

Building Pillars of Justice and Order: Uncovering the Challenges and Solutions of Equitable Law Enforcement in Indonesia

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Abstract: Enforcing fair and effective law in Indonesia is a complex challenge that requires a holistic approach from various stakeholders. Law enforcement institutions such as the judiciary, prosecution, police, and other legal bodies play a crucial role in upholding justice and maintaining societal order. One critical aspect in this context is ensuring the judiciary's independence from political pressure or other external influences, so that decisions are based on objective and fair legal principles. Legal reform is urgently needed to enhance transparency in legal processes, strengthen accountability, and uphold professionalism through continuous education and training of legal professionals. Strengthening active participation of the public in monitoring law enforcement agencies is also crucial to build public trust and maintain the integrity of the legal system as a whole. Developing an inclusive and comprehensive legal system should be a priority in addressing various legal challenges from local to national levels. By implementing these steps, Indonesia can strengthen the foundation for sustainable rule of law, which in turn will enhance justice for all citizens and create an environment conducive to sustainable and stable development. These efforts encompass not only structural and operational improvements in legal institutions, but also support the realization of a legally educated society aware of its rights, thus addressing social and economic challenges consistently and fairly. In-depth research on the implementation of legal policies is also necessary to identify areas needing improvement and evaluate the effectiveness of measures taken to achieve these goals.

Keywords: Pillars of Justice; Law Enforcement; Indonesia with Justice

1. Introduction

Law enforcement is aimed at enhancing order and legal certainty within society. This is achieved, among other things, by streamlining the functions, duties, and authorities of institutions responsible for upholding the law according to their respective scopes, and is based on a system of good cooperation that supports the intended goals. To ensure the effectiveness of law enforcement, it is essential to clearly delineate the roles and responsibilities of each institution involved. This includes the police, judiciary, prosecution services, and other relevant bodies, ensuring they operate within their designated boundaries and in accordance with the law. Additionally, establishing a framework for inter-agency cooperation is crucial. This framework should facilitate seamless communication and coordination between different law enforcement entities, allowing them to work together efficiently and effectively. For instance, regular inter-agency meetings, shared databases, and joint training programs can enhance mutual understanding and collaboration. Moreover, law enforcement efforts must be transparent and accountable to foster public trust and confidence.¹

This involves implementing robust oversight mechanisms to monitor the performance and conduct of law enforcement officers, as well as providing channels for the public to report misconduct or corruption. Ensuring that law enforcement agencies are adequately resourced is

¹ Martijn Van Zomeren, "Toward a Cultural Psychology of Collective Action: Just How "Core" Are the Core Motivations for Collective Action?", *Journal of Pacific Rim Psychology* 13 (January 2019): e15, <https://doi.org/10.1017/prp.2019.7>.

also vital. This includes providing sufficient funding, training, and technological support to enable these agencies to perform their duties effectively. Investing in modern technology, such as surveillance systems, forensic tools, and information technology infrastructure, can significantly enhance the capabilities of law enforcement agencies. Furthermore, continuous professional development and training for law enforcement personnel are necessary to keep them updated on the latest legal standards, investigative techniques, and human rights considerations. This helps in maintaining a high standard of professionalism and integrity within the law enforcement community. Lastly, community engagement plays a pivotal role in law enforcement. Building strong relationships between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve can lead to better crime prevention and resolution. Community policing initiatives, public awareness campaigns, and involving community leaders in law enforcement strategies can help in creating a safer and more orderly society. By addressing these aspects comprehensively, law enforcement can effectively contribute to maintaining social order and upholding the rule of law, ensuring that justice is served and that the rights and freedoms of individuals are protected. The level of societal development where the law is enforced influences the pattern of law enforcement. In modern societies that are rational and have high levels of specialization and differentiation, the organization of law enforcement becomes increasingly complex and highly bureaucratic. In more advanced societies, the legal system must not only be responsive to the needs of citizens but also capable of addressing a wide range of increasingly diverse and complex issues. Therefore, law enforcement in the context of modern society requires a more organized, efficient structure that can quickly adapt to changes.²

A systematic study of law enforcement and justice, theoretically, is deemed effective if five pillars of law function well. The first pillar is the legal instruments themselves, including legislation that must be clear, firm, and consistently applicable. The second pillar is the law enforcement officers who must be professional, have integrity, and possess adequate capacity to perform their duties without interference from any party. The third pillar involves the members of society within the scope of the legal regulations, where legal awareness and compliance must be fostered through continuous education and socialization. The fourth pillar is the cultural factor or legal culture, which reflects the values, norms, and attitudes of society towards the law. Lastly, the fifth pillar comprises the facilities and infrastructure that support the implementation of the law, including technology, infrastructure, and other resources needed to operate the legal system efficiently. When these five pillars function synergistically, law enforcement can proceed effectively and justly. Indonesia traditionally has several legal institutions responsible for law enforcement, including the police, the prosecutor's office, the judiciary, and advocates. Beyond these, additional agencies like the Directorate General of Customs and Excise, the Directorate General of Taxation, and the Directorate General of Immigration also play crucial roles. However, significant challenges persist within the law enforcement framework. These include issues in legislation-making, where the creation of laws and regulations is often flawed, leading to unclear or contradictory statutes.³

There is also a societal tendency to prioritize victory in legal battles over achieving justice, which undermines the fairness of the legal system. Financial influence, where corruption pervades, further affects the impartiality and effectiveness of law enforcement. Additionally, law enforcement is sometimes used as a political commodity, resulting in discriminatory practices. Weak human resources, characterized by inadequately trained personnel, hinder effective enforcement. A disparity exists between advocates who rely on their legal knowledge and those who depend on their connections, skewing justice. Budget constraints also limit the capacity of law enforcement agencies to function efficiently. Lastly, media-driven law enforcement can lead to decisions swayed by public opinion rather than justice. Addressing these issues requires comprehensive reforms in legislative processes, a cultural shift towards valuing justice, robust anti-corruption measures,

² Diana HAPSARI, Setyo RIYANTO, and Endri ENDRI, 'The Role of Transformational Leadership in Building Organizational Citizenship: The Civil Servants of Indonesia', *The Journal of Asian Finance, Economics and Business* 8, no. 2 (28 February 2021): 595–604, <https://doi.org/10.13106/JAFEB.2021.VOL8.NO2.0595>.

³ Rian Saputra, M Zaid M Zaid, and Silaas Oghenemaro Emovwodo, 'The Court Online Content Moderation: A Constitutional Framework', *Journal of Human Rights, Culture and Legal System* 2, no. 3 (1 December 2022): 139–48, <https://doi.org/10.53955/jhcls.v2i3.54>.

ensuring the independence of law enforcement from political influence, enhancing the training and capacity of personnel, fostering ethical practices among advocates, securing adequate funding, and mitigating media influence on legal processes. Through these reforms, Indonesia can strengthen its legal institutions and ensure that law enforcement is fair, impartial, and effective.⁴

The aforementioned problems require resolution, and the government, representing the state, has issued policies aimed at improving the performance of legal institutions and law enforcement officers. These policies not only focus on increasing efficiency and effectiveness but also on allocating sufficient budgets to ensure that each law enforcement agency has the necessary resources to carry out its duties effectively. This adequate budget includes regular training, procurement of modern equipment, and updates in information technology to support more transparent and accountable law enforcement processes. Government policies also include efforts to enhance the quality of human resources within legal institutions. This includes continuous education and training for law enforcement officers, including judges, prosecutors, and police officers, so they are always up-to-date with legal developments and capable of addressing various challenges in law enforcement. With improved human resources, it is expected that law enforcement officers can work more professionally, fairly, and without discrimination. Such fair law enforcement will significantly impact public perception and satisfaction with the performance of legal institutions.⁵

The government has adopted various measures to increase transparency and accountability in the law enforcement process. For instance, by providing public access to information regarding ongoing legal processes and ensuring that every stage of the legal process can be monitored by society. This transparency is expected to reduce the chances of corruption and abuse of power, and enhance public trust in legal institutions. Thus, the public will feel safer and more protected, knowing that the law is enforced fairly and transparently. These policies are expected not only to increase public satisfaction with legal institutions but also to ensure peace and social welfare for all members of society. With a fair and effective legal system, the public will have more trust and compliance with the law, creating a conducive atmosphere for social and economic development. Ultimately, effective and fair law enforcement will lay the foundation for a stable, safe, and prosperous nation for all its citizens.⁶

Based on the above, this paper will discuss the various efforts made by the state to overcome the problems faced in law enforcement as a form of protection for its citizens. Firstly, we will examine the legislative reform measures that have been taken to address problems in lawmaking. These reforms include making laws more transparent, participatory and accountable, as well as ensuring that regulations are not contradictory and are easily understood by the public. Furthermore, this paper will review education programmes and awareness campaigns aimed at changing the perspective of a society that prioritises winning legal cases over seeking justice. These programmes are designed to educate the public on the importance of integrity and fairness in the legal system and encourage active participation of citizens in a fair and transparent legal process.

2. Method

This research seeks to undertake a comprehensive examination of the intricate challenges that hinder effective law enforcement in Indonesia, while concurrently proposing robust solutions aimed at bolstering fairness within the country's legal landscape. The core aim is to establish a resilient foundation for social justice and order through an integrated approach blending qualitative

⁴ Siti HAERANI et al., 'Structural Model of Developing Human Resources Performance: Empirical Study of Indonesia States Owned Enterprises', *The Journal of Asian Finance, Economics and Business* 7, no. 3 (30 March 2020): 211–21, <https://doi.org/10.13106/JAFEB.2020.VOL7.NO3.211>.

⁵ Grace Y. Wong et al., 'Social Forestry in Southeast Asia: Evolving Interests, Discourses and the Many Notions of Equity', *Geoforum* 117 (December 2020): 246–58, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geoforum.2020.10.010>.

⁶ Katharine McGregor and Ken Setiawan, 'Shifting from International to "Indonesian" Justice Measures: Two Decades of Addressing Past Human Rights Violations', *Journal of Contemporary Asia*, 5 March 2019, 1–25, <https://doi.org/10.1080/00472336.2019.1584636>.

and quantitative methodologies. Qualitatively, the study will involve in-depth interviews with diverse stakeholders including law enforcement officials, civil society actors, and human rights advocates. These interviews will illuminate nuanced perspectives and firsthand experiences concerning justice in law enforcement practices, providing a nuanced understanding of the multifaceted challenges prevalent across different sectors and regions in Indonesia. Furthermore, detailed case studies will offer profound insights into specific instances of injustice within the Indonesian legal system, analyzing contributing factors and their societal impacts. Additionally, discourse analysis will critically assess how justice is framed within legal policies and frameworks, examining narratives that influence both law implementation and public perceptions. Quantitatively, surveys will gather empirical data on public perceptions of law enforcement effectiveness and fairness, complemented by secondary data analysis to identify trends and patterns in law enforcement practices over time. By triangulating data from diverse sources and methodologies, this research endeavors to offer a holistic perspective on Indonesia's law enforcement challenges, paving the way for evidence-based solutions to foster a more equitable and efficient legal system that prioritizes justice for all citizens.

3. Analysis or Discussion

3.1. Efforts to Increase the Role of Law Enforcement to Foster Legal Awareness of Community Members

The enforcement of law in society does not only depend on the legal awareness of the community but is also significantly determined by law enforcement officers.⁷ The community's legal awareness is a crucial foundation for ensuring compliance with the law. However, without the consistent support and actions from law enforcement officers, these rules often cannot be effectively implemented. Unfortunately, in many cases, there are certain law enforcement officers who do not carry out legal provisions as they should. This leads to the enforcement of law being inconsistent with expectations, providing a bad example that can damage the image of law enforcement officers. Non-compliance and violations by law enforcement officers can be caused by various factors. One of the main factors is the lack of integrity and morality among the law enforcement officers themselves. Good integrity and morality are absolute prerequisites for every law enforcement officer because they are in positions highly susceptible to temptations of bribery and abuse of power. When the integrity and morality of law enforcement officers are well-maintained, public trust in the legal system will increase. In modern state structures, the task of law enforcement is carried out by the judicial component implemented by the bureaucracy. This law enforcement bureaucracy involves various agencies working together to ensure that legal regulations can be effectively executed. The executive, with its bureaucracy, becomes a crucial part of the chain to realize the plans outlined in legal regulations. In this system, each part plays a significant role in maintaining order and justice in society.⁸

Judicial independence is the essence of a rule-of-law state. In an ideal legal system, judicial power must be independent and free from the influence of the executive and legislative branches. This judicial independence is vital because it ensures that law enforcement is carried out without interference from interested parties. Thus, the rule of law can be upheld, and the state can function according to the prevailing legal norms. However, in practice, judicial independence often faces various challenges. The influence of the executive and legislative branches can still be felt, either directly or indirectly. Therefore, continuous efforts are needed to strengthen judicial independence.

⁷ Ferdi Yufriadi and Fadilla Syahrani, 'Fiqh Siyasah Examination of the Dynamics of Implementation of Presidential Regulations on Covid-19 Vaccination in Pelalawan Regency, Riau', *Al-Qisthu: Jurnal Kajian Ilmu-Ilmu Hukum* 21, no. 2 (20 December 2023): 153–67.

⁸ Jodie Thorpe, 'Procedural Justice in Value Chains Through Public–Private Partnerships', *World Development* 103 (March 2018): 162–75, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2017.10.004>.

One way to achieve this is by increasing transparency and accountability in the law enforcement process. By doing so, the public can monitor and oversee the performance of law enforcement officers more effectively.⁹

It is important to improve the welfare of law enforcement officers. When their welfare is assured, the temptation to engage in corruption or abuse of power will decrease. The government must ensure that the salaries and benefits of law enforcement officers are sufficient to meet their living needs. This way, they can perform their duties more professionally and without economic pressures that might affect their integrity. Education and training for law enforcement officers should also be continuously enhanced.¹⁰ They need to be equipped with adequate knowledge and skills to carry out their duties effectively. Furthermore, training on ethics and integrity should be a part of the educational program for law enforcement officers. This ensures that they are not only competent in the technical aspects of law enforcement but also possess high moral and ethical standards. By addressing all these factors, it is hoped that the enforcement of law in society can run more effectively. High legal awareness in the community, supported by law enforcement officers with integrity and professionalism, will create a fair and effective legal system. Ultimately, this will have a positive impact on state governance and ensure that the rule of law is properly upheld.

3.2. The Law Enforcement Process in the Judicial Environment

Court as one of the law enforcement institutions, operates within the framework of laws established by legislative bodies. It encompasses various activities guided by legal provisions created and provided by these bodies. It's important to distinguish between judiciary and court. Court refers to the process of adjudication, while court specifically denotes the physical institutions involved in this process, such as the police, prosecution, and lawyers. The judicial process is closely tied to the substance being adjudicated, whether civil or criminal cases. Full engagement of these institutions typically occurs during criminal trials. Over time, several judicial bodies have evolved within the General Judiciary, Religious Judiciary, Military Judiciary, Administrative Court, and Tax Court. Each of these bodies has jurisdiction to adjudicate cases within its respective domain. The development of these judicial bodies reflects the specialization and diversification required to handle different types of legal disputes effectively. This specialization ensures that each court can apply the law competently and fairly within its designated scope. Thus, the judiciary plays a crucial role in upholding the rule of law by administering justice impartially and in accordance with established legal principles.¹¹

In the author's opinion, the role of the judiciary in establishing an independent, impartial, clean, and professional court system has not functioned as expected. This is due to various factors that hinder the achievement of an ideal judicial system. One of the main factors is the intervention from the government and the influence of other parties on court decisions. This intervention undermines the principle of judicial independence, which should be free from executive and legislative interference, thereby disrupting the process of fair and objective law enforcement. Besides intervention, the quality of professionalism, morals, and ethics of law enforcement officers is also a significant obstacle. Law enforcement officers, including judges, police officers, prosecutors, lawyers, and civil servant investigators (PPNS), still exhibit less professional performance and low moral integrity. This lack of professionalism and integrity leads to a decline in public trust in the judiciary as the

⁹ Daniel F. Robinson and Nicole Graham, 'Legal Pluralisms, Justice and Spatial Conflicts: New Directions in Legal Geography', *The Geographical Journal* 184, no. 1 (March 2018): 3–7, <https://doi.org/10.1111/geoj.12247>.

¹⁰ Ahmad Maryudi et al., "A Level Playing Field"? – What an Environmental Justice Lens Can Tell Us about Who Gets Leveled in the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Action Plan', *Society & Natural Resources* 33, no. 7 (2 July 2020): 859–75, <https://doi.org/10.1080/08941920.2020.1725201>.

¹¹ Hendrianto Stefanus, *Law and Politics of Constitutional Courts: Indonesia and the Search for Judicial Heroes*, 1st ed. (Abingdon, Oxon [UK]; New York, NY: Routledge, 2018). | Series: Islamic law in context: Routledge, 2018), <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315100043>.

last bastion for obtaining justice. This diminished trust negatively impacts legal stability and social order within society.¹²

The weakness of law enforcement is further exacerbated by the performance of law enforcement officers who do not demonstrate professional attitudes and high moral integrity. This unprofessional attitude creates various problems, such as unfair legal decisions, delays in the legal process, and abuse of authority.¹³ Consequently, society increasingly doubts the judiciary's ability to fulfill its function as an institution that upholds justice. The inadequate state of legal facilities and infrastructure also hampers optimal law enforcement. These inadequacies include physical facilities, information technology, and competent human resources. This insufficiency greatly affects the effectiveness of law enforcement officers' work, preventing them from performing their duties well and in accordance with the sense of justice expected by society.¹⁴

To address these issues, efforts must be made to improve the quality and integrity of law enforcement officers through continuous education and training. The training provided should cover technical aspects of law enforcement as well as ethics and morality. Thus, law enforcement officers will not only be competent in technical aspects but also possess high integrity and morality, which are crucial in performing their duties fairly and professionally. The government must commit to not intervening in the judicial process and fully support the independence of the judiciary. This step is essential to ensure that court decisions can be made objectively and free from external influence. Policies that support transparency and accountability in the judicial process also need to be strengthened to enhance public trust. Improving legal facilities and infrastructure is also imperative. The government must ensure that judicial institutions are equipped with adequate facilities to perform their duties optimally. Investments in information technology, physical infrastructure, and human resource training will greatly help in increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of law enforcement officers' work.¹⁵

To enhance the empowerment of judicial institutions and other law enforcement agencies, the necessary steps include improving the quality and capabilities of law enforcement officers to be more professional, with integrity, strong personality, and high moral standards. Continuous training and education must be prioritized to ensure that law enforcement officers possess knowledge and skills that align with contemporary demands. Training programs should cover technical aspects of law enforcement as well as ethical and moral aspects, enabling officers to perform their duties fairly and responsibly. Reforming the recruitment and promotion systems of law enforcement officers is essential. The recruitment process should be transparent and merit-based, ensuring that only competent individuals with integrity can join law enforcement agencies. Promotion should be based on performance and integrity, not on connections or political interests, fostering a professional work culture that values competence. Implementing oversight mechanisms that allow community participation in monitoring the behavior of law enforcement officers is crucial. By involving the public in oversight processes, transparency and accountability within law enforcement agencies can be enhanced. The community can provide feedback and report unethical behavior or abuses of authority by law enforcement officers, ensuring prompt corrective actions. Efforts should also focus on improving the welfare of law enforcement officers to meet their living needs. Adequate salaries and benefits will help reduce the temptation of corruption and enable law enforcement officers to focus on their duties without economic pressure. The

¹² Hesty Nurul Utami, Eleftherios Alamanos, and Sharron Kuznesof, "A Social Justice Logic": How Digital Commerce Enables Value Co-Creation at the Bottom of the Pyramid', *Journal of Marketing Management* 37, no. 9–10 (13 June 2021): 816–55, <https://doi.org/10.1080/0267257X.2021.1908399>.

¹³ Karta Jayadi, Amirullah Abduh, and Muhammad Basri, 'A Meta-Analysis of Multicultural Education Paradigm in Indonesia', *Heliyon* 8, no. 1 (January 2022): e08828, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.heliyon.2022.e08828>.

¹⁴ Felix Septianto, Fandy Tjiptono, and Sony Kusumasondjaja, 'Anger Punishes, Compassion Forgives: How Discrete Emotions Mitigate Double Standards in Consumer Ethical Judgment', *Journal of Retailing and Consumer Services* 53 (March 2020): 101979, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jretconser.2019.101979>.

¹⁵ Laely Nurhidayah and Alistair McIlgorm, 'Coastal Adaptation Laws and the Social Justice of Policies to Address Sea Level Rise: An Indonesian Insight', *Ocean & Coastal Management* 171 (April 2019): 11–18, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ocecoaman.2019.01.011>.

government should commit to providing fair and adequate compensation as part of efforts to enhance their professionalism and integrity.¹⁶

Addressing the crisis of public trust in the legal system requires serious attention. Steps should include cataloging and legally addressing various unresolved cases of corruption, collusion, nepotism (KKN), and human rights violations. Strong law enforcement against these cases will demonstrate zero tolerance for legal violations and ensure justice applies to all. Empowering law enforcement officers, especially police, prosecutors, judiciary, and the community, should be prioritized. This involves providing adequate resources such as physical facilities and technology, and enhancing capabilities through training and education. Empowered law enforcement officers will be more capable of effectively and efficiently carrying out their duties.¹⁷

Providing legal aid to disadvantaged communities is also crucial. Ensuring that everyone, regardless of their economic status, has access to justice will increase public trust in the legal system. Legal aid can assist those who are less privileged in obtaining legal protection and resolving their legal issues fairly and transparently. Implementing these steps is expected to improve the performance and reputation of judicial and law enforcement institutions, and restore public confidence in the legal system. Thus, creating a fair and just society where the law is respected, consistently upheld, and applied without discrimination. This will have a positive impact on social stability and progress, ensuring that principles of justice and the rule of law are upheld in national and societal life.¹⁸

Horizontal and vertical violence fundamentally stem from the weakening adherence to cultural values and legal consciousness within society, resulting in low compliance with the law and various instances of abuse of authority. Furthermore, inadequate socialization of legislation—both before and after its implementation—among the general populace and state officials, including law enforcement officers, exacerbates these issues. Efforts to address this involve enhancing understanding and legal awareness across all societal strata regarding the importance of individual rights and responsibilities, aiming to foster a robust legal culture. Law enforcement is significantly influenced by the social conditions and interactions within a community. It can be observed that societies upholding or developing rights-based systems based on status, or those with stark disparities between the "haves" and "have-nots," or even those under authoritarian regimes, may enforce laws differently compared to open and egalitarian societies. In essence, the fairness and integrity of law enforcement are determined by the will and participation of community members, rather than solely the desires of law enforcement agencies.

4. Efforts to Empower the Judiciary and Law Enforcement Agencies

Law enforcement and the judiciary are indispensable pillars in safeguarding the rule of law and ensuring justice in society. The critical role of these institutions, encompassing courts, prosecutors, police, and civil servants, necessitates a concerted effort to restore public trust. Central to this endeavor is the enhancement of professionalism, integrity, and moral standards among judges and law enforcement officers. Strengthening transparency within judicial processes is paramount to increasing public confidence. This involves making court proceedings more accessible and comprehensible, thereby fostering accountability and reinforcing trust in the judicial system's fairness and impartiality. Reforming recruitment and promotion practices to prioritize merit and transparency is essential. By ensuring that appointments are based solely on competence and ethical conduct rather than political affiliations or connections, the integrity of these institutions

¹⁶ S. De Royer, M. Van Noordwijk, and J.M. Roshetko, 'Does Community-Based Forest Management in Indonesia Devolve Social Justice or Social Costs?', *International Forestry Review* 20, no. 2 (1 June 2018): 167–80, <https://doi.org/10.1505/146554818823767609>.

¹⁷ Manvir Singh and Zachary H. Garfield, 'Evidence for Third-Party Mediation but Not Punishment in Mentawai Justice', *Nature Human Behaviour* 6, no. 7 (9 May 2022): 930–40, <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-022-01341-7>.

¹⁸ Ahmad Dhiaulhaq and John F. McCarthy, 'Indigenous Rights and Agrarian Justice Framings in Forest Land Conflicts in Indonesia', *The Asia Pacific Journal of Anthropology* 21, no. 1 (1 January 2020): 34–54, <https://doi.org/10.1080/14442213.2019.1670243>.

can be upheld. Adequate welfare provisions for judicial and law enforcement personnel are also crucial. Competitive salaries and benefits recognize their pivotal roles, mitigate the risk of corruption, and bolster their capacity to enforce laws effectively and fairly.¹⁹

Harmonizing legislation that governs the functions of judicial bodies and law enforcement agencies is imperative. This synchronization ensures a cohesive legal framework that supports efficient and effective enforcement of justice across all sectors. Additionally, enhancing legal education and promoting ethical standards among legal professionals are fundamental steps. Equipping them with updated knowledge and ethical guidelines enables the legal community to contribute meaningfully to a more just and equitable judicial system. By fostering accountability mechanisms, empowering law enforcement through continuous training, and developing robust alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, these initiatives collectively aim to establish an independent and efficient judiciary. Rebuilding public confidence in the legal system is pivotal to ensuring that justice remains accessible to all members of society, thereby laying the foundation for a fair and just society upheld by the rule of law. Indonesia, as a constitutional state, upholds the principle of judicial independence, a cornerstone enshrined in the Constitution following its amendments and the enactment of Law No. 4 of 2004 on the Judiciary. The judicial authority under the 1945 Constitution is vested independently in the Supreme Court and its subordinate judicial bodies, alongside the Constitutional Court, which collectively administer justice to uphold law and justice. Amendments to the 1945 Constitution have significantly influenced the organization of judicial power, notably revising the fundamental provisions previously stipulated in Law No. 14 of 1970. These changes were subsequently updated through Law No. 35 of 1999 and further amended by Law No. 4 of 2006.

According to Article 1 of Law No. 4 of 2004 on the Judiciary, "Judicial authority is the independent authority of the state to administer justice based on Pancasila, ensuring the establishment of the Rule of Law in the Republic of Indonesia." This independent judicial authority signifies that the judiciary operates free from external interference, except as specified under the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia. The exercise of judicial power, though independent, is not absolute, as judges are mandated to uphold the law and justice in accordance with Pancasila, reflecting the principles of justice for the Indonesian people in their decisions. This framework underscores Indonesia's commitment to maintaining a judicial system that is fair, impartial, and accountable, ensuring that justice prevails and upholding the Rule of Law as a fundamental pillar of democratic governance in the nation.²⁰

Law enforcement agencies, particularly the Attorney General's Office in Indonesia, serve as integral components in the administration of justice, complementing the judiciary's role. Established under Law No. 16 of 2004, the Attorney General's Office operates independently to uphold the rule of law and ensure justice prevails across the nation. The office holds significant responsibilities, notably in the prosecution of criminal cases and the enforcement of court judgments. This entails not only initiating legal proceedings but also overseeing the execution of sentences and monitoring probation and parole terms. Furthermore, the Attorney General's Office conducts meticulous investigations into specific criminal offenses, preparing comprehensive case files essential for judicial review and decision-making. Beyond its role in criminal justice, the office wields authority in civil and administrative matters, empowered to act on behalf of the government in legal proceedings both inside and outside the courtroom. This multifaceted mandate encompasses maintaining public order by promoting legal awareness, monitoring the circulation of sensitive materials that could jeopardize national security, and preventing the misuse or defamation of state symbols and institutions. By executing these functions diligently and independently, the Attorney General's Office contributes significantly to maintaining legal certainty and safeguarding the principles of justice and fairness in Indonesian society. Its collaboration with the judiciary

¹⁹ Khudzaifah Dimiyati et al., 'Indonesia as a Legal Welfare State: A Prophetic-Transcendental Basis', *Heliyon* 7, no. 8 (August 2021): e07865, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.heliyon.2021.e07865>.

²⁰ Ashwin Ravikumar et al., 'Inter-Sectoral and Multilevel Coordination Alone Do Not Reduce Deforestation and Advance Environmental Justice: Why Bold Contestation Works When Collaboration Fails', *Environment and Planning C: Politics and Space* 36, no. 8 (December 2018): 1437–57, <https://doi.org/10.1177/2399654418794025>.

reinforces the country's commitment to upholding the rule of law and ensuring equal access to justice for all citizens.²¹

The Indonesian National Police, governed by Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the Indonesian National Police, plays a pivotal role in maintaining societal order, upholding the law, and safeguarding public security. Their responsibilities extend to enforcing the law diligently, ensuring the protection and well-being of citizens, and providing necessary assistance to the community. In recent years, the Indonesian government has embarked on reforms aimed at enhancing the effectiveness and integrity of law enforcement systems. These reforms are crucial for fostering a fair and tranquil society where the rule of law prevails. The reforms in legal regulations governing law enforcement agencies are intended to ensure that every member of these agencies performs their duties responsibly and ethically. This includes the proper execution of their roles in accordance with the law and with a commitment to upholding justice. The oversight mechanisms by both the government and the public are designed to monitor and evaluate the performance of law enforcement agencies, ensuring accountability and transparency in their actions. In practice, the enforcement of laws is deeply influenced by the dynamics within society itself. The interaction between law enforcement agencies and the broader societal structure shapes the approach taken towards maintaining law and order. This interaction underscores the importance of aligning law enforcement practices with the values and needs of the community they serve, thereby building trust and cooperation between law enforcement and society at large. Ultimately, these efforts contribute to creating a safe, secure, and just environment for all citizens of Indonesia.²²

Indonesia, as a modern nation, demonstrates several defining characteristics that underscore its legal and societal framework. Central to its governance is the presence of a written constitution, the Undang-Undang Dasar (UUD), which serves as the cornerstone of the legal system. This constitutional document not only outlines the fundamental rights and duties of Indonesian citizens but also establishes the principles upon which laws are enacted and enforced uniformly across the entire nation. This legal uniformity is crucial in maintaining consistency and fairness in how justice is administered, ensuring that all individuals, regardless of their location within Indonesia, are subject to the same legal standards and protections. Indonesia's legal system goes beyond mere regulation; it functions as a conscious instrument for realizing the political decisions and societal aspirations of its people. This means that laws are not static but evolve over time to reflect changes in societal values, economic conditions, and technological advancements. Max Weber's theory of legal enforcement underscores this adaptive nature of law, where enforcement mechanisms adjust to meet the evolving needs of society while upholding justice and order.²³

In line with Satjipto Rahardjo's insights, Indonesia's legal institutions have adapted to the complexities of modern society through various mechanisms such as the Rules of Recognition, Change, and Adjudication. These mechanisms ensure that laws are recognized and respected, can be adapted to new circumstances through legal amendments, and are enforced fairly through judicial processes. This adaptability is essential in a diverse and dynamic country like Indonesia, where legal norms must accommodate the multifaceted needs of its population while maintaining the integrity and coherence of the legal system. The bureaucratic nature of law enforcement in Indonesia ensures that legal mandates are carried out according to the jurisdictions and responsibilities defined by legislation. This bureaucratic structure not only provides clarity in roles and responsibilities but also enhances efficiency and accountability in the execution of legal duties. By adhering to these principles and mechanisms, Indonesia strives to uphold the rule of law, foster societal stability, and promote equitable access to justice for all its citizens, thereby reinforcing its status as a modern nation committed to democratic governance and legal integrity.

²¹ Cecep Mustafa, Margaret Malloch, and Niall Hamilton Smith, 'Judicial Perspectives on the Sentencing of Minor Drug Offenders in Indonesia: Discretionary Practice and Compassionate Approaches', *Crime, Law and Social Change* 74, no. 3 (October 2020): 297–313, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10611-020-09896-0>.

²² Mairon G. Bastos Lima, 'Just Transition towards a Bioeconomy: Four Dimensions in Brazil, India and Indonesia', *Forest Policy and Economics* 136 (March 2022): 102684, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.forpol.2021.102684>.

²³ Cecep Mustafa, 'Key Finding: Result of a Qualitative Study of Judicial Perspectives on the Sentencing of Minor Drug Offenders in Indonesia: Structural Inequality', *The Qualitative Report*, 28 May 2021, <https://doi.org/10.46743/2160-3715/2021.4436>.

5. Conclusion

The conclusion of this article is that law enforcement is aimed at enhancing order and legal certainty within society. In the modern state structure, the task of law enforcement is carried out by the judiciary component and implemented by the bureaucracy, often referred to as the bureaucracy of law enforcement. Judicial independence, as an essence of a legal state, has been realized in Indonesia with judicial power free from executive and legislative influence. This ensures that the principle of the Rule of Law stands firm and functions in the state life. The aim of law enforcement is to restore public trust in the role and image of judicial institutions and law enforcement agencies. Indonesia, as a legal state, guarantees judicial independence as stipulated in the amended 1945 Constitution and Law Number 4 of 2004 on Judicial Power. Law enforcement officers assist in the administration of justice to create legal certainty. Increasing transparency and accountability in the legal process is a crucial step, achievable by ensuring that every stage of the legal process is accessible and understandable to the public, including providing public access to court documents and improving internal reporting and oversight systems. Strengthening the capacity and integrity of law enforcement officers through regular training and strict enforcement of ethical codes is essential for fair law enforcement. Legal system reform to accommodate human rights is necessary so that the legal system protects fundamental rights and ensures that all individuals are treated fairly before the law. This reform will create a more inclusive and just legal system, where everyone can obtain justice and equal legal protection.

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