



# Strengthening Police Ethics by Optimizing the Ethics Commission's Role as Guardian of Good Governance Principles

Annisa Erikha<sup>1\*</sup>, Riswadi<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1,2</sup> Universitas Borobudur, Indonesia

Email : [formallyerikha@gmail.com](mailto:formallyerikha@gmail.com)<sup>1\*</sup>, [riswadi@borobudur.ac.id](mailto:riswadi@borobudur.ac.id)<sup>2</sup>

Author's Correspondence: [formallyerikha@gmail.com](mailto:formallyerikha@gmail.com)

**Abstract.** The code of ethics is an essential instrument in maintaining professionalism, integrity, and accountability within an institution, including the Indonesian National Police (Polri). As part of the effort to enforce ethical standards within the police force, the Police Code of Ethics Commission (KKEP) plays a role in ensuring that each police officer performs their duties in accordance with applicable legal and moral norms. The role of the KKEP becomes highly relevant in the context of good governance, where the principles of transparency, accountability, and the supremacy of law must be the primary foundations of government administration, including within the police system. This study conducts a normative juridical analysis of the role of the Police Code of Ethics Commission in realizing good governance within Polri. A normative juridical approach is used to examine the legal aspects regulating the authority and working mechanisms of the KKEP, by reviewing various regulations, such as the Chief of Police Regulation on the Police Profession Code of Ethics, as well as other legal documents. Additionally, this research also refers to the concept of good governance developed in the study of administrative law and public policy. Through this research method, the study will discuss how the structure and authority of the KKEP are designed to uphold police ethics, as well as how the implementation of the code of ethics can contribute to increasing public trust in the police institution. Therefore, this study is expected to provide a deeper understanding of the position and strategic role of the KKEP in ensuring the professionalism and integrity of Polri members in supporting the principles of good governance in Indonesia.

**Keywords:** Accountability, Ethics, Integrity, KKEP, Professionalism

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Ethics within police institutions plays a crucial role in maintaining professionalism, integrity, and public trust in law enforcement officers (Darmadi, 2024). The police, as an institution responsible for maintaining public security and order, must uphold moral values and carry out their duties fairly and transparently. Without clear ethical standards, police institutions may face a crisis of trust, leading to weakened legitimacy in performing their functions (Sherly, 2025). Therefore, the enforcement of the police code of ethics becomes a primary instrument in ensuring that every police officer acts in accordance with applicable legal and moral norms.

In the context of good governance, the police, as part of the governance system, have a responsibility to implement the principles of transparency, accountability, responsibility, and the supremacy of law in every policy and action taken (Mulyawan, 2015). Good governance in policing is not only about effectiveness in maintaining security but also involves morality and ethics in performing duties. When the principles of good governance are well implemented, the police can become an institution trusted by the public, professional in carrying out its duties, and free from abuse of power (Anwar, 2015).

To ensure that police ethics are properly enforced, the Indonesian National Police (Polri) has the Police Code of Ethics Commission (KKEP), which is responsible for supervising, enforcing, and imposing sanctions on officers who violate the police profession's code of ethics. The KKEP plays a role in assessing the actions of Polri members based on ethical standards set forth in applicable laws and regulations. Additionally, this commission is part of the internal mechanism aimed at maintaining discipline and integrity within Polri (Sadidah, 2024). With the presence of the KKEP, it is hoped that every police officer will understand and adhere to their professional code of ethics, thereby ensuring the professionalism and credibility of the police institution in achieving good governance.

However, in practice, the implementation of the code of ethics within the police force still faces various challenges. Key obstacles include weak oversight of Polri members' compliance with the code of ethics, a lack of transparency in the investigation of violations, and potential conflicts of interest in the disciplinary enforcement mechanism. Furthermore, the strong corps culture often acts as a barrier to reporting or taking action against violations committed by fellow police officers. These conditions have led to the enforcement of the code of ethics being less than optimal, leaving gaps for the abuse of power.

From a regulatory perspective, Indonesia has established a legal framework governing police ethics, one of which is the Indonesian National Police Regulation Number 7 of 2022 concerning the Police Profession Code of Ethics and the Police Code of Ethics Commission. This regulation serves as the foundation for the KKEP in carrying out its duties and determining the mechanisms for investigating and imposing sanctions on Polri members who are proven to have violated the code of ethics. However, despite the availability of regulations, the effectiveness of their implementation remains an issue that requires further attention. Without a strong and transparent oversight mechanism, the implementation of the code of ethics within the police force risks not being carried out optimally.

Therefore, strengthening the role of the KKEP in enforcing the code of ethics is crucial. Reforms in the oversight and enforcement system, through the enhancement of transparency, the independence of the KKEP, and the involvement of external auditors, need to be continuously developed to create a professional and ethical police force. This research aims to provide a deeper understanding of the position and strategic role of the KKEP in ensuring the professionalism and integrity of Polri members in supporting the principles of good governance in Indonesia.

## **2. METHOD**

The research method used in this study is a normative juridical approach, which focuses on the analysis of legislation, legal doctrines, and theoretical concepts related to police ethics and the principles of good governance. This approach was chosen because the research aims to examine the position, authority, and working mechanisms of the Police Code of Ethics Commission (KKEP) within the Indonesian legal system, without conducting case studies or interviews. The data sources used in this study consist of primary, secondary, and tertiary legal materials. Primary legal materials include relevant regulations, such as the Chief of Police Regulation on the Police Profession Code of Ethics, as well as other regulations that govern the functions and authorities of the KKEP. Secondary legal materials consist of academic literature, scientific journals, and expert opinions discussing the concept of good governance in the police system and the role of ethics in enforcing police discipline. Tertiary legal materials, such as legal dictionaries and encyclopedias, are used to clarify legal concepts related to this research. The analysis technique used in this study is a deductive method, where the research begins by examining the basic principles of good governance and the standards of the police profession's code of ethics, and then analyzes how these principles are implemented within the legal system that governs the Police Code of Ethics Commission. With this approach, the research aims to provide a systematic understanding of the normative role of the KKEP in supporting good governance in the police institution, as well as identify potential weaknesses in the regulations that need to be addressed to improve the enforcement of the police code of ethics.

## **3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

### **The Role of the Police Code of Ethics Commission (KKEP) in Enforcing the Professional Code of Ethics to Support the Implementation of Good Governance Principles within the Police Force**

The professional code of ethics is an essential part of achieving good governance, especially in maintaining behavioral standards and professionalism within an institution. In the context of the police force, the code of ethics serves as a moral guideline that regulates how police officers should act in carrying out their duties (Christian, 2023). The relationship between the professional code of ethics and good governance lies in the role of the code of ethics in ensuring that police officers act in accordance with the law, transparently, and are accountable to the public. Without a strong code of ethics, the principles of good governance within the police force are difficult to implement effectively (DM, 2024).

Good governance is a concept of effective governance that prioritizes principles of transparency, accountability, participation, effectiveness, and the rule of law (Maranjaya, 2022). According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), good governance includes eight key characteristics: participation, rule of law, transparency, responsiveness, consensus orientation, equity, effectiveness, and accountability (Qudrat-I Elahi, 2009). From the perspective of administrative law, the principle of good governance is also adopted in various public policies to ensure that every government agency, including the police, performs its duties effectively and in line with public interest. The implementation of good governance within the police force means that every action and policy must comply with the law, be open to oversight, and be accountable both legally and morally (Komalasari, 2021).

In the Indonesian legal system, the police code of ethics is regulated in the Indonesian National Police Regulation No. 7 of 2022 on the Police Professional Code of Ethics and the Police Code of Ethics Commission. This regulation replaces the previous one and aims to strengthen the ethical standards of the police profession (Warsyim, 2023). By comparison, various countries also implement strict police codes of ethics. For example, in the United States, there is the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics, which sets moral standards for police officers. In the United Kingdom, the College of Policing has issued the Code of Ethics for Policing, which governs integrity, leadership, and the professional responsibility of police officers (Snelling, 2023). This comparison shows that the police code of ethics is a globally recognized instrument for achieving good governance within police institutions.

The Police Code of Ethics Commission (KKEP) is an internal body within the Indonesian National Police (Polri) that is tasked with enforcing the police professional code of ethics. KKEP was established based on the Indonesian National Police Regulation No. 7 of 2022, which provides the legal foundation for the function, authority, and work mechanisms of this commission (Daeng, 2024). According to Article 22 of the regulation, KKEP has the authority to examine, adjudicate, and impose sanctions on Polri members who violate the code of ethics. In addition, KKEP also plays a role in overseeing compliance with moral and professional ethical standards by police officers.

Structurally, KKEP consists of Polri leadership and officials who are responsible for matters of discipline and professional ethics. The primary function of KKEP is to ensure that each Polri member acts in accordance with the established ethical standards and to impose fair and proportional sanctions on those who violate the code (Makasuci, 2024). Thus, KKEP serves as an essential instrument in maintaining professionalism and integrity within the police force and contributes to achieving the principles of good governance within Polri.

In order to uphold good governance, the Police Code of Ethics Commission (KKEP) plays a crucial role in ensuring that the principles of accountability, transparency, and the supremacy of the law are consistently applied within the police force. Accountability in policing refers to the responsibility of officers for their actions, both legally and morally. With KKEP in place, any violation of the code of ethics by police members can be processed through the established mechanisms, thus creating a clear accountability system. Transparency in the process of investigation and sanctioning is also essential so that the public can assess whether the police are performing their duties professionally and without abuse of power (Darmawan, 2024).

According to the applicable regulations, KKEP's role in enforcing good governance can also be evaluated through the effectiveness of code enforcement within the police force. Based on the Indonesian National Police Regulation No. 7 of 2022, police officers found guilty of violating the code of ethics may face moral or administrative sanctions, such as written warnings, transfers, or even dismissal without honor (PTDH) (Dewa, 2023). However, in practice, the effectiveness of enforcing this code still faces various challenges, such as internal resistance, intervention from certain parties, and a lack of external oversight. Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen mechanisms for KKEP to carry out its duties more independently and professionally, so it can more effectively contribute to achieving good governance within the police force.

With a strong role of the KKEP in enforcing police ethical standards, it is expected that public trust in the police force will increase. Furthermore, the consistent and transparent implementation of the code of ethics will strengthen the principles of good governance, where the police not only serve as law enforcers but also as an institution that upholds ethics, justice, and the supremacy of the law in every aspect of its duties (Anshar, 2020).

### **Challenges Faced in the Implementation of KKEP's Duties and Efforts to Strengthen Its Role and Effectiveness in Upholding Integrity and Accountability of Polri Members**

Enforcement of the Polri Code of Ethics faces various challenges that affect the implementation of ethical norms within the police force. One of the main obstacles is the corps culture that tends to cover up ethical violations in order to protect the institution's image. This culture often causes the enforcement of the code of ethics to lack transparency and accountability. Additionally, solidarity among fellow members of the police force sometimes becomes an obstacle in reporting violations, creating room for impunity (Hapsoro, 2023). This issue is further exacerbated by the limited public participation in overseeing the enforcement

of the code of ethics, which should be an essential element in realizing the principles of good governance (Moento, 2019).

From a legal perspective, challenges also arise due to weak regulations governing the enforcement mechanism of the code of ethics. The Indonesian National Police Regulation Number 7 of 2022 regarding the Code of Ethics and the Police Ethics Commission has outlined the procedures for examining and imposing sanctions on members who violate the code of ethics. However, this regulation has not fully ensured the independence of the Ethics Commission (KKEP). In some cases, internal or external interference can affect the outcome of ethical reviews, casting doubt on the objectivity and transparency of the process. Moreover, in practice, the sanctions imposed are often not proportional to the severity of the violations committed, which undermines their deterrent effect (Ramon, 2024).

One of the main obstacles in the implementation of the duties of the Police Ethics Commission (KKEP) lies in the regulatory aspect, particularly in terms of the inadequacy and weaknesses of the regulations that form the legal basis for KKEP's work. The Indonesian National Police Regulation (Perpol) Number 7 of 2022, which is supposed to provide guidelines for enforcing the code of ethics, is seen as not fully guaranteeing the effectiveness and independence of this body. There is no strong legal assurance regarding KKEP's position as an autonomous entity in handling ethical violations, as its position still resides entirely within the internal structure of the police force. Moreover, the legal foundation for involving external elements—such as academics, community leaders, or independent oversight bodies—in the ethical review process is still very limited, despite the fact that the involvement of outside parties is crucial to ensuring the objectivity and accountability of the ethical examination of police officers.

From an institutional perspective, KKEP faces various structural and functional challenges that affect its ability to perform its duties effectively. One of the main issues is the organizational structure of KKEP, which is not fully independent because it remains under the control of the police institution. This creates the potential for conflicts of interest, especially when KKEP must examine members holding strategic positions within the police force. Additionally, the human resources occupying positions in KKEP often lack the professional capacity necessary in terms of understanding professional ethics and public administration law. The lack of specialized training in ethical enforcement causes the examination process to often be suboptimal, sometimes failing to produce fair and educative decisions. This highlights the need to improve the quality and capabilities of KKEP personnel through ongoing education and ethics competency certification.

Another challenge arises from the deeply rooted organizational culture within the Indonesian National Police (Polri), particularly in the form of excessive corps solidarity. This culture often hinders decisive action against ethical violations, as there is a tendency to protect fellow members or superiors in the name of "institutional solidarity." As a result, the ethical examination process may become biased or even not conducted at all if the violation is committed by a high-ranking officer. Low ethical awareness also presents a challenge, especially among field officers who are more focused on technical operations than on the ethical values of the profession. Resistance to change, particularly toward demands for transparency and accountability, is still commonly found within the internal environment of Polri, making it difficult to implement ethical reforms thoroughly and consistently.

Finally, the issue of transparency and public participation is a crucial matter in optimizing KKEP's role. To date, public access to the results of the ethical hearings is still very limited, and is even often closed off. This contradicts the principles of good governance, which emphasize the importance of information transparency and public participation in monitoring public institutions. The lack of a formal mechanism to involve the public in ethical oversight processes is also a major obstacle in achieving true accountability. Furthermore, the absence of a secure and reliable reporting system for ethical violations (whistleblower protection) discourages many people from reporting violations, due to fear of retaliation or reprisals from those being reported. Therefore, increasing transparency, public involvement, and protection for whistleblowers are crucial elements that need to be built immediately to strengthen the effectiveness of KKEP in maintaining the integrity and accountability of police officers.

To strengthen the enforcement of the code of ethics, steps to enhance the regulations that serve as the legal foundation for KKEP are necessary. One of the measures that can be taken is to revise Police Regulation Number 7 of 2022 to provide guarantees of independence for KKEP in carrying out its duties. This independence can be reinforced by involving elements of civil society or external oversight institutions in the ethical examination process, thus improving transparency and accountability. Additionally, regulations regarding sanctions need to be clarified to ensure there is a more proportional standard between the type of violation and the sanctions imposed, as mandated in Article 29, paragraph (3) of the regulation.

Institutional reform also plays a crucial role in strengthening KKEP's functions. One of the recommendations that can be applied is the formation of a special unit that serves as an external oversight body for the implementation of the code of ethics within the police force. This unit can work independently and collaborate with the National Police Commission (Kompolnas) to ensure that every examination process adheres to the principles of good

governance. Furthermore, enhancing the capacity of human resources involved in KKEP is crucial, particularly in areas such as professional ethics, human rights law, and conflict management (Noval, 2025). With these measures, it is expected that KKEP's role in enforcing the police code of ethics can be more effective, thereby supporting the creation of a professional, transparent, and accountable police institution.

To optimize the role of KKEP in upholding ethical standards and supporting the principles of good governance, the first step that needs to be taken is to revise the regulations that serve as the legal foundation for the KKEP's duties. This revision must be directed toward providing strong legal guarantees for KKEP's independence, so that the commission can carry out its duties objectively and free from internal police interference. The existing Police Regulations do not fully regulate the mechanism for protecting the integrity of the ethics enforcement body, particularly in cases involving serious violations by high-ranking police officials. Additionally, transparency in every stage of the ethical process must also be explicitly regulated, so that the public has adequate access to information and confidence in the ethics enforcement process is significantly improved.

Furthermore, involving external elements in the ethical process is a strategic step to increase the credibility and accountability of KKEP. External elements such as academics, community leaders, and independent oversight institutions like Kompolnas can act as checks and balances, as well as monitors, against potential conflicts of interest within the police force. This involvement mechanism can be regulated through new regulations or improvements to existing ones, so that the involvement of external parties becomes legally recognized and not just symbolic. Moreover, enhancing the capacity of human resources (HR) within KKEP is crucial to support professionalism and competence in handling complex ethical cases. Regular training in professional ethics, administrative law, and human rights must be systematically conducted so that each KKEP member has sufficient theoretical and practical foundations in carrying out their duties.

Equally important, the use of digital technology in the process of enforcing the code of ethics can serve as a means to improve the efficiency, transparency, and accountability of KKEP. Digitizing documents, implementing an online reporting system, and publishing ethical decisions openly will provide broad access to information for the public and increase public trust in the police institution. In addition, strengthening internal and external oversight mechanisms is also crucial in ensuring that KKEP operates according to the principles of justice and professionalism. Internal oversight can be carried out through a dedicated oversight unit within the police, while external oversight can be provided by Kompolnas or other independent

institutions with clear authority. The combination of regulatory reforms, external involvement, strengthening HR capacity, and digital transformation is expected to reinforce KKEP as a guardian of ethics and integrity in the police profession that is effective and trusted by the public.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

Based on the analysis conducted, it can be concluded that KKEP plays a very important role in realizing good governance within the police institution. As an internal agency tasked with enforcing the police profession's code of ethics, KKEP contributes to maintaining professionalism, integrity, and accountability among police officers. The implementation of good governance principles, such as transparency, accountability, and the rule of law, is expected to be realized through an effective code of ethics enforcement mechanism. However, in practice, there are still various obstacles, both in terms of regulations, institutional structure, and organizational culture. The weakness of KKEP's independence, the lack of transparency in the process of examining ethical violations, and the minimal public participation are factors that hinder the optimization of the commission's role in upholding the ethical standards of the police profession.

To improve the effectiveness of KKEP in enforcing the police code of ethics, steps to strengthen regulations and institutional reform are necessary. Normatively, Police Regulation Number 7 of 2022 needs to be revised to provide a stronger guarantee of independence for KKEP, including involving external parties in the code of ethics examination process. In addition, stricter oversight of the implementation of the code of ethics is needed, both through internal mechanisms and external oversight by institutions such as the National Police Commission (Kompolnas). Reforms in the code of ethics enforcement system should also include increasing transparency and accountability, including opening public access to information about ethical decisions. Thus, it is expected that the enforcement of the police code of ethics will run more effectively and support the implementation of good governance within the police institution, thereby increasing public trust in the police.

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