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Regulation of the Crime of Counterfeiting Money in Positive Law in Indonesia

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Abstract: Counterfeiting is a form of crime that has a significant impact on economic stability and public security. In Indonesia, regulations regarding counterfeiting are regulated in positive law through various regulations, including the Criminal Code (KUHP) and Law Number 7 of 2011 concerning Currency. This study aims to analyze existing regulations, challenges in law enforcement, and the role of technology in preventing counterfeiting. The method used is a literature review by collecting data from legal sources and related literature. The results of the study indicate that although there is a clear legal basis, challenges in law enforcement, such as the development of increasingly sophisticated counterfeiting techniques, require more attention. In addition, collaboration between government agencies, the private sector, and the community is very important to increase awareness and education about the dangers of counterfeiting. The novelty obtained from this study is a deeper understanding of the need for adaptation of legal regulations and more innovative enforcement strategies in facing the challenges of counterfeiting in the digital era. This study also highlights the importance of integrating advanced technology into prevention and enforcement systems, which can increase effectiveness in protecting the integrity of the financial system in Indonesia.

Keywords : Counterfeiting; positive law; law enforcement.

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1. Introduction

Judges play a very important role in the law enforcement process in Indonesia. The duties and obligations of judges have been regulated normatively in Law Number 48 of 2009 concerning Judicial Power, including receiving, examining, and deciding cases submitted to them. In deciding a case, judges are required to consider evidence, trial facts, and their own beliefs.¹ However, in the case of Decision Number 119/Pid.B/2022/PN Lbo, the court's decision to acquit two defendants of counterfeiting money has raised many questions from the public. Although the public prosecutor has presented a number of pieces of evidence, such as counterfeit money in denominations of Rp100,000 and Rp50,000, as well as computer equipment suspected of being used to print counterfeit money, there were errors in the evidence. This opened up a gap for the defendants to defend themselves, so the judge decided to acquit the two perpetrators.

In the criminal justice system, evidence plays a very important role in determining whether someone is guilty or not. Proof must be carried out based on valid evidence in accordance with Article 184 of the Criminal Procedure Code (KUHAP), namely witness statements, expert statements, letters, instructions, and statements from the defendant. If the evidence presented is not strong enough to prove the defendant's guilt, then the defendant must be acquitted. Therefore, the judge must be careful and precise in assessing the evidence presented in the trial.²

In this case, the evidence presented by the public prosecutor turned out to be inconsistent with the evidence used by the defendants in committing the crime. For example, the serial number of the counterfeit money presented at trial was different from the serial number of the counterfeit money allegedly circulated by the defendant. This discrepancy provided space for the defense team to formulate arguments that strengthened the defendant's position, so that they were successfully acquitted.

Currency counterfeiting is a serious crime that can harm economic stability and public confidence in money as a legal tender. As the main instrument in the economy, money plays a very important role as a medium of exchange, a means of payment, and a measure of value. Therefore, currency counterfeiting not only attacks public confidence but also threatens the stability of the country's financial system.³

In Gorontalo, counterfeiting cases continue to increase, one of which is the case with the defendants with the initials DT and CAL in Decision Number 119/Pid.B/2022/PN Lbo.

¹ Kevin Angkouw, "Fungsi Mahkamah Agung Sebagai Pengawas Internal Tugas Hakim Dalam Proses Peradilan," *Lex Administratum* 2, no. 2 (2014), https://ejournal.unsrat.ac.id/index.php/administratum/article/view/4746.

² Insan Pribadi, "Legalitas Alat Bukti Elektronik Dalam Sistem Peradilan Pidana," *Lex Renaissance* 3, no. 1 (2018): 4–4.

³ Farahwati Farahwati, "Pembuktian Memegang Peranan Penting Dalam Proses Pemeriksaan Sidang Peradilan Pidana," *LEGALITAS: Jurnal Ilmiah Ilmu Hukum* 3, no. 1 (2018): 17–35.

The public prosecutor charged the two defendants based on Article 36 paragraph (1) in conjunction with Article 26 paragraph (1) of Law Number 7 of 2011 concerning Currency, which regulates a maximum prison sentence of 10 years and a maximum fine of IDR 10 billion. Although the two defendants admitted their actions and the prosecutor had presented evidence and witnesses, errors in the presentation of evidence weakened the prosecutor's position, so the judge decided to acquit the defendants.

The judge's final decision to acquit the two defendants, while restoring their rights, has drawn criticism from the public. This decision is considered to reflect the prosecutor's lack of capability in handling the case, especially in presenting relevant and accurate evidence. This case is a reminder of the importance of integrity and accuracy in the legal evidence process, as well as the need for more serious efforts in enforcing the law against the crime of currency counterfeiting to maintain economic stability and public trust.

2. Method

The research method used in this study uses a normative legal research method with a statutory approach.⁴

3. Regulations on the Criminal Act of Counterfeiting in Positive Law in Indonesia

Counterfeiting is a crime that can shake public confidence in the integrity of money as an official medium of exchange. The manufacture or distribution of counterfeit money is against the law because it imitates real currency. In general, counterfeiting is the act of imitating the value of money that contains untruths with the aim of being circulated and used in society.⁵

The distribution of counterfeit money is a serious crime. In accordance with Article 26 paragraph (1) of Law Number 7 of 2011 concerning Currency, this is proven by the maximum criminal threat which is quite severe, namely an average prison sentence of 10 years. The importance of the role of money as a driver of global economic growth is very large. However, money can also force a country or agency to instill and influence certain authorities.⁶

⁴ Budi Juliardi et al., *Metode Penelitian Hukum* (CV. Gita Lentera, 2023), https://books.google.com/books?hl=id&lr=&id=vyXbEAAAQBAJ&oi=fnd&pg=PA107&dq=metode+pe nelitian+hukum+2023&ots=URsVKN1YD1&sig=QzJh2fORIs3Ga8_DExUkt_YWOYY.

⁵ Dinda Dian Pratiwi, I. Nyoman Gede Sugiartha, and Luh Putu Suryani, "Tinjauan Yuridis Terhadap Tindak Pidana Pemalsuan Uang Kertas Rupiah Di Indonesia," *Jurnal Preferensi Hukum* 2, no. 3 (2021): 442–46.

⁶ S. H. Adrian Sutedi, *Tindak Pidana Pencucian Uang* (PT Citra Aditya Bakti, 2018), https://books.google.com/books?hl=id&lr=&id=gMJ_EAAAQBAJ&oi=fnd&pg=PR11&dq=Pemalsuan+mata+uang+adalah+tindak+kejahatan+serius+yang+dapat+merugikan+stabilitas+ekonomi+dan+keperc ayaan+masyarakat+terhadap+uang+sebagai+alat+pembayaran+yang+sah.+&ots=hWqW85dkdF&sig=D pokbgF6fqMm_gjO0QSO9wyPOFI.

People want to have a lot of money because of the role of this money. Unfortunately, many people then try to get money in ways that violate the law, such as theft, embezzlement, fraud, corruption, forgery, and distribution of counterfeit money. The act of counterfeiting rupiah banknotes has been regulated in detail in Law Number 7 of 2011 concerning Currency and the Criminal Code (KUHP). Rupiah banknotes are recognized as legal tender and are valid if circulated according to the rules set by competent institutions.⁷

Bank Indonesia is appointed as the sole agency authorized to print and distribute official currency throughout the territory of the Republic of Indonesia, as regulated in Article 11 of Law Number 7 of 2011 concerning Currency. The law also regulates the prohibition of counterfeiting rupiah, which is regulated in Article 26 paragraph (1). Those who violate this will be subject to sanctions in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

Thus, counterfeiting of rupiah banknotes is prohibited and strictly regulated by law, with quite severe sanctions for violators. This shows the government's efforts to protect the integrity and trust in the national currency. There are several shortcomings that can be identified from the article.⁸

- 1. Lack of clarity regarding the types of violations that can be subject to sanctions. This article only mentions "for those who violate" without explaining in detail what actions are included in violations.
- 2. There is no detail regarding the forms of sanctions that can be imposed. This article only mentions "sanctions in accordance with applicable provisions" without specifically mentioning what sanctions can be imposed.
- 3. There are no provisions regarding the law enforcement mechanism and the institution authorized to handle violations. This article does not regulate who is authorized to take action against violations and what the enforcement procedure is.
- 4. Lack of coordination between the Currency Law and the Criminal Code. Although it is stated that counterfeiting is regulated in the Criminal Code, this article does not explain how the two regulations are related and implemented.

To strengthen and clarify the implementation of Article 26, it is necessary to improve and add provisions that regulate in more detail the types of violations, forms of sanctions, law enforcement mechanisms, and coordination with other related regulations. In Chapter X Book II concerning crimes of the Criminal Code (KUHP), counterfeiting of rupiah banknotes is also regulated. Article 244 of the Criminal Code limits the criminal act of

⁷ Aprianti Saibaka, "Proses Penyidikan Tindak Pidana Pemalsuan Uang Berdasarkan Undang-Undang Nomor 8 Tahun 1981 Tentang Kitab Undang-Undang Hukum Acara Pidana," *LEX CRIMEN* 7, no. 2 (2018), https://ejournal.unsrat.ac.id/index.php/lexcrimen/article/view/19587.

⁸ RADIUS PRANANTO, "Pertanggungjawaban Pidana Terhadap Pelaku Tindak Pidana Pemalsuan Uang" (PhD Thesis, UNIVERSITAS AIRLANGGA, 2008), https://repository.unair.ac.id/13203/.

counterfeiting money.⁹ Any action that violates the rules on counterfeiting rupiah currency will be subject to legal consequences in the form of sanctions.

There are two articles that regulate this matter. First, Article 36 of Law Number 7 of 2011 requires the perpetrator to be sentenced to a maximum of 10 years in prison and a fine of 10 billion rupiah. Then, Article 244 of the Criminal Code also imposes a maximum prison sentence of 15 years. Article 36 paragraph (1) of Law Number 7 of 2011 concerning Currency has regulated quite severe criminal sanctions for violations of provisions related to currency. In addition, the Criminal Code also regulates strict criminal sanctions for the crime of counterfeiting rupiah banknotes.¹⁰

However, there are several deficiencies that can be identified in Article 36 paragraph (1), including:

- 1. Lack of specificity in explaining the types of acts that can be subject to criminal sanctions. This article only mentions "for those who violate the provisions" without specifying what acts are included in the violation.
- 2. There is no explanation regarding the law enforcement mechanism and the parties authorized to handle violations. This article does not regulate the procedures and institutions that have the authority to take action against violations.
- 3. Lack of coordination between provisions in the Currency Law and the Criminal Code regarding counterfeiting. Although regulated in two different regulations, this article does not explain how the two regulations are implemented and related.
- 4. There are no provisions regarding the protection of witnesses or informants related to violations that occur. This can be a problem in the law enforcement process. To strengthen the effectiveness of law enforcement, Article 36 paragraph (1) needs to be supplemented with more detailed provisions regarding the types of violations, law enforcement mechanisms, coordination with other regulations, and protection for witnesses and informants.

Article 244 of the Criminal Code firmly states that the act of counterfeiting currency, whether coins, state paper, or banks, is a serious violation. The threat of punishment for perpetrators who intentionally do it to circulate or ask others to circulate it as if it were genuine is a maximum prison sentence of 15 years. Counterfeiting counterfeit currency consists of two types of violations, namely:

A. Making by imitation (namaken). Imitation of money is the act of making items that resemble money, usually using cheaper metals. Even though using the same metal

⁹ Eggi Suprayogi and Yeni Nuraeni, "Pertanggungjawaban Hukum Terhadap Pelaku Penyimpanan Uang Rupiah Palsu Dihubungkan Dengan Undang-Undang 7 Tahun 2011 Tentang Mata Uang," *Journal Presumption of Law* 3, no. 2 (2021): 124–43.

¹⁰ Ahmad Ridwan and Adhi Wibowo, "Peranan Bank Indonesia Dalam Penanggulangan Tindak Pidana Pemalsuan Uang Rupiah Pada Kantor Perwakilan Bank Indonesia Provinsi Sumatera Barat," *Jurnal Adhipramana Law Indonesia* 1, no. 1 (2024): 19–34.

or even more expensive, the act is still categorized as "imitation" of money. Fraud and counterfeiting of money are carried out with the intention that the money can be circulated and the public considers it as real money. This also includes if government equipment for making real money is stolen and used to make counterfeit money.

B. Counterfeiting (vervalschen). Counterfeiting can involve changing the numbers that indicate the nominal value of money to a higher or lower number. The perpetrator's motive is not the main concern, as long as the goal is met, namely to circulate the counterfeit money as genuine money that has not been changed. In addition, counterfeiting can also be done by giving a different color to genuine banknotes, so that the banknotes look like other banknotes of different value. Meanwhile, counterfeiting of coins is done by changing the shape of the body of the coin or replacing some of the metal with another cheaper metal.¹¹

Counterfeiting of banknotes is generally done using counterfeiting techniques, namely reproducing or imitating a document in its entirety so that it resembles genuine money. Counterfeit money usually has a much lower quality because of the expensive security level of banknotes. Bank Indonesia is authorized to issue, distribute, and/or revoke Rupiah based on Article 11 of Law Number 7 of 2011. This is done to keep the Indonesian monetary system safe. Bank Indonesia implements a policy to replace Rupiah that is not fit for circulation with Rupiah that is fit for circulation. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the Rupiah in circulation is of good quality so that it is easy to distinguish the characteristics of its authenticity.¹²

According to Article 1 paragraph 5 of Law Number 7 of 2011 concerning Currency, the characteristics of the Rupiah are certain marks on each Rupiah made to indicate identity, distinguish prices or nominal values, and prevent counterfeiting of Rupiah. In Law Number 7 of 2011, the basis for regulating the crime of counterfeiting currency is based on the fact that crimes against currency, especially counterfeiting, are increasingly rampant on a significant and worrying scale. This is due to the fact that counterfeiting crimes can endanger the national economy and financial system.

It turns out that counterfeiting also causes other crimes, such as terrorism, political crimes, money laundering, illegal logging, and human trafficking, both organizationally and individually. In addition, the Criminal Code still lacks comprehensive provisions on

¹¹ Beni Kurnia Illahi and Muhammad Ikhsan Alia, "Pengaturan Perampasan Harta Kekayaan Pelaku Tindak Pidana Pencucian Uang Di Indonesia," University Of Bengkulu Law Journal 2, no. 2 (2017): 185–207. ¹² Christon Andri Madundang, "Pengaturan Hukum Mengenai Pemalsuan Uang Rupiah Menurut Pasal Sampai Kuhp," 4, (2016), 244 Dengan Pasal 252 Lex Privatum no. 4 https://ejournal.unsrat.ac.id/index.php/lexprivatum/article/view/11987.

the crime of counterfeiting, while the modes and forms of crimes against currency continue to develop. 13

Therefore, the type and price of currency, as well as sanctions, must be regulated by law. This is because this currency is issued by the state or bank as genuine and non-counterfeit banknotes. Counterfeiting, distribution, and storage of counterfeit money are subject to a minimum prison sentence of fifteen years. Based on Article 11 paragraph (3) of the Law, Bank Indonesia has the authority to create and distribute money in the form of Rupiah. The main objective of the provisions for the circulation of national currency is to meet the economic needs of the community and maintain the integrity of the money itself. The strategy includes several important things, including:¹⁴

- a) Ensuring the availability of sufficient cash stock through demand calculations, area mapping, and replacement of worn-out money (ensuring a smooth and efficient supply of cash) by taking the following steps:
 - 1) Determining the amount of money needed in the economy.
 - 2) Mapping of money circulation areas.
 - 3) Calculation of the amount of worn/damaged money.
 - 4) Optimal provision of cash stock.
- b) Maintaining the quality of currency by considering the design, material, printing process and security elements (maintaining the integrity of the currency) by considering the design of money, the quality of money materials, printing quality and security elements. The crime of counterfeiting money is an act that is prohibited in Indonesian positive law because it has detrimental consequences.

Counterfeiting is defined as the act of making counterfeit rupiah money by imitating or falsifying real money with the aim of circulating it as if it were real and legal money. Regulation of this crime is very important because rupiah is a means of exchange that is the backbone of the economy and people's lives. Counterfeit money that is circulated has the potential to disrupt economic and monetary stability.

Justice is one of the main objectives of the criminal justice system. Justice is also a fundamental principle in the legal system that should ideally be reflected in every court decision. In the theory of retributive justice, it emphasizes punishment that is

¹³ Wilibrodus Gara Sawo, Thelma S. M. Kadja, and Darius A. Kian, "Penegakan Hukum Terhadap Pelaku Tindak Pidana Pemalsuan Mata Uang Atau Uang Kertas Di Kelurahan Lai-Lai Besi Kopan, Kecamatan Kota Lama, Kota Kupang," *Cerdika: Jurnal Ilmiah Indonesia* 3, no. 6 (June 1, 2023): 544–52, https://doi.org/10.59141/cerdika.v3i06.609.

¹⁴ Hengki Turnaldo Buulolo et al., "Penegakan Hukum Dalam Tindak Pidana Pemalsuan Uang (Studi Putusan Nomor 529/Pid. B/2015/Pn-Rap)," *JURNAL RECTUM: Tinjauan Yuridis Penanganan Tindak Pidana* 5, no. 1 (2023): 1196–1209.

commensurate with the wrongdoing. In this case, the two defendants should receive a heavier sentence in accordance with Article 36 and Article 26 of Law Number 7 of 2011.¹⁵

However, the judge's decision to only sentence him to one year in prison does not reflect the seriousness of the crime committed and may give rise to the perception that justice has not been served. The theory of legal certainty emphasizes the importance of clarity and certainty in legal regulations to provide clear guidance to the public in their behavior and to prevent abuse of power by the authorities. In Indonesian positive law, the crime of counterfeiting is regulated in Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 7 of 2011 concerning Currency.

This law provides clear regulations regarding the types of counterfeiting crimes, the elements that must be met to become a criminal, and the sanctions given to the perpetrators of the crime. The application of the theory of legal certainty in regulating counterfeiting crimes can be seen in several aspects. First, the Currency Law provides a clear definition of what is included in counterfeiting, both in terms of making, distributing, and using counterfeit money. This provides clarity regarding the limits of actions that can be considered as counterfeiting crimes. Second, the law also regulates the law enforcement process against counterfeiting crimes, including the authority of law enforcement, evidence that can be used, and court procedures. Thus, the public and law enforcement officers can understand the stages and procedures that must be followed in handling counterfeiting cases. This means that a person cannot be punished except on the basis of actions that have been regulated in previously applicable laws.¹⁶

In this context, the regulation of the crime of counterfeiting in Indonesian positive law must be in accordance with the principle of legality, where acts that constitute the crime of counterfeiting must be clearly and firmly regulated in the applicable laws. In this case study, the judge can use these theories to consider the verdict to be handed down. For example, in looking at the balance between the requirements stipulated by the law and the interests of the parties involved, the judge must consider the evidence presented by the public prosecutor, the facts of the trial, and also pay attention to the rights of the accused. In addition, the judge can also use an artistic and intuitive approach in handing down the verdict.

In this case, the judge will consider the circumstances of the parties involved in the case, such as the counterfeit currency dealer and the potential impact of the sentence on them. The judge's experience can also be an important factor in deciding this case. In terms of the scientific approach, the judge must consider relevant previous decisions and maintain consistency in decision making. In addition, the theory of ratio decidendi is also

¹⁵ Rizki Dwi Putra et al., "Pencegahan Dan Pemberantasan Tindak Pidana Pencucian Uang Dalam Perbankan," *Al-Zayn: Jurnal Ilmu Sosial & Hukum* 2, no. 1 (2024): 70–80.

¹⁶ Hendra Aringking, "Pemalsuan Uang Rupiah Sebagai Tindak Pidana Menurut UU No. 7 Tahun 2011 Tentang Mata Uang," *Lex Crimen* 4, no. 6 (2015), https://ejournal.unsrat.ac.id/index.php/lexcrimen/article/view/9795.

important, where the judge must look for laws and regulations that are in line with the case of counterfeit currency dealers as a legal basis for making a decision. Furthermore, the theory of wisdom can also be considered by the judge.¹⁷

This aspect emphasizes that the judge must consider the purpose of the defendant's development so that he can become a useful and responsible member of society in the future. The crime of counterfeiting currency has been clearly and firmly regulated in two laws and regulations, namely Law Number 7 of 2011 concerning Currency. This law specifically regulates violations related to counterfeiting rupiah currency, and the Criminal Code (KUHP).

The criminal penalty is quite severe, namely imprisonment for 10-15 years and a fine of tens of billions of rupiah. This shows how serious the lawmakers are about this act. In addition, Bank Indonesia as a monetary institution regulator has an important role in issuing and circulating legal rupiah. Money circulating outside the control of Bank Indonesia is considered counterfeit money.¹⁸

The legal principle called Res Judicata Pro Veritate Habetur, which means "the judge's decision must be considered correct," emphasizes that every decision made by a judge, with the motto "For Justice Based on the Almighty God," must be respected and used as a reference. This principle places judges in a very important position in the law enforcement process in this country. Therefore, the quality of justice of every decision made by a judge is very dependent on the quality of his good relationship or piety with the Almighty God.

Overall, the legal regulation aims to protect the integrity of the rupiah as an official currency and avoid the negative impacts of counterfeit money circulating in society. With the threat of severe criminal penalties, it is hoped that it can prevent the occurrence of criminal acts of counterfeiting and maintain the stability of the country's financial system.

In addition, it is important to consider the social impact of counterfeiting. Counterfeit money not only harms the individual victim, but can also disrupt public confidence in the financial system as a whole. When people lose confidence in the value of money in circulation, there will be a domino effect that is detrimental to the economy, such as inflation, decreased investment, and market instability.¹⁹

¹⁷ Zulkarnaen Zulkarnaen, "Pemalsuan Uang Dan Stabilitas Kamdagri," *Jurnal Ilmu Kepolisian* 14, no. 3 (2020): 9–9.

¹⁸ SUHARI SUHARI, "Optimalisasi Peran Kepolisian Dalam Menjaga Stabilitas Keamanan Dalam Negeri Terhadap Pidana Pemalsuan Dan Pengedaran Uang Palsu (Studi Penelitian Di Polres Blora)" (PhD Thesis, Universitas Islam Sultan Agung Semarang, 2022), http://repository.unissula.ac.id/id/eprint/26392.

¹⁹ Panca Gunawan Harefa, Idham Idham, and Erniyanti Erniyanti, "Analisis Teori Hukum Terhadap Penegakan Tindak Pidana Pemalsuan Uang: Analisis Teori Hukum Positif Dan Teori Hukum Responsif," *Jurnal Ilmiah Hukum Dan Hak Asasi Manusia* 2, no. 2 (March 1, 2023): 113–19, https://doi.org/10.35912/jihham.v2i2.1923.

Therefore, stricter prevention and law enforcement efforts against counterfeiting are needed. This includes increasing public awareness of the characteristics of genuine money and training for law enforcement in detecting and handling counterfeiting cases. In addition, collaboration between related institutions, such as Bank Indonesia, the Police, and the Prosecutor's Office, is also very important to create a more effective system in preventing and prosecuting this violation of the law.

Thus, clear and firm regulations regarding the crime of counterfeiting money, coupled with consistent and fair law enforcement, will contribute to the creation of a healthy and stable financial system, as well as maintaining public trust in the rupiah as a legal tender.

4. Conclusion

The regulation of the crime of counterfeiting in positive law in Indonesia reflects the state's commitment to protecting economic stability and public security. In this context, laws governing counterfeiting, such as the Criminal Code (KUHP) and Law Number 7 of 2011 concerning Currency, provide a clear legal basis for prosecuting perpetrators of this crime. These provisions include strict sanctions for perpetrators of counterfeiting, as well as preventive measures that are expected to reduce the risk of such crimes occurring. However, challenges faced in law enforcement related to counterfeiting remain, including the development of technology used by criminals. Therefore, ongoing efforts are needed to update regulations and increase the capacity of law enforcement to adapt to changes that occur. In addition, collaboration between government agencies, the private sector, and the community is also very important in creating awareness and education about the dangers of counterfeiting.

Overall, the regulation of counterfeiting crimes in positive law in Indonesia is an important step in maintaining the integrity of the financial system. With strong regulations and support from all parties, it is hoped that it can create a safer and more stable environment, and protect society from the negative impacts caused by counterfeiting crimes.

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