

ANTI-CORRUPTION POLICIES AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR NATIONAL POLITICAL STABILITY

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Abstract

Corruption has been one of the most serious problems faced by various countries around the world, and Indonesia is no exception. This phenomenon not only has a major impact on the economy of a nation, but also significantly affects domestic political stability. The research method utilizes literature review as the source of data. The results of the study reveal that the Indonesian government has implemented various anti-graft policies, including the establishment of the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK), strengthening the judicial system, and increasing transparency in state financial management. The implementation of these policies has had a positive impact on efforts to fight corruption, but has also created various challenges and political dynamics. The implications of anti-corruption policies for domestic political stability can be observed in several ways; Increased public trust in the government and state institutions, Changes in power dynamics and political competition among elites, Strengthening the system of checks and balances in governance, Increased international pressure and its influence on diplomatic relations and Resistance from groups that feel threatened by anti-corruption policies.

Keywords: Anti-Corruption, National Political Stability.

Introduction

Corruption has always been a major problem faced by countries around the world, including Indonesia. Corruption is the unlawful use of power or public office for personal or group gain. This phenomenon encompasses a variety of illegitimate and unethical acts, such as bribery, embezzlement, nepotism, extortion, and collusion.

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(Toledano & Rubí, 2024). Corruption is not only limited to the government sector, but can also occur in the private sector and non-governmental organizations. Corrupt behavior jeopardizes the integrity of institutions, hinders economic development, weakens the rule of law, and erodes the general public's trust in the system. The definition of corruption can vary depending on the legal, cultural and social context of a country, but at its core, corruption always involves the abuse of public trust for personal or group interests. (Lee, 2023).

This phenomenon not only costs the state monetarily, but also threatens the integrity of the governance system, hinders economic development, and undermines public trust in public institutions. In order to combat corruption, various countries have implemented anti-corruption policies that vary from the establishment of specialized agencies to the application of stricter sanctions. (K. Kim, 2021).

Anti-corruption is a set of efforts, actions, policies, and movements that aim to prevent, detect, and eradicate corrupt practices at various levels of society and institutions. The concept includes a wide range of strategies such as strengthening legal systems and law enforcement, increasing transparency and accountability in government and the private sector, public education and awareness campaigns, and developing monitoring and reporting mechanisms. (N. W. Kim, 2024). Anti-corruption also includes efforts to build individual and institutional integrity, promote ethics and moral values, and encourage active public participation in monitoring and reporting corruption. The main goals of the anti-corruption movement are to create an environment free from corruption, increase public trust in institutions, and ensure the efficient and effective use of public resources for the common good (Huh, 2024). (Huh, 2024).

Indonesia, as a country that has long built a struggle against corruption, has implemented various anti-corruption policies since the reform period. The establishment of the Corruption Eradication Commission in 2002 was one of the significant steps in increasing efforts to eradicate corruption in the country. Despite consistent efforts, the problem of corruption is still a persistent and complex problem. (Jung, 2023).

The implementation of anti-corruption policies does not always go smoothly and can have far-reaching implications for various aspects of state life, including national political stability. On the one hand, effective anti-corruption policies can increase public trust in the government, strengthen the legitimacy of state institutions, and build a healthier political climate. But on the other hand, aggressive enforcement of anti-corruption policies can also trigger political turmoil, especially when it touches the interests of political elites or influential groups. (Fernandez, 2023).

The relationship between anti-corruption policies and national political stability is becoming increasingly complex in the context of a developing democracy like Indonesia. Efforts to eradicate corruption often face resistance from various parties

who feel their interests are threatened. This can trigger political conflicts that, if not managed properly, have the potential to disrupt national political stability (Vilaca et al., 2014). (Vilaca et al., 2023).. In addition, the implementation of anti-corruption policies can also have an impact on electoral political dynamics. The issue of corruption and its eradication is often a central theme in political campaigns, which can influence voter preferences and election outcomes. Changes in the political landscape as a result of these anti-corruption policies can in turn affect long-term political stability (FANG et al., 20). (FANG et al., 2024).

Given the complexity and significance of this issue, it is important to conduct an in-depth study on how anti-corruption policies impact national political stability. A better understanding of this relationship will help in formulating anti-corruption policies that are not only effective in combating corrupt practices, but also capable of maintaining and even enhancing national political stability.

Research Methods

This study uses the literature research method, which focuses on collecting, analyzing, and synthesizing information from various written sources relevant to the research topic. In conducting literature research, it is important to remain objective, critical, and comprehensive in analyzing and presenting information. This method helps researchers understand the state of the art in a particular field, identify knowledge gaps, and provide a solid foundation for further research. (Firman, 2018); (Suyitno, 2021); (Jelahut, 2022).

Results and Discussion

Concept of Corruption

Corruption is the abuse of power or position entrusted to a person to pursue personal or group interests, to the detriment of the public interest or society. It includes various forms of unethical and unlawful behavior, such as bribery, embezzlement, nepotism, extortion, and manipulation of policies or procedures for personal gain. (Joel, 2023). Corruption can occur in various sectors, including government, private, and non-profit organizations, and has a major negative impact on economic development, social stability, and public trust in institutions. It is considered a serious threat to democracy, justice and public welfare, and has become a major focus of law enforcement and governance reform efforts in many countries around the world. (Shi, 2023).

Corruption has various forms and manifestations that can be categorized into several main types. First, political corruption, which involves the abuse of power by public officials for personal gain, such as electoral manipulation, the selling of positions, or policy-making that favors certain groups (Yang et al., 2024). Second, administrative corruption, which occurs in the implementation of policies and public services, including bribery to speed up bureaucratic processes or overlook violations. Third, judicial

corruption, which involves abuse of the judicial system, such as bribes to judges or prosecutors to influence legal decisions. Fourth, economic corruption, which includes practices such as embezzlement of funds, tax fraud, or market manipulation. (Fliadzhynska & Prytychenko, 2020)..

In addition, there are other types of corruption that are also significant. Systemic corruption refers to situations where corruption has become an integral part of the government system or organization. Grand corruption involves large amounts of money and is usually committed by high-ranking officials, while petty corruption involves smaller amounts and often occurs in everyday interactions with low-level employees. (Eom, 2023). Nepotism and cronyism are forms of corruption in which a person gives preferential treatment to relatives or close friends. Lastly, state capture is a form of corruption in which private interests significantly influence the state's policy-making process for their own benefit. (Porta & Mattoni, 2022)..

Corruption is a complex problem that results from a variety of interrelated factors. One of the main causes is weak law enforcement and accountability, which creates an environment where corrupt actors feel they can act without repercussions. Economic factors also play an important role, where steep economic disparities, inadequate salaries, and financial pressures can drive individuals to seek illegal means of profit. (NAGAWA, 2022). Unhealthy political cultures, such as patronage and clientelism, can create a system where corruption is normalized and even necessary to achieve certain goals. In addition, the lack of transparency in decision-making processes and the management of public resources opens up opportunities for abuses of power. (Eom, 2023).

Other factors contributing to corruption include low levels of education and public awareness of their rights and the negative impacts of corruption. Complicated and inefficient bureaucratic systems often create opportunities for corruption, especially in the form of bribes to speed up processes or ignore regulations (Sun, 2023). (Sun, 2023). Lack of press freedom and a weak civil society also reduce scrutiny of the actions of government and public officials. Cultural factors, such as a tolerant attitude towards petty corrupt practices or "facilitation payments", can develop into bigger problems over time. Finally, globalization and technological advances, while bringing many benefits, have also created new opportunities for cross-border corruption and more sophisticated money laundering. (Nkpe, 2021).

Corruption is a complex problem rooted in a variety of interplaying factors. These factors include: weaknesses in the legal system and accountability, economic disparities and financial pressures, unhealthy political culture, lack of transparency in government, low levels of education and public awareness, complex and inefficient bureaucracy, limited press freedom and weak civil society, cultural attitudes that are tolerant of petty corrupt practices, and new opportunities due to globalization and technological advances. (Vergara, 2020). To effectively prevent corruption, a comprehensive

approach is needed that addresses all these factors simultaneously. This involves institutional reform, improved law enforcement, public education and cultural change to promote integrity and accountability at all levels of society. (H. Li & Meng, 2020).

Anti-Corruption Policy

An anti-bribery policy is a set of rules, strategies and actions designed and enforced by a government, organization or institution to prevent, detect and act on bribery practices. This policy aims to increase transparency, accountability, and integrity in the management of public and private resources. (Choi, 2023). In general, anti-bribery policies cover various aspects such as strengthening the legal system, improving internal and external controls, establishing specialized anti-bribery agencies, protecting whistleblowers, educating the public, and reforming bureaucracy and governance. These policies often involve international cooperation to deal with cross-border bribery cases and adopt global standards in combating bribery. The ultimate goal of anti-bribery policies is to create a zero-tolerance environment for bribery and promote a culture of integrity at all levels of society. (N. W. Kim, 2024).

Anti-bribery policies can be divided into several types based on their implementation approach and focus. First, there are preventive policies that aim to prevent bribery before it takes place. These include reforming systems and procedures to reduce opportunities for bribery, increasing transparency in decision-making, and strengthening ethics and integrity among public officials and employees. (Shabbir et al., 2022).. Second, detective policies designed to identify and expose ongoing bribery practices. This includes the establishment of effective reporting systems, regular audits, and the utilization of technology to monitor suspicious financial transactions. Third, sanctioning policies that focus on the follow-up of bribery offenders, including the strengthening of anti-bribery laws, enhancing law enforcement capacity, and imposing more severe sanctions. (Salvo, 2024).

In addition, there are also policies that focus on institutional aspects, such as the establishment of an independent anti-bribery agency or bureaucratic reform. Education and public awareness policies are also important, aiming to build an anti-bribery culture in society through public campaigns and the integration of anti-bribery education in the school curriculum. (Kartiko, 2024). International cooperation policies are another important type, involving collaboration between countries in tackling cross-border bribery and sharing best practices. Finally, internal whistleblower protection policies are designed to protect and encourage individuals who report bribery practices. A combination of these different types of policies is needed to create a comprehensive approach to combating bribery (Birch, 2020).

Implementation of Anti-Corruption Policies in Various Countries

Anti-corruption approaches vary between countries, reflecting their different political, social and economic contexts. In Singapore, for example, the measures taken are robust and comprehensive. The country is known for its strong and independent Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau (BIPK), along with the imposition of severe sanctions against corrupt actors. (W. Li et al., 2020). Singapore also applies high salaries for officials to reduce the temptation of corruption. This approach, combined with systematic bureaucratic and public service reforms, has made Singapore one of the least corrupt countries in the world. (Duho, 2020).

In Hong Kong, the Independent Anti-Corruption Commission (IAC) has become a model for many other countries. The Commission employs a three-pronged approach: law enforcement, prevention and public education. Hong Kong's success in significantly reducing corruption since the 1970s is often attributed to the effectiveness of the KAI and the strong support of the government and people. (Dominic & Mahamed, 2023).

Sweden offers another example of effective anti-corruption policy implementation. The country relies on a high level of transparency in government, strong press freedom, and an independent judicial system. Sweden also has a long tradition of upholding public ethics and integrity in public service. This policy is supported by an education system that emphasizes honest values and social responsibility from an early age. (Saiz-Alvarez, 2023).

On the other hand, some developing countries face greater challenges in implementing anti-corruption policies. Indonesia, for example, has established a fairly effective Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK), but it remains politically and institutionally challenged. Brazil, through its "Lava Jato" operation, has made progress in prosecuting major corruption cases, but is still grappling with systemic corruption. (Mohamed, 2023). These countries often have to overcome obstacles such as political elite resistance, weaknesses in the judicial system, and social norms that tolerate corruption. Implementing anti-corruption policies in these countries requires a long-term approach that involves institutional reform, strengthening law enforcement, and cultural change.

National Political Stability

A country's political stability can be assessed by its ability to maintain balance and order in carrying out various political functions without significant turmoil or conflict. This includes the government's ability to implement policies effectively, maintain the legitimacy of power, manage socio-political change peacefully, and build harmonious relationships between various community interest groups. Political stability is also reflected in the predictability of political processes, adherence to the rule of law, and the ability of state institutions to face domestic and foreign challenges without significant disruption. (Yue & Liu, 2023).

Various aspects can be used as benchmarks to measure a country's political stability. Some of them are the level of political violence and terrorism, the frequency of unconstitutional government changes, the intensity of social and religious conflicts, and the level of law enforcement and justice (Fernández, 2022). (Fernández, 2022). In addition, the quality of bureaucracy, government effectiveness, control of corruption, and freedom of the press are also important factors. International indices such as the World Bank's World Governance Indicators and The Economist Intelligence Unit's Political Stability Index are often used as references to compare political stability between countries. (Kumar, 2023).

The level of public political participation, the strength and independence of democratic institutions, and the state's ability to manage economic and social pressures are equally important indicators. Economic policy stability, consistency in law enforcement, and the government's ability to resolve crises without major upheavals are also significant benchmarks. (Sakib, 2020). Harmonious international relations and the country's ability to maintain security from external threats contribute to overall political stability. It is important to note that the various indicators are interrelated and must be assessed as a whole to obtain a comprehensive picture of a country's political stability (Elsayed & Mandikian, 2020). (Elsayed & Mandikiana, 2024)..

Political stability is a balance maintained by various interrelated and interdependent aspects. The main factors are the system of government and a firm legal framework that provides the legal framework and institutions for peaceful conflict management. A stable economy, equitable welfare, low unemployment support stability. Social cohesion and strong identity trap inter-group conflict. Level of education, quality of leadership, effective bureaucracy, low corruption contribute. An active civil society and free media provide a platform for aspiration and oversight. (K. Kim, 2021).

External factors also influence, such as international relations, especially with major powers, pressure from international organizations, sanctions, support from foreign opposition. Geopolitics and regional security play a role, with regional conflicts having a domestic impact. Globalization and information technology open up new challenges such as the influence of social media shaping the public and the acceleration of information (or disinformation) fueling tensions. The ability to adapt to global change and manage new challenges is key to long-term stability. (Bae, 2023).

Implications of Anti-Corruption Policies on National Political Stability

A solid anti-corruption policy is bound to bring many major positive impacts to a nation. First, it can improve the efficiency and effectiveness of government. By reducing acts of corruption, public resources can be better allocated and used for the benefit of the people at large, rather than just delegated to a few people. (Kamowa, 2020). This in turn can improve the quality of public services, facilities, and social programs. Second,

anti-corruption policies promote healthier economic growth. By reducing the additional costs of bribery and embezzlement, the business climate becomes more competitive and attractive to investors, both domestic and foreign. This stimulates innovation, increases productivity and creates new jobs, which in turn contributes to improving the overall welfare of the people. (Khamdeev, 2021).

Anti-corruption policies also have a positive impact on social and political aspects. Consistent implementation can increase public trust in government institutions and the political system. This strengthens the legitimacy of the government and encourages active citizen participation in the democratic process. Anti-corruption policies also contribute to the promotion of social justice by reducing the disparities caused by corrupt acts (Grigorev, 2021). (Grigorev, 2021). In the long run, this can strengthen social unity and political stability. Furthermore, success in fighting corruption can improve a nation's international reputation, which has a positive impact on diplomatic relations, economic cooperation, and bargaining power in global forums. Thus, anti-corruption policies are not only beneficial internally, but also strengthen the country's position in the global context. (CHEESEMAM & PEIFFER, 2024).

While anti-corruption policies are generally viewed positively, their implementation deserves careful thought as they can have adverse impacts that need to be anticipated. One of the most significant impacts is the possibility of bureaucratic rigidity or "paralysis by analysis". Excessive fear of corruption allegations has the potential to make public officials hesitant in making decisions and implementing programs, which in turn is likely to slow down the administrative and development process. (Deng, 2024). In addition, the implementation of overly harsh anti-corruption policies without considering the local cultural context can trigger social resistance and conflict. In some cases, these policies may also be misused as a political tool to get rid of certain enemies or groups, potentially undermining the integrity of the legal system and democracy. Furthermore, the cost of implementing and enforcing a comprehensive anti-corruption policy may be enormous, which may reduce the budget for other important sectors such as education or health. (Oskina & Lisiansky, 2021)..

In conclusion, anti-corruption policies are an important tool in creating good governance and a more just society. While they can have significant positive impacts, such as increased government efficiency, healthier economic growth and strengthened public trust, they can also have some adverse impacts that need to be watched out for. Challenges such as bureaucratic rigidity, potential political abuse, and high implementation costs must be managed wisely.

Therefore, the implementation of anti-corruption policies must be implemented wisely, taking into account the local context and ensuring a balance between strict law enforcement and the flexibility necessary for effective government functions. A comprehensive approach involving not only the government, but also civil society, the private sector and the media is needed to create a sustainable anti-corruption culture.

(Fu & Zhou, 2022). By doing so, the benefits of anti-corruption policies can be maximized while minimizing their potential adverse impacts, ultimately promoting better national development and improved overall welfare.

The implementation of anti-corruption policies faces various complex and multidimensional obstacles. One of the main challenges is the assertiveness of individuals who have an interest in preserving the status quo. Individuals or groups who have long benefited from corrupt practices tend to make various efforts to hinder or weaken anti-corruption policies. (Naxera, 2023). This can be seen in the form of political lobbying, manipulation of public opinion, and even threats and intimidation against law enforcement officials and anti-corruption activists. In addition, the culture of corruption that has taken root in the bureaucratic system and society is also a significant obstacle. Changing long-established mindsets and behaviours takes time and consistent effort, and requires a comprehensive approach involving education, socialization and strict law enforcement. (Adamopoulos, 2022).

Another important challenge is limited resources and institutional capacity. Effective implementation of anti-corruption policies requires a strong legal infrastructure, sophisticated monitoring systems, and competent law enforcement officers with integrity. However, many countries, especially developing countries, face limited budgets, technology, and experts to optimally implement anti-corruption programs. (Wu & Liu, 2022). In addition, coordination between government agencies and international cooperation is also often an obstacle, given the nature of corruption that often involves cross-sector and cross-country networks. These constraints are exacerbated by the rapid development of technology, which on the one hand can assist corruption eradication efforts, but on the other hand also opens up new opportunities for more sophisticated and difficult-to-detect corrupt practices (Garcia, 2023). (Garcia, 2023). Therefore, an adaptive and innovative approach to dealing with these constraints is required, as well as a long-term commitment from all stakeholders to continuously strengthen and refine anti-corruption policies.

The Relationship between Anti-Corruption Policy and National Political Stability

Policies to combat corruption have a complex and complicated relationship with national political stability. Effective implementation of anti-corruption policies can strengthen government legitimacy, increase public trust in state institutions, and create a healthier political climate. (Coteau, 2024). When people see that the government is making a serious effort to root out corruption, this can reduce discontent and the potential for social conflicts that often arise due to injustice and abuse of power. Thus, a consistent and transparent anti-corruption policy can provide a strong foundation for political stability in the long run. (Bagg, 2022).

However, on the other hand, the implementation of policies to combat corruption can also trigger political turmoil in the short term. Corruption eradication

efforts that target political elites or high-ranking state officials often provoke resistance and conflicts of interest. (N. W. Kim, 2024). This can lead to tensions between various political factions, destabilization of existing power structures, and even political crises if not managed properly. In some cases, groups that feel threatened by policies to combat corruption may attempt to manipulate public opinion or use other sensitive issues to divert attention and maintain their position (Eom, 2023). (Eom, 2023).

However, in the long run, successful corruption-fighting policies strengthen democratic institutions and improve the quality of governance. This in turn contributes to more sustainable political stability (Katzarova & Ansart, 2021). (Katzarova & Ansart, 2021). When corruption is reduced, the allocation of state resources becomes more efficient and equitable, public services improve, and the investment climate improves. All these factors support economic growth and social welfare, which are important components in maintaining national political stability. (Coteau, 2024).

Therefore, it is important for policymakers to understand the complex dynamics between anti-corruption policies and political stability. A careful and planned approach to the implementation of anti-corruption policies is required, taking into account the existing political and social context. Effective communication strategies, broad coalition building, and strengthening democratic institutions need to be carried out together to ensure that the fight against corruption not only achieves its goals, but also contributes positively to political stability in the long run. Thus, policies to combat corruption are able to catalyze positive transformations in the political system and state governance.

Conclusion

Anti-corruption policies have significant and complex consequences for national political stability. On the one hand, the implementation of effective policies against corruption can strengthen government legitimacy, increase public trust, and establish a solid foundation for long-term political stability. A successful fight against corruption promotes better governance, fairer resource allocation, and improved quality of public services, all of which contribute to a more stable and sustainable political environment.

However, it must be recognized that efforts to root out corruption can also cause short-term political turmoil. Resistance from parties whose interests are threatened, potential conflicts between political factions, and the possibility of destabilizing the existing power structure are challenges that must be faced in implementing policies against corruption. Therefore, a careful, planned and comprehensive approach is needed in implementing policies against corruption to minimize negative impacts on political stability.

In conclusion, while anti-corruption policies may pose short-term challenges to political stability, the long-term benefits are far greater. Success in rooting out corruption will establish a strong foundation for a healthier political system, better governance and sustainable national stability. Achieving this requires a strong

commitment from all stakeholders, a careful implementation strategy, and continuous efforts to strengthen democratic institutions and build a culture of integrity in society.

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