

Unveiling the Surge in Corruption: A Menacing Threat to Indonesia's Stability in Anti-Corruption Law Reform

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Abstract

This study delves into the persistent challenges of corruption in Indonesia despite extensive anti-corruption initiatives. By examining the multifaceted *modus operandi* across various institutions, we uncover the menacing threat corruption poses to the stability of the nation. The analysis explores structural, cultural, instrumental, and management barriers hindering anti-corruption measures, emphasizing the urgent need for comprehensive reforms. Drawing insights from Law Number 31 of 1999, which classifies corruption actions, including bribery and conflicts of interest, this research underscores the gravity of corruption's impact on state finances, politics, and the economy. To effectively combat this menace, we propose a strategic approach, including the redesign of public services, enhanced transparency, oversight, and sanctions, and the empowerment of mechanisms supporting corruption

prevention. In light of these findings, the study advocates for an integrated law enforcement strategy, international cooperation, and harmonized regulations to strengthen Indonesia's resolve in anti-corruption efforts. The proposed reforms aim not only to curb corruption but also to fortify the stability of the nation, reflecting a crucial step towards a more transparent and accountable governance system.

Keywords

Corruption, Law Enforcement, Regulation

Introduction

Addressing the topic of corruption remains relevant indefinitely. This is primarily due to the fact that the decline of Indonesia's national economic system is, in part, a result of the widespread occurrences of corrupt practices.¹ Corruption in Indonesia unfolds systematically and extensively, not only causing financial losses to the state but also violating the social and economic rights of the broader society.² Consequently, this exacerbates the nation's economic challenges. At this juncture, combating corruption must be carried out extraordinarily, employing specialized methods.

Corruption is not a new crime and is not confined to Indonesia; rather, it is a form of anti-social behavior observed worldwide. According to Mochtar Lubis, corruption persists in societies that do not sharply distinguish between private and public ownership.³ The blurring of lines between community property and individual

¹ Budi Suhariyanto, "Persinggungan Kewenangan Mengadili Penyalahgunaan Diskresi Antara Pengadilan TUN Dan Pengadilan Tipikor," *Jurnal Hukum Dan Peradilan* 7, no. 2 (2018): 213–36; Lilik Mulyadi, *Tindak Pidana Korupsi Di Indonesia (Normatif, Teoritis, Praktik Dan Masalahnya)* (Bandung: PT Alumni, 2007).

² Muhammad Ridho Sinaga, "Konsep Deffered Prosecution Agreement (DPA) Dalam Upaya Pemberantasan Korupsi Oleh Korporasi Di Indonesia," *DE LEGA LATA: Jurnal Ilmu Hukum* 6, no. 1 (2021): 80–97.

³ Dadang S. Anshori, "Bahasa Kritik Mochtar Lubis: Analisis Wacana Kritik Tajuk Rencana Korupsi Pada Harian," *Arkhaiis* 09, no. 1 (2018).

ownership is easily facilitated by those in power. Corruption has deep roots, dating back to eras when authority was concentrated in a "patrimonial bureaucracy" framework that evolved within feudal power structures. It is within such structures that deviations, corruption, and theft easily flourish.⁴

When the reform was initiated, initially, the people of Indonesia had hopes for a transformation in the nation's living conditions, especially in the resolution of longstanding corruption cases. However, in reality, until this moment, the tangible results of anti-corruption efforts have not been satisfying. In fact, instances of corruption appear to be spreading not only at the central level but have also reached the regional level. This is occurring due to the stagnation of reforms in Indonesia, partly because the new realities emerging in this era continue to be managed with old approaches and perspectives. This is a common ailment, including in legal management (at the legislative, judicial, and executive levels). The presence of the Constitutional Court, which was initially expected to have the capacity to articulate legal ideals precisely, contributing enlightenment and new awareness to the legal world, especially through breakthroughs in determining the direction of legal politics based on legal ideals in the constitution, has not achieved success.⁵ The proliferation of corrupt practices is on the rise, both quantitatively and qualitatively. Therefore, it is not an exaggeration to say that corruption in Indonesia is not an ordinary crime but has become an extraordinarily heinous offense.⁶

⁴ Mulyadi, *Tindak Pidana Korupsi Di Indonesia (Normatif, Teoritis, Praktik Dan Masalahnya)*.

⁵ See Arbi Mahmuda Harahap, Catur Wido Haruni, and Sholahuddin Al-Fatih. "Juridical Analysis of Dissenting Opinions of Constitutional Judges in Constitutional Court Decisions." *Jurnal Scientia Indonesia* 8, no. 1 (2022): 89-114; Hery Abduh Sasmito, "Ultra Petita Decision of Constitutional Court on Judicial Review (The Perspective of Progressive Law)." *Journal of Indonesian Legal Studies* 1 no. 1 (2016): 47-68; Ahmad Fauzan, Ayon Diniyanto, and Abdul Hamid. "Regulation Arrangement through The Judicial Power: The Challenges of Adding the Authority of The Constitutional Court and The Supreme Court." *Journal of Law and Legal Reform* 3, no. 3 (2022): 403-430.

⁶ The impact of corruption in Indonesia is multifaceted, affecting various aspects of society, economy, and state institutions. Firstly, corruption leads to massive budgetary wastage, diverting funds intended for infrastructure development, education, healthcare, and other public services. This misallocation impedes

When corruption is classified as an extraordinary crime, efforts to combat it can no longer be conventional but must be carried out in extraordinary ways. However, in reality, the performance of the police and the judiciary in handling corruption over the last five years tends to treat corruption as an ordinary crime, ultimately addressing it with conventional methods. Corruption in Indonesia seems like an incurable

economic growth and exacerbates inequality in access to basic services. Secondly, corruption often results in inflated project costs for infrastructure or public goods and services. Contractors or service providers involved in corrupt practices tend to unreasonably raise prices to maximize profits, while the quality of work or goods delivered is often compromised. Additionally, corruption worsens social and economic disparities in Indonesia, as misappropriated funds tend to flow into the pockets of a few individuals or specific groups, leaving the majority of the population in poverty and uncertainty. Moreover, corruption contributes to environmental degradation in Indonesia. Misuse of authority and bribery in sectors such as mining, forestry, and environmental management often lead to irresponsible resource exploitation, deforestation, environmental pollution, and ecological losses. Furthermore, corruption can undermine political stability in the country. Corrupt practices involving public officials or members of parliament can erode public trust in government institutions and increase domestic political tensions. Additionally, corruption creates public distrust in the government and state institutions. The inability or unwillingness of the government to combat corruption can diminish its legitimacy in the eyes of the public and hinder active participation of the community in the nation's development processes. These narratives highlight the wide-ranging and serious impact of corruption in Indonesia, underscoring the importance of anti-corruption efforts to improve governance and ensure the welfare and justice for all segments of society. *See also* Odie Faiz Guslan, "Maladministration in Corruption Case: A Study of Limitation on the Criminal Action." *Indonesian Journal of Criminal Law Studies* 3, no. 2 (2018): 147-156; Rasdi Rasdi, et al. "When students fight corruption: A portrait of anti-corruption education for elementary school students." *The Indonesian Journal of International Clinical Legal Education* 3, no. 1 (2021): 111-124; Mangaraja Manurung, and Dany Try Hutama Hutabarat. "Public Effort and Participation in the Enforcement of Corruption Eradication in Indonesia." *Pandecta Research Law Journal* 18, no. 1 (2023): 35-46; Satria Unggul Wicaksana Prakasa, "Forestry Sector Corruption and Oligarchy: Lesson Learn from the Laman Kinipan Indigenous People, Central Kalimantan." *Unnes Law Journal* 8, no. 1 (2022): 87-104; Shubhan Noor Hidayat, Lego Karjoko, and Sapto Hermawan. "Discourse on Legal Expression in Arrangements of Corruption Eradication in Indonesia." *Journal of Indonesian Legal Studies* 5, no. 2 (2020): 391-418.

act.⁷ Various government efforts from each regime, involving numerous legislations and the establishment of various institutions to combat corruption, have yielded little progress. Through such efforts, one would expect a reduction in the prevalence of corruption, but the reality remains unchanged and even worsens.

Currently, society is increasingly skeptical and cynical about every government effort to combat corruption cases. The reality of anti-corruption efforts in Indonesia has shown a series of failures, especially in prosecuting high-profile corruptors compared to those involved in smaller-scale corruption. These failures indicate that individuals in lower social strata consistently become victims of injustice in legal actions against corruption cases.

The public's hope for proportionate punishment for perpetrators of corruption has been widely expressed. In this context, the expectation for imposing the maximum punishment, such as life imprisonment or other penalties, depending on the severity of the offenders' actions, serves two main purposes. Firstly, it aims to deliver repeated shock therapy, anticipating a deterrent effect on both current and potential corruptors. Secondly, it aims to break the entrenched system and mechanisms of corruption. The implementation of maximum (lengthy) sentences is expected to sever the established routes of corruption associated with the figures subjected to penalties.⁸

A stringent punishment strategy is crucial because corruption is not merely a deviant behavior but a calculated, cost-benefit ratio-driven action by law offenders with esteemed status. They are adept at evading legal entanglements by exploiting weaknesses within the legal system itself. Their utilization of capabilities and authorities is meticulously calculated, leaving others only able to sense the scent of corruption but powerless when it comes to proving such allegations.

⁷ Irwan Sapta Putra, "Tindak Pidana Korupsi Ditinjau dari HAM di Indonesia." *Jurnal Res Justitia: Jurnal Ilmu Hukum* 2, no. 1 (2022): 87-105. See also Yaris Adhial Fajrin, et al. "Death Penalty for Corruptors in Indonesian Human Rights Perspective." *Unnes Law Journal* 6, no. 2 (2020): 287-404; Pricilia Ryana, and Aisy Idzati. "Corruption in the Study of Law and Human Rights." *Lex Scientia Law Review* 2, no. 2 (2018): 177-188.

⁸ M. Ilham Wira Pratama, "Tindak Pidana Korupsi Sebagai Pelanggaran Hak Asasi Manusia," *Jurnal Lex Renaissance* 4, no. 1 (2019), <https://doi.org/10.20885/jlr.vol4.iss1.art4>.

The issue of combating corruption in Indonesia is not solely a matter of legal enforcement; it is also a social and social psychology issue that is equally severe as the legal aspect. Therefore, these issues must be addressed simultaneously. The reason why corruption is considered a social issue is because it has resulted in the loss of equal prosperity for the entire Indonesian population. In this context, corruption must also be viewed as a social psychology issue because it is a social ailment that is challenging to remedy.

In the exposition provided, the author undertakes a comprehensive examination focusing on two crucial themes. Firstly, they analyze the significant ramifications of corrupt practices on the erosion of Indonesia's national economic structure. Through a detailed exploration, the author aims to uncover the extensive impact of corruption, shedding light on its pervasive influence on economic development, investment climate, and overall prosperity. Secondly, the author delves into the notion of corrupt practices as profoundly hazardous anti-social behavior, posing a dire threat to the nation's sustainability. By scrutinizing the social fabric and ethical implications, the author seeks to elucidate how corruption undermines trust, distorts societal norms, and jeopardizes the long-term viability of Indonesia's collective well-being. Through these inquiries, the author endeavors to provide a nuanced understanding of the intricate interplay between corruption and national stability, urging for effective strategies to combat this pervasive menace.

In any research endeavor, the methodology serves as a crucial blueprint, outlining the systematic approach to be employed. This study adopts legal research as its type of investigation, a process designed to uncover legal rules, principles, and doctrines for addressing pertinent legal issues.⁹ The methodologies incorporated include the legislative, conceptual, and case approaches. The primary and secondary legal materials are integral components of this research. The collection of primary legal materials involves systematic inventory and categorization

⁹ Soerjono Soekanto and Sri Mamudji, *Penelitian Hukum Normatif Tinjauan Singkat* (Jakarta: Rajawali Press, 2006).

methods, while the gathering of secondary legal materials employs literature review techniques, often conducted through library research.¹⁰

The amassed primary, secondary, and tertiary legal materials undergo identification, classification, and systematic organization based on their sources and hierarchy. Subsequently, a legal reasoning analysis, utilizing a deductive method, is applied to scrutinize and address the legal issues at hand, drawing upon theories and legal principles advocated by experts. The analytical approach employed is normative/prescriptive, aiming to derive solutions to the legal challenges present in this research.¹¹

Corruption in Indonesia: Contemporary Developments and Legal Aspect

The massive impact of corruption extends far beyond a singular aspect of life, permeating various facets of a nation's existence and governance. The escalation of corrupt practices within a country exerts a detrimental influence on its economic landscape, precipitating a cascade of adverse consequences. This includes the inflation of prices for goods of substandard quality, a restriction of access to essential services such as education and healthcare for large segments of the population, the emergence of national security vulnerabilities, environmental degradation, and a tarnished reputation on the global stage. Consequently, these multifaceted repercussions undermine the foundation of trust necessary for attracting foreign investment, exacerbate economic instability, and perpetuate cycles of poverty.

Moreover, the deleterious effects of corruption manifest in a myriad of ways, each exacerbating the overarching societal challenges. The inflated prices of goods coupled with their compromised quality not only strain the finances of citizens but also impede efforts towards social mobility and equitable access to resources. The scarcity of educational and healthcare opportunities perpetuates cycles of poverty and impedes societal progress, perpetuating a cycle of

¹⁰ Peter Mahmud Marzuki, *Penelitian Hukum* (Jakarta: Kencana Preneda Media Group, 2013).

¹¹ Irwansyah Irwansyah, "Penelitian Hukum: Pilihan Metode & Praktik Penulisan Artikel," *Yogyakarta: Mirra Buana Media*, 2020.

disenfranchisement and underdevelopment. Concurrently, the erosion of national security stemming from corrupt practices undermines the stability and sovereignty of the nation, leaving it vulnerable to internal and external threats.

Furthermore, corruption corrodes the very fabric of governance and institutions, eroding public trust and confidence in the efficacy and integrity of governmental systems. The tarnished image of the government on the international stage not only diminishes its standing in diplomatic circles but also hampers its ability to engage in beneficial international partnerships and agreements. Consequently, the nation finds itself isolated and marginalized in the global arena, further impeding its efforts towards economic growth and development.

In essence, the ramifications of corruption are profound and multifaceted, permeating every aspect of societal and economic life. Addressing this pervasive issue requires a comprehensive and concerted effort aimed at strengthening institutions, fostering transparency and accountability, and promoting a culture of integrity and ethical governance. Only through such concerted action can nations hope to mitigate the destructive impact of corruption and pave the way towards a more prosperous and sustainable future for all.

1. Economic Impact of Corruption on National Deterioration

Based on the World Bank Report, Indonesia is categorized as one of the severely indebted low-income countries, ranking among the poorest nations globally alongside Mali and Ethiopia.¹² The pervasive corruption has massive destructive effects on various aspects of national life. Corruption yields enormous destruction effects, particularly on the economic front, acting as a primary driver of societal well-being. Mauro elucidates the correlation between corruption and the economy, stating that corruption has a negative correlation with investment levels, economic growth, and government spending on social and welfare

¹² Susan Rose-Ackerman and D C Washington, "The World Bank - Corruption and Development," *Annual Bank Conference on Development Economics*, 2017; Hauke Feil, "The Cancer of Corruption and World Bank Project Performance: Is There a Connection?," *Development Policy Review* 39, no. 3 (2021), <https://doi.org/10.1111/dpr.12503>.

programs.¹³ This is a fundamental aspect of macroeconomics, and the direct relationship between corruption and these factors compels governments to combat corruption through preventive, punitive, and curative measures.

In this scenario, the escalation of corruption leads to increased costs of goods and services, subsequently causing a surge in national debt. Inefficiency occurs when the government issues more policies accompanied by rampant corruption practices, resulting in negative value added to the overall economy. For example, budget allocations that should circulate within the economy end up in bureaucracy, ultimately contributing to the personal wealth of officials. Various economic problems naturally arise when corruption becomes rampant, leading to the following economic impact results, including:

a. Weakening Economic Growth and Investment

Corruption is responsible for the sluggish economic growth and domestic investment. It significantly impedes economic development by creating high distortions and inefficiencies. In the private sector, corruption increases transaction costs due to losses from illegal payments, management costs in negotiations with corrupt officials, and the risk of agreement cancellation or investigation. Domestic and foreign direct investments that should be used for national development become challenging due to issues of trust, legal certainty in making investments, and stability.¹⁴

Multinational company management is fundamentally bound by international ethical codes from the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), agreeing not to engage in corrupt practices in international business.¹⁵ ICC, along with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), monitors and

¹³ Zico Junius Fernando et al, "Preventing Bribery in the Private Sector Through Legal Reform Based on Pancasila," *Cogent Social Sciences* 8, no. 1 (2022): 1–14, <https://doi.org/10.1080/23311886.2022.2138906>.

¹⁴ Paolo Mauro, Paulo Medas, and Jean Marc Fournier, "The Cost of Corruption: Graft Results in Lost Tax Revenue, but It Also Takes a Social Toll," *Finance and Development* 56, no. 3 (2019).

¹⁵ Ejike Ekwueme, "The Dichotomisation Fallacy of Public and Private Corruption and the Quantification Dilemma," *Journal of Financial Crime* 28, no. 4 (2021), <https://doi.org/10.1108/JFC-10-2020-0215>.

refers corruption cases that occur for trial in the country where the company originates.¹⁶ Through the existing oversight system, a corrupt country's conditions will prompt multinational entrepreneurs to withdraw because investing in a corrupt country can be detrimental due to inappropriately high costs. In low and developing economies, corruption is widespread in licensing, procurement of goods and services, where entrepreneurs in these countries use money and connections to bribe officials to facilitate licensing, manipulate policies, and market mechanisms. Transparency International writes in one of its journals that in the short term, corruption in licensing can indeed reduce company costs, but in the long run, its impact is highly damaging. Among the damages are reduced state income in the tax and licensing sectors, undermining the legitimacy of state institutions, eroding law enforcement, fostering investor mistrust, and creating unhealthy monopolies and oligopolies for business competition.

In his study, Paulo Mauro reveals the impact of corruption on investment growth and government spending, stating that corruption, directly and indirectly, hinders investment growth.¹⁷ Various economic organizations and foreign entrepreneurs worldwide recognize that the flourishing of corruption in a country poses a serious threat to invested capital.

b. Decreased Productivity

The continuous decline in economic growth and investment leads to a reduction in productivity. This is a consequence of hindrances faced by the industrial and production sectors in developing or expanding their capacities. Programs aimed at increasing production, such as establishing new factories or expanding the production capacity of existing businesses, are hindered by a lack of investment. Decreased productivity results in various issues, including high rates of job

¹⁶ Ejike Ekwueme, "Dampening Corruption and Money Laundering: Emissions from Soft Laws," *Journal of Money Laundering Control* 24, no. 4 (2021), <https://doi.org/10.1108/JMLC-10-2020-0115>; Suwari Akhmaddhian, "Discourse on Creating a Special Environmental Court in Indonesia to Resolve Environmental Disputes," *Bestuur* 8, no. 2 (2020): 129, <https://doi.org/10.20961/bestuur.v8i2.42774>.

¹⁷ Paulo Mauro, "Corruption and Growth," *Trends in Organized Crime* 2, no. 4 (1997), <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12117-997-1097-9>.

termination and increased unemployment. The ultimate outcome of reduced productivity is the impoverishment of society.

c. Low Quality of Public Goods and Services

Presently, major inter-city roads in Indonesia have come under sharp criticism due to their extremely poor quality. Ironically, the government and relevant departments do not acknowledge any wrongdoing and consistently claim that they have adhered to established procedures. Poor road conditions, collapsing bridges, train derailments, substandard affordable rice, exploding gas cylinders, vehicle-damaging fuel, inadequate and uncomfortable public transportation, and collapsing school buildings are a series of realities depicting the low quality of goods and services resulting from corruption. Corruption creates chaos in the public sector by diverting public investments to other projects where bribes and kickbacks are more prevalent. Corrupt bureaucratic officials further complicate these projects to conceal various corrupt practices.

In the end, corruption results in the deterioration of the quality of goods and services for the public by reducing compliance with building safety requirements, material and production standards, health standards, environmental standards, or other regulations. Corruption also diminishes the quality of government services and infrastructure while adding pressures to the government budget.

d. Decline in State Revenue from the Tax Sector

As a financing mechanism for government expenditures in providing goods and services to the public, most countries globally rely on a taxation system, including Indonesia. Taxation is a crucial component for the state, and various types of taxes are recognized in Indonesia, such as Income Tax (PPh), Value-Added Tax (PPn), Land and Building Tax (PBB), Stamp Duty (BM), and Acquisition Duty on Land and/or Buildings (BPHTB). At the local government level, several types of taxes, such as Vehicle Tax (PKB) and Restaurant Tax, are also known.¹⁸

¹⁸ Dwi Sulastyawati, "Hukum Pajak Dan Implementasinya Bagi Kesejahteraan Rakyat," *SALAM: Jurnal Sosial Dan Budaya Syar-I* 1, no. 1 (2014), <https://doi.org/10.15408/sjsbs.v1i1.1530>.

Currently, approximately 70% of the State Budget (APBN) is funded by taxes, with Income Tax (PPh) and Value-Added Tax (PPn) being the most significant contributors. Taxes serve as price stabilization mechanisms, helping control inflation. On the other hand, taxes also play a redistributive role in income, where the collected taxes are used by the government for development and job creation, ultimately leading to the prosperity of society. Taxes are crucial for the sustainability of national development and the welfare of the population in the long run.

The decline in revenue from the tax sector is exacerbated by the fact that many tax officials and employees engage in misconduct to gain personal benefits and enrich themselves. This is evident in cases such as the investigation of former Official of the Directorate General of Taxation of the Ministry of Finance, Rafael Alun Trisambodo, who is a defendant in a bribery and money laundering case. The Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) and the Financial Transaction Reports and Analysis Center (PPATK) suspect money laundering activities by Rafael Alun based on their investigation into his and his family's assets. This situation leads to prolonged public distrust in the tax system, which, in turn, negatively affects the pace of development, causing losses to the community itself.

e. Increasing National Debt

The global economic recession affecting almost all countries, including the United States and European countries, has forced these nations to incur debt to stimulate their slowing economies due to the recession and cover budget deficits or build essential infrastructure. How does Indonesia's debt situation fare?

Indonesia's External Debt (ULN) at the end of the third quarter of 2023 amounted to 393.7 billion US dollars. By the end of August 2023, Indonesia's ULN was recorded at 395.1 billion US dollars, a decrease compared to the end of July 2023, which reached 397.1 billion US dollars. This decline in ULN is attributed to both the public and private sectors. With this development, Indonesia's ULN experiences an annual growth contraction of 0.8% (YoY), deeper than the contraction in the previous month, which was 0.7% (YoY).

The government's External Debt (ULN) position at the end of August 2023 was recorded at 191.6 billion US dollars. The development of ULN was influenced by the transfer of funds from non-

resident investors to the domestic State Securities (SBN) market, in line with the high volatility in the global financial markets.

While Indonesia's ULN figure is substantial, specific and in-depth references about government debt, both external debt (ULN) and domestic debt (UDN), are rarely encountered in Indonesia. It is worth noting that Indonesia only introduced domestic debt (UDN), which now has a nearly equivalent amount to ULN, after the 1998 economic crisis.

2. Corruption: A Highly Dangerous Antisocial Act

Corruption has profound and interconnected impacts on society, particularly affecting the poor. First, the direct impact on the poor includes the rising costs of various public services, poor service quality, and restricted access to vital services such as water, health, and education. Second, the indirect impact on the poor involves the diversion of public resources for personal and group interests, hindering social development and contributing to the persistence of poverty.

a. Expensive Prices of Services and Public Services

Corruption practices create a high-cost economy, and the economic burden borne by individuals due to corruption is referred to as a high-cost economy. This phenomenon is prominent in countries with strict government controls in economic practices, making them susceptible to abuse, particularly in cases of monopoly power. The abuse typically targets public or governmental resources, benefiting private interests. This high-cost economic condition results in the expensive prices of services and public services, as these prices must cover the economic losses incurred by actors engaging in corruption. While anti-corruption regulations have been established with adequate legal sanctions, their real-world implementation is minimal. The threat of punishment in the law remains largely passive, with infrequent real-world applications. This fact strongly signals that combating corruption requires more than just threats or rhetoric; it demands substantial and effective action.

b. Slow Poverty Alleviation

The number of poor people in March 2023 was 25.90 million. The percentage of urban poor in March 2023 was 7.29 percent, while the percentage of rural poor was 12.22 percent. The Poverty Line in March 2023 was recorded at Rp550,458 per capita per month, with the Food Poverty Line at Rp408,522 (74.21 percent) and the Non-Food Poverty Line at Rp141,936 (25.79 percent). In March 2023, the average poor household in Indonesia had 4.71 members. Therefore, the Poverty Line per household on average was Rp2,592,657 per month for poor households.

Corrupt behavior has a close correlation with poverty. Corruption makes it increasingly difficult for the poor. Corruption allied with a democratic system will create corrupt, collusive, and nepotistic leadership. As a result, public trust in corrupt leaders will disappear, and power will be hijacked by corporations. Therefore, a far-reaching vision is needed to build an anti-corruption movement, considering that eradicating corruption will not succeed and be optimal if done partially and with a short-term focus.

c. Limited Access for the Poor

Widespread corruption in every aspect of life leads to a high-cost economy, where prices soar and become increasingly unaffordable for the poor. This condition results in the poor being unable to access various aspects of life. Basic commodities such as rice, sugar, oil, milk, and others are currently very expensive. This situation causes suffering, especially for infants and children, due to insufficient nutrition. To obtain these basic commodities, the poor must allocate a significant amount of money from their meager income.

The poor cannot easily access services such as education, health, decent housing, information, legal services, and more. The poor prioritize obtaining basic necessities over education. This situation further marginalizes the poor as they experience ignorance. Without education, access to decent employment becomes severely limited, ultimately leaving the poor jobless and in perpetual poverty. This situation can be appropriately termed a vicious cycle.

d. Rising Crime Rates

The undeniable impact of corruption is its ability to nurture various types of crime in society. Through corrupt practices, criminal

syndicates or individual criminals can freely violate the law, infiltrate various state organizations, and achieve prominence. In India, popular smugglers have successfully infiltrated political parties and held important positions. In the United States, through bribery, corrupt police provide protection to criminal organizations within a corrupt government. The higher the level of corruption, the greater the prevalence of crime.

According to Transparency International, there is a strong correlation between corruption and the quality and quantity of crime. The ratio is that when corruption increases, the occurrence of crime also increases. Conversely, when corruption is successfully reduced, public trust in law enforcement also increases. It can be asserted that reducing corruption can indirectly decrease other crimes in society.

Soerjono Soekanto states that law enforcement in a country depends not only on the law itself, the professionalism of law enforcement, and infrastructure but also on the legal awareness of the community. Ideally, the crime rate will decrease if there is an increase in public legal awareness (marginal deterrence). This condition will only materialize when the level of legal awareness and the welfare of the community are adequate.

e. Rare Social Solidarity and Demoralization

The widespread corruption occurring makes people feel they have no clear guidance to lead their daily lives. The unclear future certainty and growing life pressures turn the sense of togetherness and mutual cooperation, once practiced, into mere rhetoric.

Over time, society becomes more individualistic, focusing solely on itself and its family. People become reluctant to help those in need or affected by disasters because they are unsure whether the assistance will reach the needy optimally. Ultimately, those affected by disasters will suffer even more. On the other hand, political parties compete to establish aid posts, primarily aimed at gaining support from the affected community, rather than genuinely alleviating suffering and helping for the better.

The solidarity shown is false solidarity. There is no more sincerity, genuine assistance, or honest solidarity. This situation will create demoralization, a decline in morals and ethics, especially for the younger generation continuously exposed to the falsehood displayed by political

elites, ruling officials, law enforcers, artists, and celebrities that can be seen daily through various media.

f. Limited Access for the Poor

Widespread and pervasive corruption in every aspect of life leads to a high-cost economy, where all prices soar and become increasingly unaffordable for the poor. This situation makes it increasingly difficult for the poor to access various necessities in their lives. The prices of basic commodities such as rice, sugar, oil, milk, and others are currently very high. This condition causes suffering, especially for babies and children due to insufficient nutrition. To obtain these basic necessities, the poor have to allocate a significant amount of money from their meager income.

The poor cannot easily access services such as education, health care, decent housing, information, legal services, and more. The poor prioritize obtaining basic necessities for survival over going to school. This situation further marginalizes the poor as they experience ignorance. Without education, access to decent jobs becomes very limited, ultimately leaving the poor without employment and in a perpetual state of poverty. This situation is aptly referred to as a vicious circle.

g. Rising Crime Rates (Reiterated from Previous Response)

The impact of corruption undoubtedly nurtures various types of crime in society. Through corrupt practices, criminal syndicates or individual criminals can freely violate the law, infiltrate various state organizations, and achieve prominence. In India, popular smugglers have successfully infiltrated political parties and held important positions. In the United States, through bribery, corrupt police provide protection to criminal organizations within a corrupt government. The higher the level of corruption, the greater the prevalence of crime.

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h. Decline in Social Solidarity and Demoralization

The massive corruption occurring makes society feel like they have no clear guidance to lead their daily lives. The uncertainty of the future and the growing pressure of life turn the sense of togetherness and mutual cooperation, once actively practiced, into mere rhetoric.

As time goes on, society becomes increasingly individualistic, prioritizing only themselves and their families. The reason behind this shift can be understood due to the lack of trust in the government, the system, laws, and even among community members.

People become reluctant to help those affected by disasters or calamities, which is understandable given concrete evidence that government officials are involved in corruption related to disaster relief funds. For instance, on December 6, 2020, the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) named former Minister of Social Affairs Juliari Batubara as a suspect in a bribery case related to social assistance for handling the Covid-19 pandemic in the Jabodetabek area in 2020.

Ultimately, those affected by disasters will suffer even more. On the other hand, political parties compete to establish relief posts primarily for gaining electoral support from the affected communities, rather than genuinely alleviating suffering and aiding recovery.

The solidarity displayed is mere façade. There is no longer sincerity, genuine assistance, or honest solidarity. This condition leads to demoralization, moral decline, especially among the younger generation who are constantly exposed to the deceit exhibited by political elites, authorities, law enforcers, celebrities, and public figures seen daily through various media.

i. The Danger of Corruption to the Younger Generation

One of the most dangerous long-term negative effects of corruption is the degradation of the younger generation. In societies

where corrupt behavior is prevalent, corruption becomes a norm. In such conditions, children growing up in communities accustomed to corruption develop antisocial personalities. Consequently, the younger generation may view corruption as normal, or even a cultural practice, shaping their character to be accustomed to dishonesty and irresponsibility. If the younger generation of a nation is in such a state, one can imagine the bleak future of that nation.

j. Definite Steps in Combating Corruption

In every government regime, there are efforts, under the guise of combating corruption, to change or refine the legal regulations on corruption offenses. However, the results often remain negligible. The refinement of Law No. 3/1971 through Law No. 31/1999, which was also revised by Law No. 20/2000, brought about little change. Ironically, during the regime that ideologically opposed corruption, there was an "democratization of corruption" with intense corruption values, marking a significant leakage in the history of the Republic of Indonesia. For example, in the series of massive legislative corruption cases at the regional level and financial leaks in 2003, more than half of the 2003 state budget disappeared.

Similar to the complexity of issues in other fields, law enforcement faces significant challenges. In what is referred to as law enforcement, various interconnected elements come into play, ranging from law enforcement officers, institutions/agencies, management, facilities/infrastructure, to rules and regulations. Environmental factors, including social, economic, political, and cultural aspects, also significantly influence law enforcement.

From a legal standpoint, these cases are relatively easy to uncover in terms of manipulation. The justification of "not harming the state finances" is easily refutable because corruption offenses in Law No. 31/1999 are formal offenses, no longer material offenses as in Law No. 3/1971. Consequently, the element of harming state finances can no longer be used as a determinant for proving corruption. If someone performs actions as formulated in the articles of Law No. 31/1999, it is automatically considered corruption, regardless of whether there is actual financial loss to the state.

Similarly, cases that are halted on the grounds of "having returned state funds" do not have a strong legal basis. According to Law No.

31/1999, the return of financial losses to the state does not absolve the person from being prosecuted for corruption. Based on this legal foundation, the Attorney General can order the resumption of these cases as soon as possible.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the endeavor to enforce law and eradicate corruption in Indonesia demands a holistic approach characterized by both consolidation and conciliation. It is imperative to recognize that the impact of corrupt practices transcends mere economic implications, permeating deeply into the social, moral, and cultural fabric of society. Addressing this pervasive issue necessitates concerted efforts that encompass a spectrum of measures, spanning from bolstering law enforcement agencies to reforming institutions, enhancing management practices, upgrading infrastructure, and enacting effective legislation. Central to this approach is the principle of consolidation, which extends beyond the mere reinforcement of law enforcement agencies. It encompasses a comprehensive strengthening of various institutional frameworks, management structures, infrastructural capacities, and legislative frameworks. This multifaceted approach is essential for creating a robust and resilient system capable of effectively combating corruption at all levels.

Concurrently, conciliation plays a pivotal role in this endeavor, involving the active engagement of diverse stakeholders beyond law enforcement agencies. This inclusive approach entails collaboration with legislators, educators, civil society activists, religious leaders, and other segments of society. By fostering harmonious moral support, formulating sound policies, and encouraging community participation, conciliation amplifies the impact of anti-corruption efforts and ensures their sustainability over the long term. Furthermore, it is crucial to acknowledge that effective law enforcement extends beyond the confines of traditional enforcement agencies. Rather, it necessitates the cultivation of productive relationships and synergies with a myriad of external entities, including the legislature and various societal stakeholders. Therefore, any improvements in law enforcement must be comprehensive in nature, addressing all relevant aspects and engaging all pertinent stakeholders to achieve optimal outcomes.

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Acknowledgment

None

Funding Information

None

Conflicting Interest Statement

The authors state that there is no conflict of interest in the publication of this article.

Publishing Ethical and Originality Statement

All authors declared that this work is original and has never been published in any form and in any media, nor is it under consideration for publication in any journal, and all sources cited in this work refer to the basic standards of scientific citation.