

Investigating Economic Crimes by Indonesia's Attorney General's Office: Empirical Findings and Policy Implications

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Article Process Abstract

Submitted:
2025-03-15

Reviewed:
2025-04-25

Accepted:
2025-08-06

Published:
2025-09-01

Economic crimes in Indonesia, such as corruption, money laundering, and financial fraud, have shown significant growth and increasingly complex patterns in recent years. These dynamics demand innovative and integrated strategies from law enforcement agencies. This research examines the exercise of investigative authority by the Attorney General's Office of Indonesia, focusing on both its implementation and practical implications. Employing normative legal research supported by empirical data, the study applies case and legislative approaches analyzed through qualitative description. Findings reveal the dual realities of economic crime investigations: notable achievements supported by institutional frameworks and legal mandates, as well as persistent challenges including procedural limitations, coordination barriers, and limited resources. The analysis further identifies factors contributing to investigative success, alongside obstacles that hinder effectiveness. Beyond mapping these realities, the study evaluates the empirical implications of investigative practices for law enforcement policies. The findings highlight the necessity of integrating empirical approaches to capture field realities and inform responsive legal strategies. As a result, the research proposes policy recommendations aimed at strengthening institutional capacity, refining investigative mechanisms, and enhancing overall law enforcement integrity. Ultimately, this study contributes to a deeper understanding of how empirical perspectives can improve the effectiveness of economic crime investigations in Indonesia.

Keywords: Economic Crimes, Investigation, Prosecutor's Office

I. Introduction

An empirical approach in investigating economic crimes is a crucial aspect in understanding the dynamics and complexity of cases that occur in the field. Analysis of statistical data and case patterns serves as the main foundation in identifying economic crime trends, which not only support law enforcement efforts but also become the basis for formulating more effective prevention policies. Some experts argue that empirical methods in investigating economic crimes allow law enforcement officers to identify determinant factors that contribute to the occurrence of these crimes, including economic conditions, loopholes in regulations, and the characteristics and modus operandi of the perpetrators. Empirical studies show that economic fluctuations often correlate with increases in crimes such as fraud, corruption, and money laundering.¹

In Indonesia, data collected from various law enforcement agencies, including the Police and the Corruption Eradication Commission, indicate a tendency for an increase in cases of economic crimes in certain periods, especially when there is economic instability or significant regulatory changes. This is in line with the view that a vulnerable legal and economic system can be a loophole exploited by criminals in committing economic crimes.² On the other hand, legal instruments such as Law No. 8 of 2010 concerning the Prevention and Eradication of Money Laundering Crimes have become an important basis in efforts to combat economic crimes.³ However, the implementation of this regulation still faces various obstacles, including limited resources, challenges in inter-agency coordination, and adaptation to increasingly complex developments in crime modes. Therefore, a more integrated strategy is needed to increase the effectiveness of law enforcement and strengthen the regulatory system in order to combat economic crimes more optimally.⁴

Analysis of statistical data and economic crime cases in Indonesia reveals patterns and trends that require further study. In recent years, there has been a significant increase in cases of corruption, money laundering, and financial fraud, both in the public and private sectors. Based on data collected by the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK), corruption in government circles is still the most dominant, with increasingly diverse modus operandi, including budget embezzlement, bribery practices, and gratification.⁵ This is as shown in data released by the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) as shown in Figure 1 below:

¹ Monica Violeta Achim dan Sorin Nicolae Borlea, *Economic and Financial Crime: Corruption, Shadow Economy, and Money Laundering*, Cham: Springer, 2020, p. 45.

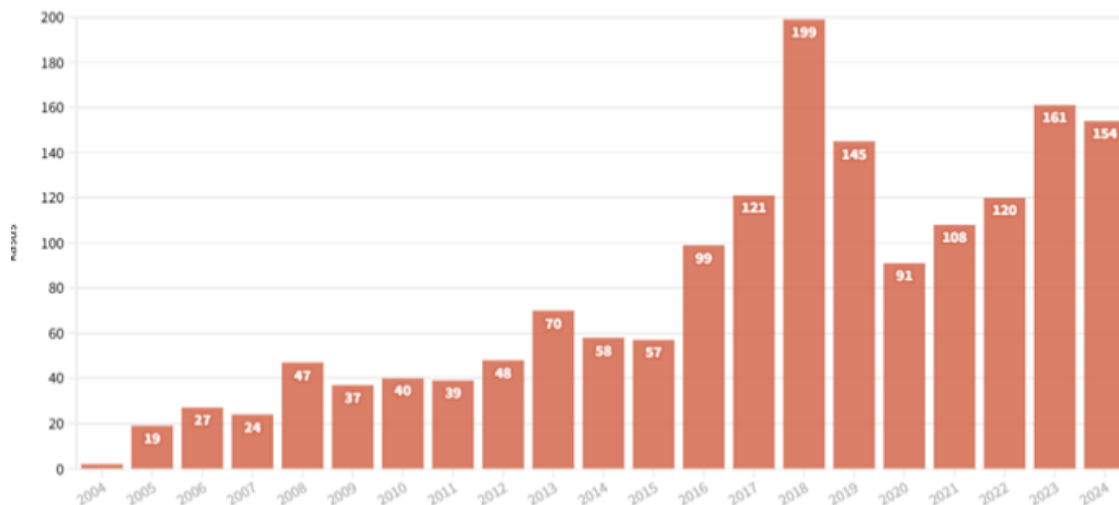
² Mark Pieth (Ed), *Gold Laundering: The Dirty Secrets of the Gold Trade*, Zurich: Dike Publishers, 2019, p. 78.

³ Anastasya Dowongi, "Implementasi Hukum Mengenai Tindak Pidana Pencucian Uang (Money Laundryng) Menurut Undang-Undang No 8 Tahun 2010", *Lex Privatum*, 13/5, 2024, p. 1.

⁴ Ilham Ramadhan, Mia Puspita Sari, Nedi Aprizal, Tyo Qhoirun Nisa, Dimas Dwi Arso, "Studi Analisis Terhadap Urgensi dan Implementasi Undang-Undang Nomor 8 Tahun 2010 Tentang Tindak Pidana Pencucian Uang", *MANDUB: Jurnal Politik, Sosial, Hukum dan Humaniora*, 2/3, 2024, p. 376.

⁵ Komisi Pemberantasan Korupsi, Laporan Tahunan KPK 2022, Jakarta: Laporan KPK, 2022, p. 34.

Figure 1: Number of Corruption Cases Handled by the KPK (2020-2024)



Sources: DataIndonesia.id

The above data shows that corruption cases in Indonesia tend to increase annually. Although there have been declines, they have not been significant, and then they have increased again. The latest data from 2024 shows that the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) handled 154 corruption cases.⁶ In addition, data recorded by the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) shows that the banking and financial services sector has also become the target of economic crimes, with cases involving embezzlement of customer funds and money laundering practices through fictitious transaction schemes.⁷

In addition, advances in digital technology have also contributed to changes in economic crime patterns, as seen from the increasing cases of online fraud, phishing, and money laundering carried out through various digital platforms.⁸ As an anticipatory measure, the government has issued various policies and regulations, one of which is the Financial Services Authority Regulation Number 12/POJK.01/2017 concerning the Implementation of Anti-Money Laundering and Prevention of Terrorism Financing Programs in the Financial Services Sector.⁹ However, the implementation of the regulation still faces various obstacles, including limited human resources who have competence in this field and coordination between agencies that still needs to be improved. As stated by David S. Wall, cybercrime requires a multidisciplinary and collaborative approach, involving various stakeholders, including government, the private sector, and civil society.¹⁰

⁶ Data Indonesia, "(Laporan) Kumpulan Data Seputar Korupsi di Indonesia 20 Tahun Terakhir hingga 2024", [/https://assets.dataindonesia.id/2025/03/25/1742889395680-1-Laporan-Kumpulan-Data-Seputar-Korupsi-di-Indonesia-20-Tahun-Terakhir-hingga-2024.pdf](https://assets.dataindonesia.id/2025/03/25/1742889395680-1-Laporan-Kumpulan-Data-Seputar-Korupsi-di-Indonesia-20-Tahun-Terakhir-hingga-2024.pdf).

⁷ Otoritas Jasa Keuangan, Laporan Tahunan OJK 2021, Jakarta: *Laporan OJK*, 2021, p. 45.

⁸ Irma Yurita, M. Kevin Ramadhan, M. Candra, "Pengaruh Kemajuan Teknologi Terhadap Perkembangan Tindak Pidana Cybercrime (Studi Kasus Phising Sebagai Ancaman Keamanan Digital)", *Jurnal Hukum Legalita*, 5/2, 2023, p. 143.

⁹ Fany Dewi Rengganis, Dwi Setiawan Susanto, "Evaluasi implementasi program anti pencucian uang di Indonesia", *Integritas: Jurnal Antikorupsi*, 9/2, 2023, p. 229.

¹⁰ David S. Wall, *Cybercrime: The Transformation of Crime in the Information Age*, Cambridge: Polity Press, 2007, p. 89.

Therefore, efforts to improve human resource capacity, strengthen inter-agency coordination, and utilize information technology in the investigation process are crucial steps in combating economic crimes in the digital era. As emphasized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the use of technology and increasing the capacity of law enforcement officers are important elements in combating increasingly complex cybercrimes.¹¹ The development of economic crime trends in Indonesia shows a change in increasingly complex crime patterns, especially with the use of information technology. Cybercrime, such as online fraud, identity theft, and money laundering through various digital platforms, has become an increasingly serious threat in recent years.¹² Based on data released by the Financial Transaction Reports and Analysis Center (PPATK), there has been a significant increase in suspicious transactions related to cybercrime, especially through the use of digital wallets and cryptocurrencies.¹³

This reflects the increasingly sophisticated adaptation of perpetrators of economic crimes in exploiting technological gaps to avoid detection by relevant authorities. In addition, the pattern of economic crimes in Indonesia is also influenced by the dynamics of globalization and the integration of international financial markets.¹⁴ Cases of cross-border money laundering are increasingly common, indicating that perpetrators often utilize international financial networks to hide or transfer assets resulting from crime. For example, there has been an increase in cases of overseas fund transfers carried out through fictitious companies or illegal investment schemes.¹⁵ This phenomenon requires strengthening international cooperation in law enforcement efforts to combat cross-border economic crimes.

On the regulatory side, Indonesia already has a number of legal instruments that serve as a basis for eradicating economic crimes, including Law No. 7 of 2011 concerning Currency and Law No. 9 of 2013 concerning Prevention and Eradication of Criminal Acts of Terrorism Financing.¹⁶ However, the implementation of these regulations still faces a number of challenges, including limited human resource capacity, lack of adequate technological infrastructure, and suboptimal coordination between related institutions.¹⁷ By understanding the trends and patterns of economic crimes that continue to develop, law enforcers need to design more effective and responsive strategies.

Data-based approaches, strengthening human resource capacity, and increasing international cooperation are key elements in building a more comprehensive and sustainable economic crime prevention and prosecution system. In addition, the trend of economic crimes in Indonesia also shows an increase in cases involving corporate entities, both on a small and large scale. Practices such as tax evasion, manipulation of financial reports, and abuse of authority in the corporate environment are increasingly common. Based on data released by the Directorate General of Taxes (DJP), tax avoidance and transfer pricing practices are still

¹¹ UNODC, *Comprehensive Study on Cybercrime*, Vienna: *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*, 2013, p. 45.

¹² Tri Ginanjar Laksana, Sri Mulyani, "Faktor - Faktor Mendasar Kejahatan Siber Terhadap Kemanusiaan", *Jurnal Hukum Prioris*, 11/2, 2023, p. 136.

¹³ Pusat Pelaporan dan Analisis Transaksi Keuangan, *Laporan Tahunan PPATK 2022*, Jakarta: *Laporan PPATK, 2022*, p. 67.

¹⁴ Novia Azmi, "Pengaruh Globalisasi Terhadap Peredaran Narkotika Di Asia Tenggara Tahun 2011-2015", *JOM FISIP*, 4/1, 2017, p. 1.

¹⁵ Eddy O.S. Hiariej, *Prinsip... Op.Cit.*, p. 145.

¹⁶ M. Ridho Fadli, Budi Bahreisy, Nasrianti, "Pertanggung Jawaban Pidana Terhadap Pelaku Tindak Pidana Pendanaan Terorisme Melalui Instrumen Anti Money Laundering", *Jurnal Ilmiah Mahasiswa Fakultas Hukum (JIM FH)*, 2/2, 2022, p. 177.

¹⁷ Folman P. Ambarita, "Penanggulangan Tindak Pidana Terorisme", *Binamulia Hukum*, 7/2, 2018, p. 141-156.

serious problems that cause state losses reaching trillions of rupiah each year.¹⁸ This condition reflects the tendency of corporations to exploit legal loopholes and weak supervisory systems to carry out practices that are contrary to the provisions of laws and regulations.

The pattern of corporate crime is also influenced by weak law enforcement against perpetrators at the corporate level. Although regulations such as Law No. 40 of 2007 concerning Limited Liability Companies and Law No. 8 of 2010 concerning TPPU have provided a fairly strong legal basis in overcoming this problem, implementation in the field still faces various challenges. One of the obstacles that is often faced is the slow legal process against corporations, which is caused by the complexity of the company structure and limited resources among law enforcement officers. On the other hand, the development of information technology also presents new challenges in handling economic crimes. Technology-based crimes, such as online investment fraud and illegal trading through e-commerce platforms, are increasingly difficult to track due to their cross-border nature and the anonymity of the perpetrators.¹⁹ In order to overcome these challenges, the government has issued Regulation of the Minister of Communication and Informatics No. 5 of 2020 concerning the Implementation of Private Electronic Systems. However, the effectiveness of this regulation still needs to be improved, especially through efforts to increase the capacity of law enforcement officers in understanding technology and strengthening cooperation with the private sector to ensure more optimal policy implementation.²⁰

The increasingly complex trends and patterns of economic crimes require law enforcement officers to develop more innovative and integrated handling strategies. One approach that can be applied is an empirical approach in the investigation process. This approach focuses on systematic data collection and analysis to identify patterns, trends, and factors that contribute to the occurrence of economic crimes.²¹ Currently, the authority to investigate economic crimes is still dominated by the police, although prosecutors have special expertise in the field of economic criminal law. Granting investigative authority to prosecutors can accelerate the law enforcement process, considering that prosecutors have a deep understanding of the legal aspects and trial procedures in economic criminal cases. This concept is in line with the view that integrating the role of prosecutors in the investigation process can increase the effectiveness of law enforcement, especially in handling cases with a high level of complexity involving legal and financial aspects.

Research with a similar theme has been previously conducted by Henni Muchtar dkk, entitled "Tinjauan Tentang Implementasi Penegakan Hukum Terhadap Kejahatan Korporasi Oleh Kejaksaan Agung (Studi Yuridis Empiris Tentang Penyidikan Kasus Kejahatan Perbankan)" 2010. However, Henni Muchtar's research focuses on economic crimes committed by corporations, with law enforcement carried out by the prosecutor's office. This research, however, goes beyond focusing solely on corporate economic crimes; it will also empirically analyze prosecutorial law enforcement in general.

Another research has been conducted by Didik Kurniawan in his dissertation entitled "Reformulation of Investigative Authority by the Prosecutor's Office as Case Controller (Dominus Litis)" in 2023. However, this research is different from Didik's research because

¹⁸ Direktorat Jenderal Pajak, Laporan Kinerja DJP 2021, Jakarta: *Laporan DJP*, 2021, p. 23.

¹⁹ Eddy O.S. Hiarij, *Prinsip-Prinsip Hukum Pidana*, Yogyakarta: Cahaya Atma Pustaka, 2020, h. 8.

²⁰ Yasmina Fayzaa, Muhamad Amirullohb, Mustofa Haffas, "Penjualan Sertifikat Vaksin Covid-19 Oleh Pengguna Facebook Berdasarkan Peraturan Perundang-Undangan Terkait", *Jurnal Poros Hukum Padjadjaran*, 4/1, 2022, p. 16.

²¹ Pusat Pelaporan dan Analisis Transaksi Keuangan, *Laporan Tahunan PPATK 2022*, Jakarta: Laporan PPATK, 2022, p. 45.

Didik's research focuses on the prosecutor's office as a case controller and does not focus on one particular type of crime. While this research focuses on the authority of the prosecutor as an investigator in economic crimes. This is the basis for conducting this research. One of approach that can be applied is an empirical approach in the investigation process. This is because in order to develop law enforcement that responds the dynamic of crime, an empirical approach must be taken to see what is actually happening in the field. So this research is expected to be a basis for law enforcement in dealing with the new dynamics of economic crime.

II. Research Problems

From the regulatory aspect, although Indonesia has relatively adequate legal instruments, its implementation is still faced with various obstacles, including limited resources, lack of effective coordination between agencies, and challenges in adapting to the dynamics of the modus operandi of economic crimes that continue to develop. Therefore, a more integrated strategy is needed, including through optimizing a data-based approach, increasing the competence of law enforcement officers, and strengthening international cooperation in order to create a more effective, comprehensive, and sustainable prevention and enforcement system. Based on this background, the problems that will be analyzed in this study are: How is the reality of the implementation of the authority to investigate economic crimes by the Attorney General's Office of the Republic of Indonesia? And what are the practical implications and empirical findings on the process of investigating economic crimes by the Attorney General's Office of the Republic of Indonesia?

III. Research Methods

The method that will be used in the research is the normative-empirical legal research method with a case approach and a statutory approach. The author chose normative legal research because the sources that will be studied in this research problem are legal regulations, theories and concepts. Although normative, this research is also supported by empirical or field data. Then the results of the study will be described in research documents related to economic crimes, especially the authority of investigation by the prosecutor's office. The collection of materials in this study also uses the library research method, where each research material is collected based on three types of materials, namely: primary, secondary and tertiary. Then the research is described descriptively qualitatively.

IV. Result and Discussion

1. The Implementation Reality of Investigative Authority by the Attorney General's Office of the Republic of Indonesia

The implementation of investigative authority by the Prosecutor's Office is faced with the problem of less than optimal harmonization of laws and regulations. In practice, there is still ambiguity and potential overlapping authority between the Prosecutor's Office and other investigative institutions, such as the Police and the Corruption Eradication Commission. This situation often triggers conflicts of authority that result in inefficiency in handling economic crime cases. From a legal theory perspective, clarity regarding the limits of authority and

coordination between law enforcement institutions are essential elements in achieving effective law enforcement. As expressed by Andi Hamzah, "Harmonization of laws and regulations is needed to avoid overlapping authority between the Prosecutor's Office and other investigative institutions, especially in handling economic crime cases."²² Therefore, a number of academics and legal practitioners have emphasized the urgency of regulatory reform to clarify the authority of the prosecutor's office as *dominus litis*, as well as to ensure the existence of a systematic and sustainable coordination mechanism among law enforcement agencies.

In line with this, Law No. 16 of 2004, specifically Article 30 paragraph (1) letter d, gives prosecutors the authority to conduct investigations into certain crimes, including economic crimes. This authority emphasizes the role of prosecutors as independent investigators, but must still coordinate with other law enforcement agencies in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations.²³ However, in practice, political intervention and certain interests are still challenges that need to be overcome immediately in order to ensure effectiveness and integrity in the implementation of the investigation process. In Indonesia, the urgency of granting authority to prosecutors as investigators in economic crimes is increasingly apparent, as seen in several cases that have attracted public attention. One case that reflects this is the criminal act of corruption related to social assistance funds (*bansos*) during the COVID-19 pandemic, which involved high-ranking officials and other influential actors.

In this case, the prosecutor's office is required to act quickly and effectively in uncovering a complex structured criminal network. However, the problem of overlapping authority with other institutions, such as the Corruption Eradication Commission, actually hampers the smooth investigation process.²⁴ This situation confirms that without clarity in the division of authority and optimal coordination, the effectiveness of law enforcement cannot be achieved optimally. As emphasized by Jimly Asshiddiqie, coordination and synergy between law enforcement institutions are fundamental prerequisites for the realization of an effective and integrated law enforcement system.²⁵

The urgency of the prosecutor's authority as an investigator is also seen in money laundering cases involving large corporations. In this context, the prosecutor's office often faces challenges in collecting evidence and tracking the flow of funds, especially if the funds have crossed international jurisdictions. Another factor that is a major obstacle is the limited human resources and technical capabilities needed to handle cases with a high level of complexity. In addition, corruption cases in the oil and gas and banking sectors also indicate the importance of the role of the prosecutor's office in investigating economic crimes. In several cases, political intervention or certain interests have threatened the independence of the prosecutor's office, which ultimately contributed to the decline in public trust in the law enforcement institution.

Therefore, strengthening the authority of the prosecutor's office as an investigator must be accompanied by a strict monitoring mechanism to prevent potential abuse of authority. In line with this, Article 30 paragraph (1) letter d of Law No. 16 of 2004 explicitly states that prosecutors have the authority to conduct investigations into certain crimes, including

²² Andi Hamzah, *Hukum Acara Pidana Indonesia*, Jakarta: Sinar Grafika, 2009, p. 135.

²³ Reza Prihandana, Tri Satrio Wahyu Murthi, Jhonson Efendi Tambunan, Irwan Syafari, "Wewenang Jaksa di Bidang Keperdataan Berdasarkan Pasal 30 Undang-Undang Nomor 16 Tahun 2004 tentang Kejaksaan Republik Indonesia", *Halu Oleo Law Review*, 7/1, 2023, p. 1.

²⁴ Sahuri Lasmadi, "Tumpang Tindih Kewenangan Penyidikan Pada Tindak Pidana Korupsi Dalam Perspektif Sistem Peradilan Pidana", *Inovatif: Jurnal Ilmu Hukum*, 2/3, 2020, p. 33.

²⁵ Jimly Asshiddiqie, *Konstitusi dan Konstitusionalisme Indonesia*, Jakarta: Sekretariat Jenderal dan Kepaniteraan Mahkamah Konstitusi RI, 2006, p. 78.

economic crimes.²⁶ However, in its implementation, the coordination mechanism between law enforcement agencies often does not run optimally, especially in handling large-scale cases involving various parties.

As emphasized by Mark Pieth, strengthening the capacity of law enforcement institutions and improving coordination between institutions are fundamental prerequisites for realizing an effective and integrated law enforcement system.²⁷ The establishment of firm and explicit authority in the legislation for the Attorney General's Office of the Republic of Indonesia as an investigator in economic crime cases is a fundamental step in ensuring clarity of authority, improving coordination between institutions, and strengthening the independence of the prosecutor's office. Without a clear legal basis, the potential for overlapping authority with other institutions, such as the Police and the Corruption Eradication Commission, will continue, thus hampering the effectiveness of law enforcement. In cases of corruption, money laundering, and crimes in the banking sector, systematic synergy between the prosecutor's office, the police, and the Corruption Eradication Commission is essential to ensure that the investigation process runs in an integrated manner and does not experience administrative or jurisdictional obstacles.

Unclear regulations are often the main factor in the emergence of conflicts of authority between institutions, which ultimately disrupt the effectiveness of the investigation process. Therefore, strengthening the authority of the prosecutor's office through statutory provisions must be accompanied by a structured and continuous coordination mechanism to support the effectiveness of the criminal justice system in handling economic crimes. Without concrete steps in the regulatory and institutional aspects, the disclosure of economic cases involving networks of perpetrators with complex structures and influential actors will experience serious obstacles, which can ultimately harm the state and damage public trust in the criminal justice system. Therefore, regulatory reform and strengthening the institutional capacity of the prosecutor's office must be realized immediately as part of a joint commitment to building a legal system based on the principles of justice, transparency, and integrity. Thus, the prosecutor's office not only plays an optimal role in law enforcement, but also makes a significant contribution to maintaining economic stability and upholding social justice in Indonesia.

2. Evaluation of Success and Obstacles in Investigation

Supporting Factors for the Success Investigations of Economic Crime

Investigation of economic crimes is a complex process and requires a multidisciplinary approach to achieve optimal effectiveness. In this case, various supporting factors play a very significant role in determining the success of an investigation. In general, the effectiveness of economic crime investigations is not only determined by the technical competence of investigators, but also depends heavily on the existence of a strong legal system, adequate resources, and effective coordination between law enforcement agencies. A number of legal experts, both national and international, have put forward relevant theories regarding the factors determining the success of this investigation. In legal literature, for example, it is stated that the effectiveness of investigations is greatly influenced by the integrity of the judicial

²⁶ Nia Gabriella Kaihena, "Kedudukan Dan Fungsi Kejaksaan Dalam Sistem Ketenaga Kerjaan Diindonesia", *Lex Privatum*, 11/1, 2023, p. 3.

²⁷ Mark Pieth (Ed), *Corporate Criminal Liability: Emergence, Convergence, and Risk*, Dordrecht: Springer, 2016, p. 45.

system, the quality of human resources, and the effectiveness of the applicable regulatory framework. The legal framework contained in laws and regulations, such as the Criminal Procedure Code and Law No. 8 of 2010 concerning Money Laundering, provides an essential normative basis in supporting the investigation process. However, the implementation of these various factors often faces obstacles, both technically and non-technically, which require a comprehensive evaluation to improve the effectiveness of future investigations.

In Indonesia, the success of economic crime investigations cannot be separated from the dynamics of the development of the legal system and law enforcement mechanisms that continue to change. One fundamental aspect in this context is the existence of regulatory updates that further strengthen legal instruments for investigators, as reflected in Law No. 8 of 2010 concerning Money Laundering.²⁸ In addition, the role of law enforcement institutions, such as the Attorney General's Office and Financial and Development Supervisory Agency (BPKP), also contribute significantly to supporting the effectiveness of investigations. However, various challenges are still faced in its implementation, including the lack of coordination between related agencies, limited operational budget, and low quality of human resources in the field of investigation. A number of academics emphasize that the success of investigating economic crimes is highly dependent on the integration of the legal system, the use of information technology, and increasing the capacity and professionalism of investigators. This is in line with the view that the effectiveness of investigations is largely determined by the ability to adapt to the development of increasingly complex and sophisticated economic crime *modus operandi*. Therefore, periodic evaluation of supporting factors for investigations is needed to ensure that the law enforcement process can run optimally, efficiently, and in accordance with the principles of justice and legal certainty.

In addition to regulatory aspects and the role of law enforcement agencies, the success of economic crime investigations in Indonesia is also greatly influenced by the use of information technology and community involvement. In the digital era, the use of sophisticated technologies such as big data analytics and artificial intelligence has become an essential instrument in uncovering economic crimes involving complex and cross-jurisdictional transactions. This technology allows investigators to trace the flow of illegal funds and identify networks of criminals more accurately and efficiently. However, the use of technology in investigations still faces various obstacles, such as limited infrastructure and a lack of professional personnel who have competence in this field. In addition, community participation in the form of reporting and whistleblowing is also an important element in supporting the effectiveness of investigations. Several experts emphasize that transparency and public legal awareness can increase accountability in the law enforcement process.

However, there are still challenges that need to be resolved, including the lack of legal protection for whistleblowers and the low level of public trust in the criminal justice system. Therefore, the integration of technology, regulation, and public participation are determining factors in supporting the effectiveness of economic crime investigations in Indonesia. Another supporting factor that contributes to the effectiveness of economic crime investigations is cooperation between law enforcement agencies, both at the national and international levels. Given that many economic crime cases involve cross-border networks, solid coordination is a must. Cooperation between the Indonesian National Police, the Attorney General's Office, and international institutions such as Interpol has shown effectiveness in handling large-scale

²⁸ Dewi Asri Puanandini, Muhammad Syahid Syidiq, Jihan Pasha Noevera, "Efektivitas Undang-Undang Nomor 8 Tahun 2010 Tentang Pencegahan Dan Pemberantasan Tindak Pidana Pencucian Uang", *Public Sphere*, 2/2, 2023, p. 2.

money laundering and corruption cases. As stated by Andi Hamzah, the success of investigations is highly dependent on the ability of law enforcement agencies to build strong and mutually supportive cooperation networks.²⁹

However, complex bureaucratic challenges, regulatory differences between countries, and limited human resource capacity are still major obstacles in optimizing such cooperation. In addition, the role of supervisory institutions such as the KPK cannot be ignored. With an independent and professional approach, the KPK has succeeded in uncovering various corruption cases involving state officials. However, this success needs to be accompanied by a more integrated and transparent system to ensure sustainability and increased effectiveness in handling economic crimes in the future. In addition to inter-institutional cooperation, another aspect that is no less important in investigating economic crimes in Indonesia is the availability of accurate and integrated data and information. In this context, the financial information system managed by the Financial Transaction Reports and Analysis Center (PPATK) has a very crucial role.³⁰ As an institution responsible for monitoring and analyzing suspicious financial transactions, PPATK has made a significant contribution in supporting the disclosure of money laundering and corruption cases. The success of the investigation is highly dependent on the quality and speed of access to relevant data. However, the challenges faced in this aspect include the lack of integration of database systems between institutions, technological limitations, and resistance from certain parties who do not want transparency in their financial transactions.³¹

Identification of Obstacles and Problems in Investigation Practices

Investigation of economic crimes is a complex and multidimensional process, requiring an empirical approach to understand the dynamics and challenges faced in practice. In general, this investigation aims to uncover economic crimes that often involve extensive networks, sophisticated modus operandi, and significant impacts on national economic stability. However, in practice, there are various obstacles and problems that hinder the effectiveness of investigations, ranging from limited resources, coordination between institutions, to technical challenges in collecting digital evidence. Several national and international legal experts have identified that the success of investigating economic crimes is highly dependent on the integrity of the legal system, the capacity of investigators, and adequate regulatory support. For example, in the Indonesian context, Law No. 8 of 2010 concerning Money Laundering is the main legal basis, although its implementation still faces serious obstacles. Theories from experts also emphasize the importance of a holistic and collaborative approach in overcoming these obstacles, including increasing human resource capacity and the use of modern technology. Thus, evaluating the successes and obstacles in investigating economic crimes is important to identify strategic steps in increasing the effectiveness of law enforcement in this area.

Evaluation of success and obstacles in investigating economic crimes cannot be separated from the urgency of granting authority to prosecutors as investigators. In the context of Indonesian law, prosecutors have a central role in law enforcement, including in economic crimes that require special expertise and a multidisciplinary approach. However, until now, the authority of prosecutors as investigators is still limited, even though several legal experts

²⁹ Andi Hamzah, *Hukum Acara... Op.Cit.*, p. 89.

³⁰ Randy Andario, "Peranan Ppatk (Pusat Pelaporan Dan Analisis Transaksi Keuangan) Dalam Mencegah Tindak Pidana Pencucian Uang", *Lex Administratum*, 4/4, 2016, p. 38.

³¹ M. Yahya Harap, *Pembahasan... Op.Cit.*, h. 67.

argue that expanding this authority can increase the effectiveness of investigations. Granting investigative authority to prosecutors can minimize overlapping authority between institutions, which is often a major obstacle in the investigation process. Integration of the roles of investigation and prosecution in one institution can accelerate the legal process and reduce the risk of information leakage.³²

This urgency is increasingly relevant considering the complexity of economic crimes that often involve influential actors and cross-jurisdictional networks. Therefore, granting investigative authority to prosecutors is not only a strategic solution, but also an important step in creating a more integrated and effective law enforcement system. In addition, the urgency of granting investigative authority to prosecutors in economic crimes is also based on the need for more effective and efficient coordination between law enforcement agencies. Currently, the fragmentation of authority between the Police, the Prosecutor's Office, and the Corruption Eradication Committee often results in overlapping and unsynchronization in the investigation process. The absence of integration of investigative authority actually weakens law enforcement efforts, especially in economic cases that require fast and coordinated handling. Prosecutor's institutions that have investigative authority tend to be better able to handle complex economic crime cases, because they have direct access to the necessary evidence from the early stages.³³

Evaluation of the success and obstacles in investigating economic crimes cannot be separated from the urgency of granting authority to prosecutors as investigators. In the context of Indonesian law, prosecutors have a central role in law enforcement, including in economic crimes that require special expertise and a multidisciplinary approach. However, to date, the authority of prosecutors as investigators is still limited, even though several legal experts argue that expanding this authority can increase the effectiveness of investigations. Granting investigative authority to prosecutors can minimize overlapping authority between institutions, which is often the main obstacle in the investigation process. Integration of the role of investigation and prosecution in one institution can accelerate the legal process and reduce the risk of information leakage. This urgency is increasingly relevant considering the complexity of economic crimes that often involve influential actors and cross-jurisdictional networks. Therefore, granting investigative authority to the Prosecutor is not only a strategic solution, but also an important step in creating a more integrated and effective law enforcement system.

Evaluation of successes and obstacles in investigating economic crimes in Indonesia indicates that although there has been progress in handling some cases, there are still various challenges that need to be overcome. One significant achievement is the increase in the capacity of investigators in handling economic crime cases involving sophisticated technology, such as money laundering and cybercrime. However, this success is often hampered by limited human resources, budget, and supporting infrastructure. In addition, the lack of coordination between law enforcement agencies is also a major obstacle, resulting in overlapping authority and slowing down the investigation process. The fragmentation of authority between the Police and the Corruption Eradication Commission often creates legal loopholes that are exploited by perpetrators of economic crimes to avoid the legal process. On the other hand, the success of investigating economic crimes is highly dependent on the integrity of the legal system and strong political support. Therefore, to increase the effectiveness of investigations, structural

³² Michael Levi, *Regulating Fraud: White-Collar Crime and The Criminal Process*, London: Routledge, 2014, p. 92.

³³ David Nelken, *White-Collar Crime (The International Library of Criminology and Criminal Justice and Penology)*, London: Routledge, 2002, p. 87.

reforms are needed that include increasing human resource capacity, harmonizing regulations, and strengthening coordination between agencies.³⁴

Structural reform in the economic crime investigation system in Indonesia is increasingly urgent, especially in the context of granting authority to prosecutors as investigators through separate laws. This is based on the fact that economic crimes often involve complex networks, evolving modus operandi, and significant impacts on the stability of the national economy. Granting investigative authority to prosecutors can be a strategic solution to overcome the fragmentation of authority that has been the main obstacle. Integration of investigative and prosecution authority in one institution can increase the efficiency and effectiveness of handling economic crime cases.³⁵ In Indonesia, this urgency is further strengthened by the fact that Law No. 16 of 2004 has not yet provided comprehensive investigative authority to the Prosecutor, even though the need for fast and integrated handling of economic cases is increasingly urgent. Therefore, the formation of a special law that provides investigative authority to the Prosecutor is not only a form of criminal law reform, but also an effort to create a law enforcement system that is more responsive and adaptive to the dynamics of contemporary economic crimes.

The need for structural reform in the economic crime investigation system in Indonesia is increasingly urgent, especially considering the complexity and broad impact of economic crimes on national stability. One strategic step that can be taken is to grant investigative authority to the Prosecutor through a separate law, which specifically regulates the mechanisms and procedures for investigating economic crimes. Granting this authority will not only strengthen the position of the Prosecutor as a law enforcement agency, but also ensure a more integrated and holistic approach in handling economic cases. The success of handling economic crimes is highly dependent on the ability of law enforcement agencies to integrate investigation and prosecution functions, so as to avoid duplication of authority and inefficiency.³⁶ In Indonesia, this urgency is further strengthened by the fact that Law No. 8 of 2010 concerning TPPU has not explicitly given investigative authority to the Prosecutor, even though this institution has adequate capacity and expertise. Therefore, the formation of a special law that gives investigative authority to the Prosecutor is not only a form of criminal law reform, but also an effort to create a law enforcement system that is more responsive, integrated, and adaptive to the dynamics of increasingly complex economic crimes.

Based on the evaluation of the success and obstacles in investigating economic crimes in Indonesia, it can be concluded that granting investigative authority to prosecutors through special laws is a strategic step that cannot be postponed any longer. This structural reform is not only aimed at overcoming the fragmentation of authority between institutions, but also at creating a more integrated, efficient, and responsive law enforcement system to the increasingly complex dynamics of economic crimes. The establishment of a special law that grants investigative authority to the Prosecutor will strengthen the capacity of this institution in handling economic cases that require a multidisciplinary approach and special expertise. The success of handling economic crimes is highly dependent on the ability of law enforcement

³⁴ Susan Rose-Ackerman, *Corruption and Government: Causes, Consequences, and Reform*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999, p. 76.

³⁵ Mark Pieth (Ed), *Gold... Op.Cit.*, p. 89.

³⁶ Barry Rider (Ed), *A Research Agenda for Economic Crime and Development*, Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing, 2021, p. 145.

agencies to integrate investigation and prosecution functions, so as to avoid overlapping authority and inefficiency.³⁷

In the Indonesian context, this urgency is further strengthened by the fact that Law No. 16 of 2004 has not provided comprehensive investigative authority, even though the Prosecutor has adequate capacity and expertise. Therefore, the formation of a special law that provides investigative authority to the Prosecutor is not only a form of criminal law reform, but also an effort to create a more integrated, effective law enforcement system that is able to respond to the challenges of economic crime in the era of globalization.

An in-depth analysis of the evaluation of successes and obstacles in investigating economic crimes in Indonesia shows that structural reform through granting investigative authority to prosecutors in special laws is not only a need, but a necessity. An important note to note is that economic crimes, such as money laundering, corruption, and corporate crime, often involve actors who have access to large resources and international networks. This requires an investigative approach that is not only fast, but also integrated and based on special expertise. The weak coordination between law enforcement agencies is often exploited by perpetrators of economic crimes to hinder the legal process, so that granting investigative authority to prosecutors can be a solution to minimize this gap. On the other hand, the success of handling economic crimes is highly dependent on the ability of law enforcement agencies to integrate investigative and prosecution functions, so as to avoid duplication of authority and inefficiency.³⁸

This urgency is further strengthened by the fact that Law No. 8 of 2010 concerning money laundering has not explicitly given investigative authority to the Prosecutor, even though this institution has adequate capacity and expertise. Therefore, the formation of a special law that gives investigative authority to the Prosecutor is not only a form of criminal law reform, but also an effort to create a more integrated, effective law enforcement system that is able to respond to the challenges of economic crime in the era of globalization. In conclusion, this structural reform is an important step to strengthen the capacity of Indonesian law enforcement in dealing with increasingly sophisticated and far-reaching economic crimes.

3. Practical Implications of Empirical Findings

Impact of Findings on Law Enforcement Policies and Strategies

The impact of empirical findings on policies and strategies for law enforcement of economic crimes cannot be separated from the urgency of granting additional authority to law enforcement agencies, especially prosecutors, in their capacity as investigators. Empirical findings show that the complexity of economic crimes, such as money laundering, corruption, and other financial crimes, requires a more integrated and specialist approach. In this context, granting investigative authority to prosecutors is considered a strategic step to increase the effectiveness of law enforcement. Granting investigative authority to prosecutors can accelerate the process of handling economic cases that require special expertise and cross-sector coordination. Modern economic crimes require a multidisciplinary approach and strong institutional capacity to overcome technical and procedural challenges.³⁹ This urgency is

³⁷ Michael Levi, *The Phantom Capitalists: The Organization and Control of Long-Firm Fraud*, London: Routledge, 2008, p. 178.

³⁸ David O. Friedrichs, *Trusted Criminals: White Collar Crime in Contemporary Society*, Drive Belmont CA USA: Belmont: Wadsworth Publishing, 2009, p. 156.

³⁹ Michael Levi, *Regulating... Op.Cit.*, p. 89.

further strengthened by the provisions of Law No. 16 of 2004, which provides a legal basis for prosecutors to play a more active role in investigating certain crimes, including economic crimes. Thus, empirical findings not only encourage the evaluation of existing policies, but also strengthen the argument for expanding the authority of prosecutors as an effort to increase the effectiveness of law enforcement in the economic sector.

Furthermore, the urgency of granting authority to prosecutors as investigators of economic crimes is also based on empirical findings that reveal limited capacity and coordination between institutions in handling increasingly complex economic crime cases. These findings indicate that conventional investigative institutions often face technical constraints, such as a lack of special expertise in the fields of finance and economics, as well as slow investigation processes due to complicated bureaucracy. The effectiveness of law enforcement is highly dependent on the ability of law enforcement institutions to adapt to the dynamics of modern crime, including economic crimes. Granting investigative authority to institutions that have specialization and access to adequate resources can be a solution to overcome the challenges of law enforcement in the era of globalization.⁴⁰ In this context, the Prosecutor, with his/her expertise in the legal field and experience in handling complex cases, is seen as a potential institution to take on this role. Legal support for this can be found in Law No. 16 of 2004 in conjunction with Law No. 11 of 2021, which provides a legal basis for the Prosecutor to play a more active role in investigating certain crimes, including economic crimes.⁴¹ Thus, empirical findings not only reveal the need for policy reform, but also strengthen the urgency of granting investigative authority to the Prosecutor as a strategic step in increasing the effectiveness of law enforcement for economic crimes.

The practical implications of empirical findings in handling economic crimes in Indonesia emphasize the need for policy reform and a more comprehensive law enforcement strategy. The findings reveal that economic crimes, such as corruption, money laundering, and tax evasion, often involve extensive networks, cross jurisdictional boundaries, and exploit loopholes in the legal system. The effectiveness of law enforcement for economic crimes depends heavily on the ability of law enforcement agencies to integrate legal, economic, and technological approaches. Successful handling of economic crimes requires inter-agency coordination, transparency, and the use of technology to collect and analyze digital evidence.⁴²

In Indonesia, empirical findings also show that weak coordination between the Police, the Prosecutor's Office, and the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) is often a major obstacle in handling economic cases. Therefore, policies are needed that encourage synergy between institutions, as regulated in Law No. 30 of 2002 in conjunction with Law No. 19 of 2019 concerning the Corruption Eradication Commission, which emphasizes the importance of collaboration in eradicating economic crimes.⁴³ Thus, the practical implications of these empirical findings not only encourage policy updates, but also demand a paradigm shift in law enforcement strategies that are more adaptive to the challenges of modern economic crimes.

The empirical findings and analysis that have been described show that reform of law enforcement policies and strategies in dealing with economic crimes is not only a necessity,

⁴⁰ David Nelken, *Comparative Criminal Justice and Globalization*, London: Routledge, 2007, h. 203.

⁴¹ Bonifasius Petrus Sando Mokorimban, "Fungsi, Tugas, Dan Wewenang Kejaksaan Dalam Sistem Peradilan Pidana Menurut Undang-Undang Republik Indonesia Nomor 11 Tahun 2021", *Lex Privatum*, 13/4, 2024, p. 6.

⁴² Susan Rose-Ackerman, *Corruption... Op.Cit.*, h. 145.

⁴³ Devi Ariani, Lusy Liany, "Pro Kontra Proses Pembentukan Undang-Undang Nomor 19 Tahun 2019 Tentang Komisi Pemberantasan Korupsi Di Tinjau Dari Azas-Azas Pembentukan Perundang-Undangan", *ADIL: Jurnal Hukum*, 12/1, 2021, p. 10.

but a must to respond to the increasingly complex dynamics of modern economic crimes. Empirical findings reveal that economic crimes, such as money laundering, corruption, and investment fraud, have developed by utilizing sophisticated technology and international networks that are difficult to track by conventional legal systems.

In Indonesia, the main challenges faced include the lack of coordination between institutions, weak human resource capacity, and limited legal frameworks that support information exchange. Therefore, policy reforms must include strengthening the legal framework, increasing the capacity of law enforcement officers, and utilizing modern technology, as stipulated in Law No. 8 of 2010 concerning Money Laundering. These empirical findings not only provide an in-depth picture of the challenges faced in enforcing economic crime laws, but also offer strategic direction for the development of more effective, adaptive, and sustainable policies and strategies in the future.

One important note that can be taken is the need for integration between conventional legal approaches and technological innovation to address increasingly sophisticated economic crimes. The use of technology in law enforcement is not just an option, but a necessity to respond to the complexity of modern crimes, which require responses not only based on law but also utilizing technological advances to identify, analyze, and anticipate crime patterns. In Indonesia, concrete steps that can be taken include strengthening the legal framework that supports the use of technology in investigations, increasing human resource capacity through special training, and strengthening cross-institutional and international cooperation. Law No. 8 of 2010 concerning TPPU has provided a legal basis for the use of technology in tracking suspicious transactions, although its implementation still needs to be improved. Thus, these empirical findings not only reveal challenges, but also provide a foundation for the development of a more comprehensive law enforcement strategy that is responsive to the dynamics of economic crime in the digital era.

Policy Recommendations and Improvements Based on Empirical Analysis

The empirical approach to investigating economic crimes has been recognized as a crucial instrument in understanding the dynamics and challenges faced by law enforcement in the contemporary era. Through the collection and analysis of field data, this approach not only serves to identify practical problems experienced by law enforcement officers, but also provides a basis for formulating more effective and evidence-based policy recommendations. Legal experts, both at the national and international levels, have long emphasized the importance of integrating legal theory and empirical findings in designing law enforcement policies. For example, various studies have shown that a data-based approach can improve accuracy, transparency, and fairness in the investigation process, especially in complex cases such as economic crimes involving cross-jurisdictional networks and evolving modus operandi.⁴⁴

Relevant legal frameworks, such as Law No. 8 of 2010 on Money Laundering and Law No. 31 of 1999 on Corruption, have mandated the use of systematic and evidence-based investigation methods. However, the implementation of these provisions still faces various obstacles, including limited resources, technical capacity, and inter-agency coordination. Therefore, empirical analysis not only serves as an evaluation tool, but also as a basis for designing policies that are more adaptive and responsive to developments in economic crime. By combining empirical findings and legal theory, it is hoped that a more effective, accountable law enforcement system can be created that is able to anticipate future challenges.

⁴⁴ Richard A. Posner, *How Judges Think*, Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2008, p. 76.

Policy recommendations and improvements based on empirical analysis in the investigation of economic crimes are a strategic step to improve the effectiveness of law enforcement. This approach does not only rely on field findings, but also integrates legal theories with proven best practices. Several legal experts assert that policies designed based on empirical data tend to be more accurate and relevant to actual needs in the field. As an illustration, research shows that the use of quantitative and qualitative methods in the analysis of economic crime cases can reveal new patterns and systemic vulnerabilities that need to be fixed.⁴⁵

Law No. 8 of 2010 on Money Laundering and Law No. 31 of 1999 on Corruption have provided a legal basis for implementing an evidence-based approach. However, its implementation is often hampered by a lack of technical capacity, inter-agency coordination, and adequate resources. Therefore, policy recommendations resulting from empirical analysis should include aspects such as improving training for investigators, strengthening the integrated database system, and harmonizing laws and regulations. Thus, the empirical approach is not only an evaluation tool, but also a foundation for creating a law enforcement system that is more adaptive, transparent, and responsive to the dynamics of economic crime that continues to develop.

Empirical approaches to investigating economic crimes not only provide an in-depth picture of the dynamics of crime, but also offer significant practical implications for improving the law enforcement system. Empirical findings, obtained through field data analysis, can form the basis for formulating more effective and sustainable policy recommendations. National and international legal experts agree that the integration of legal theory and empirical evidence is key to addressing the complex challenges of investigating economic crimes. For example, research shows that data-driven approaches can identify systemic gaps in the investigation process, such as lack of coordination between institutions or limited resources, which often hinder the handling of economic crime cases.⁴⁶

In Indonesia, legal frameworks such as Law No. 8 of 2010 on Money Laundering and Law No. 31 of 1999 on Corruption have mandated the use of systematic and evidence-based investigation methods. However, their implementation still faces obstacles, such as lack of technical capacity and supporting infrastructure. Therefore, policy recommendations resulting from empirical analysis must include concrete steps, such as increasing the capacity of investigators through special training, developing an integrated information system, and harmonizing laws and regulations. Thus, the empirical approach not only serves as an evaluation tool, but also as a foundation for creating a law enforcement system that is more adaptive, transparent, and responsive to the increasingly complex development of economic crimes.

The practical implications of empirical findings in the investigation of economic crimes point to the urgency of granting primary authority to the Prosecutor as an investigator based on the principle of *dominus litis*. This principle emphasizes that the Prosecutor, as the holder of the prosecution authority, has a central role in controlling the legal process from the investigation stage to prosecution. Empirical findings show that less than optimal coordination between police investigators and the prosecutor's office often hampers the handling of complex economic crime cases. Granting investigative authority to the Prosecutor can increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the legal process, especially in cases that require special expertise in the fields of economics and finance.

⁴⁵ Lawrence M. Friedman, *Crime and Punishment in American History*, New York: Basic Books, 1993, p. 214.

⁴⁶ Jerome H. Skolnick, *Justice Without Trial: Law Enforcement in Democratic Society*, New York: Wiley, 1994, p. 89.

On the other hand, Law No. 16 of 2004 has provided a legal basis for prosecutors to conduct investigations, but this authority is still limited and often overlaps with the authority of the police. Empirical findings also reveal that granting primary authority to prosecutors can reduce duplication of investigations and ensure consistency in handling cases. Thus, policy recommendations based on empirical analysis should include steps to strengthen the authority of prosecutors as the main investigators in economic crimes, accompanied by increasing the capacity of human resources and supporting infrastructure. The importance of consistency and special expertise in law enforcement to achieve effective justice.⁴⁷

Furthermore, the urgency of granting primary authority to prosecutors as investigators of economic crimes based on the principle of *dominus litis* is also supported by empirical findings that show that special expertise in the fields of economics and finance is greatly needed in investigating these cases. Prosecutors, with their role as public prosecutors, have a deep understanding of the material and formal legal aspects needed to uncover the increasingly complex *modus operandi* of economic crimes. Granting investigative authority to prosecutors can minimize inefficiencies that often occur due to overlapping authority between the police and the prosecutor's office.

On the other hand, Law No. 16 of 2004 has actually provided a legal basis for prosecutors to conduct investigations, but its implementation is still limited and not optimal. Empirical findings also reveal that granting primary authority to prosecutors can increase accountability and transparency in the investigation process, considering that prosecutors have an obligation to be responsible for every legal step taken. The central role of public prosecutors in ensuring a fair and effective legal process. Thus, policy recommendations based on empirical analysis must include concrete steps to strengthen the authority of prosecutors as principal investigators, including increasing human resource capacity, developing integrated information systems, and harmonizing laws and regulations.⁴⁸

Practical implications arising from empirical findings in the investigation of economic crimes further strengthen the urgency of granting primary authority to prosecutors as investigators based on the principle of *dominus litis*. The results of field research show that the complexity of economic crime cases, such as money laundering, corruption, and investment fraud, require a holistic and integrated approach. Prosecutors, in their capacity as public prosecutors, have special competence in understanding the material and formal legal aspects needed to uncover the *modus operandi* of economic crimes. Granting investigative authority to prosecutors can minimize overlapping authority between the police and the prosecutor's office, so that the investigation process can take place more efficiently and effectively. In Indonesia, Law No. 16 of 2004 has provided a legal basis for prosecutors to carry out investigations, although this authority is still limited and has not been utilized optimally.

Empirical findings also indicate that granting primary authority to prosecutors can improve coordination between law enforcement agencies, reduce duplication in the investigation process, and ensure consistency in handling cases. The central role of public prosecutors in ensuring a fair, transparent, and effective legal process. Therefore, policy recommendations based on empirical analysis must include concrete steps to strengthen the authority of prosecutors as principal investigators, including increasing human resource

⁴⁷ Kenneth Culp Davis, *Discretionary Justice: A Preliminary Inquiry*, Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1969, p. 78.

⁴⁸ John H. Langbein, *The Origins of Adversary Criminal Trial*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003, p. 92.

capacity, developing an integrated information system, and harmonizing laws and regulations.⁴⁹

The urgency of granting primary authority to prosecutors as investigators of economic crimes is further strengthened by empirical findings that show that special expertise in the fields of economics and finance is essential in investigating these cases. As public prosecutors, prosecutors have a deep understanding of the material and formal legal aspects needed to uncover the increasingly complex *modus operandi* of economic crimes. Although Law No. 16 of 2004 has provided a legal basis for prosecutors to conduct investigations, its implementation is still limited and not optimal.

Empirical findings also indicate that granting primary authority to prosecutors can increase accountability and transparency in the investigation process, considering that prosecutors are obliged to be responsible for every legal step taken. In addition, the complexity of economic crime cases, such as money laundering, corruption, and investment fraud, requires a holistic and integrated approach, in which prosecutors, with their special expertise, can play a central role. Granting this authority can also reduce overlapping authority between the police and the prosecutor's office, improve coordination between law enforcement agencies, and ensure consistency in handling cases.

Based on empirical analysis and theoretical studies, granting primary authority to the Prosecutor as an investigator of economic crimes based on the principle of *dominus litis* is a strategic step to increase the effectiveness of law enforcement. Empirical findings show that the Prosecutor, with his/her special competence in understanding material and formal legal aspects and the ability to manage complex cases, is the most competent party to lead the investigation process. In addition, granting this authority can increase accountability and transparency in the investigation process, considering that the Prosecutor has the responsibility to be accountable for every legal step taken.

Therefore, policy recommendations based on empirical analysis should include concrete steps to strengthen the authority of the Prosecutor as the main investigator, including increasing the capacity of human resources, developing an integrated information system, and harmonizing laws and regulations. Thus, this approach is expected to create a more effective, transparent, and responsive law enforcement system to the growing challenges of economic crime.

Furthermore, the implementation of the policy of granting primary authority to prosecutors as investigators of economic crimes must be supported by a strong commitment from all stakeholders, including the government, law enforcement agencies, and civil society. The success of law enforcement depends not only on a strong legal framework, but also on political support and active participation from the community. In addition, it is important to build an independent and transparent oversight mechanism to ensure that the authority granted to prosecutors is not misused. Effective oversight is key to maintaining integrity and accountability in the law enforcement system. Thus, efforts to strengthen the authority of prosecutors as primary investigators in economic crimes must be balanced with increasing human resource capacity, developing information technology, and harmonizing laws and regulations. The effectiveness of law enforcement is also greatly influenced by the ability of law enforcement officers to understand the economic and social dynamics that underlie a crime. Therefore, a holistic approach that integrates legal, economic, and social aspects is the

⁴⁹ William T. Pizzi, *Trials Without Truth: Why Our System of Criminal Trials Has Become an Expensive Failure and What We Need to Do to Rebuild It*, New York: NYU Press, 1999, p. 145

main key to creating a more effective, transparent, and responsive law enforcement system to the growing challenges of economic crime.

V. Conclusion

The reality of the implementation of the authority to investigate economic crimes by the Attorney General's Office of the Republic of Indonesia, namely the lack of clarity in regulations, is often the main factor in the emergence of conflicts of authority between institutions, which ultimately disrupt the effectiveness of the investigation process. Without concrete steps in the regulatory and institutional aspects, the disclosure of economic cases involving networks of perpetrators with complex structures and influential actors will experience serious obstacles, which in the end can harm the state and damage public trust in the criminal justice system. In addition, other realities can be seen from the evaluation of success and obstacles in the practice of investigation. This evaluation is based on supporting factors for the success of investigating economic crimes and based on the identification of obstacles and problems in the practice of investigation.

Practical implications and empirical findings on the process of investigating economic crimes by the Attorney General's Office of the Republic of Indonesia are based on the impact of the findings on law enforcement policies and strategies. The impact of empirical findings on law enforcement policies and strategies for economic crimes cannot be separated from the urgency of granting additional authority to law enforcement agencies, especially the Attorney General, in their capacity as investigators. Empirical findings show that the complexity of economic crimes, such as money laundering, corruption, and other financial crimes, requires a more integrated and specialist approach. In this context, granting investigative authority to the Prosecutor is considered a strategic step to increase the effectiveness of law enforcement. Another implication is the existence of policy recommendations and improvements based on empirical analysis. The recommendation is that policies based on empirical analysis must include concrete steps to strengthen the authority of the Prosecutor as the main investigator, including increasing the capacity of human resources, developing an integrated information system, and harmonizing laws and regulations. Thus, this approach is expected to create a more effective, transparent, and responsive law enforcement system to the challenges of increasingly growing economic crimes.

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