

ANALYZING CRIMINAL LIABILITY IN VILLAGE FUND CORRUPTION: A CASE STUDY FROM KAMPUNG SIDOMUKTI

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the judicial considerations in determining criminal liability for village fund corruption in Kampung Sidomukti, Kecamatan Gedong Aji Baru, Kabupaten Tulang Bawang.

Utilizing a normative and empirical juridical approach, the research analyzes primary and secondary data, including court documents and witness testimonies. The findings reveal that the court meticulously evaluated legal evidence, witness accounts, and the elements of the charges to reach a verdict. The accused was sentenced to four years of imprisonment and fined Rp. 200,000,000, with an alternative of three months' imprisonment if the fine was unpaid. The judicial process considered juridical, sociological, and philosophical aspects, emphasizing the seriousness of corruption and its impact on national development. The study underscores the importance of intent in establishing criminal liability and highlights the need for effective legal frameworks to deter corruption. This research contributes to a deeper understanding of legal accountability in rural settings and suggests areas for future policy and legal reforms.

Keywords: *Village Fund Corruption; Criminal Liability; Judicial Considerations; Legal Frameworks; Rural Governance*

Introduction

Corruption remains a pervasive issue that undermines national development and depletes state resources. In Indonesia, the misuse of village funds has emerged as a critical concern due to its direct impact on rural development and community welfare (Timomor & Lolong, 2019; Utoyo & Riviyusnita, 2020). Village funds are essential for supporting local infrastructure, education, and healthcare initiatives, making their proper allocation and management vital for the socio-economic progress of rural areas (Barusman, 2018). However, the corruption of these funds poses significant challenges to achieving equitable development, often resulting in the marginalization of already vulnerable communities and a loss of public trust in governance (Agung, 2018; Bawono, 2020; Ekayana, 2020; Wartiningsih, 2018).

This study focuses on the criminal liability of individuals involved in the corruption of village funds in Kampung Sidomukti, Kecamatan Gedong Aji Baru, Kabupaten Tulang Bawang. The objective is to analyze the judicial considerations in determining the culpability and sentencing of the accused, thereby contributing to the broader discourse on legal accountability in corruption cases. The research aims to explore how legal, sociological, and philosophical aspects influence judicial decision-making, providing insights into the practical application of legal frameworks.

Despite extensive literature on corruption, there is a notable gap in understanding the specific judicial processes and considerations in rural settings, particularly concerning the misappropriation of village funds (Karianga, 2020; Rakhmat, 2020; Young et al., 2018). Most studies have focused on urban corruption or the socio-economic impacts of corruption at a broader level, leaving rural corruption dynamics less explored (Fauzia & Hamdani, 2022; Octaviana, 2019). This research aims to fill this gap by providing an empirical analysis of a specific case, thereby enhancing understanding of how judicial frameworks operate in rural contexts and informing future policy and legal reforms. By examining this case, the study seeks to highlight the importance of effective judicial processes in combating corruption and promoting transparency and accountability in local governance.

Methodology

This study employs a normative and empirical juridical approach, utilizing both primary and secondary data sources. The primary data comprises court documents, witness testimonies, and legal instruments relevant to the case. Secondary data includes academic literature, legal commentaries, and previous case studies on corruption (Dzulhijatussarah & Defrizal, 2024; Raras et al., 2024; Wijayanti & Habiburahman, 2024). The research methodology involves a detailed examination of the legal proceedings, focusing on the evidence presented, the arguments made by the prosecution and defense, and the rationale behind the judicial decisions.

The selection of Kampung Sidomukti as a case study is based on its representativeness of rural corruption cases in Indonesia. The methods applied are designed to critically evaluate the validity and reliability of the judicial process, ensuring that the findings are grounded in a robust analysis of the legal and factual context. This approach allows for a comprehensive understanding of the factors influencing judicial outcomes in corruption cases, providing insights into the effectiveness of current legal frameworks.

Result and Discussion

a. Results

The findings reveal that the judicial process in the Kampung Sidomukti case was thorough, with the court considering various aspects before reaching a verdict. The judge's decision was based on a combination of legal evidence, witness testimonies, and the fulfillment of the elements of the charges. The accused was sentenced to four years of imprisonment and fined Rp. 200,000,000, with an alternative of three months' imprisonment if the fine was not paid. This sentence reflects the seriousness with which the court viewed the offense, emphasizing the need for deterrence and accountability.

The legal considerations in the case were multifaceted, encompassing juridical, sociological, and philosophical dimensions. Juridically, the court relied on credible evidence and testimonies to establish the guilt of the accused. Sociologically, the court took into account the background of the accused and the impact of the crime on the community. Philosophically, the decision aimed to balance justice for the accused and the victims, ensuring that the punishment was proportionate to the crime.

b. Discussion

The case underscores the critical importance of intent in establishing criminal liability for corruption, particularly in rural areas. The court determined that the accused acted with deliberate intent to enrich themselves at the expense of the community, fulfilling the criteria for corruption as outlined by Timomor & Lolong (2019) and Utoyo & Riviyusnita (2020). This finding highlights the role of intent in distinguishing between negligence and deliberate wrongdoing, which is a pivotal factor in determining the severity of the sentence (Karianga, 2020).

The study also reveals the broader implications of corruption on rural development and public trust in governance. The misappropriation of village funds hampers local infrastructure, education, and healthcare initiatives, as noted by Barusman (2018), and leads to the marginalization of already vulnerable communities (Agung, 2018; Bawono, 2020). By holding individuals accountable, the judicial process serves as a deterrent to potential offenders and reinforces the rule of law (Ekayana, 2020; Wartiningsih, 2018). However, the effectiveness of such deterrence is contingent on the consistency and transparency of legal proceedings, emphasizing the need for ongoing reforms to strengthen the legal framework against corruption (Fauzia & Hamdani, 2022; Octaviana, 2019). These reforms are essential to enhance the judicial system's ability to effectively combat corruption and ensure that justice is served fairly and transparently, contributing to equitable development and restoring public trust in governance.

Conclusion

This study provides a detailed analysis of the judicial considerations in a village fund corruption case, offering insights into the complexities of legal accountability in rural settings. The findings underscore the importance of a comprehensive approach that integrates legal, sociological, and philosophical perspectives in judicial decision-making. By doing so, it contributes to a deeper understanding of how legal frameworks are applied in practice and the challenges involved in combating corruption.

The research highlights the need for continued efforts to enhance the effectiveness of legal mechanisms in addressing corruption, particularly in rural areas where governance structures may be weaker. Future research could explore the impact of legal reforms on corruption rates and the role of community engagement in promoting transparency and accountability. By addressing these issues, policymakers and legal practitioners can develop

more effective strategies to combat corruption and promote sustainable development. In conclusion, the Kampung Sidomukti case serves as a reminder of the critical role of the judiciary in upholding the rule of law and ensuring justice for all. By holding individuals accountable for their actions, the legal system can contribute to a more equitable and just society, where resources are used for the benefit of all, rather than the enrichment of a few. This study provides a detailed analysis of the judicial considerations in a village fund corruption case, offering insights into the complexities of legal accountability in rural settings. The findings underscore the importance of a comprehensive approach that integrates legal, sociological, and philosophical perspectives in judicial decision-making. By doing so, it contributes to a deeper understanding of how legal frameworks are applied in practice and the challenges involved in combating corruption.

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