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Quo Vadis: Payment of Compensation as an Alternative to Sanctions for Corruption Crimes Harming State Finances

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Abstract. *Efforts to eradicate corruption through enforcement actions require high costs and overcapacity of prisons are one of the fundamental problems in handling corruption crimes in Indonesia. Based on this, new issues have emerged so that law enforcement efforts against the eradication of corruption are oriented towards the implementation of compensation to break the chain of state financial losses caused by corruption crimes. The purpose of the study is to analyze the construction of eradication of corruption crimes and the payment of compensation as an alternative to sanctions for corruption crimes. The type of research used is normative legal research, using analytical descriptive specifications and requiring primary data and secondary data. The results of the study show that compensation for corruption crimes is included in the additional type of crime, so this type of crime can only be included alternatively and cannot be when it is not accompanied by the main crime. Moreover, in the provisions of Article 4 of Law No. 20 of 2001 concerning Amendments to Law No. 31 of 1999 concerning the Eradication of Corruption Crimes, there is an article provision that expressly states that the return of state financial losses does not abolish the conviction of the perpetrators of corruption crimes and is only a mitigating factor, so the payment of compensation cannot be used as an alternative to sanctions for corruption crimes that harm state finances However, it must be accompanied by a principal crime.*

Keywords: *Compensation; Corruption; Crimes; Finances; Payment.*

1. Introduction

Efforts to eradicate corruption are a series of actions that have been carried out for a long time by the Indonesian nation. The reason is that efforts to eradicate corruption have been carried out long after the independence of the Republic of Indonesia. This is clearly seen in the Criminal Code which from the beginning has regulated the criminality of a person who commits office offenses, especially offenses related to corruption (Dwi Atmoko and Amalia Syauket, 2022).

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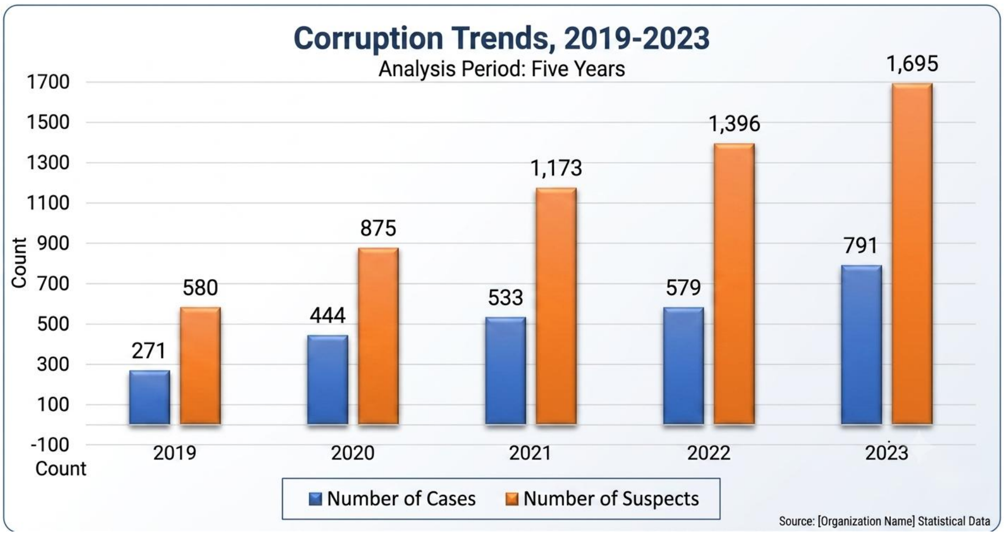
Provisions regarding corruption crimes run dynamically, and there have even been additions and changes in laws and regulations, so that the last provisions regarding corruption crimes are regulated in Law No. 20 of 2001 concerning Amendments to Law No. 31 of 1999 concerning the Eradication of Corruption (Bayu Prasetyo and Roesman Hadi Jaya, 2024). Not only that, in order to reduce the rate of corruption crimes, the state has also made various efforts including the establishment of a special institution that handles corruption crimes. However, despite the various efforts that have been made, the reality is that corruption is not decreasing, but increasing.

Referring to the 2023 Corruption Eradication Commission Report, the number of corruption cases and the number of suspects from 2019 to 2023 fluctuated as shown in the following chart:

Graphic Number of Cases and Number of Suspects of Corruption Crimes in 2019-2023(Legal and Judicial Monitoring Division, 2024)



The high number of corruption crimes certainly has great implications for the life of the nation and the state, both from economic, social, cultural and so on. Based on research conducted by Maroni and Ariani, the details of the implications caused by corruption include (Nandha Risky Putra and Rosa Linda, 2022):

1) Bribery results in development funds falling into the hands of unauthorized parties.

2) The provision of commissions given to the person in charge of procurement results in the contract for the procurement of goods and services falling to the Company that is not capable and meets the predetermined conditions.

3) Giving bribes to law enforcement personnel because it will result in the cessation of crimes that should be investigated.

4) There are many local government employees who use public facilities for personal purposes.

5) There are many gratuities for the acquisition of issued permits.

6) Local government services are only provided to every resident who makes additional payments outside of official payments.

7) Decisions about land use in cities are often influenced by corruption.

8) Tax officers extort taxpayers. From the extortion, in the end, tax relief was given to taxpayers in exchange for bribes.

Apart from such impacts, efforts to eradicate corruption have been carried out in various ways, both through prevention and enforcement efforts. Among the prevention efforts that have been carried out are by instilling an anti-corruption culture in the entire community, among those implemented in universities is by providing Anti-Corruption Education to students and students. On the other hand, efforts are made to prevent corruption crimes by building an anti-corruption culture for bureaucrats (Hariman Satria, 2020).

In addition, efforts to eradicate corruption crimes are also carried out by optimizing enforcement efforts through investigation, investigation, prosecution, court examination, and execution of court decisions (Wandi Pratama Putra and St. Hadijah Wahid, 2024). Efforts to take action against perpetrators of corruption crimes based on the provisions contained in Law No. 20 of 2001 concerning Amendments to Law No. 31 of 1999 concerning Corruption Crimes The output is imprisonment.

Efforts to eradicate corruption through enforcement actions require high costs, so often the amount of state financial losses is not proportional to the costs that must be incurred to uncover the occurrence of criminal acts. In this context, the cost of handling corruption crimes between one institution and another has varied. For example, taken in 2022, the total budget ceiling managed by law enforcement officials at the investigation and investigation stage based on the DIPA (Budget Implementation Entry List) for Fiscal Year 2022 is IDR 449,006,937,000 (four hundred and forty-nine billion six million nine hundred and thirty-seven thousand rupiah) with details of costs handled by the Attorney General's Office of IDR 198,000,000 (One hundred and ninety-eight million rupiah) per case, The High Prosecutor's Office is IDR 129,800,000 (One hundred and twenty-nine million eight hundred thousand rupiah) per case, and the District Attorney's Office is IDR 129,800,000 (One hundred and twenty-nine million eight hundred thousand rupiah) per case. The cost of handling corruption cases handled by the National Police for the National Police Headquarters is IDR 220,000,000 (two hundred and twenty million rupiah) per case, the Regional Police is IDR 116,000,000 (one hundred and sixteen million rupiah) to IDR 1,300,000,000 (One billion three hundred thousand rupiah) per case, the Resort Police is IDR 4,100,000 (four million one hundred thousand rupiah) to IDR 640,000,000 (six hundred and forty million rupiah) per case. Meanwhile, the handling of corruption cases for the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) is IDR 138,000,000 (one hundred and thirty-eight million rupiah) per case. This data does not include the costs that must be incurred at the stage of examining the judicial trial and the execution of court decisions (Michael Remizaldy Jacobus, 2024).

On the other hand, based on data displayed by the Directorate General of Corrections through the Public SDP website, it is explained that public institutions in Indonesia have experienced *over capacity*. This is evidenced by the total prison population on December 30, 2024, including prisoners and inmates totaling 273,068 people, while the capacity is only 145,661 people (https://sdppublik.ditjenpas.go.id, 2024). Referring to such conditions, then the issue arises so that law enforcement efforts to eradicate corruption crimes are oriented towards the implementation of compensation to break the chain of state financial losses caused by corruption crimes.

2. Research Methods

This type of research uses normative legal research based on library research with an emphasis on secondary data types. The fulfillment of secondary data in this study uses primary legal materials, secondary legal materials and tertiary legal materials by examining laws and regulations, scientific works, and the fulfillment of data through tertiary legal materials. All collected data are presented descriptively with qualitative data analysis.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Construction of Eradication of Corruption in Indonesia

Discussions about corruption crimes have in principle been going on for a long time, even since the beginning of Indonesia's independence. From one decade to another, the efforts to eradicate corruption have also undergone various changes, both related to regulations and typologies of corruption crimes. Talking about the history of the eradication of corruption, the regulation on the emergence of corruption crimes was preceded by the existence of a military policy emergency in 1957 (Andira, 2025). This regulation developed, then gave rise to new rules during the old order period with the enactment of Law No. 3 of 1971 concerning the Eradication of Corruption. Not only that, regulatory changes then occurred again during the reform period with the enactment of Law No. 31 of 1999 concerning Corruption Crimes which later changed in 2001 to Law No. 20 of 2001 concerning Amendments to Law No. 31 of 1999 concerning the Eradication of Corruption Crimes (Marshanda Aura Putri Sauri., et al., 2025).

The construction that is used as the basis for the implementation of corruption crimes has basically been rigorously regulated in the above laws and regulations. In fact, the context of such laws and regulations divides the typology of corruption into seven parts, namely (Ahmad Zaky Nugraha, 2026):

Typology of Corruption	Article
State Financial Losses	Article 603 and Article 604 of Law No. 1 of 2023 concerning the Criminal Code
Bribery Bribery	Article 5, Article 6, Article 11, Article 12 letter a, letter b, letter c, and letter d, and Article 13 of the Law on the Eradication of Corruption and Article 605, Article 606 of Law No. 1 of 2023 concerning the Criminal Code
Embezzlement in the Department	Article 8, Article 9, and Article 10 of the Law on the Eradication of Corruption
Blackmail	Article 12 letters e, letters f, and g of the Law on the Eradication of Corruption
Cheating	Article 7 and Article 12 letter h of the Law on the Eradication of Corruption
Conflict of Interest in Procurement	Article 12 letter i of the Law on the Eradication of Corruption
Gratuities	Article 12B and Article 12C of the Law on the Eradication of Corruption

In line with this, one of the mandates contained in the Law on the Eradication of Corruption is the establishment of a special institution that is authorized to handle corruption crimes, so that in 2022 the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) will be established as stated in Law No. 30 of 2002 concerning the Corruption Eradication Commission (Farah Syah Rezah and Andi Tenri Sapada, 2026).

The context of eradicating and overcoming corruption crimes is carried out by doing three things, namely repressive, preventive and pre-emptive. The pre-emptive context is carried out as an effort to cultivate anti-corruption from an early age, so that the implementation of this pre-emptive handling is more likely to provide education to the community at large (Shandy Tian Priyana Putra, 2023 2023), including anti-corruption education from an early age both at the school and university levels. Meanwhile, the preventive context is more likely to be proactive actions that function to prevent the occurrence of corruption crimes both through education, socialization, and system structuring (Iwan Ridwan Paturochman, et al., 2025). The repressive context carried out in the eradication of corruption is by enforcing the law against the perpetrators of corruption crimes (Muhammad Hazwi Yarus, et al., 2026).

Despite having done various such things, the eradication of corruption crimes from 2019 to 2023 the number of cases and the number of suspects as described in the background have always grown. Not only that, the trend of corruption crimes in 2024 based on the Report of the Indonesia Corruption Watch Legal and Investment Division has confirmed 364 cases of corruption crimes with a total of 888 suspects (Indonesia Corruption Watch Legal and Investigation Division, 2025). Not only that, based on data submitted by Databoks, in 2025 the KPK will have handled 439 cases with 112 cases that have entered the prosecution stage (databoks.katadata.co.id., 2026).

In comparison, the eradication of corruption in China has also experienced extraordinary dynamics. However, China expressly provides very strict sanctions for perpetrators of corruption crimes. The normative construction of corruption crimes in China is regulated in Article 383 and Article 394 *of the Criminal Law of The People's Republic of China*. Through this regulation, China is committed to providing very strict criminal sanctions in the form of life imprisonment or the death penalty. This approach shows that the criminal sanctions given to perpetrators are based on the magnitude of the negative impact caused by corruption crimes, so that the criminal sanctions can have a deterrent effect for the perpetrators (Anak Ahung Bagus Adhita Mahendra Putra, 2025). In principle, Indonesia through the Corruption Law has also made regulations on the death penalty for perpetrators of corruption crimes in certain circumstances (Rapikah Hasanah, 2025). However, this criminal sanction has never been tested in the context of providing criminal sanctions for perpetrators of corruption crimes. In addition to carrying out repressive actions, China also uses technological media in building a system of prevention and government openness. Even in 2007, the Prosecutor's Office reported that the average recoverable loss from corruption was about $35,800 or 273,000 yuan per case (Nina Arsya Putri Jadmiko, 2024).

The eradication of corruption in Indonesia has not found a pleasant point of effectiveness. The reason is that the implementation of enforcement through repressive channels also has various impacts, considering that the law enforcement process through investigation, investigation, prosecution, court examination and execution of court decisions requires very high costs. Based on the data submitted by Melenia Fitria Nur Handayani in the Journal *of Jurist Diction* stated that the handling of corruption cases in the police institution, the cost of handling 1 case in investigation and investigation is approximately IDR 208,000,000.00 (two hundred and eight million rupiah). Then the cost to the prosecutor's office, then the handling of 1 case of corruption crimes until it is completed is approximately IDR 200,000,000.00 with details at the investigation stage of IDR 25,000,000 (twenty-five million rupiah), at the investigation stage of IDR 50,000,000.00 (fifty million rupiah), at the prosecution stage of approximately IDR 100,0000,000 (one hundred million rupiah), while for the execution of court decisions approximately IDR 25,000,000 (twenty-five million rupiah). Furthermore, the cost of handling cases for the KPk is IDR 12,000,000,000.00 (twelve billion) for 85 cases, so that each case requires a cost of IDR 141,000,000.00 (one hundred and forty-one million rupiah) at the investigation stage (Melenia Fitri Nur Handayani, 2023).

Such costs do not include the cost of executing court decisions in the form of imprisonment and the fulfillment of their rights as prisoners. Based on data submitted by the Minister of Immigration, Agus Andrianto during an audience with the National Narcotics Agency, it was stated that the number of prison inmates in Indonesia in 2025 has reached 271,468 people, while the ideal housing capacity is at 146,860 people (Ministry of Immigration and Community Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, 2026). Related to this reality, the context of eradicating corruption in a repressive manner also has an impact on the country's reputation. The reason is that the number of perpetrators of corruption crimes that is increasing every year shows that the corruption index in Indonesia has experienced a low value. Based on data submitted by Transparency International Indonesia (TII), the index for the eradication of corruption in Indonesia in 2025 will only get a score of 34 out of 100, so Indonesia ranks 109th out of 182 countries (ti.or.id., 2026).

3.2. Compensation as an Alternative to Sanctions for Corruption in Indonesia

The construction related to sanctions for corruption crimes in principle has been fully regulated in Law No. 20 of 2001 concerning Amendments to Law No. 31 of 1999 concerning the Eradication of Corruption Crimes. In this context, the construction of compensation or asset recovery as a result of corruption has become one of the important efforts in recovering state financial losses. According to M. Purwaning Yanuar, asset recovery is a law enforcement system to recover state losses as victims of corruption through a series of mechanisms both criminal and civil (Hasanal Mulkan and Serlika Aprita, 2023).

The discussion on the recovery of state financial losses is a very important part of corruption cases. This is because the return of justice is not only related to providing criminal sanctions for the perpetrators, but also to restore the rights of the victim (Ananda Thariq Wildan Pratama and Iwan Herry Winarto, 2025). This paradigm construction then led to the most significant development because the Indonesian criminal justice system, which was initially influenced by retributive justice, looking at the essence of guilt and retribution, changed to restore the interests of the victim (N. Indrajaya, et al., 2026). In the context of corruption, the victim is the state. Thus, the process and mechanism of recovering state losses are an important part that cannot be released. This paradigm is a very important part in the current era to provide benefits and legal protection for victims.

Regardless of such a context, in principle, the provisions governing criminal sanctions are regulated in Article 10 of the old Criminal Code and Article 65 of Law No. 1 of 2023 concerning the Criminal Code (Roby Satya Nugraha, et al., 2025).

Article 10 of the Old Criminal Code	Article 65, Article 66, and Article 67 of Law No. 1 of 2023 concerning the Criminal Code
Main Crimes: Death Penalty, Imprisonment Penalty, Fine and Cover Crime	**Principal Crimes:** Imprisonment, Cover Crime, Supervision Crime, Fine Crime, and Social Work Crime
Additional Crimes: Revocation of certain rights, confiscation of certain goods, announcement of judge's decision	**Additional Crimes:** Revocation of certain rights, confiscation of certain goods and/or bills, announcement of judge's decision, payment of

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Volume 8 No. 2, June 2026

	compensation for revocation of certain permits, and fulfillment of local customary obligations
-	**Special Crime:** Death Penalty

The construction of criminal sanctions in Law No. 1 of 2023 has placed the payment of certain damages and confiscation of certain bars and/or certain bills as one of the penal mechanisms. In line with that, Article 18 of the Corruption Law also regulates the authority of judges to sanction the confiscation of tangible or intangible and immovable movable goods obtained from corruption crimes (Maman Budiman, 2016).

Regarding compensation as an alternative to sanctions for corruption crimes, this construction certainly cannot be applied. This is because even though the provision of compensation sanctions provides a cost reduction in the law enforcement process. However, this analysis cannot be fully applied, considering that the context of criminal justice efforts that are oriented towards the recovery of victims can only be carried out through restorative justice. This means that when the parties agree to make peace through the restorative justice mechanism, the mechanism can be carried out with the conditions of Articles 79 to 82 of Law No. 20 of 2025 concerning the Criminal Procedure Code being fulfilled. The problem is, in Article 82 of Law No. 20 of 2025 concerning the Criminal Procedure Code, it states that the mechanism of restorative justice is exempted for several criminal acts, including corruption. This means that the settlement of restorative justice crimes cannot be carried out against corruption crimes.

On the other hand, the discussion about the confiscation of certain goods or the payment of compensation in the new Criminal Code and the Anti-Corruption Law lies in additional crimes. In the context of stelsel in Indonesia, as explained above, the types of punishment are divided into principal and additional crimes. Disrupting such a division, the main crime is the main crime, while the additional crime is a type of crime that adds to the main crime only. This means that when a judge imposes a criminal sanction, there must be a principal penalty imposed because this is absolute, while related to additional crimes is only an addition to the principal or facultative penalty (Rahman Amin, 2024).

In line with this, the application of additional penalties in Hermin Hadiati's field must meet the following provisions (Ahmad Mathar, 2023):

a. Additional penalties can only be imposed in addition to the principal penalty. This means that the application of additional penalties should not be used as the only criminal sanction.

b. Additional penalties can only be imposed for a criminal act whose formulation expressly states that it is a criminal threat. This means that additional penalties cannot be imposed when they are not included in the formulation of the elements of the article that govern criminal acts.

c. Additional crimes are not included in all types of crimes, but are only threatened to certain criminal acts.

d. Although additional crimes are expressly listed in a certain act, this type of criminal act is facultative.

Based on this, additional penalties in the form of payment of compensation or payment of compensation cannot be applied when it cannot be followed by the existence of a principal crime of imprisonment, fine, and/or death as formulated in the article on corruption in the new Corruption Law and Criminal Code.

Moreover, in the effort of the law enforcement process, it must also be based on the construction of legal certainty. The construction of legal certainty is an important part, considering that with this principle, the community and law enforcement can know the limits in acting, including their rights and obligations (Firian Tiara Efriliani., et al., 2025). In Van Apeldoorn's view, legal certainty is everything that the law can implement in concrete matters. This means that the existence of the principle of legal certainty is used as a guarantee that the law is carried out as well as possible and becomes a justiciable protection for arbitrary actions (Siti Halilah and Mhd. Fatkhurrahman Arif, 2021).

In relation to such legal certainty, the construction of sanctions for the criminalization of corruption is also contained in the provisions of Article 4 of the Corruption Law which emphasizes that the return of financial and economic losses to the state does not erase the criminality of the perpetrators of corruption crimes (Riyan Auliyandi Safrizal, et al., 2025). Based on that construction, the payment of compensation for corruption crimes cannot drop the criminal penalty for the perpetrators of corruption crimes. However, referring to the Explanation of Article 4 of the Corruption Law, the recovery of state financial stability through the return of state financial losses is only one of the factors that mitigate a person's crime, but does not remove a person's criminality.

4. Conclusion

Based on such discussions, the payment of compensation for corruption crimes cannot be used as an alternative to criminal sanctions for corruption crimes that harm state finances. This is because the payment of compensation and confiscation of certain goods is one of the criminal sanctions that fall into the additional criminal category as stipulated in Article 66 of Law No. 1 of 2023 concerning the Criminal Code and Article 18 of the Corruption Law. Additional criminal construction cannot be imposed When it is not accompanied by the existence of a principal crime, so that the provision of additional criminal sanctions must be accompanied by the existence of a good principal crime, imprisonment, fine, death as the formulation of the elements of the crime of corruption. In addition, the construction of Article 4 of the Corruption Law expressly states that the return of state financial losses does not remove a person's crime, but is only one of the factors that can ease the criminalization of perpetrators of corruption crimes.

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