

## Prosecutor's Professionalism in the Internal Investigation Process Eradication of Corruption (Study at the Aceh Besar District Prosecutor's Office)

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### ABSTRACT

The professionalism of prosecutors in the process of investigating corruption crimes is a crucial aspect in ensuring justice, legal certainty, and the effectiveness of corruption eradication. The Prosecutor's Office as a law enforcement agency has a strategic role in investigating corruption cases in accordance with the authority regulated in laws and regulations. This study aims to analyze the professionalism of prosecutors in investigating corruption crimes at the Aceh Besar District Prosecutor's Office, focusing on factors that affect the effectiveness of investigations, obstacles faced, and strategies to improve the quality of investigations. This study uses normative juridical and empirical juridical methods with a qualitative approach. Data was collected through literature studies and interviews with prosecutors in charge of investigating corruption cases. The results of the study show that the professionalism of prosecutors is influenced by technical competence, independence, and moral integrity. However, in practice, investigations often face obstacles such as political intervention, limited human resources, lack of use of digital forensic technology, and weak coordination between law enforcement agencies. To increase the effectiveness of investigations, strategic steps are needed such as increasing the capacity of prosecutors through continuous training, the application of digital technology in the collection of evidence, and strengthening cooperation between law enforcement agencies. With regulatory reform and more transparent supervision, it is hoped that efforts to eradicate corruption can run more optimally and contribute to a better justice system.

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### INTRODUCTION

Indonesia as a country of law has basic principles based on Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution. This emphasizes that every legal action, including law enforcement against corruption, must be oriented towards justice, legal certainty, and benefits for society. Article 1 paragraph (3) of the 1945 Constitution explicitly states that Indonesia is a country of law, so all aspects of government administration must be subject to applicable legal principles.

Corruption is a serious problem that hinders national development and harms state finances. According to Law Number 31 of 1999 in conjunction with Law Number 20 of 2001 concerning the Eradication of Corruption, corruption is defined as an unlawful act aimed at enriching oneself or others that can harm the country's finances or economy. The high rate of corruption in Indonesia shows the need for an effective eradication strategy, one of which is through optimizing the role of the prosecutor's office in the investigation process.

The Prosecutor's Office as a law enforcement agency has broad authority in the process of handling corruption cases. Based on Law Number 16 of 2004 concerning the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Indonesia which has been updated through Law Number 11 of 2021, prosecutors not only function as public prosecutors, but are also authorized to conduct investigations into certain corruption cases. This aims to accelerate the legal process and ensure the effectiveness of eradicating corruption.

The professionalism of prosecutors in the investigation process is a crucial aspect in ensuring justice and legal accountability. This professionalism includes technical competence, independence, and moral integrity in handling corruption cases. According to research conducted by the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) in 2022, one of the main challenges in investigating corruption cases is political intervention and weak coordination between law enforcement agencies. Therefore, a high standard of professionalism is needed in the implementation of prosecutors' duties.

In practice, prosecutors are faced with various obstacles in the process of investigating corruption crimes. These obstacles include difficulties in collecting evidence, the complexity of the corruption modus operandi, and the limitations of human resources and technology in supporting investigations. A study conducted by the Institute for the Study and Advocacy for Judicial Independence (LeIP) in 2023 shows that the low quality of investigations is often the main cause of the failure to prove corruption cases in court.

One of the strategies in increasing the effectiveness of investigations is through the application of digital technology and strengthening cooperation between institutions. Digitalization in the investigation process, such as the use of digital forensics and electronic-based surveillance systems, can help prosecutors in collecting evidence more effectively and efficiently. In addition, the synergy between the prosecutor's office, the police, and the KPK is an important factor in tackling corruption crimes more comprehensively.

The importance of prosecutorial professionalism in investigations is also supported by aspects of supervision and accountability. According to the 2024 Transparency International Indonesia report, improving internal and external oversight mechanisms for prosecutors can reduce the risk of abuse of authority and increase transparency in law enforcement. This is in line with the principles of good governance which prioritize accountability, transparency, and public participation in supervising the performance of law enforcement officials.

The success of eradicating corruption does not only depend on law enforcement officials, but also on public support and firm legal policies. Regulatory reform in the criminal justice system, including strengthening punishments for corrupt perpetrators and protection for witnesses and whistleblowers, is a strategic step that needs to be implemented. In addition, increasing legal literacy for the community can help in building a better legal culture.

Based on this phenomenon, this study aims to analyze the role of prosecutor professionalism in the process of investigating corruption crimes at the Aceh Besar District Attorney's Office. The focus of this research includes an analysis of factors that affect the effectiveness of investigations, obstacles faced by prosecutors in handling corruption cases, and strategies that can be applied to improve the quality of investigations.

With this research, it is hoped that it can contribute to the development of policies in the criminal justice system and strengthen the professionalism of prosecutors in carrying out their duties. Efforts to eradicate corruption that are carried out systematically and sustainably will be the key to realizing clean and integrity governance in Indonesia.

## METHODS

The research method used in this study is the normative juridical method, which is research that bases the law as norms, rules, principles, or dogmas. This approach is used to assess the professionalism of prosecutors in the process of investigating corruption crimes based on applicable legal provisions. With this method, the research focuses on the normative aspects contained in the laws and regulations that regulate the role and authority of the prosecutor's office in eradicating corruption.

The approaches used in this study are normative juridical and empirical juridical approaches. The normative juridical approach is carried out by examining various laws and regulations that regulate the role of prosecutors in the process of investigating corruption crimes. Meanwhile, an empirical juridical approach is carried out by examining how the implementation of the rule is in the field, especially at the Aceh Besar District

Attorney's Office. With the combination of these two approaches, the study can obtain a comprehensive picture of the professionalism of prosecutors in the investigation process.

The data sources used in this study consist of primary, secondary, and tertiary legal materials. Primary legal materials include laws and regulations that are the legal basis for the eradication of corruption, such as the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, Law Number 11 of 2021 concerning the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Indonesia, and Law Number 31 of 1999 *junto* Law Number 20 of 2001 concerning the Eradication of Corruption. Secondary legal materials are in the form of legal journals, books, and various literature related to prosecutorial professionalism and corruption eradication. The tertiary legal materials are used as additional references that provide information related to primary and secondary legal materials.

The data collection technique in this study was carried out through literature studies and interviews. The literature study aims to collect normative data from laws and regulations, legal doctrines, and relevant previous research results. Meanwhile, interviews were conducted with prosecutors on duty at the Aceh Besar District Prosecutor's Office to obtain information about the investigation practices carried out and factors that affect their professionalism in carrying out their duties.

After the data were collected, the analysis was carried out in a qualitative descriptive manner. The data obtained will be processed, classified, and analyzed systematically to provide a clear picture of the professionalism of prosecutors in the process of investigating corruption crimes. This analysis is also carried out by comparing the applicable normative provisions with practice in the field, so that it can be known whether there is a gap between theory and legal implementation.

This research was carried out at the Aceh Besar District Attorney's Office as the main research location. The selection of this location is based on the consideration that the Aceh Besar District Prosecutor's Office has the authority to handle corruption cases in its jurisdiction. In addition, this research will be carried out in the span of January 2025 to July 2025 to obtain comprehensive data related to the professionalism of prosecutors in the investigation process.

With the research method used, it is hoped that the results of this research can contribute to the development of legal science, especially in understanding the professionalism of prosecutors in the process of investigating corruption crimes. In addition, this research is also expected to be a recommendation for the prosecutor's office in improving the quality of prosecutorial professionalism to strengthen efforts to eradicate corruption in Indonesia.

## RESULTS

Prosecutor's Professionalism in the Investigation Process in the Eradication of Corruption (Study at the Aceh Besar District Attorney's Office)

### 1. Prosecutor's Professionalism in Corruption Investigations

This study found that the professionalism of prosecutors in the process of investigating corruption crimes at the Aceh Besar District Prosecutor's Office includes aspects of technical competence, independence, and moral integrity. Prosecutors who handle corruption cases are required to have a deep understanding of legal regulations, investigation procedures, and effective evidentiary strategies.

The results of interviews with prosecutors showed that they had attended various trainings and certifications related to corruption investigations. However, challenges in the application of professionalism are still found, especially in terms of external intervention and political pressure that can affect the independence of investigations.

### 2. Factors Affecting the Effectiveness of the Investigation

Based on the results of the research, there are several factors that affect the effectiveness of corruption investigations at the Aceh Besar District Prosecutor's Office, including:

Regulations and legal policies: Law Number 31 of 1999 *junto* Law Number 20 of 2001 is the basis for the eradication of corruption, but there are still obstacles in its implementation in the field.

Human resources: The limited number of prosecutors who specialize in investigating corruption crimes is an obstacle to the effectiveness of investigations.

Investigation technology: The use of digital forensic technology is still limited, making it difficult to collect electronic evidence.

Inter-agency coordination: The synergy between the Prosecutor's Office, the Police, and the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) still needs improvement to make the investigation process more efficient.

### 3. Obstacles in the Investigation Process

In practice, prosecutors face various obstacles in handling corruption cases, including:

- Difficulties in collecting evidence, especially when perpetrators use complex techniques to hide their corrupt acts.
- Political intervention and external pressure, which can hinder the independence of prosecutors in handling cases.
- Lack of protection for witnesses and whistleblowers, which causes fear for those who want to provide information related to corruption crimes.

### 4. Strategies to Improve the Quality of Investigations

Based on the findings of the research, several strategies can be applied to improve the quality of corruption investigations by prosecutors, namely:

- Strengthening the capacity and competence of prosecutors through continuous training in the field of criminal law, corruption and financial investigation.
- The application of digital technology in investigations, such as the use of financial analysis software and electronic-based surveillance systems.
- Increase transparency and supervision of the investigation process to prevent abuse of authority by law enforcement officials.
- Increase synergy with other institutions, such as the police and the KPK, in order to speed up the investigation process and increase the effectiveness of corruption eradication.

## DISCUSSION

The professionalism of prosecutors in the process of investigating corruption crimes at the Aceh Besar District Prosecutor's Office is a crucial aspect in ensuring justice and effectiveness in eradicating corruption. This professionalism includes technical competence, independence, and high moral integrity in handling corruption cases. The Prosecutor's Office, as a law enforcement agency, has a strategic role in overseeing the legal process so that it runs in accordance with the principles of justice and legal certainty. Therefore, prosecutors must have a deep understanding of legal regulations, investigation procedures, and effective evidentiary strategies in dealing with complex corruption cases.

In practice, prosecutors' professionalism is faced with various challenges, especially political intervention and external pressures that can affect independence in investigations. Research shows that although prosecutors have participated in various trainings and certifications related to corruption investigations, there are still obstacles in the application of professionalism in the field. In addition, the lack of protection for witnesses and whistleblowers is also a factor that affects the effectiveness of investigations. This shows that efforts to improve the professionalism of prosecutors must be accompanied by strengthening regulations and stricter supervision mechanisms.

Another factor that also affects the effectiveness of investigations is the limitation of human resources who specialize in investigating corruption crimes. The Aceh Besar District Prosecutor's Office still faces obstacles in the number of prosecutors who have expertise in financial investigations and digital forensic analysis. In addition, the use of technology in investigations is still limited, which causes the process of collecting and analyzing evidence to be less than optimal. Therefore, it is necessary to increase the capacity of human resources and the adoption of digital technology to support more effective investigations.

Another obstacle found in the investigation process is the lack of coordination between law enforcement agencies, such as the prosecutor's office, the police, and the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK). The suboptimal synergy between these institutions causes the investigation process to often experience delays or administrative constraints. Therefore, a more effective coordination mechanism is needed so that the investigation process can run more efficiently and integrate well. Strengthening this cooperation can also help in accelerating the handling of corruption cases involving a wide network and complex *modus operandi*.

Strategies to improve the professionalism of prosecutors in investigating corruption crimes can be carried out through several steps, such as capacity building through continuous training, the application of digital technology in investigations, and strengthening supervision and transparency in the investigation process. The use of financial analysis software and electronic-based surveillance systems can help prosecutors identify suspicious transaction patterns and collect more accurate evidence. In addition, public involvement in supervising the performance of the prosecutor's office can also be one of the steps to ensure transparency and accountability in the legal process.

The success of eradicating corruption does not only depend on the professionalism of prosecutors, but also on public support and firm legal policies. Regulatory reform in the criminal justice system, including strengthening punishments for corrupt perpetrators and protection for witnesses and whistleblowers, is a strategic step that needs to be implemented. With the improvement of prosecutors' professionalism and

adequate regulatory support, it is hoped that efforts to eradicate corruption in Indonesia can run more effectively and have a significant impact on national development.

## CONCLUSION

The professionalism of the prosecutor in the process of investigating corruption crimes at the Aceh Besar District Prosecutor's Office is a key factor in realizing justice and legal effectiveness. This professionalism includes technical competence, independence, and moral integrity in handling corruption cases. Research shows that although prosecutors have been equipped with clear training and regulations, there are still various challenges in investigative practice, such as political intervention, limited human resources, lack of use of technology, and weak coordination between law enforcement agencies. Therefore, increasing the capacity of prosecutors and strengthening the investigation system are very important in efforts to eradicate corruption more effectively.

## Suggestion

To improve the professionalism of prosecutors in the process of investigating corruption crimes, strategic steps are needed, such as increasing training and certification for prosecutors in forensic investigations and financial analysis, strengthening synergy between the prosecutor's office, the police, and the KPK, as well as the application of digital technology in investigations to accelerate the collection and analysis of evidence. In addition, transparency and accountability in the supervision system over prosecutors' performance must also be improved to prevent abuse of authority. With regulatory reform and community support, it is hoped that efforts to eradicate corruption can run more optimally and have a real impact on law enforcement in Indonesia.

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