



SUBSIDIZED FUEL IS NOT FOR CRIMINALS DITPOLAIRUD CENTRAL JAVA'S AGGRESSIVE TACTICS TO STOP THE ABUSE

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ABSTRACT

The misuse of subsidized fuel in the fisheries sector is a recurring issue in Indonesia, including in the coastal areas of Central Java. Fuel subsidies intended to reduce fishermen's operational costs are often misappropriated, causing state losses, threatening resource sustainability, and creating social injustice. This study analyzes law enforcement efforts by the Marine Police Directorate (Ditpolairud) of the Central Java Regional Police, identifies internal and external factors affecting their performance, and formulates effective investigation strategies. Using a descriptive qualitative approach, the research involved semi-structured interviews, field observations, and document analysis. Informants were selected purposively from Ditpolairud officials. Data analysis was conducted using NVIVO software with a grounded theory approach through open coding, constant comparison, and focused coding. The findings show internal strengths such as effective case handling and clear regulations, but also weaknesses including limited personnel, inadequate facilities, and lack of legal socialization. Externally, opportunities include rising public legal awareness and technological advancements, while threats involve socio-economic challenges, poor inter-agency coordination, and emerging methods of violation. Proposed strategies include enhancing investigator capacity, improving coordination, utilizing technology, and ensuring adequate resources. This study is expected to support policy improvements and strengthen law enforcement effectiveness to promote justice and sustainability in the fisheries sector.

Keywords: Misuse Of Subsidized Fuel, Law Enforcement, Ditpolairud, Fisheries Sector, Investigation Strategy

INTRODUCTION

The abuse of subsidized fuel oil (BBM) in the fisheries sector in Central Java waters has become an increasingly urgent issue, especially marked by the decline in the effectiveness of law enforcement in handling this case. Data released by the Central Java Regional Police Directorate shows an increase in the number of subsidized fuel misuse from 2022 to 2024, despite law enforcement efforts have been carried out Nanda, 2023; Maulana & Nurcahyono, 2023). The report stated that the volume of fuel abused reached 480 liters, 12,540 liters, and 3,175 liters respectively, which emphasizes the need for an in-depth evaluation of existing policies and handling strategies Nanda, 2023; Maulana & Nurcahyono, 2023).

There are several factors that contribute to this situation, including the economic climate that has the potential to encourage injustice and shortcomings in internal factors in law enforcement organizations, such as the limited number of personnel and operational support facilities Nanda, 2023; Maulana & Nurcahyono, 2023). The registration of the Fishermen's Fuel Filling Station (SPBN) as a means of supervision is expected to provide better management in fuel distribution. However, the effectiveness of this supervision is still considered far from ideal due to the abuse that continues to emerge (Maulana & Nurcahyono, 2023).

The significant price difference between subsidized and non-subsidized fuel also creates an incentive for individuals to engage in these illegal practices Nanda, 2023; Maulana & Nurcahyono, 2023). Stricter and fairer law enforcement is crucial; this includes better cooperation with distributors, strict distribution supervision, and firm legal action and provides a deterrent effect Maulana & Nurcahyono, 2023)Siahaan et al., 2023). However, the challenges include a lack of coordination between institutions and the inadequate effectiveness of legal sanctions in encouraging discipline and compliance in law enforcement (Maulana & Nurcahyono, 2023; Adwani & Sulaiman, 2020; Maulana & Nurcahyono, 2023).

The proposed research aims to formulate a more effective law enforcement strategy in dealing with the abuse of subsidized fuel in the context of the fisheries sector. Thus, it is expected to help fishermen reduce their operational costs and ensure that they can enjoy the right to the subsidies they should receive (Maulana & Nurcahyono, 2023; Adwani & Sulaiman, 2020; Maulana & Nurcahyono, 2023). This analysis should also include factors that affect the effectiveness of law enforcement both internally and externally, with the adoption of preventive legal approaches combined with the evaluation and policy reforms necessary to prevent future abuses (Maulana & Nurcahyono, 2023; Adwani & Sulaiman, 2020; Maulana & Nurcahyono, 2023).

Therefore, this research is expected to make a significant contribution to strengthening policies and implementing better law enforcement in this context, so that legitimate fishermen can receive appropriate and fair subsidies (Maulana & Nurcahyono, 2023; Adwani & Sulaiman, 2020; Nanda, 2023; Maulana & Nurcahyono, 2023)..

LITERATURE REVIEW

This study aims to analyze law enforcement against the misuse of subsidized fuel in the fisheries sector, focusing on the role of the Central Java Regional Police Directorate. The following is a summary of the theories used to explore the aspects of law enforcement and the effectiveness of investigations in this context.

Law Enforcement

Law enforcement is a process that ensures the law is applied fairly and effectively. Law enforcement includes crime prevention, investigation, evidence collection, and sanctioning. The effectiveness of law enforcement depends on coordination between institutions and public legal awareness. The assessment indicators include the level of legal compliance, the effectiveness of case handling, and the quality of legal sanctions (Friedman, 2008; Sullivan & Steven, 2010).

Organizational Performance

This theory assesses the performance of the organization in achieving goals through good planning and management of resources. In the context of the Central Java Regional Police Directorate, performance can be evaluated from their effectiveness in implementing legal procedures and optimizing investigations. Assessment indicators include achievement of



organizational goals, resource efficiency, and stakeholder satisfaction (Kaplan & Norton, 2001; Freeman, 1984).

Strategy

Strategy theory according to Arthur F. Lykke Jr. focuses on three main components: Ends, Ways, and Means. In the context of this study, an effective strategy for law enforcement against fuel abuse must consider the balance between the objectives, the methods used, and the resources available. This theory helps to formulate a strategic approach in overcoming the abuse of subsidized fuel (Lykke, 1989).

Previous Research

Previous research relevant to this topic has included a wide range of studies on the misuse of petroleum products and their social and technical impacts. One of the important studies is that conducted by Dunmade (2019) on the social impact of the informal trade in petroleum products in Nigeria. Dunmade used guidelines from UNEP/SETAC to assess the social impact of informal trade in petroleum products, and found that while these activities provide employment opportunities for informal retailers, health and safety risks, such as fires, as well as social instability due to rising prices, are a major concern. This research emphasizes the importance of law enforcement and policymakers' attention to the risks arising from the informal trade in petroleum products.

Furthermore, Block and Bernard (1988) conducted a study on crimes in the waste oil industry, particularly related to the disposal of hazardous waste by previously legitimate oil dealers. They found that changing social and economic conditions in the oil industry as well as changes in laws related to hazardous waste disposal led to the emergence of criminal patterns such as mixing toxic waste with used oil to be sold as fuel. Despite many criminal behaviors, the industry's strong influence limits law enforcement, which relates to how law enforcement's incompetence can exacerbate the misuse of petroleum products.

Kułaga (2021) conducted a study related to illegal gas consumption in Poland, focusing on gas theft that reduces the revenue of gas distribution companies. The study highlights the importance of using smart gas measurement technology and surveillance systems to detect gas theft, as well as the impact of illegal acts such as gas meter manipulation. This research provides technical insights on how detection tools can be used to prevent gas theft and reduce losses to the gas distribution sector.

The novelty of this study lies in the very specific focus on law enforcement against the abuse of subsidized fuel in the fisheries sector in Indonesia, which has not been explored much in the previous literature. This study uses a descriptive qualitative approach with semi-structured interviews to delve deeper into the challenges and law enforcement mechanisms faced by law enforcement officials in the field. In addition, this study integrates the analysis of law enforcement operationalization, identifies supporting factors and obstacles in investigations, and uses purposive sampling techniques to select relevant informants. Thus, this study makes an important contribution in understanding the dynamics of law enforcement of subsidized fuel abuse in the fisheries sector, which has not been widely discussed in previous research.

METHODOLOGY

This research is a descriptive qualitative research that aims to describe in depth the factors that affect the performance of the Central Java Regional Police Directorate, especially

in law enforcement in the misuse of subsidized fuel. This research also identifies strategies and operational steps to improve the performance of the Central Java Regional Police Directorate.

The approach used in this study is a qualitative approach, with the use of semi-structured interviews with selected informants through purposive sampling techniques. This approach allows for in-depth data collection on law enforcement carried out by the Central Java Regional Police Directorate.

The focus of this research is to analyze the performance of the Central Java Regional Police Directorate in carrying out law enforcement against the abuse of subsidized fuel, as well as assess the effectiveness of law enforcement mechanisms and investigations carried out by the Directorate of Police.

The dimensions of this research include two main aspects, namely:

- Influencing factors: to find out the internal and external factors that affect the Central Java Regional Police Directorate carrying out law enforcement functions in the water area.
- Law enforcement strategy: to formulate effective strategies in investigations carried out in tackling the abuse of subsidized fuel.

This research was carried out at the Central Java Regional Police Directorate, with a research period that lasted from March to May 2025. The informants of this research are officials and personnel of the Central Java Regional Police Directorate who are directly involved in maritime security operations. Informants were selected using purposive sampling techniques, based on their responsibilities and roles in law enforcement and operations of the Ditpolairud. The individual analysis unit includes officials with various positions and responsibilities.

The data collection method was carried out through semi-structured interviews, field observations, and the collection of supporting documents. Interviews were conducted with selected informants, while observations were used to obtain direct data from field conditions. The collected data will be analyzed using NVIVO software using a grounded theory approach. Analysis techniques include open coding, constant comparison, sampling new data, and more coding focus to compile thematic categories. The analysis process aims to develop relevant theories based on the findings of the collected data.

RESULTS OF ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

ANALYSIS RESULTS

Table 4. 1 Number of fuel misuse at sea (2023-2024)

Yes	Location	year	amount (L)
1	Kendal	2022	480
2	Rembang	2023	12.000
3	Kendal	2023	160
4	Kendal	2023	380
5	Purworejo	2024	2.975
6	Purworejo	2024	200

Source : Data on Case Handling of the Central Java Regional Police Ditpolairud 2024

Based on data from the Central Java Regional Police Directorate, the crime of fuel misuse at sea in the 2023-2024 period is still frequent, with 6 cases that highlight violations of

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the use of subsidized fuel in the fisheries sector. Although various law enforcement measures have been taken, the challenges faced in eradicating this abuse are still large (Ditpolairud of the Central Java Police, 2024). The number of fuel misuse at sea in the 2022-2024 period can be seen in table 4.1

For the results of qualitative research, there are factors that affect both internal (strengths and weaknesses) and external factors (opportunities and threats) that affect law enforcement of fuel misuse crimes of the Central Java Regional Police. Here is the description:



Figure 4.1: Word Cloud Influencing Factors

Source : Processed Researcher, 2024

Based on Figure 4.1, from the results of interviews with informants, an analysis of internal and external factors in law enforcement against the abuse of subsidized fuel can be compiled. From the internal side, the main strengths possessed by law enforcement officials are the effectiveness of handling cases that are already running, the existence of clear regulations, and coordination between agencies that have begun to be built. This element of power is an important foundation in efforts to crack down on the misuse of subsidized fuel. However, there are a number of weaknesses that hinder performance, including the limited number of competent personnel and human resources, the low allowances and facilities available to the apparatus, the lack of legal socialization to the community, the difficulty of licensing procedures for small communities, and the existence of officials who are actually involved in illegal practices. The lack of legal awareness at the community level is also a significant obstacle, because people tend to be reluctant to report, making it difficult for the authorities to collect information.

From an external perspective, opportunities that can be used include increasing public legal awareness through various socialization programs, the use of new technologies to strengthen supervision, and the potential for increased cooperation between law enforcement agencies. Technology is considered one of the important keys in increasing the effectiveness of supervision and early detection of subsidized fuel abuse. However, external threats are also quite complex, such as the social and economic conditions of the community that encourage violations, weak coordination between institutions, lack of supervision in remote areas, as well

as political influence and the emergence of new modes of fraud that can weaken the effectiveness of law enforcement. In addition, the difficult geographical conditions further increase the challenges in supervision and enforcement.

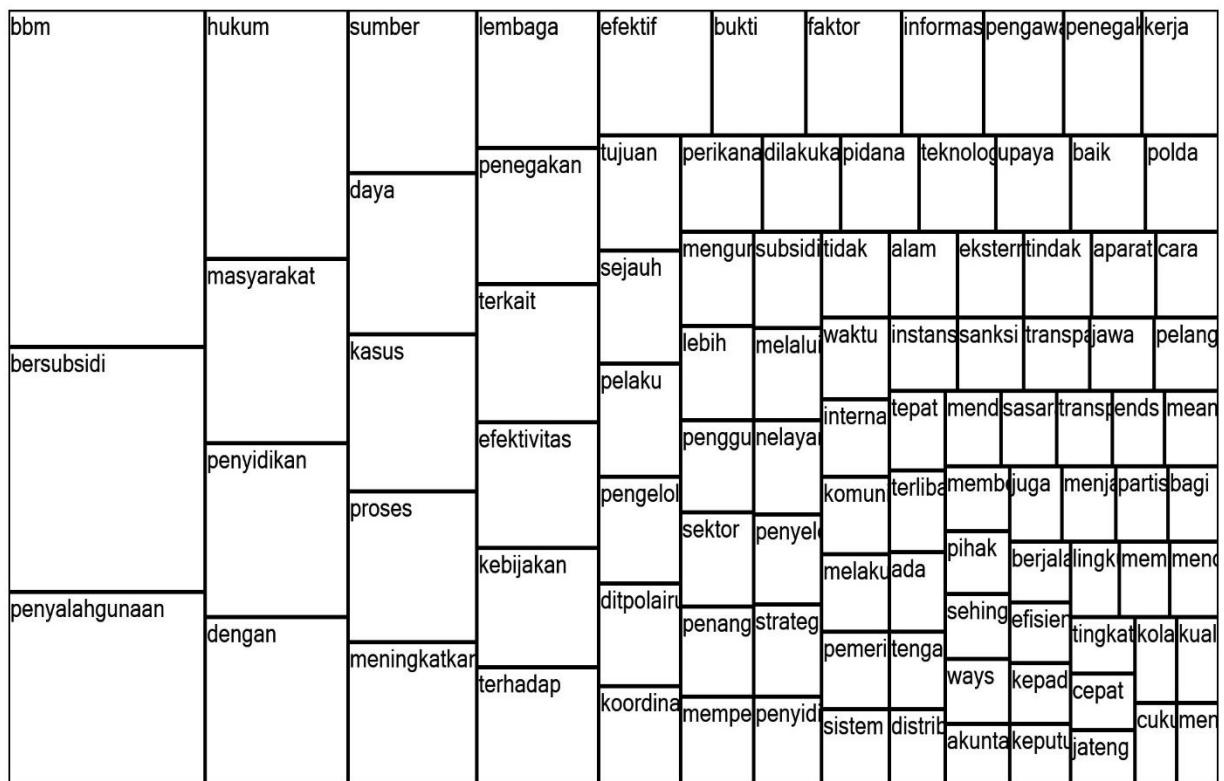


Figure 4.2: Strategy Treemap

Source : Processed Researcher, 2024

Based on Figure 4.2, based on the answers from the informants, it can be concluded that the strategy to increase the effectiveness of investigations of subsidized fuel misuse crimes needs to be based on a structured and comprehensive approach, which includes three main aspects: Ends, Ways, and Means. The identified ends or objectives include the complete disclosure and enforcement of the perpetrators of subsidized fuel abuse, reducing abuse to ensure that subsidies are on target, and increasing public legal awareness. This goal leads to the achievement of a more transparent and accountable supervisory system, while increasing public trust in law enforcement agencies.

To achieve these goals, the proposed ways involve increasing the capacity of investigators through training and competency development, the use of advanced technologies such as geographic information systems (GIS), drones, and sensors to monitor abuse activities, and improving coordination between relevant agencies. Collaboration between law enforcement officials, local governments, communities, and the private sector is also a key factor that is emphasized. In addition, it is also important to increase transparency, accountability, and socialization to the public regarding the abuse of subsidized fuel.

The means or resources needed to support this strategy include the addition of trained and competent investigative personnel, the provision of adequate facilities and infrastructure to

support operational activities, and sufficient financial support. Information technology is also expected to be used to speed up reporting and supervision, as well as manage the data needed in the investigation process. By making optimal use of existing resources, investigations into the misuse of subsidized fuel are expected to run more efficiently and effectively.

Overall, this analysis shows that to increase the effectiveness of investigations, a combination of increasing human resource capacity, utilizing technology, and strong synergy between related institutions is needed. With a coordinated approach and sufficient resource support, it is hoped that it can overcome the abuse of subsidized fuel more effectively, reduce state losses, and increase public trust in the legal process.

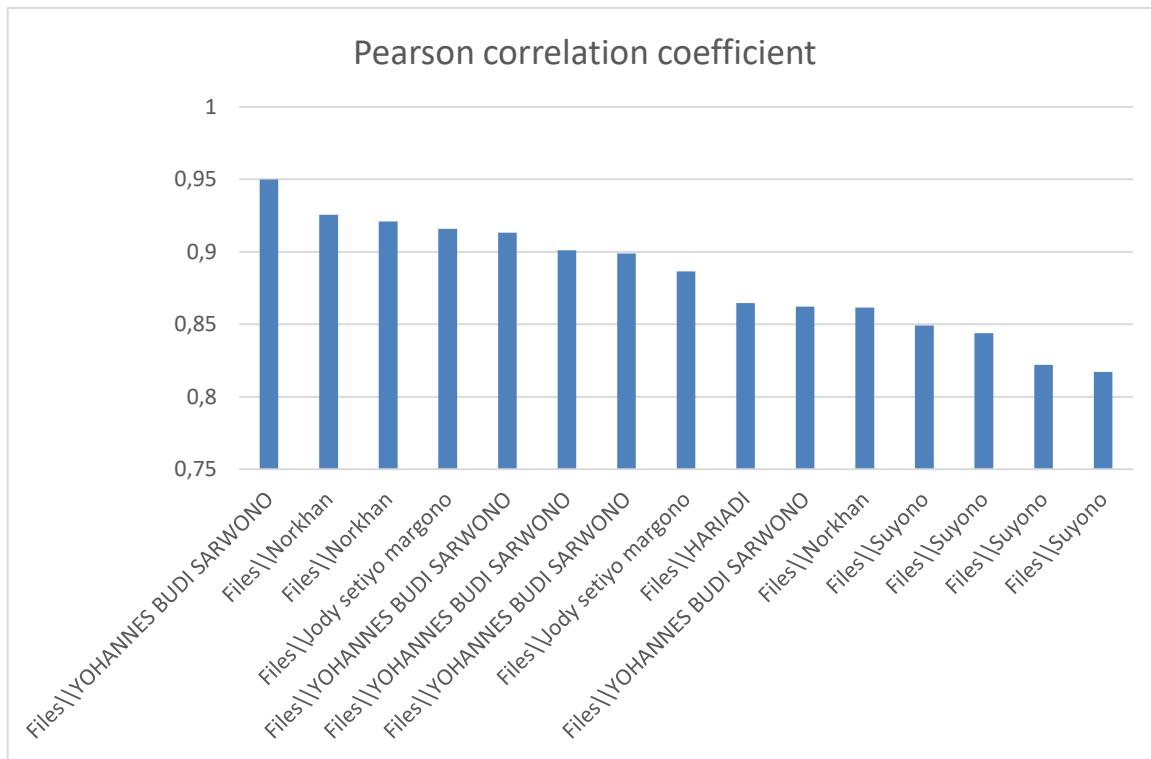


Figure 4.3: Pearson correlation diagram NVivo12.

Source : Processed Researcher, 2024

Based on figure 4.3, from the results of the Pearson correlation test using NVIVO, it can be seen that the correlation of the answer based on *the Pearson correlation coefficient* value, the largest is the correlation between Yohanes Budi Sarwono and Daryanto with a value of 0.94. This shows that the close relationship between dependent and independent variables is very strong. While the smallest correlation is the correlation between Suyono and Haryadi with a value of 0.81, this shows the close relationship between the dependent and independent variables is strong (Nugroho, 2005). Overall, *the Pearson correlation coefficient* value shows a value between 0.81-0.94, this shows that the relationship between the dependent and independent variables is strong to very strong.

DISCUSSION

Based on data disclosed by the Central Java Regional Police Directorate, the misuse of subsidized fuel in the marine fisheries sector is a serious problem in the context of law

enforcement. During the 2023-2024 period, there were six cases of fuel abuse distributed in the Kendal, Rembang, and Purworejo areas. Case details show that Kendal experienced 480 liters of subsidized fuel abuse in 2022. However, in 2023, Rembang recorded a surge in abuse cases that reached 12,000 liters. In Kendal, there were three cases with the number of abuse of 160 liters and 380 liters respectively in the same year. Entering 2024, Purworejo recorded 2,975 liters of abuse and 200 liters of Nanda (2023) Maulana & Nurcahyono, 2023).

This phenomenon shows that despite the efforts of law enforcement, the results achieved are still far from expectations. The surge in the number of abuse in Rembang is of particular concern, as it indicates an uneven problem in each region, with different characteristics and intensities. This indicates that law enforcement so far needs to be reviewed and improved to respond to existing challenges (Siahaan et al., 2023; Maulana & Nurcahyono, 2023).

Fluctuations in the number of abuse from year to year indicate that enforcement is not effective enough if it is not balanced with preventive measures, such as increased supervision and use of technology, and involving community participation in reporting abuse (Robiyanoor, 2023; (Andri, 2023). The availability and use of applications such as MyPertamina can be part of the solution to increase transparency and accountability in subsidized fuel distribution (Andri, 2023).

To achieve more effective law enforcement, a comprehensive, locally-based strategy is needed. The strategy not only focuses on law enforcement, but also on prevention efforts, as well as strengthening coordination between agencies. With this approach, it is hoped that subsidized fuel can be used on target and not harm the state and communities that are entitled to the subsidy (Robiyanoor, 2023; Putra et al., 2024).

Based on the results of interviews with the informants, internal and external factors that affect law enforcement against the abuse of subsidized fuel can be clearly identified. From the internal side, the strengths in the law enforcement apparatus include the effectiveness of handling cases, the existence of clear regulations, and the beginning of building coordination between agencies. These findings are consistent with various theories that emphasize that the effectiveness of law enforcement depends on inter-agency coordination and community legal awareness Mokobombang et al. (2023)(Prasetyo & Herawati, 2022; .

However, despite these strengths, weaknesses are also identified. Limited personnel, low benefits and facilities, and lack of legal socialization create significant challenges in the performance of law enforcement organizations. The difficulty of licensing procedures for small communities also negatively impacts access to justice, and the presence of officials involved in abuses points to a deeper systemic problem. This is in line with research that addresses challenges in law enforcement and efficient resource management (Tanur et al., 2024; (Prasetyo & Herawati, 2022; .

Low legal awareness among the community is also a challenge, especially in terms of community participation in reporting abusive activities. The lack of public involvement in reporting reduces the effectiveness of information gathering, which is an important component of legal investigations. The lack of community involvement in law enforcement efforts creates a non-transparent process and worsens the effectiveness of law enforcement and lowers public trust in legal institutions (Siahaan, 2021; Judijanto et al., 2023).

Therefore, a strategy is needed to increase the effectiveness of law enforcement against the abuse of subsidized fuel. This strategy must involve not only strict law enforcement, but also preventive measures, legal education for the community, and increased coordination between agencies to create a responsive and sustainable system in law enforcement efforts.



With this holistic approach, it is hoped that cooperation between law enforcement and the community in combating abuse can be realized and make a positive contribution to better natural resource management in Indonesia (Prasetyo & Herawati, 2022; Urrutab, 2021).

From an external perspective, there are a number of opportunities that can be used to improve law enforcement against the abuse of subsidized fuel oil (BBM), which includes increasing legal awareness through socialization, using technology to strengthen supervision, and increasing cooperation between institutions. This approach is in line with the need to maintain a balance between ends, means, and resources to achieve strategy success, although specific references to Arthur F. Lykke Jr.'s strategy theory cannot be confirmed with relevant sources in this context Engkus et al. (2022). Socialization can serve as a tool to educate the public about the law and their rights, while the use of technology can create new ways of strengthening surveillance and early detection of abuse.

The use of technology, especially, is very relevant in increasing the effectiveness of supervision. As stated by (Sangadji, 2025), the use of smart metering technology can help detect and prevent illegal gas theft practices in Poland, which shows the potential for the implementation of a similar system in Indonesia for subsidized fuel supervision (Sangadji, 2025). Monitoring technology and reporting systems through apps can also be used to improve transparency and accountability. This is in line with research that shows that optimizing the use of technology can have a positive impact on the effectiveness of supervision (Kusuma & Firmansyah, 2024).

In addition, the analysis of inter-agency collaboration in supervision shows the importance of more solid cooperation between various stakeholders. In this context, the Tidore Islands City Bawaslu faces challenges in election law enforcement, but collaboration with other law enforcement agencies can increase the effectiveness of supervision (Sangadji, 2025). This cooperation needs to involve civil society in the monitoring process, including community participation in reporting the abuse of subsidized fuel, although specific references supporting this are not found (Khumairok, 2023; Septiana et al., 2024).

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On the other hand, external threats such as socio-economic conditions of the community that encourage violations, weak coordination between institutions, lack of supervision in remote areas, political influence, and new modes of fraud, reinforce the findings of previous research. Dunmade's (2019) research on the informal trade in petroleum products in Nigeria shows that

social and economic factors have a significant role in encouraging illegal practices. Meanwhile, Block and Bernard's (1988) research on the used oil industry shows that weak law enforcement and the influence of industrial power also exacerbate the abuse of petroleum products. In the Indonesian context, hard-to-reach geographical conditions also exacerbate the challenges, so a comprehensive approach is needed, including technological improvements and improved institutional governance.

The results of the analysis show that the strategy to increase the effectiveness of the investigation of subsidized fuel misuse crimes needs to refer to a structured and comprehensive approach, as reflected in the framework of Ends, Ways, and Means from Arthur F. Lykke Jr.'s strategy theory.

In terms of Ends, the objectives identified are the disclosure and enforcement of fuel misuse perpetrators, the reduction of abusive practices to ensure that subsidies are on target, and the increase of public legal awareness. This is in line with Law Enforcement Theory which emphasizes the importance of justice and effectiveness in the implementation of the law, with success indicators in the form of the level of legal compliance, the effectiveness of case handling, and the quality of sanctions (Friedman, 2008; Sullivan & Steven, 2010). Thus, the goals set not only focus on the repressive aspect, but also on prevention through increasing public legal awareness.

In the Ways aspect, the analysis highlights the need to increase the capacity of investigators, the use of advanced technologies such as geographic information systems (GIS), drones, and sensors, as well as increased coordination between agencies. This is in line with Organizational Performance Theory (Kaplan & Norton, 2001; Freeman, 1984) which emphasizes the important role of planning and resource management to achieve organizational goals effectively and efficiently. The implementation of advanced technologies is also in line with the findings of Kułaga (2021) which emphasizes the role of smart technologies such as smart meters and surveillance systems to detect energy theft, which in this context can be translated to monitor the distribution of subsidized fuel more accurately.

In addition, the need for collaboration between stakeholders highlighted in the analysis supports the importance of synergy as reflected in the research of Block and Bernard (1988). They point out that weak coordination and strong industry influence can hinder the effectiveness of law enforcement, so collaboration between law enforcement officials, local governments, communities, and the private sector is key to reducing the abuse of subsidized fuel.

In the Means aspect, the addition of competent personnel, the provision of facilities and infrastructure, and adequate financial support are important factors. This is closely related to organizational performance theory which assesses the efficiency of resource use as the main indicator of success. In addition, the use of information technology to accelerate reporting and surveillance as proposed in the analysis is also reinforced by the findings of Kułaga (2021), which suggests that detection technology can reduce distribution sector losses due to illegal acts.

This analysis also finds relevance to Dunmade's (2019) research on the social impact of informal petroleum product trade in Nigeria. Dunmade emphasized the importance of the role of policy and law enforcement to minimize the health, safety, and social instability risks that arise from illegal trade. In the Indonesian context, the abuse of subsidized fuel has the potential to cause similar social problems, so effective law enforcement measures will have a positive impact on social and economic stability.



Overall, the results of the study show that the success of law enforcement strategies against the abuse of subsidized fuel is not only determined by internal factors of law enforcement organizations, but also influenced by technological readiness, human resource capacity, and synergy between institutions. An approach that combines strategic, technical, and social aspects as reflected in previous theories and research, is expected to increase the effectiveness of investigations, reduce state losses, and strengthen public trust in the applicable legal system.

CONCLUSION

This study found that law enforcement against the misuse of subsidized fuel in the Central Java Regional Police Directorate still faces various challenges, both from internal and external factors. Internally, the strengths of law enforcement officers include the effectiveness of handling cases, the existence of clear regulations, and coordination between agencies. However, there are still weaknesses in the form of limited personnel, low facilities and benefits, lack of legal socialization, difficult licensing procedures for small communities, and involvement of officials.

From the external side, opportunities that can be used include increasing public legal awareness, using technology in supervision, and strengthening cooperation between agencies. However, there are also threats such as the socio-economic conditions of the community that encourage violations, weak coordination between institutions, lack of supervision in remote areas, political influence, and the emergence of new fraud modes.

Strategies to increase the effectiveness of investigations into subsidized fuel misuse crimes need to be structured by paying attention to three main aspects, namely objectives, methods, and resources. The goals to be achieved include disclosure of perpetrators, reduction of abusive practices, and increasing public legal awareness. The ways that need to be taken include increasing the capacity of investigators, utilizing technology, and strengthening coordination between stakeholders. Meanwhile, in terms of resources, additional personnel, adequate facilities and infrastructure, and sufficient budget support are needed.

Overall, the success of law enforcement against the abuse of subsidized fuel is highly dependent on organizational readiness, the use of technology, and synergy between related institutions, so that subsidized fuel can be used on target and not harm the state.

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