

THE ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN COMBATING PALM OIL PLANTATION THEFT: AN ANALYSIS OF REGULATIONS AND POLICIES

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Abstract

Palm oil plantation theft is a serious problem that requires attention and action from local governments. This study aims to analyse the role of local governments in combating palm oil plantation theft through existing regulations and policies. The method used is qualitative descriptive analysis by reviewing various relevant regulations and policies. The results of the study indicate that local governments play a key role in combating oil palm plantation theft, but there is still room for improvement. Recommendations include enhancing coordination among stakeholders, strengthening law enforcement, empowering communities around plantations, and promoting sustainable development to address the root causes of the problem. With these strategic steps, it is hoped that palm oil plantation theft can be reduced and the welfare of communities around plantations can improve.

Keywords: Role, Local Government, Palm Oil Plantation Theft Prevention, Regulatory and Policy Analysis

Abstrak

Pencurian kebun sawit merupakan masalah serius yang memerlukan perhatian dan tindakan dari pemerintah daerah. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis peran pemerintah daerah dalam menanggulangi pencurian kebun sawit melalui regulasi dan kebijakan yang ada. Metode yang digunakan adalah analisis deskriptif kualitatif dengan mengkaji berbagai peraturan dan kebijakan terkait. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa pemerintah daerah memiliki peran kunci dalam memerangi pencurian kebun sawit, namun masih ada ruang untuk perbaikan. Rekomendasi yang diberikan meliputi peningkatan koordinasi antara pemangku kepentingan, penguatan penegakan hukum, pemberdayaan masyarakat sekitar perkebunan, serta pembangunan berkelanjutan untuk mengatasi akar permasalahan. Dengan langkah-langkah strategis tersebut, diharapkan pencurian kebun sawit dapat ditekan dan kesejahteraan masyarakat di sekitar perkebunan dapat meningkat.

Kata Kunci: Peran, Pemerintah Daerah, Penanggulangan Pencurian Kebun Sawit, Analisis Regulasi Dan Kebijakan

Introduction

The palm oil industry plays a very important role in driving regional economic growth. Palm oil plantations not only contribute significantly to regional income, but also create jobs for the surrounding community. This plant, which originated in Africa, has become a major source of income for many regions in Indonesia. The contribution of palm oil to regional income is substantial, given the high demand for palm oil both in the domestic and international markets (Harahap, 2023). Local governments can generate revenue from taxes, fees, and various other levies related to the palm oil industry. These funds can be used to finance infrastructure development, improve public services, and encourage overall regional economic growth (Handoko, 2020).

In addition to contributing to regional income, the palm oil industry also provides extensive employment opportunities for the surrounding community. Palm oil plantations require a large workforce at every stage of production, from seedling, planting, maintenance, to

harvesting. People living near plantations can work as daily wage labourers, permanent employees, or even become plasma farmers who partner with companies (Ministry of Home Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, 2023). These jobs are very important for the community, especially in rural areas that often have limited access to formal employment. By working in palm oil plantations, communities can earn a stable income and improve their families' well-being. This ultimately contributes to reducing poverty rates and promoting economic equality at the local level. However, as the industry grows, various challenges have emerged, one of which is theft in palm oil plantations (Wibowo, 2020).

Cases of theft in palm oil plantations have become increasingly prevalent in recent years. This theft not only harms plantation owners but also disrupts the stability of the palm oil industry as a whole. The losses caused by these thefts can reach hundreds of millions to billions of rupiah, depending on the area stolen and the quality of the palm oil fruits taken (Widjaja, 2022).

Given the negative impact of palm oil plantation theft, the role of local governments is crucial in combating this issue. Local governments are responsible for creating a safe and conducive environment for the growth of the palm oil industry (Widjaja, 2022). This can be done through the formulation of effective regulations and policies, as well as the implementation of preventive measures and strict enforcement against perpetrators. However, local government efforts to combat oil palm theft are often hampered by various factors, such as limited resources, weak coordination between relevant agencies, and a lack of community participation in monitoring and reporting theft. Therefore, an in-depth analysis of existing regulations and policies is needed to identify weaknesses and formulate appropriate solutions (Wibowo, 2020).

This study aims to examine the role of local governments in combating palm oil theft, with a focus on analysing the regulations and policies that have been made.

Research Method

This study uses a literature review method. A literature review is an approach used to collect and analyse information from various written sources, such as books, scientific journals, articles, and other documents. In this method, researchers thoroughly examine literature relevant to their research topic to gain a comprehensive understanding of the subject being studied (Randolph, 2009). Through literature review, researchers can identify existing theories, concepts, and important findings. This method allows researchers to synthesise information from various sources, identify gaps in existing knowledge, and formulate new research questions or hypotheses. By utilising the literature research method, researchers can build a strong foundation for their studies and contribute to the development of knowledge in their field of research (Okoli & Schabram, 2010).

Results and Discussion

The Role of Local Government in Combating Palm Oil Theft

Palm oil plantation theft is one of the serious problems faced by palm oil farmers and plantation companies. This criminal act not only causes economic losses but also disrupts public

safety and order. In efforts to combat palm oil plantation theft, local governments play a crucial role in protecting and supporting plantation businesses (Rahmadan, 2022).

The first step that can be taken by local governments is to improve security in plantation areas. This can be done by increasing the number of security personnel, both from the police and security units (satpam) assigned specifically to guard the plantations. With adequate security personnel, the potential for theft can be reduced and perpetrators can be more easily detected (Usman, 2020).

In addition to improving security, local governments also need to promote regular patrols around plantation areas. These patrols aim to monitor the situation and conditions of the plantations and detect any suspicious activities. By conducting consistent patrols, perpetrators of theft will feel intimidated and think twice before carrying out their actions (Fauzi, 2024).

Local governments can also assist farmers and plantation companies by providing more modern security technology. For example, installing CCTV cameras at strategic points in plantations, using drones to monitor large areas, and utilising alarm systems that are directly connected to security posts. This technology can facilitate monitoring and improve the effectiveness of oil palm plantation security (Bappenas, 2023).

However, efforts to combat palm oil theft should not be limited to physical security measures. Local governments also need to conduct outreach and education programmes for communities living near plantations on the importance of maintaining security and respecting the property rights of others. Through these outreach programmes, it is hoped that awareness and a sense of shared responsibility will grow to protect plantations from crime (Lestari, 2020).

Local governments can also collaborate with community leaders, religious figures, and educational institutions to instil moral and ethical values in the younger generation. By instilling the principles of honesty and integrity from an early age, it is hoped that this will prevent the emergence of intentions to commit theft in the future. In terms of law enforcement, local governments need to take firm action against perpetrators of palm oil theft (Hasanuddin, 2021). Every case of theft must be thoroughly investigated and the perpetrators must be prosecuted in accordance with the applicable laws. The penalties imposed must be deterrent in nature so as to discourage perpetrators and prevent others from committing similar acts (Siregar, 2021).

Local governments can also assist farmers and plantation companies in reporting and investigating cases of theft. There needs to be an easy and responsive reporting mechanism so that every case of theft can be dealt with immediately. In addition, there needs to be good coordination between plantation companies, the police, and local governments so that the investigation process can run effectively. To prevent theft, local governments can also encourage farmers and plantation companies to insure their palm oil plantations. With insurance, losses incurred due to theft can be minimised and farmers can receive compensation for their losses (Hasanah, 2022).

Local governments also need to regularly evaluate and improve plantation security systems. This evaluation aims to identify existing weaknesses and security gaps and find solutions to improve security effectiveness. With regular evaluations, the potential for theft can be reduced over time (Directorate General of Plantations, 2022).

In the long term, local governments can strive to improve the welfare of communities living around oil palm plantations. This can be done through economic empowerment programmes, such as skills training, provision of business capital, and creation of alternative jobs. With improved welfare, the incentive to commit crimes such as theft will decrease (Sembiring & Lubis, 2023).

Finally, local governments need to establish good communication and cooperation with palm oil plantation businesses. Through constructive dialogue, the government can understand the problems faced by farmers and companies and find joint solutions to overcome them. Close cooperation between the government and businesses can create a conducive business climate that is safe from the threat of theft.

The Effectiveness of Local Government Regulations and Policies in Combating Palm Oil Theft

Addressing palm oil plantation theft is a shared responsibility between local governments, law enforcement agencies, and the community. Local governments play a crucial role in establishing effective regulations and policies to tackle this issue. Let us discuss further the effectiveness of local government regulations and policies in combating palm oil plantation theft (Syukri, 2021).

The first step that needs to be taken by local governments is to identify the factors that cause palm oil theft. Economic factors, such as poverty and unemployment, are often the main drivers of this crime. In addition, a lack of supervision and weak law enforcement can also contribute to an increase in theft cases (Suhendar, 2023).

After understanding the root causes of the problem, local governments can begin to formulate targeted regulations and policies. One step that can be taken is to improve law enforcement by increasing the number of security personnel and increasing patrols in areas prone to theft. Cooperation between the police, the Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI), and plantation security units needs to be strengthened to create a deterrent effect for perpetrators (Nugraha, 2022).

However, a repressive approach alone is not enough. Local governments also need to develop preventive programmes to prevent theft. Community empowerment programmes, such as skills training and business capital assistance, can help communities around oil palm plantations to obtain legal and sustainable livelihoods. By improving the welfare of the community, the incentive to commit crimes can be minimised (Pratama, 2021).

Public awareness of the law also needs to be improved through socialisation and education. Local governments can collaborate with community institutions, such as schools, religious organisations, and NGOs, to disseminate information about the negative impacts of palm oil theft. The community needs to be actively involved in efforts to prevent and report these crimes (Syahputra, 2021).

Transparency and accountability in oil palm plantation management are also important factors in reducing theft. Local governments need to encourage plantation companies to implement best practices in plantation management, including strict monitoring systems and transparent reporting. By improving plantation governance, opportunities for theft can be minimised (Febrianto, 2021).

Regulations and policies adopted by local governments must also be accompanied by continuous monitoring and evaluation. The effectiveness of each measure taken needs to be measured regularly to ensure that the objectives of combating oil palm theft are achieved. If necessary, adjustments and improvements can be made to optimise the results obtained (BPS (Central Statistics Agency) of Riau Province, 2023).

The success of palm oil plantation theft prevention also depends on the synergy between local governments, law enforcement agencies, plantation companies, and the community. Good communication and coordination among stakeholders can ensure that each party understands their roles and responsibilities in creating a safe and conducive plantation environment (Arifin, 2020).

Local governments can also learn from best practices implemented in other regions in addressing oil palm plantation theft. Benchmarking and information exchange between regions can provide new insights and innovative ideas to enhance the effectiveness of existing regulations and policies (Supriyadi & Setiawan, 2021).

In the long term, local governments need to strive to create a conducive investment climate in the palm oil plantation sector. By attracting responsible and sustainable investment, job opportunities can be created and community welfare can improve. This, in turn, can reduce the incentive to commit crimes such as palm oil plantation theft (Fahmi & Kurniawan, 2020).

It is important to remember that addressing oil palm plantation theft is a process that requires time and long-term commitment. Local governments must consistently enforce established regulations and policies and remain open to improvements if necessary. With hard work and dedication from all parties involved, oil palm plantation theft can be reduced and plantation security maintained (Besse & Djafar, 2021).

Thus, the effectiveness of local government regulations and policies in combating oil palm theft depends on a comprehensive and sustainable approach. Strict law enforcement, targeted prevention programmes, public awareness of the law, transparency in plantation management, and synergy among stakeholders are key to successfully addressing this issue. Let us support local government efforts in creating a safe and conducive plantation environment for the common good.

Conclusion

Local governments play an important role in tackling palm oil theft. As key stakeholders, local governments are responsible for establishing effective regulations and policies to reduce theft. Regulations must take into account various aspects, ranging from law enforcement to the empowerment of communities living near palm oil plantations.

An analysis of existing regulations and policies shows that there is still room for improvement. Local governments need to be more proactive in addressing the root causes of palm oil theft, such as poverty and lack of employment opportunities. In addition, coordination between local governments, law enforcement agencies, and palm oil companies also needs to be improved so that efforts to combat theft can be more efficient and effective. In the long term, local governments should focus on sustainable development around palm oil plantations.

This includes improving access to education, health services, and infrastructure for local communities. By improving the quality of life of the community, it is hoped that dependence

on criminal acts such as palm oil theft will decrease. Local governments also need to involve the community in the decision-making process and policy implementation to create a sense of ownership and shared responsibility in maintaining the security of palm oil plantations.

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