

The Role of the Media in Revealing Corruption Cases

Rahmayanti^{1*}, Masitah Pohan²

¹Program for Doctor of Law, Universitas Pembangunan Panca Budi, Medan, Indonesia

²Faculty of Law, Universitas Muhammadiyah Sumatera Utara, Medan, Indonesia

E-mail: ^{1*}rahmayanti@dosen.pancabudi.ac.id, ²masitahpohan@umsu.ac.id

*E-mail Corresponding Author: rahmayanti@dosen.pancabudi.ac.id

Abstract

The mass media plays a strategic role in overseeing government operations and informing the public, particularly in the context of uncovering corruption cases. This study aims to analyze the media's role in uncovering and shaping public opinion regarding corruption cases in Indonesia. Through a qualitative approach using case studies of several media reports related to major corruption cases, it was found that the media acts as a social watchdog, a driver of public opinion, and a catalyst for law enforcement action. However, the media also faces challenges such as interference from political interests and limited access to information. The study's findings indicate that the existence of free and independent media is crucial for strengthening transparency and public accountability. Therefore, strengthening journalistic professionalism and ethics is key to increasing the effectiveness of the media's role in eradicating corruption.

Keywords: Mass Media, Corruption, Oversight, Public Opinion, Investigative Journalism

I. INTRODUCTION

Corruption is one of the main challenges facing Indonesia in realizing clean, transparent, and accountable governance. As a country with a complex and diverse government system, Indonesia requires an effective corruption prevention strategy to strengthen the integrity of government institutions and increase public trust in the state apparatus (Aspan, 2023). Corruption prevention is not only carried out through the prosecution of perpetrators of corruption, but also through preventive efforts that include system reform, regulatory strengthening, and an anti-corruption culture at all levels of government. Therefore, developing an integrated and sustainable corruption prevention strategy is key to strengthening Indonesia's government system to ensure it is free from corrupt practices that harm the nation and state (Rahmayanti, 2023).

The phenomenon of corruption in Indonesia is always a hot topic of discussion (Gemilang et al., 2024). One of the main topics related to the law enforcement process is the eradication of criminal acts of corruption. Corruption practices are currently evolving with the emergence of new practices that seek to exploit loopholes or weaknesses in various existing laws and regulations. As a nation governed by the rule of law, it is only right that all activities within the state and society must be carried out within the law. This means that law is essential in society to regulate relations between citizens and between the public and the state. The mass media plays a crucial role in eradicating corruption in Indonesia because, with its help, problems can be

identified and addressed quickly⁴. The mass media can utilize various media outlets, such as news, television, radio, newspapers, magazines, social media, and so on, to report on corruption issues occurring in Indonesia, whether at the civil service level, local government, or other institutions. Furthermore, the mass media also plays a role in influencing public opinion and attitudes toward corruption, given its negative impact on public welfare and development (Zalukhu et al., 2024).

The mass media can help raise public awareness of corruption by providing relevant information about corruption scandals. Disseminating information about corruption cases as part of public opinion is expected to create social control and encourage the public to take necessary actions to address corruption cases. The mass media plays a significant role in uncovering corruption cases, guiding public opinion in the right direction, and actively contributing to the dissemination of information, education, and even the handling of corruption crimes in Indonesia (Sidi, 2019; Sumarno, n.d.). Evidence of increased public awareness of corruption can be seen in the increasing number of anti-corruption reports appearing in the media. However, to respect the truth, the media must prioritize accurate facts and provide useful information to the public, ensuring their understanding of corruption scandals and swift action to prevent them. Nearly all journalistic activities today require interaction between the media and the public to gather information and uncover various corruption cases in Indonesia. This

can create a corruption-free social environment, which in turn contributes to financial security and a better social structure. Therefore, the mass media plays a significant role in uncovering corruption cases in Indonesia⁵.

II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research method is descriptive analytical. This study aims to describe the legal issues related to the Role of the Media in Revealing Corruption Cases (Ismaidar & Rahmayanti, 2023). The approach used is a normative legal approach. The approach strategy used in this study is a statutory approach. Supporting legal materials include primary legal materials, supporting legal materials, and tertiary legal materials. Primary legal materials are within the framework of statutory regulations. Supporting legal materials include lecture readings, legal diaries, previous study results, researcher conclusions, and other sources. Tertiary legal materials that provide explanations or clarifications to primary legal materials and support legal materials such as legal lexicons, encyclopedias, and others (Mufrizal et al., 2024).

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The law defines what must be done, what is permitted, and what is prohibited. The intended targets of the law are not only those who clearly violate the law, but also those who may potentially commit legal acts, as well as the state apparatus, which must act in accordance with the law. This system of legal operation constitutes a form of law enforcement (Riza Sirait & Ismaidar Ismaidar, 2024). The regulation of corruption eradication in Indonesia is carried out in such a way amidst the political power that occurs in every system. Almost daily, the media reports on corruption cases in various regions, various agencies, and various officials, both in other countries and in Indonesia (Saragih, 2017). The coverage not only focuses on the arrest of corruptors but also includes information on the amount of state funds stolen, the modus operandi, and who was involved. The media also continuously reports on the performance of the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) and the achievements of the prosecutor's office, which have recently begun to show their prowess in uncovering corruption cases. The media's role in preventing corruption in Indonesia encompasses three important aspects: exposing, monitoring, and empowering the community. Through these roles, the media plays an active role in building transparent governance,

strengthening social control, and raising public awareness of the dangers of corruption. It is no wonder that the media consistently broadcast reports on corruption cases. As the fourth pillar of democracy, the media has a responsibility to ensure that cases involving public interest, such as corruption eradication, are not overshadowed by other issues (Nurhayati et al., 2021). By reporting on corruption, the media reminds us that much work remains to be done. This is the media's role in helping the state resolve corruption issues that harm many parties. Regarding investigative duties, the police must obtain evidence to present to prosecutors for subsequent presentation in court. Money laundering cases are no easy matter, especially when linked to the underlying crime⁹.

The media's role in eradicating corruption should not be underestimated. Both domestic and foreign media have demonstrated their strength in combating corruption. In addition to monitoring through diverse news coverage, the media also has the power to uncover various scandals that were previously tightly closed or covered up, bringing them to light through investigations. With their freedom to access and disseminate public information, the media can also conduct thorough investigations, thereby providing a warning to deter people from engaging in corruption. First, the media plays a crucial role in exposing corrupt practices in various sectors. Through in-depth journalistic investigations, the media can unearth hidden facts and expose corruption cases. By bringing corruption cases to light, the media assumes a crucial responsibility in providing the public with information, raising awareness of corrupt practices, and encouraging law enforcement. Balanced and critical media coverage can also generate public pressure on authorities to act fairly and transparently.

Second, the media acts as a watchdog, overseeing the performance of government and public institutions. Through thorough and incisive coverage, the media helps identify potential fraud and corruption in the management of public funds. By monitoring government policies and actions, the media serves as a filter and safeguard, ensuring transparency and accountability in public governance. This role not only influences the decision-making process but also encourages leaders and bureaucracy to be more accountable. Third, the media also plays a crucial role in empowering the public in confronting corruption. Through information programs, balanced coverage, and educational campaigns, the media helps raise public

awareness of the dangers of corruption and its negative impacts. By providing accurate and relevant information, the media helps strengthen the public's active role in preventing corruption. Furthermore, the media also provides a platform for critical voices and public opinion that advocates for good governance and integrity in government and the public sector. The media has a dual role: it not only raises public awareness about corruption, its causes, consequences, and potential remedies, but also investigates and reports on alleged corruption, which assists other law enforcement agencies. Media reporting and investigative journalism, including collaboration with NGOs, are highly beneficial and worthy of further development. In parallel, the media can contribute to instilling values of honesty and fostering anti-corruption attitudes from an early age through its reporting.

Overall, the media's role in exposing, monitoring, and empowering has a positive impact on preventing corruption cases in Indonesia. With the media's hard work.

IV. CONCLUSION

The conclusion from the media's role in uncovering corruption cases is that it plays a crucial and strategic role in eradicating corruption. The media serves as an active watchdog, capable of openly exposing corrupt practices to the public, raising public awareness, and increasing pressure on law enforcement and the government to take decisive action. Through accurate and responsible reporting, the media helps uncover the truth, expedites prosecutions, and promotes transparency and accountability within government and other institutions. Therefore, the existence of a free and independent media is vital to corruption eradication efforts in Indonesia and other countries.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

Suggestions for further research to close research shortcomings. It does not contain outside suggestions for further research.

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