said that the 5-kilogram cut with iron and rope as the base of the scale was not a problem. Because, according to him, the base of the scale weighs 5 kilograms. Then, each boss weighs the fresh oil palm bunches. Farmers are also present to see the weighing. The results of this study are a system with a 5-kilogram cut per scale. Then, the author conducted another interview with informant four as an oil palm farmer. The following are the results of the interview.

I am a palm oil farmer. I have a 3-hectare palm oil plantation. My palm oil plantation has produced large fruits. I have been a palm oil farmer for 22 years. I only go to the plantation once a week as long as I sell fresh bunches of palm oil. For weighing, there is a deduction of 5 kilograms per scale. For example, the weight of fresh bunches of palm oil is 110 kg per scale. The weight that is calculated is only 105 kilograms. No matter how much it weighs, it is still cut by 5 kilograms. One scale is a measure of 110 kilograms. I myself have also weighed loose fruit, also still cut by 5 kilograms per scale. The point is, whether loose fruit or palm oil, the deduction is the same, 5 kilograms. I don't mind this deduction, because there is iron and rope as a base. Then, every time I weigh, I am always present and see the boss weighing (Interview with informant 4, oil palm farmer, 11 February 2025).

Based on the interview results above, it is explained that informant 4 is a palm oil farmer. He has a 3-hectare palm oil plantation. His palm oil plantation has produced large fruits. He has been a palm oil farmer for 22 years. He goes to his palm oil plantation once a week as long as he sells fresh coconut bunches to the boss. He said there is a deduction of 5 kilograms per scale. For example, the weight of my fresh palm oil bunches is 110 kg per scale. The boss only calculated the weight as 105 kilograms. No matter how much it weighs, it is still cut by 5 kilograms. One scale is a weight measurement of 110 kilograms. I myself have also weighed loose fruit, also still cut by 5 kilograms per scale. The point is, whether loose fruit or oil palm, the cut is the same, 5 kilograms. He doesn't mind this cutting, because there is iron and rope as a base. Then, each boss weighs the fresh palm oil bunches. Farmers are also present to see the weighing. The results of this study are a system with a weight cut of 5 kilograms per scale. Then, the author conducted another interview with informant five as a loose fruit scavenger. The following are the results of the interview.

I am a scavenger of oil palm fruit bunches. I am forced to work as a scavenger of fruit bunches because that is the only job I can do. I have been working as a scavenger of fruit bunches for a long time. I have been working for dozens of years, during my time collecting and selling fruit bunches. The weighing calculations have always been the same from the past until now. The boss also made a weight cut of 5 kilograms per scale. For example, the weight of my loose fruit was 65 kilograms. The boss only calculated 60 kilograms. I don't mind this cut. Because there is iron and rope as the base of the scale, which adds weight. Then, every time I weigh, I am always present and see the boss weighing (Interview with informant 5, loose leaf scavenger, 14 February 2025).

Based on the interview results above, it is explained that informant 5 is a scavenger of oil palm bunches. He said he was forced to work as a scavenger of oil palm bunches. Because that's the only job he can do, he said he has been scavenging for dozens of years, during his time scavenging and selling bunches. He said the calculation of the weight of the scales from the past to the present has always been the same. All the bosses cut the weight by 5 kilograms per scale. For example, the weight of the bunches is 65 kilograms. What the boss calculated was only 60 kilograms. He said this weight cut was not a problem. Because he saw that the iron and rope were hanging on the scales as a base that added to the weight of the scales, he then each boss weighed each boss. The scavengers of the bunches were also present to see the weighing. The results of this study are a system with a weight cut of 5 kilograms per scale. Then, the author conducted another interview with informant six as a scavenger of the bunches. The following are the results of the interview.

I am a scavenger of oil palm fruit bunches. I am forced to work as a scavenger of fruit bunches because I don't have the energy and capital to do other work. I have been scavenging for 7 years. I am new here during my time scavenging and selling fruit bunches. For weighing, there is a 5-kilogram deduction system per scale. For example, the weight of the fruit bunch is 90 kilograms. The weight calculated by the boss is only 85 kilograms. This weight deduction is because there is iron and rope as the base. I see and estimate that the base of this scale does indeed weigh 5 kilograms. I don't mind this weight deduction. Then, every time I weigh, I am always present and see the boss weighing (Interview with informant 6, scavenger, February 10, 2025).

Based on the interview results above, it is explained that informant 5 is a scavenger of oil palm bunches. He said he was forced to work as a scavenger of oil palm bunches. Because he didn't have the energy and capital to do other work, he has been working as a scavenger of bunches for 7 years. He is a new person in Silaut, during his time collecting and selling oil palm bunches. He said that for weighing, there is a 5-kilogram deduction system per scale. For example, the weight of the bunches is 90 kilograms. The weight calculated by the boss is only 85 kilograms. This weight deduction is because there is iron and rope as the base. He saw and estimated that the weight of the scale base was indeed 5 kilograms. He said he did not mind the 5-kilogram weight reduction per scale. Then, each boss weighed the loose fruit. The loose fruit scavengers were also present to see the weighing. The results of this study were a system with a 5-kilogram weight reduction per scale. Therefore, the overall results of the survey were a system with a 5-kilogram weight reduction per scale.

Buying and selling an everyday economic activity in which the buyer hands over money and the seller hands over goods or services, a legitimate transaction. Buying and selling keep the economy running. This is because it creates numerous livelihoods and employment opportunities, and people can easily find the goods or services they need. Buying and selling an economic activities permitted in Islam. Of course, Islam stipulates the terms and prohibitions regarding buying and selling. One common form of buying and selling is the sale of oil palm plantation products. Currently, there are two types of oil palm plantation products frequently traded by the public: fresh oil palm fruit bunches and loose fruit bunches. Those who buy oil palm plantation products are called toke (traders). Meanwhile, those who sell oil palm plantation products consist of farmers and loose fruit bunch collectors.

The buying and selling of oil palm plantation products involve several processes. One of these processes is weighing. Weighing is a method for determining the weight of fresh oil palm fruit bunches and loose fruit. Weighing is the second process in the buying and selling of oil palm plantation products. After a sale and purchase agreement has been reached, the buying and selling of oil palm plantation products has become a promising business. Many people have become wealthy by becoming oil palm tycoons. The profession of oil palm tycoon is highly sought after, with many even borrowing money from banks to become oil palm tycoons. Of course, the key to a booming oil palm business lies in the weighing system, the determination of the purchase price, and the speed of payment. The more honest the scales are, the more oil palm farmers and loose fruit scavengers will sell to the tycoons. The same applies to the determination of the purchase price. The higher the purchase price for fresh oil palm fruit bunches and loose fruit, the more oil palm farmers and loose fruit scavengers will sell to the tycoons. Finally, the more quickly the tycoons pay the farmers and loose fruit scavengers, the more oil palm farmers and loose fruit scavengers will sell to the tycoons. Of the three keys to success in the palm oil business, the one that will be discussed is the weighing system used by palm oil traders in Silaut District, Pesisir Selatan Regency.

Weighing in the sale and purchase of oil palm plantation products uses a 5-kilogram weight reduction system per unit. This weight reduction is not included in the weight reduction mentioned in Surah Al-Muthaffifin, verses 1-3. The first verse means woe to those who cheat (in measuring and weighing). The second verse refers to those who, when receiving a measure from others, ask for it to be sufficient. The third verse means that when they measure or weigh (for others), they reduce it.

By looking at the meaning of Surah Al-Muthaffifin verses 1-3, the 5-kilogram weight reduction system per scale is not included in the weight reduction mentioned in Surah Al-Muthaffifin verses 1-3. The reason is that there is no cheating in the weighing system carried out by the palm oil bosses. The palm oil bosses also do not intentionally manipulate the scales for their own economic benefit. However, the palm oil bosses only implement the weighing system as fairly as possible, and do not harm the palm oil farmers and the loose fruit scavengers. The 5-kilogram weight reduction per scale by the bosses is only to reduce the weight of the iron base of the scale that is hung and used for weighing. If the iron base of the scale is not turned on the scale, it will not be possible to weigh fresh oil palm bunches and loose fruit bunches. Therefore, the iron base of the scale needs to be hung and used for weighing. In addition, the palm oil farmers and loose fruit scavengers also agree to the 5-kilogram weight reduction per scale. They also believe that they are not economically disadvantaged by the 5-kilogram weight reduction system per scale. Therefore, the system of reducing the weight by 5 kilograms per scale has a clear and reasonable reason.

Next, we examine the URF perspective. Urf is a custom or tradition that applies in society, whether according to Islamic law or not (Khotimah, 2025). The urf discussed here is the 5-kilogram deduction system per weight. This 5-kilogram deduction system per weight is considered authentic. Authentic urf is a type of urf that takes into account the customs or practices prevailing in society according to Islamic law (Khotimah, 2025). Here, the 5-kilogram deduction system per weight has become a common practice in weighing palm oil and loose fruit. This applies to the 110-kg weight scale. The palm oil broker always deducts each weighing by 5 kg. This is because when weighing, there is an iron base hung on the scale. This iron base serves as the base of the scale with a 5 kg weight. The custom of weighing by deducting 5 kg per weight continues to this day. Both parties weighing in on the palm oil trade agree to this, and no one feels disadvantaged by the weight reduction. The parties weighing in on this trade are the palm oil boss, the palm oil farmer, and the loose fruit scavenger. Therefore, the 5 kg weight reduction system per weight is considered authentic (righteous practice) and is permissible in Islam.

Finally, we examine the principles of buying and selling in contemporary Islamic jurisprudence, which include the principles of justice and consent. First, the principle of justice emphasizes that buying and selling or business transactions should be conducted fairly and based on Islamic law without causing any of the transacting parties to suffer economic loss (Rahman, 2021).

This principle of justice is evident in the case of the weighing system in the sale and purchase of oil palm plantation products, namely fresh oil palm bunches and loose fruit bunches. This principle of justice is evident in contemporary Islamic jurisprudence between oil palm bosses and oil palm farmers, as well as between oil palm bosses and loose fruit bunch pickers. This is because both parties involved in this weighing system are treated equally, and the 5-kilogram weight deduction per scale disadvantages neither party. This weight deduction is used to determine the net weight, and the base of the hanging scale weighs 5 kilograms.

The second principle is the principle of consent. The principle of consent emphasizes that buying and selling or business transactions must be carried out with the permission of both parties so that both parties are satisfied with the transaction, and neither feels forced or disadvantaged (Rahman, 2021). By examining the principle of consent in the case of the weighing system in the sale and purchase of oil palm plantation products, namely fresh oil palm bunches and loose fruit bunches, it is clear that both parties agree to a 5-kilogram weight reduction system per weight. The parties here consist of oil palm bosses and loose fruit bunch scavengers, as well as oil palm bosses and oil palm farmers. However, in reality, Islam, as stated by Fuadi et al., states that it is not permissible to use imperfect measurements and scales. This means manipulating the scales to the detriment of one of the parties in the sale and purchase.

Here, both parties agree, and neither feels disadvantaged by the implementation of the weighing system. Therefore, the weighing system with a 5-kilogram weight reduction per scale is considered permissible. As stated by Fauziah et al. (, anything based on the consent of both parties, related to halal economic activities, is acceptable. Therefore, it can be said that contemporary muamalah jurisprudence permits the 5-kilogram weight reduction system per scale. This is because the principles of justice and willingness have been implemented in the weighing system for the sale and purchase of oil palm plantation products.

Critical Analysis: Legitimacy of Sharia and Hidden Inequalities in the 5-Kilogram Deduction Sy

The 5-kilogram deduction applied in each weighing transaction between toke (palm oil buyers), farmers, and loose-fruit collectors in Nagari Talang Binjai has long been accepted as a standard practice (ʻurf) within the community. All informants stated that they do not object to this deduction because the iron base and rope used on the scale are believed to weigh approximately 5 kilograms.

However, this acceptance needs further examination. In contemporary Islamic commercial jurisprudence, the validity of a transactional practice is not assessed solely by subjective consent but must also fulfill the principles of justice (al-ʻadālah) and accuracy in defining the object of the contract. These principles ensure that the exchange value remains fair for both parties.

The application of a fixed, absolute deduction of 5 kilograms regardless of the quantity being weighed raises questions of proportional fairness. The use of a uniform deduction for significantly varied loads suggests that the system may not always reflect accurate net weight. For example, with a 110-kilogram load of fresh fruit bunches, the deduction represents only about 4.5% of the total weight. However, for loose fruit weighing 60–70 kilograms, the duplicate deduction accounts for approximately 7–8%. This discrepancy means that sellers with smaller loads bear a disproportionately larger reduction.

As a result, loose-fruit collectors, typically the most economically vulnerable participants, experience a greater loss in value compared to large-scale farmers. Although they express no objection, this situation constitutes a form of hidden inequality that is not immediately visible in day-to-day transactions.

In Islamic jurisprudence, subjective consent does not automatically indicate fairness. The concept of riḍā' ghayr muʻtad refers to consent that arises from limited knowledge or unequal bargaining power. Loose-fruit collectors may unknowingly accept a system that disadvantages them simply because they lack a complete technical understanding of weight deductions. This condition may lead to what is known as ghabn khafī (hidden or subtle inequity), where one party unknowingly suffers a disadvantage despite appearing to agree to the transaction. Such inequity can occur when the deduction does not accurately represent the actual weight of the weighing apparatus.

Contemporary muamalah jurisprudence emphasizes that practices involving ghabn khafī should be corrected even when both parties express consent. This is because Islamic law requires objective fairness, not merely the absence of expressed dissatisfaction. Therefore, the 5-kilogram deduction system should be reevaluated to ensure proportionality and accuracy. A more precise calculation of the actual weight of the scale's base would align the practice more closely with Islamic principles of justice and transparency. In conclusion, although the 5-kilogram deduction system has achieved the status of ʻurf ṣaḥīḥ and is socially accepted, a deeper analysis from the perspective of Islamic commercial jurisprudence reveals the need for careful reassessment. Ensuring proportional fairness would protect small-scale sellers from hidden disadvantages and uphold the ethical standards required in Islamic economic transactions.

Evaluating the 5-Kilogram Deduction Through Maqāṣid al-Sharīʻah and Market Ethics

Beyond the technical and proportional concerns, the 5-kilogram deduction system can also be examined through the broader framework of *Maqāṣid al-Sharīʻah*, particularly the objective of preserving wealth (*ḥifẓ al-māl*). This objective emphasizes the protection of economic interests for all parties engaged in a transaction. When a weighing practice disproportionately affects smaller sellers, even subtly, it warrants scrutiny to ensure that no party's wealth is diminished without proper justification. The principle of *ḥifẓ al-māl* implies that any transactional system should safeguard equitable economic outcomes. A deduction system that benefits some actors more than others, especially when those disadvantaged are economically vulnerable, risks conflicting with this maqāṣid.

Therefore, while the deduction is socially accepted, its economic impact must still be assessed through the lens of long-term welfare and equity. From the perspective of Islamic market ethics (*akhlāq al-tijārah*), the Prophet Muhammad encouraged business practices rooted in transparency, mutual respect, and compassion toward the economically weak. A uniform deduction system that inadvertently imposes a heavier percentage loss on small collectors may contradict the ethical ideal of protecting those with limited resources, even if no explicit wrongdoing is intended.

Market ethics also emphasize transparency (*bayān*) as a moral requirement. In this context, transparency demands that all parties, especially small-scale sellers, fully understand how the deduction affects their net income across different weight categories. The fact that some informants justify their acceptance merely because "the iron weighs 5 kilograms" may indicate limited knowledge about proportional losses, suggesting a transparency gap in practical understanding. Additionally, the long-standing acceptance of this deduction system raises questions about structural power dynamics between buyers and sellers. Toke typically has greater economic capital, control over pricing, and authority in determining weighing procedures. This structural imbalance can subtly shape what sellers perceive as "reasonable," even when more equitable alternatives might exist.

Sociologically, such customary practices often persist because they are institutionally reinforced over time. Once a community internalizes a practice as usual, its fairness is rarely questioned. This phenomenon can mask the underlying inequities embedded within the system, making it essential for researchers to examine the practice beyond mere acceptance. A more proportional deduction system, such as calculating the weight of the hanging base relative to the total load, could offer a fairer alternative. For example, instead of automatically deducting 5 kilograms regardless of load, the deduction could be adjusted to reflect the exact net weight. This approach aligns more closely with the ethical demand for precision (*taḥqīq al-ʻadl*) in transactions.

Islamic jurisprudence also recognizes the concept of *al-maṣlaḥah al-mursalah*, which allows the adoption of practices that serve public welfare in the absence of explicit textual ruling. A weighing method that achieves more precise and equitable outcomes would fall under this doctrine, especially if it reduces disparities between large-scale farmers and small collectors. Furthermore, the implementation of standardized and calibrated weighing equipment could minimize the need for manual deductions. Introducing such tools would enhance accuracy and fairness, reducing reliance on *ʻurf* that may not fully align with contemporary economic realities. This transition could also support local economic development by improving trust and transparency in palm oil trading.

Ultimately, while the 5-kilogram deduction system is socially sanctioned and not inherently contradictory to Islamic law, a deeper exploration through the lenses of maqāṣid, ethics, proportionality, and socio-economic dynamics reveals opportunities for improvement. Strengthening fairness within the weighing system would not only comply with Islamic principles but also contribute to a more equitable and sustainable livelihood for all actors in the palm oil value chain.

CONCLUSION

The research results in a 5-kilogram weight reduction system per scale. After discussion, the 5-kilogram weight reduction system is not included in the weight reduction mentioned in Surah Al-Muthaffifin verses 1-3. Furthermore, this weighing system is considered authentic (righteous practice) permitted by Islam, as both parties agree and neither party feels disadvantaged by the weight reduction. Finally, the principles of justice and consent in contemporary Islamic jurisprudence are examined. This principle has been implemented in the weighing system for the sale and purchase of oil palm plantation products.

This study contributes to the development of Islamic economic law in the weighing system for the sale and purchase of oil palm plantation products at the broker level. The system of 5 weight deductions per scale complies with Islamic economic law. It avoids fraudulent weighing, as mentioned in Surah Al-Muthaffifin verses 1-3, and is considered an authentic urf permitted by Islam. Furthermore, it implements the principles of justice and consent in contemporary Islamic jurisprudence.

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