

Analysis of Violations of The Code of Ethics of the Corruption Eradication Commission: Firli Bahuri Case Study

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ABSTRACT

This article analyzes violations of the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) code of ethics in a case of extortion involving high-ranking officials. The study aims to identify the forms of violations and their impact on the institution's image. The method used is a literature review from various sources. The results show that Firli Bahuri, as a suspect in the extortion case, violated three KPK ethical codes: direct contact with parties involved in the case, failure to report meetings, and failure to report assets. These violations reflect a lack of integrity and undermine the credibility of the KPK. These findings highlight the need to strengthen oversight mechanisms and implement structural reforms to restore public confidence in Indonesia's anti-corruption efforts.

INTRODUCTION

In carrying out the duties and functions of state government, Indonesia divides responsibilities into various state institutions that have specific roles and functions for each institution (Jurianto, 2023). This division aims to create an effective and efficient government system, as well as to prevent abuse of power. This concept is known as *Trias Politica*, which divides state power into three main branches: the legislature as a supervisory institution, the executive as an executor, and the judiciary as a law enforcement institution (Fodhi et al., 2024). These institutions, such as the government, police, judiciary, and others, operate with the aim of ensuring justice, security, and the well-being of society.

Every institution has a code of ethics or rules that govern the behavior and actions of its members. This code of ethics is very important because it serves as a guideline for the conduct of public officials and to maintain integrity and public trust. For example, police institutions have a code of ethics that emphasizes community service and professionalism found in state, institutional, societal and personality ethics. In addition, judicial institutions also have rules that require judges and lawyers to act fairly and objectively, and maintain independence in deciding cases (*Infohukum*). With these rules, it is hoped that each institution can carry out its functions properly, transparently and accountably.

The implementation of this code of conduct is an effort to maintain the image of the institution, so that public trust in state institutions increases. When these institutions are committed to abiding by existing rules, then citizens can live in a safe and harmonious environment.

State institutions in Indonesia are supposed to adhere to an established code of ethics, but recently there have been many cases of violations that have tarnished their image. Corruption cases among members of the legislature indicate abuse of power and non-compliance with the principle of transparency, which undermines public trust in the government. In addition, violations of the code of conduct by members of the police, such as abuse of power, as well as allegations of bribery in the judiciary, further exacerbate the situation. This points to the need for close supervision and strict law enforcement to ensure the integrity and professionalism of state institutions.

The Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) is an independent institution established by the government in 2002 with the intention of eradicating corruption in Indonesia (Putri, 2024). However, this institution is now facing serious challenges due to a case involving the head of this institution, Firli Bahuri, as a suspect in extortion against Syahrul Yasin Limpo, the former minister of agriculture, whose case was being handled by the KPK at the time. Quoted from *Tempo.com* Firli Bahuri was named a suspect on Wednesday, November 22, 2023, this was conveyed directly by Ade Safri Simanjuntak as Director of Special Crimes of Polda Metro Jaya.

"With the results of the discovery of sufficient evidence to assign FB as the chairman of the Indonesian KPK as a suspect in the case of alleged corruption," said Ade Safri Simanjuntak as Director of Special Crimes of Polda Metro Jaya.

Firli was charged using Article 12e, Article 12B, and Article 11 of Law Number 20 of 2001 on the Eradication of Corruption in conjunction with Article 65 of the Criminal Code (Tempo.com). This situation is shocking and damaging to the KPK's image, as well as reducing public trust in corruption eradication efforts. The involvement shows that no institution is immune to abuse of power.

This case certainly violates KPK's code of ethics, which requires all members to act with integrity, transparency and accountability. This violation of the code of ethics not only undermines the values upheld by the KPK, but also creates public *distrust* of the institution. Based on these problems, this article aims to analyze what code of ethics violations were committed by Firli Bahuri as Chairman of the Corruption Eradication Commission.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Based on Regulation No. 2 of 2021 of the Supervisory Board of the Corruption Eradication Commission of the Republic of Indonesia concerning the Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct of the Corruption Eradication Commission, the KPK operates by prioritizing five institutional principles that serve as the main guidelines in carrying out its duties, namely integrity, synergy, fairness, professionalism, and leadership. These five principles not only serve as an ethical foundation governing the behavior and decisions of every individual at the KPK, but also as the main pillars in the fight against corruption in Indonesia. These values are integrated into the institution's framework to ensure that every action and policy taken always reflects transparency and accountability. By instilling these values, the KPK is committed to building public trust and creating an environment conducive to law enforcement, so that every step taken can have a positive impact in combating corrupt practices that harm society and undermine the governance system.

METHODOLOGY

In analyzing violations of the code of ethics committed by the chairman of the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK), the author uses the literature study method. Literature study is research that involves reading, collecting, recording, sorting, and managing literature sources that have been obtained (Jamaludin et al., 2023). The research began by identifying relevant literature sources including journal articles, official reports, and news related to this case. After collecting the data, the researcher conducted a qualitative analysis by reading and evaluating the context and implications of the code of ethics violation. The focus of the analysis was on identifying the types of violations, their impact on the KPK's image, and their influence on public trust in the anti-corruption agency..

RESEARCH RESULT

Every government institution must have a code of ethics that guides the behavior and actions of its employees in carrying out the duties and functions of the institution, and the Corruption Eradication Commission is no exception. The basic values, code of ethics and code of conduct of the Corruption Eradication

Commission continue to develop to adjust the duties and functions and dynamics of state life (Muarapey et al., 2022). Based on the Regulation of the Supervisory Board of the Corruption Eradication Commission of the Republic of Indonesia Number 2 of 2021 concerning the Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct of the Corruption Eradication Commission. KPK has five basic values of the institution including:

- 1) Basic Value of Integrity, a complete unity between mindset, feelings, speech and behavior that is in line with conscience and norms applicable in the Corruption Eradication Commission. This includes compliance with regulations and laws, consistency with truth values, rejection of corruption, honesty, good character, kindness, trustworthiness, and a positive reputation.
- 2) Basic Value of Synergy, reflecting the principle of effective cooperation and collaboration in addressing corruption eradication issues among the parties involved. Includes understanding of views, collaboration, positive attitude, partnership, cooperation and synchronization.
- 3) Basic Value of Justice, Fair means placing the rights and obligations of each individual in a balanced manner, based on the principle that all people are equal before the law. Includes respect for the principles of legal certainty, presumption of innocence, and human rights.
- 4) Basic Value of Professionalism, the ability to carry out tasks and functions properly supported by the existence of knowledge, expertise, and behavior as well as one's experience in a particular field. Includes skills and competence in the field of work, motivation to improve abilities, compliance with norms and innovation.
- 5) Basic Value of Leadership, the ability to organize others in achieving goals that have been determined together, as well as the courage to make the right decisions and can be accounted for at the right time. Includes service orientation, equality, exemplary, driving change, persuasion and initiative.

In June 2023, a corruption case at the Ministry of Agriculture began to emerge when the KPK summoned Syahrul Yasin Limpo (SYL) as a witness. On September 28, the KPK searched SYL's official residence and named him a suspect, although no official announcement had been made. After being abroad, SYL returned to Indonesia on October 4 and reported to Polda Metro Jaya, which was investigating allegations of extortion by Firli Bahuri. On October 7, the status of the investigation into the extortion case against Firli was raised to an investigation. A photo of SYL and Firli Bahuri meeting in March 2022 showing the two interacting went viral on social media, with Firli initially denying any extortion. On October 13, KPK detained SYL, and on October 24, Polda questioned Firli, who had previously failed to appear. Polda then searched Firli's home on October 26, and on November 22, Firli was officially named as a suspect in extortion and alleged gratification after a case title (Nugroho, R. A., 2023).

Based on the results of the ethics trial quoted from Hukumonline.com, all members of the Supervisory Board considered that Firli Bahuri's actions both as a member and leader of the institution were proven to violate the code of ethics. As of December 27, 2023, there were three forms of violations of the code of ethics

committed by the three-beast general. First, violating the code of ethics from the basic value of the integrity of the KPK institution point 10.

"Prohibited from having direct or indirect contact with suspects, defendants, convicts or other parties who have a relationship with corruption cases known to be being handled by the Commission except in the context of carrying out duties and with the knowledge of the Chairman or direct superior" It is known that Firli Bahuri had direct and indirect relations with Syahrul Yasin Limpo, the former Minister of Agriculture, who at the time was a suspect in a corruption case at the Ministry of Agriculture and the case was being handled by the KPK.

Second, violating the code of ethics from the basic values of the KPK institution's integrity point 11. "Notify fellow Supervisory Board members, fellow Leaders, or their superiors regarding meetings or communications that have been carried out or will be carried out with other parties that are suspected of having a conflict of interest with the implementation of the duties and functions of the Commission"

It is known that Firli Bahuri held a meeting in the Mangga Besar area, precisely at the Tank Sports Center, with a party whose case is being prosecuted by the KPK in a corruption case at the Ministry of Agriculture, Syahrul Yasin Limpo. Firli Bahuri did not report the meeting to fellow KPK leaders, despite having an obligation to report the meeting. Third, violating the code of ethics from the basic values of the KPK institution's integrity point 5. "Reporting assets in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Commission" Firli Bahuri did not report buildings and assets and foreign currency in the State Officials' Wealth Report (LHKPN). For all violations of the code of ethics, the KPK Supervisory Board imposed severe sanctions, namely being asked to resign.

DISCUSSION

Actions that violated the code of ethics by the inactive KPK Chairman, Firli Bahuri, not only had a negative impact on himself, but also triggered a serious crisis in the credibility of the entire Corruption Eradication Commission institution. Such as

1. Erosion of public trust, (Sulaiman, 2023) explains that public trust is a key social asset in the fight against corruption. When the highest leaders of the KPK are involved in ethical violations, the public tends to lose faith in the honesty of the institution. The case involving Firli Bahuri, who met with individuals suspected of corruption outside official legal channels and without the approval of other leaders, created the view that the KPK was losing its independence. This situation was exacerbated by intense media coverage, which worsened the image of anti-corruption institutions in the eyes of the public (Kompas, 2023).
2. Decline in internal morale and professionalism, (M, Lestari, 2021) shows that unscrupulous leader behavior can create both psychological and professional discomfort among staff. KPK staff become less confident in maintaining the principle of integrity because their leaders set a contradictory example. This

situation creates moral misalignment that can reduce motivation and effectiveness in handling major cases.

3. Weakening KPK's legitimacy in the eyes of other institutions, Another significant impact is the declining recognition of KPK as a respected law enforcement agency. (Setiawan, 2023) emphasized that interactions between law enforcement agencies are based on institutional trust. When KPK leaders violate ethical norms, it undermines that trust. As a result, collaboration between institutions is hampered, especially in terms of disclosing corruption cases involving several sectors that require close cooperation.
4. Increasing pressure for institutional reform, according to (Indonesia Corruption Watch, 2023) , this ethics violation case shows clear evidence of weaknesses in the KPK's internal supervision system for the leadership. Pressure from the public demanding structural reforms is increasing, especially in terms of the process of selecting leaders and strengthening the role of the Supervisory Board. These reforms are considered essential to restore the KPK's honor and primary function as the frontline in eradicating corruption in Indonesia.
5. Declining effectiveness in eradicating corruption, on the other hand (Wibowo D, 2023) states that when KPK leaders are involved in ethics cases, the effect is immediately felt in the decline in the effectiveness of the institution's work. Staff become more cautious and defensive in handling cases. At the same time, perpetrators of corruption feel more emboldened because they think that the KPK is experiencing a setback both internally and externally.

The oversight and enforcement mechanisms to prevent violations of the code of ethics in state institutions in Indonesia involve several important elements, including internal and external oversight institutions, as well as regulations governing the behavior of institutional members. Internal oversight institutions, such as inspectorates general in various ministries and agencies, are tasked with conducting audits and evaluations of members' performance and compliance with the code of ethics. They are responsible for ensuring that every action and decision taken by institutional members is in accordance with applicable norms and rules.

In addition to internal oversight, external oversight also plays an important role in preventing violations of the code of ethics. The Corruption Eradication Commission and the Ombudsman of the Republic of Indonesia serve to oversee the actions of state institutions and provide recommendations or legal action if violations are found. The KPK, for example, not only focuses on eradicating corruption, but also oversees the integrity and accountability of state institutions. The Ombudsman, on the other hand, plays a role in handling public complaints related to maladministration and violations of the code of ethics by public officials.

Law enforcement is also a crucial aspect in preventing violations of the code of ethics. The Law on the Eradication of Corruption and other regulations governing the discipline of civil servants provide a legal basis for taking action against members of institutions that violate the code of ethics. A transparent and

accountable legal process is expected to provide a deterrent effect for violators, as well as increase public trust in state institutions. In addition, training and socialization on the code of ethics is also important to ensure that all members understand and comply with the existing rules.

To improve the effectiveness of oversight and law enforcement mechanisms, collaboration between various institutions and the active participation of the public are required. The public can act as watchdogs by reporting violations they encounter, while state institutions must be open to criticism and suggestions. With the synergy between supervisory institutions, law enforcement, and the community, it is hoped that violations of the code of ethics in state institutions can be minimized, so that integrity and public trust in state institutions can be maintained.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The code of ethics violations committed by Firli Bahuri, Chairman of the KPK, reflect serious problems with the integrity of the anti-corruption agency. Actions such as establishing unethical relationships with parties under investigation, failing to report important meetings, and non-transparency in wealth reports have damaged the KPK's image. This situation demonstrates that no institution is immune to abuse of power, and the need for stricter oversight of the actions of members of state institutions.

The impact of these violations is significant, including the erosion of public trust. The public tends to lose faith in the KPK's honesty, which has a negative impact on corruption eradication efforts. In addition, the decline in morale and professionalism within KPK may affect the effectiveness of the institution's work. KPK employees may feel less confident and be affected by the bad example of their leaders, potentially demotivating them in handling corruption cases.

To address these issues, structural reforms are needed in the supervisory system and leader selection process at the KPK. Stricter and more transparent supervision is expected to improve the integrity of the institution and maintain public trust. With these measures, it is hoped that efforts to eradicate corruption in Indonesia can run more effectively and have a positive impact on society.

ADVANCED RESEARCH

For further research on ethical violations at the KPK, it is recommended that researchers focus on analyzing other individual cases to identify patterns of violations. Comparative research with anti-corruption agencies in other countries may help identify best practices.

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