

**Gurita Korupsi Pemerintah Daerah**

(The Roots of Corruption of the Local Governments)

Yogyakarta: Kaukaba Dipantara

*By Muhtar Haboddin and Fathur Rahman*

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Corruption is not something taboo in this country. The mass media, facts and data have revealed a variety of corruption cases in the central and regional governments, even there were cases involving a large number of people. Corruption involving a group of people is committed by both high and low ranking officials. This book reveals the facts on corruption at various levels the government. The lure of money that could not be resisted has become a personal benefit and very common. The crisis of shame has been epidemic until the level of local government. This book is rich in information revealing facts and data on corruption cases in a comprehensive way, and at the same time discussing them in a critical and systematic way.

Muhtar Haboddin and Fathur Rahman as the writers took a role in focusing on the importance of making corruption a common enemy. The importance of placing corruption as a common enemy is part of an attempt to manage the structure of clean and authoritative local governance.

Muhtar Haboddin and Fathur Rahman also revealed corrupt practices within the body of the local governments in recent years have uncontrollably increased, and seem to be unstoppable. Corruption has rooted deeply in many regions in the country as can be seen in the cases that involved several heads of regions in recent years. The data released by Kompas (April 16, 2012) showed that during 2004-2012 as many as 173 heads of district in Indonesia were involved in corruption.

Corruption committed by the heads of local governments also occurs within the body of the local parliaments, most notably the case involving the politicians in West Sumatra. The same thing also happens in the bureaucracy. Rampant corruption within the bureaucracy was described by Adnan Typhoon Husodo in his article, *the Regime of Corruption in the Bureaucracy* published in Kompas (March 30, 2012).

The three-tiger corruption involving the head of region, members of the parliament, and the bureaucracy is becoming a new trend in the management

of local governance. The first implication of this corrupt practice is the rise of the new rich people in the area. Second, most of the alleged corruptors have been thrown into prison. Even though there have been many suspects and some have been thrown into jail, it has not stopped them as we keep seeing new faces of corruptors shown on television and in newspapers, both at the national and local level

In addition, the strong point of this book is that the authors are capable of describing the methods or the usual modus operandi of the corrupt officials. The results of the investigation indicated that corruption was done in many different ways such as additional charge on government services, bribes, markup of fire engine procurement projects, fictional projects, double budgets, corruption of social aid funds, corruption of rice for the poor that involved the village heads, enriching themselves through legislation as done by members of the district legislators, granting of money a considerable amount of money to outgoing members of the parliament.

This book consists of nine chapters, begins with a preface that is easy to understand and describes how corruption is committed in this country. The political slogan which goes: 'share or report' is a common mechanism practiced and developed by corrupt politicians in the regions. Through this mechanism, they have consciously shown corrupt behavior by distorting power for their own interests. This kind of behavior reminds us of a Tammany Hall politician, George Washington Plunkitt, who was well-known with the slogan: 'I saw the opportunity and I used it'.

This Plunkitt's slogan is being celebrated by the local politicians. The heads of the local governments and the parliament members are celebrating corruption. They actually practice the power opportunity to accumulate wealth. The implication is that there are 'new rich people' in many regions of the country. This is the most explicit behavior the politicians have shown in the last few years as found in the first chapter

In the ninth chapter, it is concluded that some people think that there are more corruption and collusion cases compared with the Suharto era. This is in part due to the exposure on corruption cases is no longer suppressed. The mass media are free to carry news related to corruption committed by various alleged or convicted political actors.

The corruption cases exposed at the local level shows the success of the mass media in revealing corruption that no one in the past thought possible. Previously, we never saw high ranking officials, government executives, governors, regents, mayors, members of PARLIAMENT, or the bureaucrats

arrested because of corruption. However, now the executive and legislative bodies cannot run away from the law. The mass media is free to carry corruption related stories and those who have been convicted by the law enforcement institutions. The might of the mass media in presenting the corruption case demonstrates to us that corruption has been widespread in the institutions of local governments.

The success of the media in exposing corruption in the regions has indicated that the phrase frequently yelled by the anti-corruption activists is true that corruption has been decentralized. As Teten Masduki said that corruption in the era of decentralization is rampant and there are more perpetrators involved. In fact, in the context of the regional autonomy, corruption has also experienced a shift from the central government to the local. The outbreak of corruption in many areas has given rise to stigma that corruption committed in groups has become common. The implication of the outbreak of corruption has given rise to the emergence of many new rich people, that is to say they are 'lucky' to become a member of parliament, PARLIAMENT, the head of the local government, the apparatus of the bureaucrats, etc. These are the individuals who systematically abuse power to rob the state's money.