Analysis of the Effectiveness of Law Enforcement against Corruption Crimes

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Abstract: Corruption remains one of the most persistent and damaging crimes affecting governance, economic development, and public trust in Indonesia. This study analyzes the effectiveness of law enforcement in combating corruption crimes, focusing on regulatory frameworks, institutional performance, and practical challenges in enforcement. Using a normative juridical method, the research examines Indonesian anti-corruption laws, key cases, and institutional roles, particularly those of the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK), the police, and the judiciary. Findings indicate that while Indonesia has made significant legal and institutional progress, various challenges-including legal loopholes, political interference, and limited resources-continue to hinder optimal enforcement. The study also highlights fluctuations in Indonesia's Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) over the past decade as a reflection of ongoing struggles. To enhance effectiveness, the study recommends strengthening legal provisions, boosting institutional capacities, and fostering a robust anti-corruption culture.

Keyword: Corruption, Law Enforcement, Legal Framework, Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK)

INTRODUCTION

Corruption is a serious problem that has long eroded the foundations of national and state life in Indonesia. As a country that adheres to the principle of a state of law (rechtstaat), Indonesia has an obligation to enforce the law fairly and consistently, including in efforts to eradicate criminal acts of corruption. Corruption not only causes material losses to the state but also damages the nation's morals, creates social injustice, and weakens public trust in state institutions. The phenomenon of corruption has been deeply rooted in various sectors of life, from government, education, to the private sector. This makes eradicating corruption a major challenge that requires a comprehensive strategy, including effective law enforcement. Efforts to eradicate corruption in Indonesia have been carried out through various legal instruments, starting from Law Number 31 of 1999 as amended by Law Number 20 of 2001 concerning the Eradication of Criminal Acts of Corruption, to the establishment of special institutions such as the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK). This institution was established with a mandate to conduct investigations, inquiries, and prosecutions of corruption crimes that harm state finances or the country's economy on a large scale. In addition, other law enforcement officers

such as the Police and the Prosecutor's Office also have an important role in law enforcement efforts against corruption.

However, in practice, the effectiveness of law enforcement against corruption in Indonesia is still a matter of debate. On the one hand, Indonesia has shown significant progress by uncovering and processing various major corruption cases involving high-ranking state officials. On the other hand, there are still many cases that are stalled or resolved with sentences that are considered disproportionate to the impact caused. In addition, challenges such as political intervention, weak integrity of law enforcement officers, and judicial mafia practices often become obstacles to firm and just law enforcement. The effectiveness of law enforcement against corruption is not only measured by how many cases are successfully uncovered and processed to completion, but also how the impact of law enforcement is able to provide a deterrent effect for perpetrators and potential perpetrators of corruption. Effective law enforcement is expected to be able to significantly reduce the level of corruption and strengthen the anti-corruption culture in society. Therefore, it is important to critically analyze the extent to which law enforcement efforts have been effective in combating corruption.

In a global context, Indonesia is not alone in facing the challenge of corruption. Many developing countries and even developed countries are also struggling against corrupt practices. However, Indonesia has its own uniqueness, where corruption is often carried out systematically and involves a wide network. This emphasizes that eradicating corruption is not enough with a repressive approach through law enforcement, but also requires a preventive approach through education and character building, as well as a structural approach by strengthening clean and transparent governance. Law enforcement against corruption is also inseparable from the political dynamics that are developing in Indonesia. The 1998 reformation was a very important turning point, where after the fall of the New Order regime which was known to be full of corrupt practices, Indonesia began to improve by forming various anti-corruption regulations and institutions. However, after more than two decades of reform, corruption remains a problem that is difficult to completely eliminate. This shows that effective law enforcement cannot run optimally if it is not supported by a strong political commitment and high legal awareness in society.

In addition, another aspect that influences the effectiveness of law enforcement is the quality of human resources in law enforcement agencies. The professionalism, integrity, and capability of law enforcement officers are determining factors in success in taking firm action against perpetrators of corruption. Corruption cases involving law enforcement officers themselves also worsen the image of legal institutions in the eyes of the public and weaken public trust. Therefore, internal improvements within law enforcement agencies are also an inseparable part of efforts to strengthen the effectiveness of law enforcement. Although the challenges faced are quite complex, there are also a number of positive achievements that deserve appreciation. The performance of the KPK, for example, since its inception has succeeded in uncovering various major corruption cases such as the e-KTP case, the Hambalang project bribery case, to corruption cases involving regional heads and other high-ranking state officials. The sentences imposed on perpetrators of corruption vary, from prison sentences to additional penalties in the form of compensation payments and revocation of political rights. This effort certainly gives a signal that the state is serious about eradicating corruption.

On the other hand, regulatory changes that have occurred, such as the revision of the KPK Law in 2019, have given rise to pros and cons in society. Many parties believe that the revision actually weakens the authority of the KPK in carrying out its duties, so it is feared that it will have an impact on reducing the effectiveness of law enforcement against corruption. This situation is a new challenge that must be faced in the context of eradicating corruption in Indonesia. Another important approach is international cooperation in eradicating corruption. Indonesia is one of the countries that has ratified the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) which encourages cross-country cooperation in uncovering corruption,

especially those related to assets resulting from corruption hidden abroad. This cooperation is very important considering that many corruption cases involve cross-country fund flows, so that global synergy is needed to eradicate them. Based on the description above, it can be concluded that law enforcement against corruption in Indonesia has experienced various dynamics, with achievements that deserve to be appreciated as well as challenges that must continue to be overcome. Analysis of the effectiveness of this law enforcement is important to determine the extent to which the efforts that have been made have a significant impact in reducing the level of corruption and strengthening clean governance. Further research and studies are needed to evaluate the strategies that have been implemented and formulate more effective steps in the future. Thus, this article will discuss in depth the effectiveness of law enforcement against criminal acts of corruption in Indonesia, covering regulatory aspects, institutions, obstacles faced, and recommendations for strengthening the eradication of corruption in the future.

METHOD

This study uses a normative legal method, namely a method that focuses on the study of applicable legal norms or rules. This method was chosen because the study focuses on analyzing the effectiveness of law enforcement against corruption based on applicable legal provisions and their application in practice. Thus, this study does not conduct field research, but rather examines and reviews various laws and regulations and other relevant legal documents. The type of data used in this study is secondary data, which consists of several legal materials. The primary legal materials used are laws and regulations, court decisions, and other official documents directly related to corruption. In addition, this study also uses secondary legal materials in the form of legal literature books, scientific journals, articles, and previous research results that discuss similar themes. To complete the analysis, this study utilizes tertiary legal materials such as legal dictionaries and legal encyclopedias to provide additional explanations of the terms used. Data was obtained through the library research method. Data collection was carried out by reading and reviewing various legal literature from various sources, both printed and electronic. Official documents such as the annual report of the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK), Transparency International's report on the Corruption Perception Index (CPI), and other evaluation documents are also important sources of data in this study.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Corruption is an extraordinary crime that not only causes financial losses to the state, but also damages the foundations of people's lives and weakens good governance. Efforts to eradicate corruption in Indonesia have been carried out through various legal instruments and law enforcement agencies, especially since the reform era. This section will discuss the results of research related to the effectiveness of law enforcement against corruption, which includes aspects of regulation, institutions, obstacles in implementation, and the impact on eradicating corruption.

1. Effectiveness of Anti-Corruption Legal Regulations in Indonesia

Anti-corruption regulations in Indonesia are generally quite adequate. The most important legal basis is Law Number 31 of 1999 junto Law Number 20 of 2001 concerning the Eradication of Corruption. This law clearly formulates various types of corruption, ranging from abuse of authority, gratification, to acts of self-enrichment that harm state finances. In addition, Indonesia has also established the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) through Law Number 30 of 2002 which is specifically tasked with handling complex corruption cases involving large state losses.

However, in terms of regulation, there are still several critical notes. One of them is the revision of the KPK Law in 2019 which has drawn much controversy. This

revision is considered by many to be an attempt to weaken the KPK, especially because the authority of the institution has become more limited, for example in terms of wiretapping which now must obtain permission from the Supervisory Board. This has the potential to reduce the speed and effectiveness of the KPK in handling corruption cases. On the other hand, Indonesia has also ratified the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) which provides a legal basis for international cooperation in eradicating corruption. However, the implementation of cross-country cooperation in disclosing and recovering assets resulting from corruption still faces various obstacles, especially related to bureaucracy and differences in legal systems between countries.

2. Institutional Performance in Enforcing Corruption Law

Institutional performance is one of the important benchmarks in assessing the effectiveness of law enforcement. Since its establishment, the KPK has succeeded in uncovering various major corruption cases involving high-ranking state officials, regional heads, and members of the legislature. Examples of cases that have become the focus of the public are the corruption of the e-KTP project involving various parties including members of the Indonesian House of Representatives, as well as bribery cases involving regional heads in various regions of Indonesia. In addition to the KPK, other institutions such as the Police and the Prosecutor's Office also play a role in enforcing corruption laws. However, in practice, there is still an imbalance in performance between these institutions. The KPK is often considered more professional and independent than other law enforcement officers, who are sometimes indicated to have conflicts of interest or are influenced by political pressure. However, it cannot be denied that the KPK itself also faces various internal challenges, ranging from issues of integrity, limited human resources, to political pressure that has the potential to interfere with its independence. On the other hand, the Police and Prosecutor's Office also face various challenges in handling corruption cases, especially related to the large workload and internal bureaucratic problems.

3. Obstacles in Enforcing Corruption Law

Law enforcement against corruption crimes in Indonesia faces various obstacles, both from legal and non-legal aspects. From a legal perspective, one of the main obstacles is the complexity of proof in corruption cases. Corruption is generally carried out in secret and involves many parties, so it requires strong evidence and a careful investigation process. In addition, the revision of regulations that tend to weaken the authority of anti-corruption institutions is also an obstacle in itself. For example, the formation of a Supervisory Board within the KPK which has the authority to supervise the entire investigation and inquiry process raises concerns that the legal process will be slower and less independent. From a non-legal aspect, political intervention is still a major challenge. Many corruption cases involve political actors so that the law enforcement process is often inseparable from pressure or intervention from certain parties. In addition, the culture of corruption that is still rooted in various levels of bureaucracy and society also complicates efforts to eradicate corruption. Another factor that is also an obstacle is the limited resources, both in terms of budget and the number of investigators and public prosecutors who have special competence in the field of corruption. As a result, many cases pile up or their handling is slow.

4. Impact of Law Enforcement on Corruption Eradication

Law enforcement that has been carried out so far has had a significant impact in creating a deterrent effect, although it is not yet fully optimal. The sentences imposed on perpetrators of corruption tend to vary, from light sentences to heavy sentences accompanied by additional criminal penalties such as revocation of political rights or payment of compensation. However, there is still much criticism that court decisions

in several cases have not provided an adequate deterrent effect, especially when perpetrators of corruption who have great political power are only given light sentences. Indonesia's Corruption Perception Index (CPI) published by Transparency International shows that despite progress over the years, Indonesia's position is still relatively stagnant at a figure that shows corruption is still a serious problem. This indicates that efforts to eradicate corruption through law enforcement alone are not enough to significantly change the corrupt culture and system. Another positive impact is the increasing public awareness of the dangers of corruption. The public is now more courageous in reporting suspected corruption, and the mass media is actively involved in overseeing the law enforcement process. Public information transparency is also increasingly strengthened, which is an important step in preventing corruption.

5. Evaluation and Recommendations

Based on the results of the study, it can be concluded that law enforcement against corruption in Indonesia has shown achievements that deserve appreciation, especially in terms of revealing major cases and taking action against high-ranking state officials. However, the effectiveness of law enforcement still faces various obstacles that must be overcome immediately. To strengthen the effectiveness of law enforcement, several recommendations that can be given include:

a. Strengthening Regulations: Revision of laws and regulations needs to be carried out to strengthen the authority of anti-corruption institutions such as the KPK, as well as clarify the mechanism of cooperation between law enforcement institutions.

b. Increasing the Capacity of Apparatus: Training and competency development are needed for investigators, public prosecutors, and judges to be more professional and have integrity in handling corruption cases.

c. Bureaucratic Reform: Bureaucratic reform must continue to be carried out to minimize the opportunity for corruption, including by strengthening the internal supervision system and increasing transparency in every government administration process.

d. Anti-Corruption Education: Instilling anti-corruption values from an early age through formal and non-formal education is very important to build an anti-corruption culture in society.

e. International Cooperation: Strengthening cooperation with other countries in efforts to uncover corruption cases involving cross-border and recover assets from corruption hidden abroad.

Indonesia's Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) Score 2015–2024
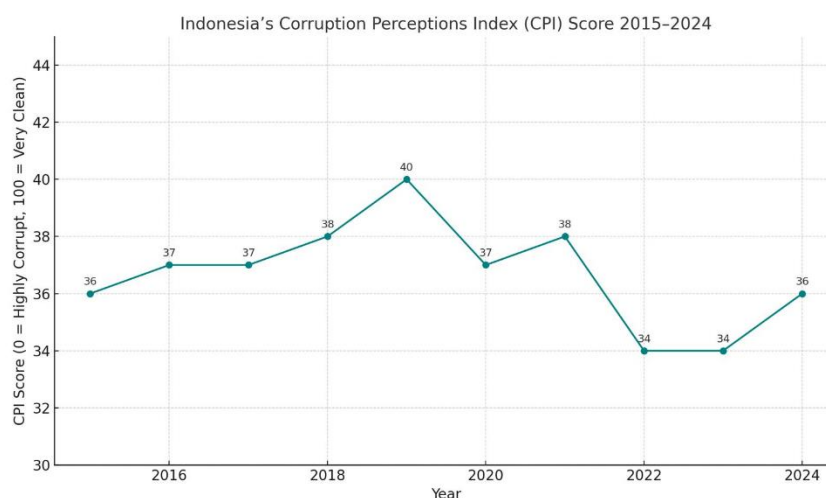
Source: Transparency International, Corruption Perceptions Index Reports 2015–2024

Based on the graph of Indonesia's Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) Score 2015–2024, it can be seen that Indonesia's CPI score has tended to stagnate over the past ten years, with small fluctuations from year to year. In 2015, Indonesia's CPI score was at 36 and increased slightly to reach its highest score of 40 in 2019. However, after that there was a significant decline, where in 2022 and 2023 Indonesia's score dropped to 34, which was the lowest score in the decade. In 2024, Indonesia's CPI improved slightly by recording a score of 36, returning to the same position as in 2015. This data shows that although various efforts have been made to eradicate corruption, including through regulatory reform and strengthening law enforcement institutions, the results have not shown consistent and sustainable progress. The decline in scores in recent years even indicates serious challenges facing Indonesia in maintaining the effectiveness of anti-corruption law enforcement, one of which is the weakening of the authority of the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) through the revision of the law in 2019. The CPI itself is an index that measures the perception of corruption in the public sector from 0 (very corrupt) to 100 (very clean). With a score ranging from 34–40, Indonesia is still classified as a country with a fairly high level of corruption. This confirms that in addition to law enforcement efforts, Indonesia needs to continue to strengthen bureaucratic reform, improve the supervisory system, and build a more massive anti-corruption culture in society.

Data source: Transparency International, Corruption Perceptions Index Reports 2015–2024.

CONCLUSION

The analysis of law enforcement effectiveness against corruption crimes in Indonesia reveals both progress and persistent challenges. Indonesia has established a comprehensive legal framework and created specialized institutions such as the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) to tackle corruption at various levels. These efforts have led to the prosecution of high-profile cases and increased public awareness of corruption issues. However, the effectiveness of law enforcement is still hampered by factors such as legal uncertainties, political interference, limited resources, and internal challenges within enforcement agencies. The fluctuating scores in Indonesia's Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) over the past decade reflect these mixed outcomes. To achieve more substantial and sustainable progress, Indonesia must reinforce the independence and authority of its anti-corruption institutions, ensure consistent legal reforms, and cultivate a stronger anti-corruption culture across society.

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