

Reconstruction of the Application of the Death Penalty to Perpetrators of Corruption Crimes during the Covid-19 Pandemic



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ABSTRACT: Corruption is a serious problem because this criminal act can endanger the stability and security of society, endanger socio-economic development, and also politics, and can damage democratic values and morality because gradually this act seems to become a culture. Corruption is a threat to the ideals towards a just and prosperous society. The formulation of the problem in this study is that reconstruction is needed in the application of the death penalty to perpetrators of corruption crimes during the Covid-19 pandemic and how the ideal concept of the death penalty against perpetrators of corruption crimes is needed. The research method used in this study is the method of approach used in this study is normative juridical. For the effectiveness of law enforcement in eradicating corruption, an integral system of law enforcement is needed, be it the Police, Prosecutor's Office or Judicial Institutions to jointly uphold justice under one roof, namely the Judiciary. Because when one of the law enforcement agencies is under executive power, political intervention will easily enter and influence the decisions taken. Basically, if the perpetrator of corruption has fulfilled the clause "certain circumstances" in Article 2 paragraph (2) of the Typist Law, then the death penalty can be imposed on the perpetrator.

1. INTRODUCTION

In the Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia of 1945, it is emphasized that the State of Indonesia is based on law (*Rechtstaat*), not based on mere power (*Machstaat*). This means that the Republic of Indonesia is a democratic legal state based on Pancasila and the 1945 NRI Constitution, upholds human rights, and guarantees all citizens simultaneously their position in law and government and is obliged to uphold that law and government with no exceptions.¹

The law establishes what should be done and what should be done and what is prohibited. The object of the law to be addressed is not only the person who committed the act against the law, but also the legal act that may occur, and to the tools of the state to act according to the law. Such a system of law work is a form of law enforcement.

The development process can cause progress in people's lives, besides that it can also result in changes in the social conditions of the community that have a negative social impact, especially regarding the problem of increasing criminal acts that disturb the community. One of the criminal acts that can be said to be quite phenomenal is the problem of Corruption. This criminal act is not only detrimental to the state's finances, but also a violation of the social and economic rights of society.

Corruption Crimes are specifically regulated outside the Criminal Code, precisely in Law Number 31 of 1999 jo Law Number 20 of 2001 concerning the Eradication of Corruption Crimes. In Undang-Undang it is stated that there are several qualifications for acts that can be called corruption crimes. However, in various cases, the most frequent criminal acts that are presented and filed cases with the court are as stated in Article 2 paragraph (1).

Article 2 paragraph (1) of the PTPK Law states:

1. Everyone;
2. Enriching oneself, others, or corporations;
3. By way of an unlawful manner;
4. Which can be detrimental to the country's finances or the country's economy.

As for Article 3 paragraph (1) of the PTPK Law, it is stated:

1. Everyone;
2. With the aim of benefiting oneself, others, or corporations;
3. Abuse of authority, opportunity or means;

¹ Evi Hartanti, *Tindak Pidana Korupsi Bagian Kedua*, (Sinar Grafika: Jakarta, 2016), hal. 1.

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1. The one that was on him because of the position or position.

The crime of corruption is a problem that is currently felt that the faster its development along with the more advanced the development of a nation, the more it increases the need and encourages corruption.² Corruption always gets more attention than other criminal acts, this phenomenon is understandable considering the negative impact caused by this criminal act. Corruption is a serious problem because this criminal act can endanger the stability and security of society, endanger socio-economic development, and also politics, and can damage democratic values and morality because gradually this act seems to become a culture. Corruption is a threat to the ideals towards a just and prosperous society.

So far, corruption has been left alone by various parties more than eradicating it, even though the crime of corruption is a type of crime that can touch various interests related to human rights, state ideology, economy, state finances, nation morals, and so on, which is evil behavior that tends to be difficult to overcome. The difficulty of overcoming corruption crimes or the lack of corruption crimes can be seen from the decision to release the defendant in corruption cases or the lack of crimes borne by the defendant is not comparable to what he did. This is very detrimental to the country's finances and the country's economy. If this happens continuously for a long time, it can negate the sense of justice and a sense of trust in laws and regulations by citizens. Various forms of corruption that have occurred in the country, for example, the procurement of goods and services, embezzlement, *mark-ups*, fictitious project budgets, misuse of budgets, embezzlement in office, and bribery, even social assistance for the poor such as social safety nets and assistance for natural disasters have not escaped corrupt practices.

In recent years since the covid-19 pandemic, procurement of Dana bansos is often heard both through the media and news in various places. The social assistance is a type of regional expenditure that attracts the attention of many parties, not only the community or community groups but also the government, members of the regional people's representative council, regents, governors, mayors who have an interest in social assistance, thus social aid accounts have a high enough risk of being misused or perverted.

Regarding social aid funds, in Article 1 number 15 of the Regulation of the Minister of Home Affairs (Permendagri) Number 99 of 2019 concerning the Fifth Amendment to permendagri Number 32 of 2011 concerning Guidelines for Providing Grants and Social Assistance Sourced from the Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget, it is stated that what is meant by the Social Aid Fund is "the provision of assistance in the form of money/goods from local governments to individuals, families, groups and/or societies that are not continuously and selectively in nature aimed at sheltering from the possibility of social risks".³

The problems surrounding social assistance include the provision of social assistance funds not in accordance with the provisions or procedures for disbursement, social assistance is not received or accepted by some entitled people as stated in a deliberate proposal to be fictitious.

In practice so far, Dana bansos often causes various problems, especially those stemming from the Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget (APBD) both during its implementation and management or disbursement of Nyes. There is a lot of misappropriation of social assistance funds for self-interest.

Cases such as this, as also happened in the Case Study verdict Number: 29/Pid.Sus.Tpk/2021/PN. Jkt.Pst is a corruption case with defendant Juliari P. Coal was validly and conclusively found guilty of committing the crime of corruption jointly and continuously as charged with alternatif to one Public Prosecutor; Sentence the Defendant to imprisonment for 12 (twelve) years and a fine of Rp. 500,000,000 (five hundred million rupiah) provided that if the fine is not paid, it is replaced by imprisonment for 6 (six) months. Impose an additional penalty on the Defendant to pay the replacement money in the amount of Rp14,597,450,000,- (fourteen billion five hundred and ninety-seven million four hundred and fifty thousand rupiah) provided that if it is not paid no later than 1 (one) month after this case has permanent legal force, then the defendant's property is seized to cover the loss of the country and if his property is insufficient to pay the replacement money then replaced by imprisonment for 2 (two) years.

2. DISCUSSION

a. Reconstruction Arguments in the Application of the Death Penalty to Perpetrators of Corruption Crimes During the Covid-19 Pandemic:

1) The Purpose of Punishment Has Not Been Achieved

According to Wirjono Prodjodikoro, the purpose of punishment includes:

- To scare people not to commit crimes, either by scaring the crowd (*generale preventie*) or scaring certain people who have committed crimes so that in the future they will not commit crimes again (*special preventie*).
- To educate or improve people who commit crimes to become good people of character so that they benefit society.⁴

² Andi Hamzah, *Perbandingan Korupsi Di berbagai Negara*, (Sinar Grafika : Jakarta, 2005), hal. 1.

³ Permendagri Nomor 99 Tahun 2019 Tentang Perubahan Kelima atas Permendagri Nomor 32 Tahun 2011 Tentang Pedoman Pemberian Hibah dan Bantuan Sosial yang Bersumber dari Anggaran Pendapatan dan Belanja Daerah, Pasal 1 angka 15.

⁴ Wirjono Prodjodikoro, *Hukum Acara Pidana di Indonesia*, (Bandung : Sumur Bandung, 2000), hal. 16

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In accordance with the politics of criminal law, the purpose of punishment must be directed to the protection of society from welfare as well as the balance and harmony of life in society by taking into account the interests of the community / state, victims and perpetrators.

On the basis of these purposes, the conviction must contain elements of the following nature:

- a) Humanity in the sense that the conviction upholds the dignity and dignity of a person.
- b) Educative, in the sense that the punishment is able to make people fully aware of the deeds committed and cause him to have a positive and constructive mental attitude for efforts to overcome crime.
- c) Justice, in the sense that the punishment is felt to be fair (either by the convicted or by the victim or by society).

With regard to sentencing, sentencing guidelines can be interpreted as basic provisions that give direction / carry out punishment or criminal conviction or criminal conviction. Thus, the basic provisions of punishment must first exist before criminal conviction or it can be interpreted that the basic provisions for punishment are explicitly stated in the criminal system, while the system is seen from a normative-substantive point of view (only seen from the norms of substantive criminal law) is interpreted as the entire rule / norm of material criminal law for punishment or the entire rules / norms of material criminal law for the granting / prosecution and implementation of criminal.⁵

In the 2019 Criminal Code, the guidelines for punishment are formulated in Articles 53-56. In Article 53 it is explained: "In adjudicating a criminal case, judges are obliged to uphold law and justice. If in upholding law and justice there is a conflict between legal certainty and justice, judges are obliged to put justice first."

Article 54 explains the matters that must be considered in sentencing, including the following:

- a) In the mandatory punishment is considered:
 - (1) The form of guilt of the perpetrator of the criminal act.
 - (2) Motives and purposes of committing a criminal act.
 - (3) The inner attitude of the criminal offender.
 - (4) Criminal acts are committed premeditated or unplanned.
 - (5) How to commit a criminal act.
 - (6) Attitudes and actions of the perpetrator after committing a criminal act.
 - (7) Curriculum vitae, social circumstances, and economic circumstances of the perpetrator of the crime.
 - (8) The influence of the criminal on the future of the criminal offender.
 - (9) The effect of the criminal act on the victim or the victim's family.
 - (10) Forgiving of the victim and/or his/her family, and/or
 - (11) The value of law and justice that lives in society.
- b) The lightness of the act, the personal circumstances of the perpetrator or the circumstances at the time of the crime and what happened later, can be used as a basis for consideration not to impose a criminal or not to impose an action taking into account the aspects of justice and humanity.

2) National Development Goals Not Achieved

Corruption is a very frightening scourge and endangers the development process that is running in all countries. Corruption is born like a disaster because it causes *leakages* and inefficient use of development funds. This problem can also be the answer to why our economic growth targets are difficult to achieve. Corruption causes the injection of funds in the economy sourced from public spending to be suboptimal. It doesn't stop there, the expected outcomes are born from government spending (especially through productive spending) so that the community's economy will be more prospective in its level will also shrink.

Corruption negatively affects the economy of the nation and the state. The impacts are as follows:⁶

- a) Corruption negatively affects economic growth
Some experts are trying to identify the impact of corruption on the economy. In research related to the impact of corruption on the economy, there are two opposing parties, namely the party that supports *Grease the Wheel Hypothesis* (GWH) and the party that supports *sand the wheel hypothesis* (SWH). Grease the Wheel Hypothesis (GWH) states that corruption can function as a lubricant (oil) for the economy, in other words corruption can have a positive impact on the economy.
- b) Corruption lowers investment levels

⁵ Barda Nawawi Arief, *Sistem Pidana Dalam Ketentuan Umum Buku I Rancangan KUHP* (Yogyakarta : Kencana, 2004), hal. 2

⁶ Komisi Pemberantasan Korupsi, *Dampak Sosial Korupsi*, (Direktorat Pendidikan dan Pelayanan Masyarakat, 2016), hal. 23.

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When people in a country create and maintain a culture of corruption in their country, indirectly the people in that country invite foreign investors who are also corrupt, that is, they are used to doing bribes to obtain business licenses. In addition, the culture of corruption can also invite foreign investors who are not qualified. Although not qualified, such foreign investors can obtain business licenses in corrupt countries by means of bribes. The culture of corruption invites foreign investors who are not qualified and accustomed to corrupt practices such as bribery, gratification and embezzlement. The influx of unqualified investors worsens the country's economy.

c) Corruption adds to the burden on economic transactions and creates a poor institutional system. The existence of bribes, levies in an economy cause the cost of economic transactions to become higher and higher. High transaction costs lead to inefficiencies in the economy. This condition leads to high economic transaction costs and a poor institutional system.

d) Corruption leads to low-quality facilities and infrastructure

Corruption in the form of embezzlement, bribery, and levies can cause infrastructure in a corrupt country of low quality. Bribes and levies in the implementation of the infrastructure development budget led to a reduction in the budget for the construction of facilities and infrastructure. Similarly, embezzlement of the infrastructure development budget, causing the infrastructure development budget to be reduced, resulting in poor quality built infrastructure. The low quality of infrastructure can disrupt people's access to economic centers and growth centers. Thus, low quality infrastructure can have a negative impact on the economic growth of a region.

e) Corruption creates income inequality

The level of people's income has an effect on corrupt behavior. The rich have more power and opportunity to take bribes than the poor. In general, corruption activities consist of 3 types, namely bribery, levies and embezzlement. Such acts of corruption are able to move public resources into the hands of corruptors. Corruption causes the spending money of corrupt governments to become less. As a result, income laundering will occur between corrupt elites and the public due to the transfer of public resources to corruptors.

f) Corruption Increases Poverty

The Central Statistics Agency classifies poverty into four categories, namely:

- (1) Absolute poverty is the condition of a person who has an income below the poverty line or is not enough to meet the needs of food, clothing, housing, health, housing and education needed to be able to live and work decently. The absolute poverty standard is the minimum standard of living required to meet the basic needs required, both food and non-food needs.
- (2) Relative Poverty Is poverty that is due to the influence of policies that can cause income inequality. Relative poverty standards are determined and set subjectively by society.
- (3) Cultural poverty is poverty caused by traditional or cultural factors that shackle so that it remains in poor conditions.
- (4) Structural poverty is poverty that occurs as a result of the helplessness of a person or a certain group of people to an unjust system so that they remain trapped in poverty.

The eradication of corruption has always been a major concern compared to criminal acts in general. This is because corruption is an *extra ordinary crime* where the way of committing the crime (*modus operandi*) by the perpetrators has used sophisticated and various means such as technological tools, carried out professionally by professional actors, abuse of other authority so as to cause misery for the community. Corruption has hampered national development activities and various programs implemented by the government in improving the welfare of the people. In relation to the reasons mentioned above, the quality and quantity of the eradication of corruption crimes needs to be improved from time to time. Therefore, the eradication of corruption must be carried out comprehensively and extraordinarily, it can no longer be done using conventional or conventional methods of eradicating crime.⁷

Efforts to eradicate corruption Indonesia have been carried out since Indonesia independence, especially in the reform era.⁸ As an effort to improve the eradication of corruption crimes, it is manifested in the form of updating the substance of the law related to corruption and its structure by forming a special institution in charge of eradicating corruption crimes. The renewal of the legal substance was carried out by changing the law on corruption which was originally based on Law Number 3 of 1971 replaced by Law Number 31 of 1999 Juncto Law Number 20 of 2001 (Law on Typists). The government Indonesia has established a special

⁷ Amiziduhu Mendrofa, *Politik Hukum Pemberantasan Korupsi di Era Reformasi*, (Jurnal Litigasi, Volume 16, Nomor 1, 2015), hal. 28

⁸ Diana Yusyanti, *Strategi Pemberantasan Korupsi Melalui Pendekatan Politik Hukum, Penegakan Hukum dan Budaya Hukum*, (E-Journal Widya Yusticia, Volume 1 No. 2, Tahun 2015), hal. 87

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commission tasked with preventing and eradicating corruption, namely the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK).⁹ In addition, a Corruption Crimes Court has also been established (hereinafter referred to as the Tipikor Court) based on Law Number 46 of 2009 concerning the Corruption Crimes Court (hereinafter referred to as the Tipikor Court Law).¹⁰

Various countries in the world, including Indonesia increasingly actively changing the paradigm of governance based on the conception of *good governance*.¹¹ At the beginning of the reform era, the government tried to improve the state of the Indonesian bureaucracy, namely by issuing several regulations governing the eradication of Corruption, Collusion and Nepotism (KKN) in order to create a clean and responsible government apparatus. Among them are Tap MPR No. XI / MPR / 1998 concerning Clean and Free State Organizers of KKN, Law Number 28 of 1999 concerning Clean and Free State Organizers of KKN, and Law Number 20 of 2001 concerning Amendments to Law Number 31 of 1999 concerning the Eradication of Corruption Crimes, as well as Law Number 30 of 2002 concerning the Corruption Eradication Commission. In addition, various laws and regulations related to efforts to eradicate corruption were also issued, including Presidential Decree No. 44 of 2000 concerning the National Ombudsman Commission, as a follow-up to Presidential Decree No. 155 of 1999 concerning the Assessment Team for the Establishment of National Ombudsmen Institutions, Government Regulation No. 20/2001 concerning Guidance and Supervision of Local Government Administration, Government Regulation No. 56/2000 concerning Reporting on The Implementation of Government Regional, and Government Regulation No. 274/2001 concerning Procedures for Supervision of Local Government Administration.

Although efforts to eradicate corruption have been carried out since the Reform order era/ post-new order, the reality is that corrupt practices are still mushrooming. Even with the Regional Autonomy policy that has been rolled out by the government since 2001, it brings changes in the implementation of government in the regions. In fact, the implementation of regional autonomy has also changed the map of the area where corruption occurs, namely that corrupt practices have penetrated from the executive to the legislature, and even shifted from the center to the regions (decentralization of corruption). The pattern of corruption at play is increasingly sophisticated, especially during the election of governors and regents. A pattern that was not seen during the reign of Suharto, but has become a new trend in the reform era. The above conditions are in accordance with the assessment of the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) that corruption cases are increasingly rampant after regional autonomy. The KPK estimates that the leakage of development funds in the regions reaches 50 percent, and the unofficial levy (pungli) is 30 percent. The eradication of corruption by updating corruption laws alone does not guarantee that these efforts can be realized as expected. This is because the effectiveness of a law is largely determined by the community where the regulation applies.

A Indonesia prosperous state in which the people can be met with every basic need became the ideal of the founder of this nation. The purpose of the nation Indonesia is stated in the preamble to the 1945 Constitution Paragraph 4, namely, "to protect the whole nation Indonesia and the whole nation Indonesia and to promote the general welfare, educate the life of the nation, and participate in carrying out world order based on freedom, lasting peace and social justice". This condition can be realized if the country can be managed with full integrity and responsibility by the government from the central to the regional level with support from the private sector and the community.

3. CLOSING

Conclusion

- a. Reconstruction of law enforcement in the application of the death penalty to perpetrators of corruption crimes during the Covid-19 pandemic, that there is a need for clear and firm rules as a form of sentencing or sanctions against someone who commits a corruption crime. For the effectiveness of law enforcement in eradicating corruption, an integral system of law enforcement is needed, be it the Police, Prosecutor's Office or Judicial Institutions to jointly uphold justice under one roof, namely the Judiciary. Because when one of the law enforcement agencies is under executive power, and the existence of political intervention will affect the criminal conviction of corruption convicts.
- b. The ideal concept of the death penalty against perpetrators of corruption crimes needs to be carried out. The death penalty in Article 2 paragraph 2 hints that if you commit corruption in "certain circumstances" it is an inhumane act given that corruption in times of danger, national natural disasters, repetition of corruption crimes, economic and monetary crises can harm the country's finances and the country's economy. Corruption crimes committed by JULIARI BATUBARA during the Covid-19 pandemic as a

⁹ Septiana Dwiputrianti, *Memahami Strategi Pemberantasan Korupsi di Indonesia*, (Jurnal Ilmu Administrasi, Volume VI Nomor 3, Tahun 2009), hal. 242.

¹⁰ Maroni, *Pemberantasan Korupsi Berbasis Hukum Pidana Progresif*, (Bandar Lampung: Universitas Lampung, 2011), hal. 11.

¹¹ Sjahruddin Rasul, *Penerapan Good Governance dalam Upaya Pencegahan Tindak Pidana Korupsi*, (Jurnal Mimbar Hukum, Volume 21 Nomor 3, Tahun 2009), hal. 538.

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state official against social aid in the form of basic food packages intended for communities affected by the pandemic. The funds that have been allocated are cut in order to enrich themselves which in the end makes the food packages unsuitable for consumption, so that the situation of the people worsens which can also lead to death. Basically, if the perpetrator of corruption has fulfilled the clause "certain circumstances" in Article 2 paragraph (2) of the Typist Law, then the death penalty can be imposed on the defendant.

Suggestion

So that law enforcement such as the Police, Prosecutors and Judges can carry out their duties and responsibilities in accordance with applicable legal provisions and established SOPs and community participation in the form of supervision of corruption activities so that a country free from Collusion, Corruption and Nepotism can be realized

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