



# Law Enforcement in Eradicating Corruption in Indonesia by Examining the Performance of Anti-Corruption Institutions and Obstacles in Realizing Clean Government

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**Abstract:** Corruption is a severe issue that threatens good government and impedes national growth. Various legislative tools, including Law Number 31 of 1999 in conjunction with Law Number 20 of 2001 concerning the Eradication of Criminal Acts of Corruption, have been used in Indonesia to combat corruption, as well as the establishment of special institutions such as the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK). Although regulations and institutions for eradicating corruption are available, the implementation of the law in the field still faces various obstacles, including weak coordination between law enforcers, political intervention, and the effectiveness of sanctions imposed on perpetrators of corruption. The study seeks to analyze the legal framework governing corruption eradication in Indonesia and identify obstacles in its implementation. This study also looks at legal tactics that can be used to improve the efficacy of anti-corruption efforts. This study takes a normative legal approach and concentrates on analyzing pertinent laws and regulations, court records, and scholarly works. This study's data came from secondary sources including books, scientific journals, and reports from anti-corruption organizations, as well as primary sources like relevant laws and regulations. It is anticipated that this investigation will provide a deeper insight of the effectiveness of the law in eradicating corruption in Indonesia and to find aspects that need to be improved in the existing legal system. Thus, this study can provide academic contributions and practical recommendations for policymakers to strengthen the eradication of corruption in Indonesia. In addition to analyzing the legal framework and challenges, this study also explores the role of public awareness and participation in the fight against corruption in Indonesia. Public involvement, such as through the reporting of corrupt activities and participation in anti-corruption campaigns, can significantly contribute to strengthening anti-corruption efforts.

**Keywords:** Corruption, Corruption eradication, Corruption eradication commission.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Corruption poses significant and diverse challenges to Indonesia, with major impacts on its social, political, and economic order. As the fourth most populous country in the world, Indonesia is grappling with the daunting task of building a transparent and accountable system of government. Corruption undermines the integrity of state institutions, hampers economic growth, and exacerbates social disparities (Marzuki, 2024). In the realm of government, corruption manifests itself in various forms, including misuse of public funds, abuse of power, and the influence of political entities that disproportionately benefit a handful of people. These actions result in an uneven distribution of resources, reduce the quality of public services, and erode public trust in government institutions (Nawawi, 2012).

Corruption also impacts foreign and domestic investment, due to legal uncertainty and additional costs arising from bribery and gratification practices. In addition, corruption influences political decision-making that should be based on the public interest but is often distorted by personal or group interests (Arifin, 2024). Although Indonesia has various legal instruments and anti-corruption institutions, such as The issue of corruption and the Corruption

Eradication Commission (KPK) remains a major challenge in realizing a just, prosperous, and transparent country. Eradicating corruption requires seriousness and commitment from all parties, including the government, law enforcement, and the community (Santiago, 2017).

The role of law in eradicating corruption is very important because the law functions as the main instrument for upholding justice and regulating behavior that deviates from community norms and ethical principles. In the context of eradicating corruption, the law functions as a regulatory framework that describes crimes involving corruption, establishes punishments for offenders, and specifies protocols that must be adhered to throughout the prosecution and trial process (Jahja, 2012). A thorough legal foundation for eliminating corruption is provided by the current legal framework, which includes Law Number 31 of 1999 and Law Number 20 of 2001, which deal with the topic. This framework includes a definition of corruption, specifications of various criminal sanctions, and delegation of authority to law enforcement agencies, including the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK), the Prosecutor's Office, and the Police, to handle corruption-related cases.

In addition, the law plays an important role in building a transparent and accountable system by regulating the mechanism for monitoring public policies and the allocation of state funds. A fair and impartial judicial process, accompanied by the application of strict sanctions, is expected to be a deterrent, thereby reducing corruption (Sutrisno, 2020). Furthermore, the law plays a preventive role by regulating the behavior of public officials, entrepreneurs, and the community, as well as fostering collective awareness to prevent corrupt practices. Therefore, the role of the law in eradicating corruption is not only limited to taking action against perpetrators but also includes preventive measures through policy reform and improving an effective monitoring system (Tampubolon, 2014).

## **2. METHOD**

This research method uses a normative legal method, which is an approach that focuses on the study of laws regulations, and legal documents related to the eradication of corruption in Indonesia. This method aims to analyze the legal norms that regulate criminal corruption and how well they are applied in real-world situations. This study's data came from both primary and secondary sources. Laws and regulations such as Law Number 31 of 1999 and Law Number 20 of 2001 concerning the Eradication of Criminal Acts of Corruption are examples of primary sources, other implementing regulations, and relevant court decisions. Meanwhile, secondary sources include books, scientific journals, legal articles, and reports from affiliated institutions, such as the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK). The

analytical approach used in this study is qualitative analysis, where the data obtained is analyzed systematically to understand the extent to which existing regulations can overcome corruption problems and identify obstacles in their implementation. In addition, this study also uses a conceptual approach to provide a broader perspective on the effectiveness of the legal system in dealing with corruption. By using this method, the research is expected to provide academic contributions and offer more effective legal solutions for eradicating corruption in Indonesia.

### **3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

#### **Effectiveness of Eradication and the Role of the KPK in Corruption Crimes**

The Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK), an independent organization, plays a crucial role in Indonesia's efforts to eradicate corruption mandated by the state to have special authority in handling corruption cases (Simbolon, 2020). Since its establishment in 2002, the KPK has played an important role in uncovering various significant corruption cases, at the national and local levels. Investigating, questioning, and prosecuting corruption cases is the KPK's primary goal., including those involving high-ranking state officials, members of the legislature, and businessmen involved in bribery, gratification, or abuse of authority. One of the KPK's prominent advantages lies in its ability to conduct wiretapping, searches, and seizures as an integral component of its efforts to collect valid evidence (Laurencia, 2019).

In addition, the KPK also plays an important role in preventing corruption. The KPK carries out various education, socialization, and assistance programs to increase public and government awareness of the importance of anti-corruption efforts (Wibawa et al, 2021). In addition, the KPK supervises policies and the use of the state budget to ensure that public funds are used effectively and free from corrupt practices. This institution collaborates with various stakeholders, including other law enforcement agencies, the government, and civil society, to build a stronger oversight system and effectively prevent corruption in the future (Suyatmiko, 2019).

Although the role of the KPK is very significant, its effectiveness in eradicating corruption is still overshadowed by various challenges. One of these challenges is political interference aimed at weakening the independence of the KPK (Siregar et al., 2024). In addition, there are obstacles to coordination between the KPK and other law enforcement agencies, such as the Police and the Prosecutor's Office. In addition, despite its broad authority, the KPK often faces obstacles in terms of human resources, budget constraints, and protection of witnesses and informants involved in corruption cases. As an institution at the forefront of

eradicating corruption, the KPK faces threats to the safety of its personnel and officials, which further hampers its ability to handle major cases effectively (Umam, 2019).

There is a legal basis that explains the role of the KPK in eradicating corruption, such as Article 6 of Law Number 30 of 2002 concerning the Corruption Eradication Commission, which explains the duties and authorities of the KPK and regulates the authority of the KPK in conducting investigations, inquiries, and prosecutions of corruption. This article also regulates the authority of the KPK to conduct wiretapping, searches, and seizures to prove corruption. Then Article 12B of Law Number 20 of 2001 concerning the Eradication of Corruption, regulates the types of corruption and the sanctions that can be imposed on the perpetrators, this article also regulates the obligation of everyone to report corruption that they know about. Furthermore, According to this article, the KPK is empowered to look into cases of corruption involving state officials or connected parties.

The KPK is empowered to investigate and inquire into corruption charges involving state administrators and the general public under Article 41 of Law Number 30 of 2002 establishing the Corruption Eradication Commission. This article gives the KPK's actions in pursuing corruption charges a legal foundation, including the authority to determine suspects and summon witnesses and defendants. Then Article 42, gives the KPK the authority to conduct examinations and searches in order to uncover corruption. This article regulates the procedures and provisions regarding searches and seizures carried out by the KPK in order to collect valid evidence in court.

Then, consequences against those involved in corruption are governed by Law Number 20 of 2001 about the Eradication of Corruption and Articles 55 and 56 of Law Number 31 of 1999, either as the main perpetrator, assistant perpetrator, or perpetrator in the process of the crime. These articles emphasize the importance of criminal responsibility for all people involved in corruption, without exception. With its broad authority in prosecution and prevention, the KPK plays a key role in creating a clean and corruption-free government. However, in order for the KPK to operate optimally, support from the government and the community as well as protection of its independence are needed to overcome existing challenges (Wibangsa, 2025).

## **Implementation and Challenges of the Corruption Eradication Commission in Eradicating Criminal Acts of Corruption**

The implementation of the law on the eradication of criminal acts of corruption in Indonesia still encounters various obstacles that hinder its effectiveness. One of the most significant challenges is the lack of regulations and overlapping authority structures (Alatas, 2024). Although there are various rules and regulations that control the elimination of corruption, including Law Number 20 of 2001 concerning the Eradication of Criminal Acts of Corruption and Law Number 31 of 1999, as well as cooperation between law enforcement agencies is often not running well. The Corruption Eradication Commission, the Prosecutor's Office, and the Police have the same authority in handling corruption cases, but the lack of clear coordination between these institutions can confuse decision-making and division of tasks. In addition, several existing laws and regulations still contain loopholes or weaknesses that can be exploited by perpetrators of corruption to avoid sanctions, such as legal mechanisms that have not fully prevented conflicts of interest or abuse of authority by public officials (Weenas, 2024).

Another significant challenge is political interference in law enforcement. Corruption practices in Indonesia often involve public officials who have political influence, making law enforcement agencies very vulnerable to political interference. Intervention from various parties, including politicians, businessmen, and interest groups, can weaken the position of law enforcement organizations, including the Commission to Eradicate Corruption, in investigating major cases. This intervention can jeopardize the independence of investigations and prosecutions, leading to the termination of investigations or the neglect of cases involving political figures or influential groups. As a result, this political intervention not only erodes public trust in the legal system but also worsens the existing climate of corruption (Baidi, 2019).

Weak sanctions and deterrent effects for perpetrators of corruption are also significant factors that hinder the effectiveness of efforts to eradicate corruption. Although severe sanctions have been imposed, many perpetrators of corruption have managed to escape severe punishment or receive light sentences. This phenomenon is often associated with a weak judicial system, minimal evidence, and non-transparent judicial practices (Bukit, 2025). Furthermore, the protracted and expensive legal process, coupled with the preferential treatment of high-ranking state figures or officials, creates a perception among perpetrators of criminal acts that they can avoid sanctions or receive sentences that are not commensurate with the losses caused by their actions. As a result, this weak deterrent effect makes corrupt practices

continue so that their impact on reducing the overall level of corruption in the country is minimal (Siregar et al., 2024).

To overcome the above challenges, steps are needed to strengthen law enforcement regulations. To eradicate corruption effectively, a systematic and comprehensive strategy is needed to overcome these challenges (Hariwangsa, 2024). One key strategy is to harmonize laws and regulations. Many overlapping or unsynchronized laws and regulations often hinder effective law enforcement. Therefore, it is necessary to draft and revise relevant laws and regulations to ensure legal clarity and certainty (Komariah, 2016). The harmonization also requires coordination of authority between law enforcement organizations, including the Prosecutor's Office, the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK), and the Police, to ensure that each agency has a clear scope of duties without overlapping. Furthermore, the drafting of more integrated and comprehensive laws and regulations will reduce legal loopholes that are often exploited by perpetrators of corruption, thereby accelerating the prosecution and trial process (Megawati, 2024).

In addition, increasing transparency and accountability of law enforcement agencies is very important to improve the legal system in eradicating corruption. Institutions involved in eradicating corruption must have clear internal mechanisms and be strictly supervised so that there is no abuse of authority in conducting their duties. Increasing transparency can be done by implementing a more open system in decision-making, including in appointing investigators, prosecutors, or judges who handle corruption cases. In addition, these institutions also need to be accountable for all their actions to the public through clear and easily accessible reports, both related to budget management, policies, and the development of cases handled. With higher accountability, the public will have more trust in the legal system, and law enforcement agencies can be freer from external influences that could potentially damage their integrity (Herdani, 2022).

Improving oversight mechanisms and public participation are important strategies to strengthen law enforcement. Community involvement, media collaboration, and partnerships with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) can provide more effective social control over the actions of law enforcement agencies. One important initiative is to strengthen the role of the community in reporting corruption cases through safe and trusted official channels. This external supervision can effectively prevent abuse of authority or negligence in handling corruption cases. Conversely, public participation can be strengthened through legal education and anti-corruption campaigns, which foster a legal culture that supports the prevention and eradication of corruption. By combining increased supervision with active public involvement,

it is hoped that law enforcement will be more effective, thereby avoiding intervention or detrimental practices (Ramadhani, 2024).

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Corruption in Indonesia is a complex problem that has a wide impact on the country's social, political, and economic order, damaging the integrity of state institutions, hampering economic growth, and exacerbating social inequality. Although Indonesia has various legal instruments and anti-corruption institutions such as the KPK, the problem of corruption remains a major challenge that requires serious commitment from all parties. The law plays a vital role in eradicating corruption, not only as a tool for enforcing justice through criminal sanctions but also as a preventive instrument to build a more transparent and accountable system. Therefore, the success of eradicating corruption requires alignment between firm action, policy reform, and more effective supervision to create a clean and just government.

Eradicating corruption in Indonesia still faces significant obstacles, mainly originating from overlapping regulations, political interference, as well as inadequate sanctions, and a lack of deterrent effect for perpetrators of corruption. To overcome these obstacles, efforts are needed to increase the capacity of law enforcement. It requires the harmonization of laws and regulations to minimize legal loopholes and increase coordination between law enforcement agencies. In addition, increasing transparency and accountability of law enforcement agencies is essential to prevent abuse of authority. Supervision involving the community and cooperation with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) can strengthen social control over law enforcement. With the implementation of this strategy comprehensively, it is hoped that law enforcement efforts in eradicating corruption can be improved so that corrupt practices in Indonesia can be suppressed.

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