

THE IMAGE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

In 2023, various legal cases involving the country's high-ranking officials emerged, including those related to Firli Bahuri, Syahrul Yasin Limpo, Gazalba Saleh, Johnny G Plate, and Ahasanul Qosasi. Furthermore, several incidents have further tarnished the image of law enforcement. A member of the Indonesian House of Representatives Commission III, I Wayan Sudirta, reported complaints from the public to Commission III regarding the misuse of authority by law enforcement officials. Examples of these complaints include non-transparent and unresponsive case handling, the existence of unresolved "cold cases", and intervention within the law enforcement and judicial sectors (dpr.go.id, November 27, 2023). Denny Indrayana highlighted that this phenomenon arises because many legal cases do not receive justice unless they gain public attention (detik.com, July 3, 2023).

The perception of law enforcement is an intriguing subject for analysis across various surveys conducted by independent institutions. The World Justice Project published the 2023 Rule of Law Index, where Indonesia's score for 2023 was 0.53 (with 1 being the highest possible score), identical to its score in 2022. The stagnation in the progress of legal development in Indonesia is concerning, as it has persisted from 2015 to 2023, with the country's scores consistently ranging between 0.52 and 0.53. Laode M Syarif, the Executive Director of Partnership, stated that this stagnation places Indonesia as a country with a "red report card" in terms of the rule of law (kemitraan.or.id, October 25, 2023).

Despite the stagnation in the evaluation of the rule of law, the public's perception remains divided regarding the state of law enforcement in Indonesia. A release by Indopol showed that 49.68% view the situation as good, while 41.77% view it as bad. Furthermore, a survey by LSI indicated that Indonesian public perception towards law enforcement is evenly distributed, with 36.1% viewing it as bad, 29.1% as average, 28.1% as good, and 6.7% providing no response. This reality reflects a divided public opinion on the practices of law enforcement in Indonesia in 2023. This situation calls for a response from all stakeholders according to their respective authorities, aiming to enhance the image of law enforcement in the future.

Improving the image of law enforcement in Indonesia cannot be achieved by the executive branch alone. The Indonesian House of Representatives (DPR RI), as the representative of the people, plays a crucial role in performing checks and balances to ensure that improvements in the image of law enforcement can promptly bring about justice in society. Efforts to enhance the image of law enforcement in Indonesia must be carried out simultaneously by both the executive and legislative branches to achieve immediate improvements in law enforcement practices in the future.

Purwokerto, 31 December 2023

Editor in Chief

Prof. Dr. Abdul Aziz Nasihuddin, S.H., M.M., M.H.