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Social Justice and Public Integrity: Evaluation of the Pertamina Corruption Case from the Pancasila Perspective

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Abstract

Corruption that occurs in the SOE sector such as Pertamina can reflect systemic problems that have damaged public trust and hampered welfare. This study aims to evaluate based on the values of Pancasila, especially the fifth principle regarding social justice. This study uses a descriptive qualitative approach with a case study method on allegations of corruption in the procurement of crude oil. Data were collected through analysis of media documents, journals, laws and regulations, and online forms for students who are actively studying Pancasila. The results of the study show that corrupt practices not only harm the state financially, but also injure the nation's ideological values, especially the principle of social justice. The conclusion of this study emphasizes that the values of Pancasila should be an ethical basis for managing state institutions, not just as a normative slogan.

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A. Introduction

Corruption is one of the biggest problems facing Indonesia, especially in the public sector which has a direct impact on people's lives. Based on data from Transparency International, Indonesia is ranked 102nd in the 2023 Corruption Perception Index (CPI) out of 180 countries. This shows that despite efforts to tackle corruption, there are still many sectors in Indonesia that are vulnerable to this practice. The sector that is most often involved in corruption cases is State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs), which are supposed to be the main pillars of the country's economy.

Pertamina, as a state-owned enterprise engaged in the energy sector, plays a very important role in national energy security. However, corruption involving Pertamina is a serious problem and often receives public attention. One of the concerning cases

is the procurement of crude oil carried out by Pertamina. Similar cases have continued to occur in recent times which reflect how vulnerable natural resource management is to corrupt acts that harm the state and society.

In this case, it is important to associate corruption with the basic principles of the Pancasila ideology, especially the fifth precept which emphasizes the importance of "Social Justice for All Indonesian People". Pancasila is not only a symbol of the state, but also a guideline for life in managing governance and natural resource management. The energy sector, which includes oil and gas management, has a direct impact on the lives of the Indonesian people in terms of energy prices, distribution, and accessibility. Corruption in this sector means misusing resources that should be used for the welfare of the people for the benefit of a few people.

Based on data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS), social inequality in Indonesia, as measured by the Gini index, reached 0.381 in 2023, indicating a considerable inequality in the distribution of wealth. The corruption that occurs in the SOE sector, especially in Pertamina, only exacerbates this inequality. In addition, these corruption cases increase the country's fiscal burden and reduce the potential for state revenue from the energy sector. In many cases, acts of corruption in energy management also lead to inefficiencies in the distribution of resources which in turn harm consumers.

Furthermore, social media plays an important role in shaping public perception of these corruption cases. Platforms such as Twitter (X) and TikTok have become a means for people to voice their opinions and organize social movements that demand transparency and accountability. Based on data from We Are Social (2024), active social media users in Indonesia reach more than 190 million people, which means that almost 70% of Indonesia's population uses social media. This shows that social media is becoming an important channel for social control against corrupt practices in the public sector

The importance of transparency in the management of SOEs and fair law enforcement is becoming increasingly clear. With the principle of Pancasila as a foundation, Indonesia is expected to reduce corrupt practices that occur, especially in the energy sector which is very strategic. This study aims to analyze alleged corruption in the procurement of crude oil at Pertamina and see the impact of violations of the principles of social justice in Pancasila on public integrity. By using a qualitative approach, this research is expected to provide a clearer picture of the impact of corruption on people's lives as well as recommendations to improve a fairer and more transparent natural resource management system.

B. Research Methods

This study uses a descriptive qualitative approach with a case study method. This approach was chosen because it is considered the most appropriate to explore in depth how the values of social justice in Pancasila can be betrayed by corrupt practices in Pertamina. In addition, this approach also allows researchers to see the phenomenon in its entirety, not only from a legal and economic perspective, but also from the ideological and moral perspective of national values.

The case that was the focus was the alleged corruption in the procurement of crude oil at Pertamina which had been widely reported in recent years. This case is considered relevant because it concerns strategic state institutions that are supposed to be the drivers of people's welfare, but instead stumbles on the problem of integrity

and abuse of authority. The corrupt practices and weak supervision system in this case are a real reflection of the social justice crisis in the management system of state institutions or the public sector.

To collect data, researchers observed documents through news from social media such as Twitter and Tiktok, as well as through national media such as Kompas, Tempo, and CNN Indonesia. The national media itself is used to obtain factual information related to the ongoing case, such as the names involved in the case, as well as see how the official response from the government and law enforcement agencies is. Meanwhile, social media is used to observe public perception, public opinion related to the value of social justice that is felt to be violated by the corruption case at Pertamina. The selection of these two sources was chosen because they are considered complementary, where the national media provides a framework of facts, while social media reflects the dynamics of social reactions in real-time.

Other supporting documents analyzed include scientific journals, research reports, and documents on related laws and regulations, such as state corporate governance. All of these documents will be analyzed to see the extent to which social justice principles are applied or violated in Pertamina's management practices. In analyzing the data, the researcher used two approaches: content analysis used to systematically examine the content of documents and news, and then also using thematic analysis that aims to identify important themes, such as the form of violation of Pancasila values, and then the social impact of the corruption case. The results of the analysis will then be arranged narratively so that it can be easier to understand and show the ideological values that are the foundation of the state.

After that, to maintain the validity of the data we obtain, the researcher will carry out a source triangulation process, which will compare the results of document observation with data obtained from scientific references and online forms. This is done to ensure that the interpretations built in the research are not only based on a single point of view, but are also a synthesis of multiple sources. Thus, the resulting analysis not only describes what is happening in fact, but also how the public understands and responds to the phenomenon in the context of Pancasila values. This triangulation also strengthens the research position in making academic contributions as well as practical relevance to improving the governance of state institutions in the future. Through this approach method, it is hoped that the research can provide a significant or deeper picture of how the values of Pancasila, especially in the fifth Pancasila where social justice is located, should be the foundation in the governance of state institutions, and not just a slogan.

C. Results and Discussion

In examining the corrupt practices in Pertamina's body and the betrayal of the social justice values of Pancasila, several previous articles and journals used different theoretical approaches. In this study, the theories used by the researchers will be elaborated, their advantages and disadvantages will be evaluated, and one theory will be chosen as the main "analysis knife" in discussing the topic of Pertamina's corruption from an ideological perspective.

The theory used in the previous article is Talcott Parsons System Theory which is used in the Forikami Journal article (2023), this theory emphasizes the importance of integrating social values and norms in maintaining the stability of society. The advantage is being able to see the relationship between politics, law, and economics.

However, the disadvantage is that this approach is too macro and does not touch on individual motivation in committing corruption.

Furthermore, there is the Pancasila-Based Theory of Public Ethics used in the article by Zahro (2022), this approach emphasizes that the values of Pancasila are not only as state ideologies, but also as ethical guidelines for state apparatus. The advantage is that it is very relevant to the ideological context of Indonesia. However, the disadvantage is that this theory is normative and difficult to operationalize quantitatively in research. Then there is the Rational Choice Theory where this theory is widely used in legal and economic studies, including by ICW (2022) and BPK analysis (2021). Its advantages are that it provides a sharp analysis of the actor's motives and provides a basis for the design of anti-corruption policies. However, the disadvantage is that it ignores aspects of local values, ideology, and culture such as Pancasila.

Next is the Theory of Corrupt Organization Culture which is described in the research of Hasan & Nurdiansyah (2021), this theory sees that corruption grows in a permissive and institutionalized environment. The advantage is that it is able to explain the sustainability of corruption as part of the institution's internal system. However, the shortcomings are that it focuses too much on institutions and often ignores the national policy context. Finally, there is the Pancasila-based Social Justice Theory which emphasizes that national resources such as energy must be managed fairly for all Indonesian people. The advantages are contextual and ideological. However, the disadvantage is the lack of academic operational foundation and lack of conceptual depth. From the various theories that have been presented, the author chooses the Pancasila-based Theory of Public Ethics as the main analysis knife. The main reason is that this theory is best suited to the context of Indonesian ideology and is able to integrate aspects of state values, morals, and goals into the evaluation of policies and behavior of public institutions.

Pancasila as the basis of the state has a unique position. Not only is it a symbol, but it should also be the basis for the behavior of state apparatus. Precept 5 "Social Justice for All Indonesian People" emphasizes that state resources such as oil and gas are managed for the welfare of the people, not for personal or group interests. Using this theory, corrupt practices at Pertamina can be seen as a violation of the state's ideological mandate, not just a violation of administrative law. Furthermore, this theory allows the evaluation of decision-making, internal supervision systems, and organizational culture of SOEs based on Pancasila values, not just economic efficiency. This is important to establish a policy direction that not only targets technocratic prevention such as punishment but also character building and ideologizing of employees. By making Pancasila an ethical framework, the eradication of corruption will become an ideological movement, not just a technical one. Each theory offered is different in understanding corruption in Pertamina's body. However, in the context of Indonesia, which is based on the ideology of Pancasila, the most appropriate approach is the Pancasila-Based Theory of Public Ethics. This theory is not only normatively relevant, but also strategic to build a bureaucracy and SOEs that are not only professional but also have integrity. By using this theory as an analysis knife, the study of corruption in Pertamina will be more contextual, in-depth, and of national value

Based on the results of analysis and observation of the sources of articles, journals, and news, the author gained a deep understanding of the alleged corruption cases that occurred at PT Pertamina and the urgency of Pancasila values as the basis for countermeasures. This research focuses on how the values of Pancasila if applied consistently can function as an ethical and moral foundation in tackling and preventing corrupt practices.

The Reality of Corruption in Pertamina: Impact and Chronology

The case of alleged corruption in PT Pertamina (Persero) reflects the crisis of public integrity and the weak implementation of the state's ideological values, especially the fifth precept of Pancasila, namely "Social Justice for All Indonesian People". Based on Tempo's investigative report (2025), state losses incurred from this practice reach nearly Rp 200 trillion. The alleged corruption involves manipulating domestic refinery needs, procuring oil at unreasonable prices, and non-transparent cooperation with international partners which reflects the abuse of authority and weak internal oversight system in SOEs.

Ideologically, this action clearly hurts the principles of social justice. Energy, as a strategic resource owned by the state, should be managed for the benefit of the people, not to enrich a few elites. This misappropriation is a big irony because SOEs such as Pertamina are at the forefront of carrying out the mandate of the constitution and Pancasila values. As stated in the Kompasiana article (Dhafa Laudza, 2025), this case reflects the degradation of the ideological understanding of state apparatus towards its public roles and responsibilities.

In thematic analysis from several national and scientific media sources, a pattern of violations was found that was not only legal, but also moral and ideological. Sources from Kumparan (Rafianto, 2020) and Jurnal Intelektiva (2023) show that the root of the problem lies in the weak internalization of Pancasila values in decision-making and organizational culture. When public policy and management are dominated by mere profit considerations without ideological ethics, corruption becomes an almost inevitable consequence.

The Urgency of Pancasila as Public Ethics

By making the Pancasila-Based Public Ethics Theory as the main analysis knife, corruption in Pertamina can be seen as not just a violation of the law but a betrayal of the nation's ideology. The noble values of Pancasila such as social justice, mutual cooperation, and integrity should not only be normative slogans but also used as real guidelines in decision-making.

Pancasila as the basis of the state should be the main reference in every action of state administrators and SOE apparatus. Kompasiana's article (2025) emphasized that values such as Godliness, Humanity, and Social Justice have been violated in the Pertamina case. The first value, the One Godhead, demands that every human being be morally and spiritually responsible. The second and fifth values of Fair and Civilized Humanity and Social Justice for All Indonesian People are violated when corrupt practices oppress the rights of the people and harm the public interest.

Instilling Pancasila Values as an Effort to Prevent Corruption

Based on Rafianto's (2020) article in Kumparan, the cultivation of Pancasila values in Pertamina's work environment can be carried out through the internalization of integrity values, public ethics training, and the implementation of a national

morality-based reward and sanction system. The authors also found that organizations that implement value-based systems have a stronger tendency to maintain accountability and transparency. This is in line with the opinion of Khansa Fatimah (2024) who states that Pancasila can be a source of moral law that prevents corruption through ideological and ethical approaches.

D. Conclusion

The results of the research that have been carried out show that corrupt practices in Pertamina reflect the weak values of Pancasila in state governance. The apparatus involved in the procurement of crude oil does not make social justice the main principle in acting. The findings also show that the state's losses incurred are not only material but also hurt public trust and damage the nation's ideological foundation. Through the Pancasila-based public ethics approach, it can be seen that efforts to eradicate corruption are not enough to rely only on formal laws but also require moral and character development based on national values in the environment of SOEs such as Pertamina

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