

## *Corruption From The Perspective Of Defense Strategy*

Josua Hutagalung<sup>1</sup>, Inez Koerniawati<sup>2</sup>, Cosmas Manukallo Danga<sup>3</sup>, Rizerius Eko Hadisancoko<sup>4</sup>, Djamarel Hermanto<sup>5</sup>, Sakum<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1,2,3,4,5,6</sup> Defense Economics Studies, Defense Management Faculty, RI Defence University.

IPSC Sentul, Sukahati, Kec. Citeureup, Kabupaten Bogor, Jawa Barat 16810

yosuah2108@gmail.com , inez.koerniawati@mp.idu.ac.id , manukalldanga@gmail.com , rizerius.hadisancoko@idu.ac.id ,  
djamarel88@gmail.com, sakum@pelitabangsa.ac.id



**Abstract**—This research aims to analyze corruption crimes from the perspective of defense strategies using the theories of defense science, defense economics, and corruption. The research method used is qualitative literature study by collecting literature sources as research data classified according to the established research formula. The background of this research is the ongoing problem of corruption in Indonesia, which does not provide a deterrent effect for corrupt actors, resulting in significant negative impacts and losses for the state, as well as weakening defense. The results of the study show that defense strategies can be used as a way to reduce corruption in Indonesia by integrating defense science, defense economics, and corruption theories. Effective defense strategies can minimize the risk of corruption and enhance national resilience. Essentially, the support of national defense, in the face of corruption crimes, demands the implementation of Defense Strategies in accordance with the applicable regulations.

**Keywords**—Corruption, Defense Strategies, Economic Defense.

### I. INTRODUCTION

Modern warfare has shifted from conventional wars between two countries to wars fought through various aspects of life, such as politics, economy, social, and culture, known as Proxy Wars. Future wars are total in nature and do not follow the same patterns as conventional wars. Proxy Wars employ surrogate players to avoid direct confrontation and reduce the risk of direct conflict that could lead to catastrophic destruction. Indonesia needs to be vigilant against this type of warfare and develop strategies to address it. (Badiklat. 2020)

Corruption, categorized as a proxy war, is the main enemy of this nation. However, corruption is a battlefield that is completely different from the terminology of war that we usually understand. This type of war is a war without weapons, without soldiers, and without territories. It is a battle that does not attack with firearms but attacks the conscience of human beings with the temptation of materialism. Corruption can endanger the economic development of Indonesia and impoverish our society. It leads to the destruction of the social and national order in Indonesia, affecting almost every sector. (Indrawan, 2017).

Corruption is a criminal act that hinders the process of national development, particularly in the pursuit of national progress. Corruption has significant impacts on the economy and the development of society, and therefore, it must be combated through structured systems and regulations. In Indonesia, the handling of corruption cases is carried out by state law enforcement institutions, including the Indonesian National Police, the Public Prosecutor's Office, the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK), and the judiciary (Corruption Court). These efforts are aimed at safeguarding state funds to ensure that allocated funds are not misused. (Lakmidaca, C L dkk, 2022)

The definition of corruption as presented by the Asian Development Bank is as follows (ADB), It involves inappropriate and unlawful behavior by individuals, both in the public and private sectors, to enrich themselves and their close associates. According to Seodarsono, corruption is an act of fraud or embezzlement of state or company funds by an individual in their place of work for personal or someone else's benefit. Kartono defines corruption as the behavior of an individual who exploits their authority and position for personal gain, at the expense of the public and national interests.

### II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Theoretical Review. This Scientific Work utilizes several theories that serve as the foundation and are relevant to the topic addressed by the author. According to Supriyanto, Defense Science is a discipline and art that studies a nation's potential national resources to be transformed into national power during peacetime, used during war (armed conflict), and after war, in order to face threats from both external and internal sources, including military and non-military threats to territorial integrity, national sovereignty, and the safety of the entire nation and state in order to achieve national security" (Supriyatno, 2014). Defense economics is a branch of science that applies economic principles to national defense issues (Yusgiantoro, 2014). In the Theory of Defense Economics, according to Ambarwati (2019), some solutions for Economic Defense include Domestic Economy, Investment and Trade, human resource development, labor, and entrepreneurship. Having a strong legal and moral awareness is crucial for preventing corrupt practices (Nardo, Massimo N; Francis, Ronald, 2012). Corruption will persist in a government if the enforcement and implementation of laws are not optimally upheld (Dordrecht, 2016). Corruption is a critical phenomenon, both domestically and internationally. It is a concept that is difficult to confine and encompasses various levels, expressions, and profiles. Due to its characteristics, corruption must be approached with a multi-perspective view (Roberto Di Pietra; Andrea Melis, 2013)".

### III. DATA AND METHODOLOGY

Research Methodology. This study employs a qualitative literature review method, which is conducted by gathering literature sources as research data, which are then classified based on the established research framework, as explained by Darmalaksana in 2020. The qualitative literature review method is highly valuable in obtaining in-depth and comprehensive information about the research topic. According to Sugiyono (2012: 53) in his book "Understanding Qualitative Research," literature review is a theoretical study that involves examining references and various scholarly literature related to the culture, norms, and values that exist in the social context being investigated. Mukhtar (2013: 10) defines qualitative descriptive research as a method used by researchers to generate knowledge or theories about a particular phenomenon at a specific point in time.

In this study, the application of qualitative method of literature review assists researchers in gathering and analyzing relevant data related to the research topic, as well as gaining a deeper understanding of the aspects associated with the topic. Therefore, this method is an appropriate and effective approach to be used in research aiming to obtain comprehensive and in-depth understanding of a particular topic.

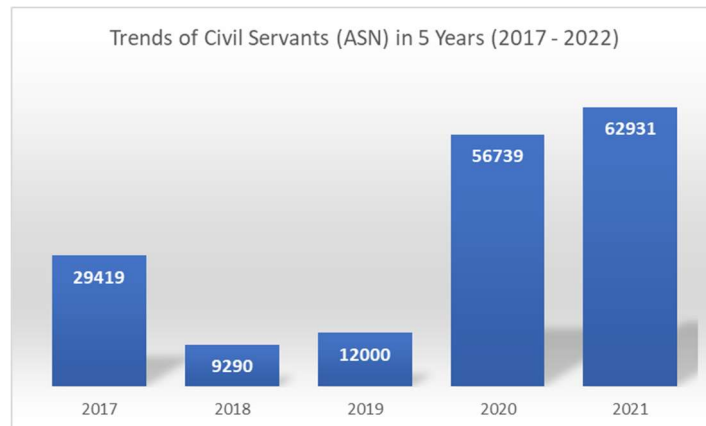
### IV. RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

From a legal perspective, the definition of corruption has been explicitly explained in 13 articles of Law No. 31 of 1999, which was amended by Law No. 20 of 2001 on the Eradication of Corruption. Based on these articles, corruption is formulated into 30 forms/types of corrupt criminal acts. These articles provide detailed explanations about the actions that can be subject to criminal sanctions for corruption (Ardisasmita, M. Syamsa, 2006). The thirty forms/types of corrupt criminal acts can essentially be categorized as follows:

1. State financial losses
2. Bribery
3. Embezzlement in office
4. Extortion
5. Fraudulent acts
6. Conflict of interest in procurement

## 7. Gratification

Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) on its official website <https://www.kpk.go.id/id/> It has investigated 1,620 cases of corruption since 2004 to 2022 and executed a total of 1,044 cases of corruption. Over the past almost 18 years, the number of corruption cases handled by the institution has tended to fluctuate. KPK conducted the highest number of corruption cases in 2018, reaching 199 cases, while the lowest was in 2014 with only 2 cases.



Source : Indonesia Corruption Watch 2021

Indonesia Corruption Watch (ICW) reported the potential state financial losses due to corruption in Indonesia in 2021. ICW estimated the state losses to be Rp62.93 trillion (approximately \$4.36 billion) last year. This figure represents a 10.9% increase compared to the previous year and is also the highest in the past five years. The state losses handled by the Prosecutor's Office amounted to Rp62.1 trillion, while those handled by the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) were only Rp802 billion (approximately \$55.6 million).

Threats are any efforts and activities, both from domestic and foreign sources, that are considered to jeopardize or endanger the sovereignty of the state, the integrity of the national territory, and the safety of the nation. Based on the nature of the threats, they can be categorized into two categories: military threats and non-military threats. According to the Education and Training Agency of the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Indonesia in 2020, corruption, which falls under the category of Proxy War, can have an impact on the economy and the state's finances through embezzlement, posing a threat to the sovereignty of the state that needs to be identified early on.

In a research report from 2011 (Sarjito, 2022), NATO describes hybrid threats as follows: Hybrid threats are a general term that encompasses various detrimental conditions and actions such as terrorism, migration, piracy, corruption, ethnic conflicts, etc. What is new is the possibility of NATO facing the systematic adaptation and utilization of these methods, either individually or in combination, by adversaries in pursuit of long-term political goals, contradicting their previous more random appearance and driven by coincidental factors (Sascha, 2015).

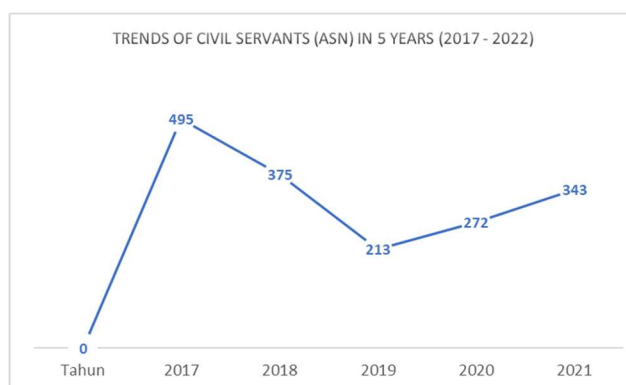
According to data presented by Transparency International in the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) report, in 2023, Indonesia's Corruption Perception Index (CPI) experienced a decrease in score from 38 in 2021 to 34 in 2022. This score places Indonesia at 110th out of 180 countries. The data indicates a worsening public perception of corruption in Indonesia, highlighting the need for Indonesia to implement corrections and evaluations regarding existing corruption prevention measures. Corruption should be seen as a threat to national unity. Considering the detrimental effects of corruption, such as impoverishing society and directly impacting the economy, it is appropriate for the military to take a stance. While the military cannot perform tasks like the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK), the National Police, and the Prosecutor's Office in terms of enforcing anti-corruption laws, the military can play a role in combating corruption.

The national defense system should align with Holsti's perspective that defense is a national interest considered as a core value or something deemed most vital for a country and relates to the existence of a nation. Additionally, the interest of national security is a manifestation of a country's desire and need to protect its people, territory, way of life, institutions, and cherished values. The noble values of the Indonesian nation are not in line with corruption.

Corruption must not be allowed to proliferate if a country wants to achieve its goals because if it continues to be tolerated, it will become normalized and instill a mentality among officials that constantly seeks shortcuts and justifies any means. Therefore, corruption needs to be comprehensively and responsibly addressed. Corruption also hampers development as it harms the nation and undermines the foundation of unity, betraying the aspirations of the nation's struggle. This is where the role of national defense programs becomes crucial in defending or protecting the homeland from the crimes of corrupt individuals.

Moving forward, there are many complex and multifactorial challenges that Indonesia still needs to face in corruption prevention. Some factors that make it difficult to eradicate corruption in Indonesia include:

1. Culture: A culture that considers corruption as normal or acceptable in conducting business or public services becomes an obstacle in the efforts of corruption prevention.
2. Weak governance: Weak governance, including weak oversight and control systems, creates opportunities for corruption to occur. This is evident from the numerous corruption cases that still occur in the public sector and government environment, such as procurement of goods and services, budget utilization, and law enforcement. This can be seen in the graph of the Trends of Corruption Suspects in 5 Years (2017-2022) below



Source: <https://antikorupsi.org/>

3. Weak law enforcement: Weak law enforcement in tackling corruption is also a challenge in corruption prevention in Indonesia. This is evident from the continued involvement of public officials in corruption cases while still being able to freely operate within the government circle.
4. Low public participation in government oversight and control: Inactive participation of the public in monitoring government performance creates opportunities for corruption and deviation practices to occur.

To address these challenges, various integrated and systematic efforts are needed in order to safeguard the state. First, it is important to build and disseminate the ethos of officials and employees, both in government and private institutions, regarding a clear and distinct separation between personal ownership and company or state ownership. Second, efforts should be made to improve the salaries of civil servants in line with economic progress and the private sector, so that officials and employees uphold the dignity and integrity of their positions and are not tempted by the opportunities presented by their authority. Third, instill a sense of pride and honor in every position and job. Officials and employees may not be wealthy or prosperous, but they are respected for their service to society and the country. Fourth, foster an understanding and culture of open politics for monitoring, correction, and warning, as power and authority tend to be prone to abuse.

## V. CONCLUSION

Corruption can have a negative impact on a country's defense strategy as it can weaken national defense and security. Corruption can reduce defense budgets, worsen the quality of equipment and weaponry, and diminish the quality and effectiveness of personnel responsible for maintaining national security and defense. From a defense strategy perspective, corruption can also create vulnerabilities for foreign or hostile parties to engage in acts of espionage or surveillance to exploit weaknesses in the national defense and security system. This can endanger national security and weaken the country's defense capabilities.

Therefore, an effective defense strategy must take into account the factor of corruption in every activity and decision-making process. Efforts to prevent and combat corruption should be an integral part of the defense strategy, emphasizing the enhancement of integrity, transparency, and accountability in all aspects of defense activities. The implementation of effective technology and financial management systems can also help reduce the risk of corruption in budget management and procurement of equipment and weaponry. By reducing the risk of corruption, the defense strategy can become more effective in safeguarding national security and defense.

### REFERENCES

- [1] Ambarwati, Erni, Jonni Mahroza, & Supandi. (2019). Strategi Hedging Dalam Mendukung Diplomasi Pertahanan Indonesia (Studi Kasus: Alih Teknologi Rudal C-705).” *Jurnal Diplomasi Pertahanan*, 5(1), 27–46.
- [2] Ardisasmita, M. Syamsa (2006). Definisi Korupsi Menurut Perspektif Hukum dan E-Announcement Untuk Tata Kelola Pemerintahan Yang Lebih Terbuka, Transparan dan Akuntabel. dalam Seminar Nasional : Upaya Perbaikan Sistem Penyelenggaraan Pengadaan Barang/Jasa Pemerintah.
- [3] Badiklat Kementerian Pertahanan. (2020). Bahan Ajar Proxy War. Kementerian Pertahanan RI Badan Pendidikan dan Pelatihan.
- [4] Darmalaksana, W. (2020). Metode Penelitian Kualitatif Studi Pustaka dan Studi Lapangan. Pre-Print Digital Library UIN Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung.
- [5] Dordrecht.(2016). Korupsi adalah fenomena kritis, baik di dalam negeri maupun di luar negeri : Bibliografi Internasional Ilmu Sosial Media. Vol .20,(2).689 – 701.
- [6] <https://www.kpk.go.id/id/statistik/penindakan>
- [7] <https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2022>
- [8] Indrawan J, M Raden & Widiyanto, B (2017). Korupsi Sebagai Bagian Dari Perang Proxy : Upaya Untuk Memberantas Bahaya Korupsi Di Indonesia. *Jurnal Pertahanan & Bela Negara* Vol 7, No 1 Tahun 2017.
- [9] Lakmidaca, C L dkk (2022). Efektivitas Penanganan Korupsi Di Indonesia. Department of Public Administration, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Universitas Padjadjaran,Bandung, Indonesia.
- [10]Mukhtar. 2013. Metode Praktis Penelitian Deskriptif Kualitatif. Jakarta: Referensi. GP Press Group.
- [11]Nardo, Massimo N and Ronald D. Francis. 2012.*Journal of Financial Crime.*, vol. 19, issue 2, 128-139
- [12]Roberto,DI,P.(2016).Jurnal Pemerintahan dan korupsi: apakah sejarah berulang?.Sumber:Bibliografi Internasional Ilmu Sosial (IBSS).Jurnal Manajemen & Tata Kelola.Springer Science & Business Media. 20(4), 689 – 701.
- [13]Sarjito, Aris (2022). Perang Hibrida : Perang Generasi Keempat. *Manajemen Pertahanan* Vol 8, No 1 Tahun 2022.
- [14]Sascha-Dominik Bachmann (2015). HYBRID WARS: THE 21st-Century’s New Threats To Global Peace And Security, Bournemouth University, UKa Håkan Gunneriusson, Swedish Defence University, Scientia Militaria, South African, *Journal of Military Studies*, Vol 43, No. 1, 2015, pp. 77 – 98. DOI: 10.5787/43-1-1110.
- [15]Sugiyono. (2012). Memahami Penelitian Kualitatif”. Bandung : Alfabeta
- [16]Supriyanto, Makmur., (2014). “Tentang Ilmu Pertahanan”. Jakarta, Yayasan. Pustaka Obor Indonesia.
- [17]Yusgiantoro, Purnomo, (2014), Ekonomi Pertahanan. Jakarta : PT Gramedia Pustaka Utama.