

# Analysis of the Role of the Constitution, Legislature, and Judiciary in Maintaining the Principles of Government Effectiveness in Indonesia

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## Article Info

### Article history:

Received January 2024

Revised January 2024

Accepted January 2024

### Keywords:

Constitution  
Legislature  
Judiciary  
Maintaining  
Government Effectiveness  
Indonesia

## ABSTRACT

This research conducts a thorough document analysis to examine the roles of the Constitution, Legislature, and Judiciary in maintaining government effectiveness in Indonesia. The historical evolution of the Indonesian Constitution is explored, emphasizing its dynamic nature and adaptability to the nation's political and societal changes. The study delves into the separation of powers, constitutional safeguards, and specific provisions influencing government effectiveness. Legislative analysis scrutinizes key acts shaping government operations, emphasizing the role of the legislature in oversight and accountability. Judicial analysis focuses on judicial review, the enforcement of the rule of law, and the judiciary's contributions to legal precedents. Interactions between the three pillars are examined for collaborative synergies and potential challenges. Comparative perspectives and implications for policymakers and legal scholars are discussed, along with recommendations for enhancing government effectiveness. The research identifies future research directions, contributing to a nuanced understanding of the governance landscape in Indonesia

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Government effectiveness is crucial for societal progress as it reflects a country's ability to efficiently implement policies, deliver public services, and respond to the needs of its citizens. Studies have shown that government effectiveness is positively related to factors such as control of corruption, political stability, and absence of violence/terrorism [1]. However, the impact of government effectiveness on socio-

economic development is still debated, with some studies finding insignificant effects on indicators like the Human Development Index (HDI) [2]. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, government effectiveness has played a vital role in tackling the crisis, with factors like health system capacity and government transparency being associated with lower infection rates [3]. Ineffective governance can undermine the general welfare and pave the way for authoritarian

regimes [4]. Understanding and improving government effectiveness is essential for promoting societal well-being and democratic sustainability.

Understanding the complex relationship between the constitutional, legislative, and judicial pillars is crucial to understanding the factors that contribute to the effectiveness of governance in Indonesia. The Indonesian constitution, particularly the 1945 Constitution, affirms a strong position and relationship between the people and the ruler [5]. The dynamics of legal politics in Indonesian constitutionalism have influenced the formation of laws and related authorities, shaping the direction of the country's current development [6]. The post-1998 era was characterized by deliberate amendments to the 1945 Constitution, which introduced changes to the legal and political system, including an emphasis on the independence of the judiciary and the Constitution [7]. The institutional framework for elections in Indonesia has evolved, with frequent changes to the legislative framework and a lack of detailed constitutional provisions, creating challenges for EMBs, candidates and voters [8]. Amendments to the 1945 Constitution have resulted in changes to state institutions, with fundamental principles governing the relationship between state institutions including Constitutional Supremacy, the Presidential System, and Separation of Powers and Checks and Balances [9].

Against this background, this research seeks to conduct a careful analysis of the roles played by the Constitution, Legislature and Judiciary in upholding the principles of effective governance in Indonesia. The general objective of this research is to unravel the complexities inherent in the interaction between the constitutional, legislative and judicial frameworks in Indonesia and their collective impact on governance effectiveness. The specific objectives of this research include: (1) Critical Analysis of Constitutional Provisions: Examining the constitutional underpinnings that shape Indonesia's governance structure to ascertain their contribution to governance

effectiveness. (2) Examination of Legislation: Investigating the legislative landscape to identify key laws that affect government operations and, consequently, the efficiency of the governance system. (3) Judicial Role Assessment: Evaluate the role of the judiciary in interpreting and enforcing the law, exploring how judicial decisions contribute to overall government effectiveness. (4) Identification of Synergies and Challenges: Investigating collaborative synergies and potential challenges within the Constitutional, Legislative, and Judicial triad, aiming to understand how they collectively shape government effectiveness.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

### 2.1 Government Effectiveness

Legal and institutional frameworks play an important role in determining the effectiveness of governance [10]. Ineffective governance can lead to disruption of basic government functions and services, as well as pave the way for authoritarian regimes to come to power [1]. Scholars have paid considerable attention to the relationship between constitutionalist structures and democratic sustainability in response to the rise of authoritarianism in democratic countries [4]. The level of government effectiveness is positively associated with factors such as corruption control and political stability, while negatively associated with annual percentage GDP growth [1], [2]. Good governance overall has a positive impact on socio-economic development, including the Human Development Index (HDI) and GDP per capita growth rate. In the context of Indonesia, understanding the intricacies of these frameworks is essential for comprehending the factors influencing government effectiveness.

### 2.2 Constitutional Framework in Indonesia

The Indonesian Constitution, adopted in 1945, provides the foundational principles for the nation's governance [11]. Amendments have been made to reflect the changing socio-political landscape [12]. The

constitutional framework plays a pivotal role in shaping legal and institutional mechanisms that contribute to government effectiveness [7]. The separation of powers and the distribution of responsibilities among the executive, legislative, and judicial branches are central to this framework [9].

### **2.3 Legislative Framework**

The Indonesian Legislature, consisting of the MPR, DPR, and DPD, plays a crucial role in shaping laws and providing the legal basis for government operations. The legislative branch's oversight and accountability mechanisms are instrumental in ensuring effective governance [13]. The DPD, as part of the legislature, has limited authority in the law-forming process, only being able to propose, participate in discussions, and provide considerations to the DPR over draft laws [14]. However, the DPD's function and authority are not clearly defined, hindering its ability to contribute to legislation effectively [15]. The DPRD, another legislative body, faces challenges in converting regional regulations drafts into regional regulations, and its communication with the government follows the Prudential Principle [16]. The DPRD's role includes formulating regional regulations and overseeing their implementation [17]. Overall, the Indonesian Legislature's role in lawmaking and governance is crucial, but some areas need improvement to enhance its effectiveness and accountability.

### **2.4 Judicial Framework**

The judiciary in Indonesia, led by the Supreme Court, plays a crucial role in interpreting and upholding the law, contributing to the development of legal precedents, and influencing the behavior of other branches of government [18]. The judiciary's enforcement of the rule of law and its power of judicial review are essential for ensuring government effectiveness [19]. The principle of freedom of action for judges allows them to make decisions guided by the values of justice, usefulness, and certainty for society [20]. Indonesian judges understand and exercise their freedom responsibly, free from coercion or pressure, to provide

objective and fair decisions [21]. The state administrative court in Indonesia, as a young court, follows principles such as activity, not knowing conversion, not knowing peace, presuming *iusta causa*, and protection of the public interest [22].

### **2.5 Gaps in Existing Literature**

While existing literature provides valuable insights into various aspects of government effectiveness in Indonesia, there is a need for a comprehensive analysis that brings together the roles of the Constitution, Legislature, and Judiciary. This research aims to address this gap by conducting an in-depth document analysis to unravel the nuanced dynamics between these three pillars of governance.

## **3. METHODS**

### **3.1 Rationale for Document Analysis**

This research employs a document analysis approach to comprehensively investigate the roles of the Constitution, Legislature, and Judiciary in maintaining government effectiveness in Indonesia. Document analysis is chosen as the primary methodology due to its efficacy in systematically examining official documents, legal texts, constitutional provisions, legislative acts, and judicial decisions. This method allows for a nuanced exploration of the interactions and contributions of the three key pillars of governance.

### **3.2 Sampling Strategy**

The sampling strategy involves the selection of a representative sample of documents that are pivotal in shaping the legal and institutional landscape of Indonesia. The criteria for selection include historical relevance, contemporary importance, and the diversity of legal instruments. Key documents include constitutional provisions, landmark legislative acts, and significant judicial decisions that have a direct impact on government effectiveness.

### **3.3 Data Collection**

Primary and secondary sources will be employed for data collection. Primary sources include the Indonesian Constitution,

legislative acts, and judicial decisions. These documents provide the foundational material for understanding the legal framework governing the nation. Secondary sources encompass scholarly articles, legal commentaries, and government reports, providing additional perspectives and context to the primary documents.

### **3.4 Document Selection Criteria**

The selection of documents is guided by the following criteria:

- a. **Relevance:** Documents that directly address the roles of the Constitution, Legislature, and Judiciary in government effectiveness.
- b. **Significance:** Documents that have historical or contemporary importance in shaping the legal and governance landscape.
- c. **Diversity:** A representation of various legal instruments, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of the subject matter.

### **3.5 Data Analysis**

The data analysis process involves a multi-faceted approach, employing comparative analysis and content analysis techniques. This method allows for the identification of patterns, trends, and differences across different documents. It enables a nuanced understanding of how various legal instruments contribute to government effectiveness. This technique involves a systematic examination of the content within documents, focusing on key themes, language nuances, and contextual information. Content analysis aids in extracting meaningful insights from the selected documents.

## **4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **4.1 Constitutional Analysis**

#### **4.1.1 The Indonesian Constitution's Historical Evolution**

The fascinating journey of the Indonesian Constitution's historical development is closely linked to the country's socio-political story. Since Indonesia declared independence in 1945, the Constitution has

undergone modifications that have taken into account the country's adaptability and resiliency. These revisions—which are characterized by major turning points—include responses to changes in the country's goals, politics, and culture. Every amendment demonstrates how flexible the Constitution is, responding to the evolving demands of an evolving democracy.

#### **4.1.2 Division of Authorities**

The purposeful establishment of the separation of powers among the executive, legislative, and judicial departments is a cornerstone of the Indonesian Constitution. This constitution's design, which was shaped by democratic principles, strives to maintain a system of checks and balances by preventing the consolidation of power. The establishment of clear duties and responsibilities promotes stability and adaptability in government, protecting against any misuse of power.

#### **4.1.3 Constitutional Protections for the Efficiency of Government**

Our examination of particular constitutional clauses reveals the document's dedication to preserving the efficacy of government. The cornerstone of the Constitution's dedication to efficient government is its provisions pertaining to responsibility, openness, and the defense of citizens' rights. The language of the constitution is more than just a piece of legislation; it is a set of guiding values that influence Indonesian governance.

### **4.2 Legislative Analysis**

#### **4.2.1 Laws Affecting How the Government Operates**

Through our analysis of legislative actions, we have discovered a complex legal structure that oversees important facets of Indonesian government operations. Legislative actions about public administration, accountability systems, and budgeting become important pillars that influence the operational environment. These laws establish the norms for effectiveness and openness in public administration in addition to providing the legal framework for the government's daily operations.

#### **4.2.2 Regulatory Monitoring and Responsibility**

The maintenance of government effectiveness is contingent upon the legislative branch's involvement in oversight and accountability systems. The legislative branch keeps a close eye on the executive branch and holds it responsible for its activities through the use of parliamentary committees, audits, and investigations. A strong and efficient governance system depends on the concepts of accountability, which are upheld by this examination in addition to ensuring transparency.

#### **4.2.3 Proposals for Law and Reform**

Our analysis indicates occasions in which legislative measures have acted as catalysts for beneficial change, going beyond the ordinary components of governance. Legislative reforms are an indication of how sensitive the legislature is to the concerns of society and how they seek to improve the efficacy of government. Efforts to improve administrative procedures or tackle new issues through legislation support Indonesia's continuous governance development.

#### **4.2.4 Difficulties with Legislative Procedures**

Our research does, however, also point out difficulties with the legislative procedures that could prevent the best possible performance of the government. Potential obstacles include priorities at odds with one another, periodic disruptions, and delays in enacting important legislation. It becomes essential to address these issues if the legislative branch is to maintain its proactive and successful role in government.

### **4.3 Judicial Analysis**

#### **4.3.1 Court Review and Constitutional Analysis**

The crucial aspects of judicial review and constitutional interpretation are revealed by our examination of the judiciary's function in Indonesia. The judiciary's dedication to maintaining the rule of law and making sure governmental acts are consistent with constitutional principles is demonstrated by landmark cases. A key component that enables the judiciary to function as a check on

possible overreach by the legislative or executive branches is the power of judicial review.

#### **4.3.2 Upholding the Law**

The court plays a crucial role in upholding the rule of law in matters pertaining to administrative judgments, citizen rights, and government activities. The judiciary helps to preserve the general efficacy of government by serving as a safeguard against any abuses of power through its rulings. Maintaining the values of justice and fairness within the governance structure depends on the rule of law being upheld.

#### **4.3.3 guiding principles and legal precedents**

By its rulings, the judiciary creates guiding principles and legal precedents that affect later legal interpretations. By influencing the conduct of other governmental branches and shedding light on legal standards, these precedents aid in the creation of a cogent legal framework. Thus, the judiciary maintains uniformity and predictability within the legal system, acting as a stabilizing influence.

#### **4.3.4 Judicial Autonomy and Responsibility**

The significance of judicial independence in maintaining the efficacy of government is highlighted by our analysis. The public's trust depends on the judiciary's ability to act impartially and independently of outside influences. The judiciary's accountability systems, which strike a careful balance between independence and responsibility, guarantee that its authority is used appropriately.

#### **4.3.5 Difficulties with Judicial Procedures**

But there are issues with the legal system. The best possible government efficacy is hampered by capacity concerns, potential contradictions in judicial decisions, and delays in legal proceedings. It is essential to address these issues if the judiciary is to continue serving as a pillar of the Indonesian political system.

### **4.4 Interactions Between the Constitution, Legislature, and Judiciary**

Our investigation into how the Constitution, Legislature, and Judiciary interact reveals instances of cooperative synergies that serve as the foundation for Indonesia's governance framework. The three pillars of a coherent system—judicial decisions upholding constitutional values, legislative acts strengthening accountability, and constitutional provisions supporting judicial review—all function well together. As the founding charter, the Constitution ensures a careful balance of power by laying the groundwork for cooperation between the legislative and judicial departments.

#### **4.4.1 Constitutional Clauses That Encourage Judicial Review**

The judicial and legislative departments are connected by constitutional provisions that specifically empower the judiciary with the power of judicial review. These sections give the judiciary the authority to evaluate a law's legality, ensuring that legislative actions are consistent with the fundamental values found in the Constitution. The foundations of functional government are strengthened by this process, which is an example of the judiciary and the Constitution working together proactively.

#### **4.4.2 Acts of Congress Promoting Accountability**

Legislative acts, on the other hand, are essential to the governance structure's accountability systems. The legislature passes laws that create frameworks for accountability, openness, and oversight while adhering to constitutional norms. The symbiotic relationship between this legislative support and constitutional values helps the government run smoothly.

#### **4.4.3 Court Ruminations Supporting Constitutional Values**

The values ingrained in the Constitution are upheld and strengthened by judicial decisions that are based on constitutional interpretation. The decisions made by the judiciary in interpreting legal disputes help to establish legal precedents that direct the activities of the legislative and executive branches. The ever-evolving socio-political milieu guarantees the constitutional

principles' continuous relevance and adaptability through their dynamic interaction.

#### **4.5 Challenges and Frictions**

But even in the middle of the benefits, our research also identifies obstacles and conflicts in the ways that the Constitution, Legislature, and Judiciary interact. Conflicting interpretations, legislative backlogs, and constitutional crises are examples of things that could make cooperation difficult. Maintaining a peaceful and efficient governing structure becomes dependent on addressing these issues.

##### **4.5.1 Differing Viewpoints**

Smooth governance is hampered by the legislative and judicial branches' divergent interpretations of the same fundamental clauses. Differing interpretations of the Constitution may give rise to disagreements and impede the efficient execution of laws and regulations. To lessen these disagreements, it is crucial to have open lines of communication and effective dispute resolution procedures.

##### **4.5.2 Constitutional crises and Legislative Delays**

Other difficulties include periodic constitutional crises and delays in the legislative process. The timely enactment of laws that are essential to good governance might be hampered by slow legislative processes. Constitutional crises can cause problems for the regular operation of government because they stem from disagreements over how to interpret the constitution. To overcome these obstacles, we need quick resolution procedures and a dedication to constitutional values.

##### **4.6 Comparative Perspectives**

Cross-national comparative analysis of legal and governance structures provides valuable insights for potential improvements in Indonesia's legal frameworks and government effectiveness. Lessons from successful models can inform reforms that address legal problems, and enhance democracy, political participation, justice, and political stability [23]. Comparative law studies can help trace the origins of legal

conceptions and identify differences and similarities in criminal law systems, which can be useful in improving Indonesia's national criminal law [24]. Comparative studies of constitutional law systems reveal that Indonesia's legal system, based on Pancasila and the Constitution of 1945, recognizes legal plurality, Islamic law, and customary law, which sets it apart from other countries [25]. Comparative analysis of constitutional rights in The Gambia and Indonesia highlights the need for a paradigm shift in strengthening institutions that enforce these rights, emphasizing the importance of citizenship and autonomy of constitutional defense bodies [26]. Comparative analysis of legal systems can also assess the effectiveness of the legal aid system for the poor in Indonesia, identifying areas for improvement in providing meaningful benefits for the poor facing legal problems [27].

#### 4.7 Implications and Recommendations

##### Implications for Policymakers

The findings underscore the critical role of legal frameworks in determining government effectiveness. Policymakers can leverage identified synergies and address challenges to fortify the constitutional, legislative, and judicial foundations, fostering a more effective governance system.

##### Implications for Legal Scholars

Legal scholars can build upon the identified challenges and synergies, contributing to academic discourse and proposing legal reforms. This research provides a foundation for further exploration into specific areas requiring legal attention and refinement.

##### Recommendations for Enhancing Government Effectiveness

Recommendations include targeted reforms, collaborative initiatives between branches, and public awareness campaigns to strengthen the legal and institutional foundations of governance. Implementing these recommendations could bolster the effectiveness of the Indonesian government.

##### Future Research Directions

Identifying potential areas for future research, this study suggests exploring the long-term effects of constitutional amendments, the impact of evolving legislative priorities on government effectiveness, and the judiciary's role in adapting to changing societal norms. These avenues present rich terrain for further investigation.

## 5. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this document analysis provides a comprehensive exploration of the constitutional, legislative, and judicial dimensions shaping government effectiveness in Indonesia. The Constitution emerges as a dynamic and adaptive document, reflecting the nation's democratic journey. Collaborative synergies between the Constitution, Legislature, and Judiciary contribute to the stability of the governance system. Challenges, including conflicting interpretations and legislative delays, highlight areas for improvement. Recommendations for policymakers and legal scholars focus on strengthening the legal and institutional foundations. The study's implications extend to informed decision-making and future research endeavors, fostering a deeper understanding of the legal frameworks that underpin government effectiveness in Indonesia.

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