

ABSTRACT

The global financial crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic, and ongoing geopolitical conflicts have heightened the urgency of effective liquidity management in the banking sector. One widely adopted strategy is liquidity hoarding, defined as the accumulation of liquid assets to mitigate systemic uncertainty risks. However, this strategy may reduce profitability, as productive funds are diverted into non-productive assets. This study examines the impact of liquidity hoarding on the financial performance of banks in the ASEAN-5 countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines, and Vietnam), with the World Uncertainty Index (WUI) employed as a moderating variable. The analysis utilizes panel data from 106 publicly listed commercial banks over the period 2008–2024. The findings indicate that liquidity hoarding exerts a significant negative effect on both ROA and ROE under normal conditions. Nevertheless, the interaction with global uncertainty weakens this negative relationship, particularly among larger banks that are more exposed to external risks. These results suggest that liquidity hoarding may function as a stabilizing buffer during periods of crisis, albeit at the cost of short term profitability. This research contributes to the literature by integrating the perspectives of the precautionary motive, trade-off theory, and contingency theory, while also offering policy implications for regulators, bank management, and investors in formulating financial resilience strategies under global uncertainty.

Keywords: Liquidity Hoarding; Bank Performance; Global Uncertainty; ASEAN-5

ABSTRAK

Krisis keuangan global, pandemi COVID-19, dan konflik geopolitik telah meningkatkan urgensi pengelolaan likuiditas yang efektif di sektor perbankan. Salah satu strategi yang sering digunakan adalah liquidity hoarding, yaitu akumulasi aset likuid untuk mengurangi risiko ketidakpastian sistemik. Namun, strategi ini berpotensi menurunkan profitabilitas karena dana produktif dialihkan ke aset non-produktif. Penelitian ini menganalisis pengaruh liquidity hoarding terhadap kinerja keuangan bank di ASEAN-5 (Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Filipina, dan Vietnam), dengan World Uncertainty Index (WUI) sebagai variabel moderasi. Menggunakan data panel 106 bank komersial yang terdaftar pada periode 2008–2024. Hasil menunjukkan bahwa liquidity hoarding berpengaruh negatif signifikan terhadap ROA dan ROE dalam kondisi normal. Namun, interaksi dengan ketidakpastian global memperlemah pengaruh negatif tersebut, khususnya pada bank besar yang lebih terekspos risiko eksternal. Temuan ini mengindikasikan bahwa liquidity hoarding dapat berfungsi sebagai bantalan stabilitas pada masa krisis, meskipun mengurangi profitabilitas jangka pendek. Penelitian ini berkontribusi pada literatur dengan mengintegrasikan perspektif precautionary motive, trade-off theory, dan contingency theory, sekaligus memberikan implikasi kebijakan bagi regulator, manajemen bank, dan investor dalam merumuskan strategi ketahanan keuangan di era ketidakpastian global.

Kata Kunci: Liquidity Hoarding; Kinerja Bank; Ketidakpastian Global; ASEAN 5