

POLICE VERSUS KPK: A New Chapter of Rivalry?

By : Muradi¹

The arrest of Police Inspector General Djoko Susilo, former Chief of Indonesia Police Traffic Management Corps, by Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) last December 3rd 2012 has become a new rivalry chapter of both institutions. Ever since the rivalry between The National Police and the KPK emerged three years ago with the idiom of "Gecko versus Crocodile" where crocodile symbolized the INP while gecko symbolized KPK. The arrest of Djoko Susilo may become an indicator of emerging conflict of these two law institutions.

A month ago, the National Police recalled their investigators assigned at the KPK. However a few of them refused to report back to the National Police Office and became a polemic getting worse between the KPK and the National Police. Almost in the same time, the KPK wanted to bring another institution to fight against the National Police. The KPK signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the military in term of using Military Detention House to arrest KPK's high profile suspects, including on of them is high rank police officers. It was a sign that KPK is very serious in investigating corruption in the INP.

However, the arrest of Djoko Susilo is not the best KPK's achievement. Previous leaders of KPK have successfully arrest and sentenced former Head of National Police Crime Investigation Unit, Susno Duadji, 3 years of prison. If we looked back a bit further, Suyitno Landung, also former Head of National Police Crime Investigation Unit, was also sentenced 1.5 years in prison. The KPK should have achieved more in this situation since public massively supported KPK and political situation is merely steady with no tumultuous issues. The KPK takes advantage of public situation only to do tasks, which only reflect formality than concept of corruption eradication.

Using National Police as a practice partner on one side and a target of corruption eradication on the other side is also part of intern audit against corruption and misconducts inside the National Police. However, the KPK also use National Police as image building to cover up their incapability to solve difficult corruption cases involving elites of the ruling political parties.

People actually understand that revitalizing National Police against corruption and misconduct practices is more important than criticizing KPK misses in corruption eradication. The question is how long the people could wait for some accelerated works of KPK against corruptors inside the ruling government?

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Based on the explanation above, I argued that the rivalry between the National Police and the KPK would enter a new chapter where public will judge whether KPK really conducted their work in term of corruption eradication, or just merely work on small corruption cases and intimidating other institutions. On the other side, the National Police does not stand still and just watch KPK arrested their high rank officer and doing nothing. The KPK relies completely on image building when investigating and arresting suspects in case of Driving License Simulators.

The conflict is not just how to keep the image of each institution but to seek weakness of the rival and publicly humiliated the weak institution. This time, the National Police is unable to win the heart of people and also counter KPK moves. However, when the people see the weakness of KPK in corruption eradication, the people may rise against KPK.

The serious issue for KPK is how to treat law institution as a partner not as a target or shield for image building to cover their poor performance. The arrest of Djoko Susilo should become the first step [again] to eradicate corruption and solve bigger corruption cases, especially those involving elites in the ruling government.

If the KPK fails to optimize the momentum to save the National Police from corruption practices, institutionally, KPK is being imprisoned by elite interests. The arrest of Djoko Susilo soon will be considered as diversion of KPK's inability to solve major cases like Century Bank and Hambalang.