The Contribution of Legal Substance in the Indonesian Criminal Law System to Eliminating the Corruption Culture

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Abstract:
Eradicating the culture of Corruption in people's lives cannot only be done by enforcing the Law, but also by having strong laws and also the courage and willingness of the authorities to apply these laws fairly and firmly. This study also aims to evaluate the effectiveness of criminal Law in dealing with criminal acts of Corruption and provide recommendations to improve weaknesses in the Indonesian criminal law system related to handling criminal acts of Corruption. The method used is a qualitative research method with a literature approach and a statutory approach. The results of the study state that there are weaknesses and challenges in enforcing the Law on Corruption in Indonesia. Therefore there must be government efforts to handle and prevent this criminal act of Corruption. Apart from building anti-corruption awareness so that Corruption does not become a culture in society.

Keywords: Corruption Culture; Legal Substance; Legislation

Abstrak:

Kata Kunci: Budaya Korupsi; Substansi Hukum; Peraturan Perundangan-undangan

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A. INTRODUCTION

The paradigm of corruption enforcement in Indonesia is inseparable from the ability and effectiveness of positive legal content material, which is a tool or tool for law enforcement of corruption crimes.  

Article 1, paragraph (1) of Law Number 1 of 1946 about the Criminal Code provides the positivist foundation: "An act cannot be punished unless it is based on the strength of existing criminal law provisions." This suggests that rules set forth by legislation are the basis for law enforcement.

Without attention to social dimensions and the empirical conditions of society, this conception of law enforcement positions law as a normative notion that has validity because an authority issues it. It is reasonable to presume that any directive issued by a sovereign is correct. This is no exception in the law enforcement aspects of Corruption in Indonesia.

Positive legal content material, a tool or tool for law enforcement of corruption offences, is crucial to Indonesia’s corruption enforcement paradigm. The canonical legal content in question consists of statutes, executive orders, and rules prohibiting or punishing corrupt behavior. For example, law No. 31 of 1999 on the Eradication of Corruption Crimes is a crucial legislation in Indonesia’s anti-corruption efforts. This Law defines Corruption as a criminal offense and establishes a legal framework for its enforcement in Indonesia. In addition, several other pieces of legislation exist to combat further Corruption in Indonesia, including the Law on the Prevention and Eradication of Money Laundering Crimes (TPPU) and the Law on the Clean and Free from Corruption, Collusion, and Nepotism (KKN) State Administrators (Law No. 28 of 1999). However, it takes more than just strict legislation to combat Corruption effectively. It also necessitates the bravery and willingness of the authorities to enforce the Law equitably and resolutely. In addition, there must be competent law enforcement personnel, a prompt, open, and impartial judicial system, and adequate preventative measures for an effective legal strategy. That being said, other factors, like political and social will, the integrity of law enforcement agents, and public support in eradicating Corruption, are just as crucial to the success of enforcing Indonesia’s anti-corruption Law.

The Government and the people of Indonesia have been working hard to overcome and prevent criminal acts of Corruption, and this is what the research on the application of criminal acts of Corruption in the criminal law system in Indonesia aims to do. The study also intends to assess the efficacy of criminal Law in addressing corruption offenses and make suggestions for strengthening the areas of the Indonesian criminal law system that are lacking in this regard. The findings of this study also hope to educate the public about the perils of Corruption and encourage the growth of an anti-
corruption movement in Indonesia. In such a situation, studies can provide an overview of the causes of Corruption and the methods that can be employed to resist it.

As such, the findings of this study can serve as a foundation for developing policies and government initiatives aimed at avoiding and eliminating Corruption and as a point of reference for academics and researchers interested in exploring the topic further in Indonesia. So, in this study, the authors discuss three basic questions: What are the Weaknesses and Challenges in Law Enforcement of Corruption Crimes in Indonesia? What are the Government's efforts in dealing with and preventing Corruption in Indonesia? How to build Anti-Corruption Awareness in Indonesia?

B. METHODS

This investigation used a qualitative strategy known as the “literature-based method combined with a legislative approach” was used. The material presented in this article comes from various sources. Some are considered primary, some are considered secondary, and some are considered tertiary. Scientific publications and other types of reference books are included in these sources. One of the ways writers evaluate existing content is by comparing different points of view. In addition, the author examines various laws and regulations to obtain the most beneficial results from the contribution of legal substance to eradicating a culture of Corruption in Indonesia.

C. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Proportionality Value of Legislation

In Indonesia, there has been a steady deterioration of the proportionality of laws and regulations enforcing criminal acts of Corruption. Weaknesses in legal formulations, such as overlapping offences, a lack of regulation for some types of criminal behaviour, and the misreading of international conventions, all contribute to this uncertainty.

This is reflected in the misinterpretation of Article 20 and Article 23 of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC). In the original text of Article 20 stated: “…. when committed intentionally, illicit enrichment, that is, a significant increase in the assets of a public official that he or she cannot reasonably explain concerning his or her lawful income.”

The interpretation of the clause “public official” becomes “public official” and the understanding of the original text of Article 23 “Participation in, association with or conspiracy…….” becomes “conspiracy” in the attachment to Law Number 7 of 2006 concerning Ratification of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption. Both of these indicate that the interpretation of such conventions is only carried out etymologically (linguistically) without prior adjustment to the clauses contained in the

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6 Article 20, United Nations Convention Against Corruption.
existing laws and regulations. Because there are no laws and rules that accommodate clauses of public officials and conspiracies in their contents. This causes ambiguity in meaning which violates the principle of lex certa within the scope of criminal Law.\(^8\)

In addition to misinterpretation, weaknesses and irregularities can also be seen through the legal vacuum contained in Article 18 paragraph (3) of Law Number 31 of 1999 in conjunction with Law Number 20 of 2001 Concerning Corruption Crimes, which expressly verbis requires the imposition of a prison sentence in lieu of the maximum period following the principal punishment for individual convicts who do not have a property to pay compensation for Corruption.\(^9\) This is because the regulation does not accommodate additional criminal penalties for corporations that are subject to corruption convicts who should receive fines as criminal consequences. Such a phenomenon shows the disproportionality of the punishments stipulated in the criminal offence of additional money instead of Corruption.

Furthermore, the weaknesses in positive Law can be seen in the formulation of the death penalty in Law Number 31 of 1999 in conjunction with Law Number 20 of 2001 concerning Corruption which only applies the death penalty to the provisions of Article 2, which requires the death penalty for recidivists and Corruption in funds for overcoming emergencies, national natural disasters, overcoming the consequences of widespread social unrest, overcoming economic and monetary crises, and repeating acts of Corruption.\(^10\)

This is difficult to implement because there are no definite indicators for the intended crime. It is difficult to achieve certain conditions as stated in Article 2 of the Corruption Law. Moreover, the threat of death penalty is not aimed at other corruption offenses in laws and regulations. Thus, the implementation of death penalty seems to be a mirage, it looks natural but cannot be achieved in the enforcement of Corruption in Indonesia.

So based on the legal memorandum, progressive efforts are needed in reforming laws and regulations following the directions that live in society to achieve the goals of state life, namely the creation of general welfare. This follows the mandate of the Preamble to the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia. So that the entire purpose of the Law will be created, namely “a happy law”.\(^11\)

2. The Principle of Legality as a Basic Principle in Criminal Law

The primary premise that needs to be governed in the criminal law system is that of criminal acts, or strafbaarfeit. When someone does something that is harmful to

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society and prevents or clashes with the implementation of social connections that are thought to be decent and fair, they have committed this crime. On the other hand, it’s important to remember that not all illegal behaviours that harm society can be considered criminal crimes that warrant criminal punishments. Therefore, the government must provide policies that adjust what is determined as a criminal act.

Judgment of these illegal acts is heavily impacted by prevalent societal attitudes about the Law and views on whether or not the use of fear and the threat of punishment are effective deterrents. As a result, government policies typically lay out these actions through enumerated, positive rules regarding an illegal or delict act. Whoever meets the elements of the formulation, violates the Law, and is found guilty of having committed, is considered to be guilty of the crime or act.

For the occurrence of a crime, Enschede revealed that a crime is a human act, which is included in the formulation of offenses, against the Law and mistakes that can be blamed on him). According to the opinion presented earlier, the primary requirement for the occurrence of a criminal act is that there must be an act committed by a person who violates the provisions in criminal legislation or what is commonly known as the principle of legality. The second requirement is that the act in question must also be against the Law which someone committed or what is commonly known as the principle of no crime without fault. Both of these requirements must be met for a criminal act to be considered to have taken place.

According to Moeljatno, the notion of the principle of legality can be seen through its meaning through the adage nullum delictum, nulla poena sine praevia legi poenali which means that no act can be punished, other than based on the strength of the provisions of the criminal Law that preceded it, implies, namely: 1) There is no an act that is prohibited and punishable by punishment if it has not previously been stated in a rule of Law; 2) Prohibition of analogies; and 3) are non-retroactive. This principle has been manifested in Article 1, paragraph (1) of the Criminal Code.

According to Barda Nawawi Arief, the existence of the principle of legality in the criminal law system is inseparable from the presence of the principle of criminal liability or responsibility, namely, that the act must be accountable in the sense that it can be blamed (reproached) and is against the Law. One of the central tenets of eliminating unlawfulness is that an act can be justified or is not reprehensible if it is carried out in accordance with the formulation of an offense but there are things that cause the unlawful nature of the action to occur. This applies as a justification for all people who commit these actions in certain events or conditions. Since the rationale for the removal
of this punishment lies like the offender himself, this basis is also known as an objective element when viewed from the perspective of the element of the offence.\textsuperscript{16}

According to Moeltjatno’s point of view, “The notion that Law is a law has never been encountered by us. Unwritten laws should be a part of the majority of Original Indonesian Laws. It is important to stress that the above views on Law and the nature of material lawlessness only have meaning in excluding acts that, although included in the formulation of the Law, are not criminal offenses under current legislation. However, obeying the Law is never wrong. It is commonly referred to as a destructive consequence of material anarchy.\textsuperscript{17}

As was previously mentioned, the principle of negative lawlessness is necessary to counteract the legality principle established by laws and regulations in the science of criminal Law when assigning responsibility.

3. Weaknesses and Challenges in Law Enforcement of Corruption Crimes in Indonesia

The law enforcement of Corruption in Indonesia faces quite complex challenges and weaknesses, including:\textsuperscript{18}

1. Coordination challenges between law enforcement agencies in dealing with corruption cases, especially in terms of sharing information and resources.
2. Limited access to information and transparency in investigations, inquiries and prosecutions of Corruption can complicate law enforcement.
3. There is intervention or pressure from interested parties in the process of enforcing the Law on Corruption, including politicians or public officials involved in corruption cases.
4. Weak law enforcement against corruption crimes involving corporations or companies, which are often difficult to identify and legally process.
5. Lack of public knowledge and understanding of the importance of eradicating Corruption, as well as a lack of public support and participation in fighting Corruption.

Challenges in enforcing the Law on Corruption in Indonesia include several factors, including:\textsuperscript{19}

1. Limited human and financial resources in enforcing the Law on Corruption in Indonesia.

\textsuperscript{17}Moeljatno, 1987, “Asas Asas Hukum Pidana”, Jakarta: Bina Aksara, h. 30.
2. The existence of political power or certain interests that can influence the law enforcement process.
3. Obstacles in the process of investigation, investigation and prosecution of criminal acts of Corruption due to the complexity and neatness in gathering evidence.
5. There is no cooperation between law enforcement agencies and the public in the prevention and handling of criminal acts of Corruption.

Meanwhile, there are a number of factors that contribute to the ineffectiveness of anti-corruption law enforcement in Indonesia. These include a lack of coordination between law enforcement agencies, restricted access to information and transparency, intervention from interested parties, ineffective law enforcement against corporations, and a generally uneducated and unaware populace.  

Weaknesses in law enforcement on Corruption in Indonesia include several factors, including:

1. Limited coordination between law enforcement agencies in handling corruption cases.
2. Limited access to information and transparency in corruption investigations, inquiries and prosecutions.
3. There is intervention from interested parties in enforcing the Law on Corruption, including politicians or public officials involved in corruption cases.
4. Weak law enforcement against criminal acts of Corruption involving corporations or companies.
5. Lack of public knowledge and understanding of the importance of eradicating Corruption.

The fight against Corruption in Indonesia needs a multifaceted approach that includes better coordination between relevant agencies, more open data and transparency, greater public education, and stricter penalties for those who break the Law.

4. Government Efforts in Handling and Preventing Corruption Crimes in Indonesia

Corruption has far-reaching negative effects on Indonesian society and the state, hence government efforts to combat and prevent corrupt behavior are crucial. Public
monies that should be used for development and community welfare are instead being used for personal or select group purposes, which is one of the harmful effects of corruption. The Government can also make decisions and policies based on the interests of individuals or small groups rather than the greater good. This will make things even more unfair and hurt the people the Government is ostensibly trying to help. Corruption also wastes public funds that could be utilized to improve basic amenities and public services like healthcare and education. As a result, poverty and social divisions will worsen. Corruption is a serious problem in Indonesia, and the Government’s attempts to combat it and prevent it are crucial to the country’s fiscal health, social stability, and economic progress.

The Indonesian Government has made various efforts to deal with and prevent criminal acts of Corruption in Indonesia, including:\(^{22}\)

1. Establish an independent and professional anti-corruption agency, namely the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK), as an institution with special authority in eradicating Corruption.
2. Strengthen the role and capacity of other law enforcement agencies, such as the police, prosecutors and courts, in handling corruption cases.
3. Encouraging active public participation in efforts to eradicate Corruption, through anti-corruption education and awareness programs, as well as strengthening the role of the mass media and non-governmental organizations.
4. Establish corruption prevention policies and programs in strategic sectors, such as Government, business and other public sectors, through e-procurement and bureaucratic reform.
5. Through various policies and regulations, such as the Public Information Disclosure Act (UU KIP) and the Governance Information System (SIPP), improving access to information and transparency in government processes and state financial management.

5. Building an Anti-Corruption Culture in Indonesia

The development of an efficient and successful plan for eradicating Corruption, as well as the active participation of the community in this fight, are two of the most critical steps that can be taken toward establishing an anti-corruption culture in Indonesia. Corruption is an issue that cannot be remedied by the government or law enforcement alone, hence the active engagement of the community is very vital in eradicating Corruption. The community can play an active part in combating Corruption in a number of ways, including:\(^{23}\) First: Public complaints or "whistleblowing" can lead


to action by the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) or local law enforcement in response to suspicions of wrongdoing. By filing these complaints, members of the public can aid in the disclosure of previously concealed instances of Corruption. Second: Communities may monitor how tax dollars are spent and check in on how well government programs and agencies perform. It is anticipated that by making parties with corrupt potential feel watched, Corruption might be avoided. Third: Social activism. Communities can engage in social activism by conducting anti-corruption campaigns and raising public awareness of the dangers of Corruption. This can be done through social media, public campaigns, and social and educational activities. Fourth: Assist the process of investigation and law enforcement. The public can assist law enforcement officials in the investigative process by providing relevant evidence or information. In addition, the public can also provide support to parties involved in enforcing the Law on Corruption.

The public can assist law enforcement, anti-corruption organizations, and similar civil society groups in their work. Indonesia's government and law enforcement officers are hoping for the community's help in combating Corruption.

The practical and efficient strategy in eradicating Corruption in Indonesia can be done in several ways as follows: First: Improving the effectiveness of the use of the budget. The Government must allocate an adequate budget for law enforcement and eradicating Corruption, and ensure that this budget is used effectively and efficiently to achieve optimal results. Second: Optimizing the role of law enforcement officials. Efforts are needed to improve the quality and capacity of law enforcement officials in carrying out their duties, such as through training and education. In addition, it is necessary to strengthen the oversight mechanism for law enforcement officials to prevent violations or abuse of power. Third: Increasing community participation. The role of society in eradicating Corruption is significant and can increase the effectiveness of law enforcement. Therefore, it is necessary to increase public involvement in efforts to eliminate Corruption, such as through reporting acts of Corruption, providing information and support in investigations, and monitoring the actions of law enforcement.

enforcement officials.\textsuperscript{30} Fourth: Strengthening international cooperation. Corruption is a global problem that requires international cooperation in prevention and eradication. Therefore, the Indonesian Government needs to strengthen cooperation with other countries in terms of exchanging information, training, and developing strategies for combating Corruption.\textsuperscript{31} Fifth: Applying technology and innovation. Using technology and innovation in law enforcement and eradicating Corruption can increase effectiveness and efficiency, reducing the potential for human error. Examples of the use of technology and innovation in eradicating Corruption in Indonesia are e-procurement and e-budgeting applications.\textsuperscript{32}

With an effective and efficient strategy in eradicating Corruption, it is expected to increase the level of legal compliance in society, increase public trust in the Government, and create a healthy and transparent business environment. This will also have a positive impact on economic development and social welfare.

6. Building Anti-Corruption Awareness in Indonesia

Building anti-corruption awareness is very important to prevent criminal acts of Corruption in Indonesia. Anti-corruption awareness can help people understand the importance of integrity, transparency and accountability in Government and business. In addition, anti-corruption awareness can also encourage the public to be more critical and proactive in monitoring government and business activities to minimize opportunities for Corruption.\textsuperscript{33}

Anti-corruption awareness can influence people’s behavior in avoiding and fighting corruption and strengthen government actions in eradicating Corruption. Anti-corruption education and awareness raising can start early, through education in schools and developing social programs involving the community. In the long term, anti-corruption education and awareness can help improve the integrity and quality of Indonesia’s human resources, so that they can contribute to sustainable economic growth and people's welfare.\textsuperscript{34}

Building anti-corruption awareness in Indonesia is very important because Corruption is a very damaging problem for the country’s development and progress. Corruption affects economic performance, hinders social development, and undermines public trust in government and public institutions. Building anti-corruption awareness in Indonesia aims to increase public awareness about the dangers and effects of Corruption and encourage people to be assertive and reject acts of Corruption. This is expected to help prevent and eradicate Corruption effectively.35

Efforts to educate the public about Corruption and prevent it and the enforcement of criminal corruption practices are intertwined and mutually influential. The goal of anti-corruption education is to raise public consciousness of Corruption so that individuals will be less likely to engage in corrupt behavior. By increasing the public’s incentive to report corrupt behavior, this can hasten the criminalization of corrupt acts and reduce the prevalence of Corruption in society as a whole.

However, public anti-corruption awareness can also be increased through effectively and consistently enforcing corruption crimes. When people see that Corruption is taken seriously and that those who do corrupt activities face severe consequences, they are more likely to reject corrupt behavior and work to end it. Thus, efforts to eradicate Corruption in Indonesia are influenced and strengthened by increasing public anti-corruption awareness and implementing criminal acts of Corruption.

D. CONCLUSIONS

The authors make various conclusions from the preceding discussion, all of which point to an endeavor to diminish the ingrained culture of Corruption by using criminal actions of Corruption in the criminal law system in Indonesia. There have been various initiatives to combat Corruption, yet there are still significant holes in the country’s anti-corruption laws.

Some of the challenges in upholding the Law on Corruption in Indonesia include weaknesses in legal institutions, complicated bureaucracy, weak coordination between institutions, and limited human and budgetary resources. Meanwhile, several weaknesses in law enforcement on Corruption in Indonesia include the slow legal process, the use of ambiguous articles, and the existence of a corruption court considered less independent.

The Indonesian Government has created an anti-corruption agency, improved government openness and accountability, and expanded opportunities for the public to weigh in on important policy decisions. However, there is still a need for greater efficacy

and efficiency, including better allocation of resources, raising public anti-corruption awareness, and fortifying the credibility and autonomy of law enforcement.

Efforts to educate the public about Corruption and prevent it and the enforcement of criminal corruption practices are intertwined and mutually influential. This can hasten the punishment of corrupt officials and lessen the prevalence of dishonest actions in society. Therefore, the public and the Government of Indonesia must continuously strengthen and support the application of criminal acts of Corruption in the criminal law system to reduce the corruption culture and create an Indonesia that is more transparent, accountable, and with integrity.

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