

# The Effectiveness of Indonesia's Anti-Corruption Law on Legal Reform and Implementation

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## ABSTRACT

This study examines the efficacy of Indonesia's anti-corruption legislation in the wider framework of legislative restructuring and its execution. The paper investigates the legal frameworks and regulatory measures implemented to combat corruption, using a normative juridical analysis. The primary objective is to examine the impact of these laws on legal reform, evaluate their enforcement, and highlight the problems encountered in their practical implementation. The results demonstrate substantial advancements in legislative actions, but also underscore enduring barriers in execution, such as legal ambiguities, administrative stagnation, and corruption within law enforcement entities. This study highlights the importance of implementing comprehensive legal reforms and strong policies to improve the effectiveness of anti-corruption measures in Indonesia. Guidelines are given to promote future anti-corruption efforts by improving the legislative framework, increasing institutional capability, and cultivating political backing.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The presence of corruption in Indonesia presents a substantial menace to the progress of the economy, the confidence of society, and the integrity of governance. The fight against corruption has been carried out through several approaches, including the implementation of anti-corruption legislation such as Undang-Undang Number 31 of 1999 and the founding of the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) [1], [2]. The laws in question specifically address several manifestations of corruption, including as bribery, embezzlement, and conflicts of interest in procurement. This demonstrates a

comprehensive strategy aimed at combating corrupt activities [1]. Nevertheless, Indonesia continues to face obstacles, as corruption continues to have a detrimental effect on economic growth and worsen poverty levels [3]. In order to effectively tackle these problems, it is necessary to establish comprehensive enforcement procedures, foster international collaboration, and implement legislation changes that promote transparency and accountability in both the public and private spheres [4]. Indonesia can work towards achieving sustainable development and good governance by

promoting a culture of integrity and actively fighting against corruption at every level.

Indonesia has made significant progress in its efforts to eradicate corruption, with the creation of the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) and the implementation of anti-corruption legislation [2], [5]. Nevertheless, despite these endeavors, corruption continues to pose a substantial impediment to the country's advancement, manifesting in diverse manifestations such as bribery, embezzlement, and nepotism [1]. The

continued existence of these unethical behaviors highlights the importance of evaluating the efficiency of current legal structures and the difficulties faced in enforcing them [6], [7]. In order to eliminate corruption, a comprehensive strategy is necessary, which encompasses not only the legal issues but also the mindset and integrity of those in positions of power and authority, as well as the implementation of strong control and management mechanisms [6].

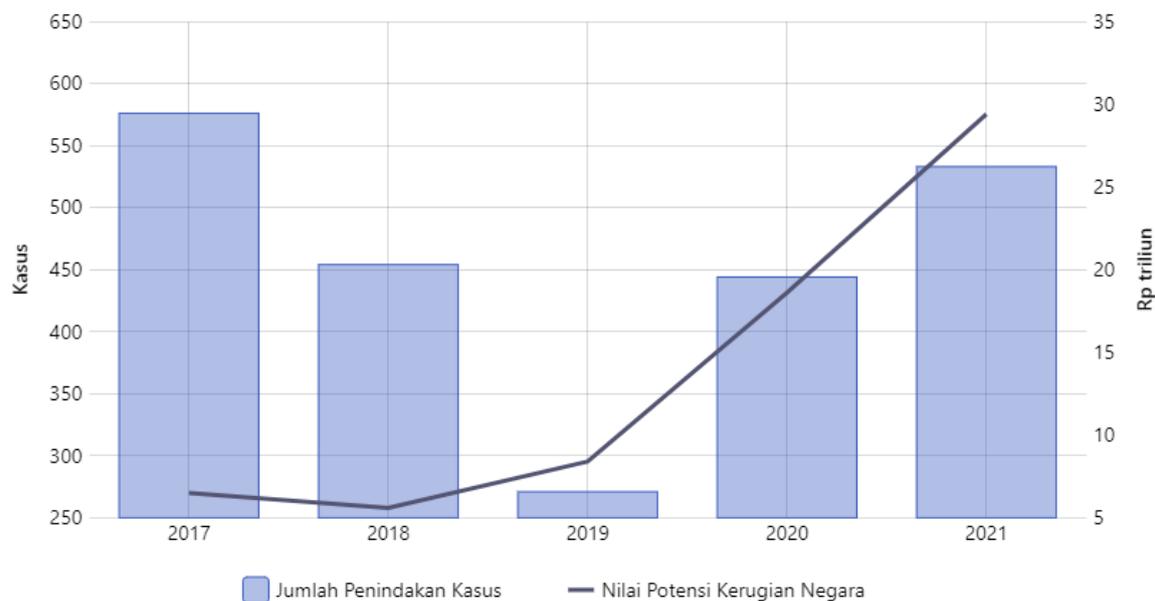


Figure 1. Trends in Case Prosecution and Potential State Losses due to Corruption (2017-2021)

In 2021, law enforcement officers (APH) prosecuted a total of 533 corruption cases, as reported by Indonesia Corruption Watch (ICW). The cumulative state losses accrued from all these lawsuits amounted to IDR 29.4 trillion. The amount of corruption cases that APH has successfully prosecuted in 2021 has surpassed the previous year and has exhibited fluctuations over the past five years. Nevertheless, the graph illustrates a consistent upward trend in the value of prospective state losses from 2017 to 2021. ICW's analysis suggests that the government's annual budget management is deteriorating in terms of oversight. ICW further offers an evaluation of the law enforcement authorities' handling of corruption cases, specifically the Police, the Attorney General's Office, and the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK).

Regarding the disclosure of information in case processing, ICW evaluates that the Police and the Attorney General's Office have a tendency to be uncommunicative, whereas the KPK is highly forthcoming. The performance of each APH in 2021 only achieved 24% of the target, resulting in ICW assigning a grade of 'D' or 'poor'.

The objective of this study is to conduct a thorough examination of Indonesia's anti-corruption legislation, assessing its contribution to legal restructuring and appraising the practical obstacles encountered in its implementation. The research uses a normative juridical method to examine legal texts, judicial decisions, and enforcement procedures in order to assess the effectiveness of the law in combating corruption. The paper also examines the

interaction between law reforms and the wider socio-political milieu, emphasizing how institutional deficiencies and political dynamics impact the efficacy of anti-corruption initiatives.

To address these challenges, this paper is organized as follows: The following sections include a comprehensive analysis of Indonesia's anti-corruption legislation, followed by an assessment of its execution. Next, the conversation turns to an examination of the legal and institutional obstacles that impede the success of anti-corruption initiatives. Ultimately, the report ends by providing suggestions for improving the legislative framework and its enforcement in order to better address corruption in Indonesia.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

### 2.1 *Anti-Corruption Laws in Indonesia*

Indonesia has a strong legal framework to combat corruption, which includes important legislation such as Law No. 31 of 1999 on the Eradication of Criminal Acts of Corruption. This law has been updated by Law No. 20 of 2001 and it clearly specifies several types of corruption offenses, such as bribery and embezzlement, and imposes harsh punishments [1]. In addition, Law No. 30 of 2002 created the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK), a separate entity that is essential in examining and bringing legal action against instances of corruption. The KPK plays a critical role in exposing prominent incidents of corruption and improving the level of openness in public administration [2]. The measures taken to address corruption in Indonesia include the implementation of comprehensive enforcement, collaboration with international entities, and the establishment of cohesive rules [1]. The nation's dedication to eliminating corruption is apparent through legislative revisions and the creation of specialist anti-corruption entities, demonstrating a comprehensive strategy to

combatting corrupt behaviors and fostering effective governance.

### 2.2 *Legal Reform and Institutional Framework*

The process of legal reform in Indonesia, specifically in the fight against corruption, has been ongoing and has received backing from foreign organizations and civil society groups [8]. Significant milestones in this path include the formation of specialist anti-corruption courts and initiatives to improve judicial independence [9]. Nevertheless, the implementation of these legal reforms is sometimes impeded by problems such as political interference, lack of inter-agency coordination, and insufficient resources [10]. In order to tackle these difficulties, it is crucial to adopt a comprehensive strategy for legislative reform that encompasses both the legal structure and institutional components of anti-corruption initiatives [10]. Implementing this comprehensive plan is essential for enhancing Indonesia's legal and institutional frameworks and effectively combating corruption within the country.

### 2.3 *Implementation of Anti-Corruption Laws*

The enforcement of anti-corruption legislation in Indonesia, specifically through the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK), has been the subject of in-depth academic discourse. Although the KPK has achieved notable progress in prosecuting top-level officials and reclaiming misappropriated funds [2], its efficacy is frequently hindered by opposition from other parts of government and endeavors to undermine its power through legislative modifications [7]. Research indicates that the implementation of anti-corruption legislation is significantly affected by the wider socio-political context, as corruption is firmly ingrained in Indonesia's political and bureaucratic structures. This presents difficulties in maintaining long-term efforts to combat corruption. Academics emphasize the significance of ongoing and thorough endeavors to establish a culture of honesty

and responsibility in public organizations in order to effectively combat corruption [6].

#### *2.4 Gaps in the Literature*

Although there is a significant body of literature on the anti-corruption legislation in Indonesia and their enforcement, there are still numerous areas that lack sufficient coverage. There is a requirement for additional empirical research that evaluates the effects of particular anti-corruption methods on diminishing corruption levels. Furthermore, the extent to which civil society and media contribute to the advancement of anti-corruption initiatives has not been adequately investigated. Regrettably, there is a scarcity of evidence regarding the enduring viability of anti-corruption initiatives in Indonesia.

### **3. METHODS**

#### *3.1 Research Design*

This study utilizes a normative juridical method to assess the efficacy of Indonesia's anti-corruption legislation in promoting legal change and its execution. The normative juridical technique entails a comprehensive analysis of legal texts, regulations, and court decisions to assess their adherence to recognized legal principles and their practical consequences. This method is especially well-suited for comprehending the complexities of legal systems and the difficulties involved in enforcing them.

#### *3.2 Data Collection*

The research is based on a combination of primary and secondary data sources. Primary data comprises legal documents, such as the texts of anti-corruption laws (Law No. 31 of 1999 and Law No. 20 of 2001), judicial decisions, and official reports from the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) and other relevant governmental bodies. These documents serve as the fundamental basis for analyzing the legal framework and its enforcement mechanisms. Secondary data encompasses scholarly articles, books, reports from non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and international organizations that specifically

address anti-corruption measures. This type of data provides additional context and aids in the analysis of primary data by offering different viewpoints on the efficacy and obstacles of anti-corruption endeavors in Indonesia.

#### *3.3 Data Analysis*

The analysis comprises multiple sequential steps: Legal Text Analysis is a thorough examination of anti-corruption laws and other legal documents to identify important sections, comprehend their goals, and evaluate their compliance with international standards. Case Law Analysis involves examining judicial rulings to get insight into how courts interpret and enforce anti-corruption legislation. This analysis aims to discover patterns, obstacles, and the efficacy of legal processes employed by the judiciary. Institutional Analysis assesses the function and efficacy of crucial anti-corruption institutions, with a specific focus on the KPK, using official reports, performance statistics, and case studies. The Comparative Analysis assesses Indonesia's anti-corruption laws and their implementation by comparing them to international best practices. It aims to identify areas for improvement and draw lessons that can be applied to Indonesia. On the other hand, the Sociopolitical Context Analysis examines the wider sociopolitical environment, including political dynamics, public opinion, and media influence. It seeks to understand how external factors impact the effectiveness of legal reforms and their enforcement.

### **4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

#### *4.1 Legislative Framework*

Upon analyzing Indonesia's legal framework, it becomes evident that substantial progress has been achieved in the establishment of comprehensive anti-corruption measures. The main legislation, which consists of Law No. 31 of 1999 on the Elimination of Criminal Acts of Corruption, modified by Law No. 20 of 2001, provides precise explanations and harsh punishments

for several types of corruption. These laws are intended to establish a robust legal framework for addressing corruption in many industries.

The enactment of Law No. 30 of 2002, which established the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK), marks a significant milestone in Indonesia's efforts to combat corruption. The KPK is endowed with extensive jurisdiction to scrutinize, litigate, and deter corruption, demonstrating the government's dedication to tackling this widespread problem. However, the efficacy of these laws relies on their execution and the operational capability of anti-corruption institutions.

#### *4.2 Institutional Effectiveness*

The Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) has been instrumental in executing anti-corruption legislation. The KPK has effectively pursued multiple prominent cases involving senior government officials, parliamentarians, and business figures since its establishment. The commission's endeavors have not only resulted in notable legal triumphs but also heightened public consciousness on the significance of battling corruption.

Notwithstanding these accomplishments, the KPK encounters significant obstacles that impede its efficacy. The problem of political meddling is a constant issue, as there have been efforts to limit the authority of the commission through changes in legislation and regulations.

The 2019 modification of the KPK Law included certain features that critics claim undermines the independence and operational effectiveness of the commission. These modifications entail the necessity for KPK investigators to acquire prior authorization from a recently constituted oversight committee before carrying out wiretaps, which can impede investigations and diminish the element of unexpectedness in anti-corruption operations.

In addition, the KPK's endeavors are frequently hindered by the absence of coordination and collaboration with other law enforcement authorities. The presence of

corruption inside the police force and judiciary creates further challenges, as these institutions play a vital role in effectively prosecuting and resolving corruption matters. The report emphasizes the necessity of improving cooperation between different agencies and implementing programs to develop skills and abilities in order to reinforce the whole system for combating corruption.

#### *4.3 Implementation Challenges*

The enforcement of anti-corruption legislation in Indonesia is hindered by various obstacles, which undermine their efficacy. An important problem is the widespread existence of legal loopholes and ambiguities in the legislation, which can be manipulated by corrupt individuals to avoid being held accountable. For instance, the precise definitions of specific corruption offenses within the legal framework may be ambiguous, resulting in different interpretations and inconsistent application of the law.

Another notable obstacle is the bureaucratic lethargy and reluctance to embrace change inside government organizations. The deeply ingrained culture of corruption and the pursuit of personal gain through manipulation of the system provide obstacles to the successful implementation of reforms and the advancement of ethical standards. Attempts to simplify administrative procedures and improve transparency are frequently opposed by officials who gain advantages from the existing system.

The study also highlights the constrained resources and inadequate capacity of anti-corruption organizations as a crucial obstacle to achieving successful implementation. The KPK and other pertinent entities frequently face limitations due to poor financial resources, insufficient personnel, and restricted availability of sophisticated investigative equipment. These constraints impede their capacity to carry out comprehensive investigations, efficiently prosecute crimes, and implement proactive actions.

#### 4.4 Socio-Political Context

The execution of anti-corruption measures in Indonesia is greatly influenced by the broader socio-political setting. The study concludes that the success of anti-corruption programs heavily relies on the presence of public support. Civil society organizations, media, and the general public have a crucial function in ensuring government officials are held responsible and in pressing for more robust anti-corruption policies.

Nevertheless, the political environment in Indonesia is marked by intricate power dynamics and vested interests that have the potential to hinder anti-corruption endeavors. Political leaders and influential business individuals possess the resources to impede investigations and manipulate court proceedings in their favor. The study highlights the significance of cultivating a political atmosphere that promotes transparency, accountability, and adherence to the rule of law.

#### 4.5 Comparative Analysis

Studying the anti-corruption regimes in other nations allows Indonesia to gain useful lessons. Countries like Singapore and Hong Kong have successfully addressed corruption by prioritizing robust political determination, autonomous anti-corruption organizations, and stringent legislative frameworks. [11], [12] The number is 3. The number 4. The number 5. Indonesia must prioritize strengthening the autonomy and capability of its anti-corruption institutions, while also ensuring the continuous execution of laws, in order to achieve success similar to these countries. Indonesia can enhance its anti-corruption endeavors by emulating the practices of Singapore and Hong Kong [13]. This can be achieved by depoliticizing its institutions, garnering public backing, safeguarding individuals who expose corruption, and ensuring sustained political endorsement for anti-corruption measures. Indonesia's endorsement of anti-corruption treaties, in accordance with global norms, can demonstrate its dedication to combating corruption, enhancing transparency, and enticing foreign investment. This, in turn, can

ultimately aid in achieving sustainable development and fostering regional collaboration in Southeast Asia [14], [15].

The study also highlights that public education and awareness campaigns are efficacious means to alter individuals' perspectives about corruption. By fostering a culture that prioritizes honesty and ethical conduct, these programs can enhance and support the legal and institutional initiatives aimed at combating corruption.

#### Recommendations

According to the results, the study provides multiple suggestions to improve the efficiency of Indonesia's anti-corruption legislation:

- a. Resolve legal uncertainties and eliminate loopholes to establish unambiguous and uniform definitions of corruption crimes. Propose revisions that strengthen the autonomy and power of the KPK and other anti-corruption organizations.
- b. Allocate additional resources, personnel, and enhance the availability of sophisticated investigative instruments for anti-corruption authorities. Establish capacity-building initiatives aimed at enhancing the proficiency and knowledge of investigators and prosecutors.
- c. Promote synergy and harmonization across law enforcement entities, encompassing the police, judiciary, and anti-corruption institutions. Create systems for exchanging information and coordinating actions to improve the efficiency of anti-corruption endeavors.
- d. Enhance the involvement of civil society organizations, media, and the public in the oversight and disclosure of corruption. Advocate for the implementation of public education and awareness initiatives aimed at fostering a societal ethos centered around integrity and ethical conduct.
- e. Promote unwavering political dedication to implementing anti-

corruption measures throughout all tiers of government. Urge political leaders to give top priority to transparency, accountability, and adherence to the rule of law in their agendas.

## 5. CONCLUSION

This study provides a comprehensive analysis of the effectiveness of Indonesia's anti-corruption law in driving legal reform and its implementation. The findings indicate that while significant progress has been made in establishing a robust legislative framework and empowering key institutions such as the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK), numerous challenges persist that hinder the full realization of anti-corruption objectives. The legislative framework, though comprehensive, suffers from legal ambiguities and loopholes that can be exploited by corrupt actors. The KPK, despite its notable successes, faces substantial

challenges including political interference, lack of coordination with other law enforcement agencies, and limited resources, significantly impeding the effectiveness of anti-corruption measures. The broader socio-political context also plays a critical role in the implementation of anti-corruption laws. The entrenched culture of corruption, coupled with bureaucratic resistance and vested interests, poses significant obstacles to reform efforts. Public support and civil society engagement are essential to overcoming these challenges and fostering a culture of integrity and accountability. The study concludes with several key recommendations: strengthening the legal framework by addressing ambiguities and closing loopholes; enhancing the capacity and independence of anti-corruption institutions; promoting inter-agency cooperation; engaging civil society and the public in anti-corruption efforts; and ensuring strong political support for transparency and accountability initiatives.

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