

EFFORTS OF THE POLICE TRAFFIC CORPS TO OVERCOME THE PROBLEM OF ILLEGAL VEHICLE LICENSE PLATES

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Abstract

This research aims to analyze the efforts made by the Police Traffic Corps in tackling the use of illegal vehicle number plates and identify the obstacles faced in its law enforcement. This research uses a qualitative method with a descriptive-analytical approach, involving in-depth interviews with Korlantas (Traffic Corps) officers, legal experts, and direct observation. The results show that Korlantas Polri has implemented several strategies, such as the implementation of Electronic Registration and Identification (ERI) and electronic ticketing (e-Tilang), as well as special operations to detect and crack down on fake license plates. Nonetheless, this study found significant obstacles, including technological limitations, uneven infrastructure, and low public legal awareness. The implications of this research underscore the need for strengthening cross-agency cooperation, developing more sophisticated detection technologies, and public education campaigns to improve the effectiveness of law enforcement against illegal license plates.

Keywords: *Illegal License Plates, Traffic Corps, Law Enforcement, Electronic Ticketing*

1. INTRODUCTION

The use of illegal license plates in Indonesia has become a serious issue that threatens public order and traffic safety. Vehicle license plates that do not comply with legal requirements, whether forged or improperly registered, have the potential to trigger a number of major problems. In addition to costing the country tax revenue, vehicles with illegal plates are often involved in criminal acts such as theft, smuggling, and traffic violations, further complicating law enforcement efforts (Lee et al., 2023).

This phenomenon also creates a major challenge for authorities, particularly the Indonesian National Police's Traffic Corps (Korlantas), which is responsible for the regulation and registration of motor vehicles in Indonesia. In the face of this problem, Korlantas has taken various strategic measures to strengthen its monitoring and enforcement system against the use of illegal license plates. Programs such as the digitization of vehicle registration through the Electronic Registration and Identification (ERI) system and the implementation of electronic ticketing (e-Tilang) are part of efforts to improve traffic order and ensure compliance with applicable regulations (Hanum, 2023).

The increasing need for private vehicles along with the development of community mobility is one of the main factors that exacerbate this problem. Private vehicles are now an essential part of daily life, affecting individual mobility and the economy as a whole (Lee et al., 2023). However, with the increasing demand for vehicles comes the circulation of illegal vehicles, either stolen, illegally modified, or those that do not meet safety and emission standards (Zamzam, 2024). The illegal vehicle trade not only costs the state in terms of tax and legal revenue, but also poses a great risk to the safety of road users, as these vehicles are often not of guaranteed quality (Chalid, 2018).

The problem of illegal vehicle trade is increasing, with one of the main factors being the high desire of people to own a personal vehicle. This desire is not only driven by functional needs, but also by emotional and social status factors (Fadlan, 2023). When financial capabilities are not proportional to the desire to own a vehicle, some individuals choose a shortcut by purchasing a stolen vehicle (Gunawan & Habibi, 2021). Motorcycles derived from theft often become commodities on the black market due to the high demand from those who want to get a vehicle at a lower price (Nuraeni, 2020).

As part of the effort to disguise the identity of stolen vehicles, many perpetrators use fake license plates. The use of fake license plates aims to trick authorities and hide the origin of the vehicle (Wattimury et al., 2020). This practice allows vehicles that should not be registered or that are stolen to continue operating on the highway without being detected by law enforcement officials (Haris et al., 2024). In addition, the use of fake license plates also facilitates the sale of illegal vehicles to consumers who are unaware of the vehicle's legal status (Ramadhan, 2020), although this is a high-risk offense.

The impact of circulating vehicles with fake license plates is not only limited to legal violations, but also on public security and safety. Vehicles using fake license plates are difficult to trace if they are involved in a crime or traffic accident, making it difficult for authorities to enforce the law. These illegal vehicles are also not registered in a legitimate system, resulting in them not meeting government safety and emission standards, which in turn increases the risk to other road users (Mahardika et al., 2024).

Furthermore, the circulation of vehicles with fake license plates threatens the integrity of the country's transportation system and law enforcement. With more vehicles operating outside of regulatory control, the government could potentially lose out on legitimate tax revenue and administrative fees (Imelda & Diana, 2016). In addition, the use of fake license plates also opens a gap for certain parties to avoid legal responsibilities, such as insurance and other obligations, which leads to losses for various parties, ranging from individuals to state institutions (Kehi et al., 2022).

The use of fake license plates on motor vehicles poses a serious threat to transportation systems and public safety. This illegal practice not only harms the public, but also jeopardizes the integrity of the existing legal system. The Indonesian National Police (Polri) has a very important role in tackling this problem, in accordance with its main task as law enforcers and guardians of public order. This is stated in Law No. 2 of 2002 on the National Police of the Republic of Indonesia, as well as in Law No. 22 of 2009 on Road Traffic and Transportation, specifically Article 68 which regulates the mandatory use of motor vehicle number signs (Traffic Law, 2009). Polri is also supported by Government Regulation No. 44 of 1993 which regulates the shape, size, color, and installation of vehicle number plates that must comply with established standards, as well as the Criminal Code which regulates the crime of forgery (Government Regulation No. 44, 1993).

Based on these laws and regulations, Polri has a strong legal basis to monitor and prosecute the practice of using fake license plates. In addition, Polri also cooperates with other related institutions in ensuring the effectiveness of policies to maintain public safety and the integrity of the national transportation system. In practice, Polri does not only take action, but also focuses on prevention and socialization to the public regarding the importance of compliance with traffic regulations and the potential legal risks posed by the use of illegal license plates (Zulfikri et al., 2022).

As part of the prevention efforts, Polri has implemented various strategic measures, such as routine raids and checks on vehicles on the road to identify vehicles using fake or illegal license plates. Joint operations with related agencies, such as the Transportation Agency and Jasa Raharja, are also conducted to ensure compliance with traffic regulations (Siregar et al., 2024). These measures aim to reduce the number of illegal vehicles and prevent the spread of illegal practices that harm the state and society (Satya et al., 2023). On the other hand, a preventive approach is also part of the National Police's strategy, by educating vehicle owners about legal registration procedures and the legal implications of using fake license plates (Saragih et al., 2021).

In addition, the phenomenon of using fake license plates can be analyzed through organized crime theory, which emphasizes coordinated crime structures and networks (Rusev et al., 2023). This research reveals that vehicle license plate forgery is often linked to organized criminal groups involved in various other types of crime, such as trafficking stolen vehicles (Ramadhan, 2020). Such crimes involve not only document forgery, but also the illegal sale of vehicles disguised using fake license plates, which exacerbates security and law enforcement issues.

Research by Haris et al. (2024) highlights that the lack of consistent supervision and law enforcement contributes to the high prevalence of fake license plate use. The authorities' inability to track and crack down on the use of illegal license plates exacerbates this problem, creating room for illegal practices to flourish. These findings emphasize the need for increased law enforcement capacity as well as more effective strategies in dealing with this challenge. In this context, Polri needs to develop strategies that are responsive to the changing techniques and methods used by criminal groups in counterfeiting vehicle license plates. Increased surveillance and the development of cooperation between authorized agencies are crucial to disrupt the criminal networks involved in this illegal practice. As part of this effort, a more integrated approach is needed, which includes stricter law enforcement as well as more effective cooperation between agencies to ensure the integrity of the transportation system and prevent illegal practices that harm society (Wattimury et al., 2020).

In accordance with the explanation above, this study aims to analyze the efforts made by the Police Traffic Corps in dealing with the problem of illegal vehicle license plates and analyze the obstacles faced by the Police Traffic Corps in law enforcement against illegal vehicle license plates.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Theory of Organized Crime

The term "organized crime" began to emerge from the random merging of the words "organized" and "crime" in the 1800s to early 1900s. At that time, the term was used to describe a variety of different phenomena, such as polygamy among Mormons, war, peasant uprisings, and the activities of rural robbers. It was only in the 1950s and 1960s that the term "organized crime" began to be associated with the Italo-American Mafia in the United States, thanks to a number of public hearings and popular culture such as the novel "The Godfather" (von Lampe, 2016).

Sellin (1963) describes organized crime as "an organized attempt to gain economic advantage through illegal activities". Some examples of crimes that involve the cooperation of groups of criminals are pickpocketing, robbery, burglary, smuggling, drug trafficking, prostitution, and gambling. The primary motive for these crimes is profit.

Numerically, organized crime does not involve many criminals, but for society, it is considered a serious problem (Bajpai, 2020).

Although many researchers have explained this concept, the notion of "organized crime" remains contested. This has led to the need to expand the definition of organized crime to include a wide range of other criminal phenomena. To date, there is no clear consensus on the definition of organized crime, with more than 200 different definitions emerging over the past 70 years. Some definitions look at organized crime in terms of criminal activity, while others focus on the organization of criminals. There is also a broader view that sees it as an illegal system of power. There are differences in the elements that are considered important, such as the number of people in a criminal group, whether the use of violence is a requirement, and the role of corruption (von Lampe, 2016).

Lindesmith in his article entitled "organized crime" in *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, September 1941: 19, defines organized crime as "crime involving the cooperation of several persons or groups for its successful execution". According to Gordon Hawkins, organized crime involves: (a) the cooperation of a small group of criminals to commit a particular type of crime, (b) devising a plan to avoid detection, (c) developing funds to support criminal activities and protect its members, and (d) fostering political relationships to gain immunity if detected (Bajpai, 2020).

According to von Lampe (2016), the three main focuses in understanding organized crime are:

1. Crime as a business: Where crime is not always committed spontaneously but involves careful planning, making it more efficient and difficult to overcome.
2. Cooperation between criminals: Criminals often work together, despite the risk that they may betray each other.
3. Crimes that create an illegal social order: Where criminals control aspects of society by illegal means, often where the state is unable to function.

Based on the various explanations above, it can be understood that organized crime is a complex phenomenon that involves systematic collaboration between organized criminal groups to achieve economic goals through illegal activities. The term encompasses many forms of crime, from theft to drug trafficking, with the main features being careful planning, cooperation between criminals, and often involvement in corruption or links to political power to protect their activities. Organized crime is not only a legal problem, but also a social problem, where criminal groups are able to create an illegal social order that disrupts the legitimate structures of society and law. The definition of organized crime continues to evolve along with changing patterns of crime and society's response to it.

2.2. Law Enforcement Theory

Law is a complex system made up of interconnected parts. Law is not free of values; it has its own purpose and logic. However, the law cannot enforce itself without human involvement, especially law enforcement officers. Law enforcement involves not only the application of formal rules, but also realizing the main values contained in the law. Friedman divides the legal system into three: legal structure (organs that carry out the law), legal substance (legal products), and legal culture (social values). Weber

distinguishes the legal system based on substantive and formal rationality, indicating that rational laws resolve cases with general rules, while irrational laws are based on specific policies (Hadi, 2022).

Law enforcement plays an important role in maintaining order and legal certainty by bringing order to law enforcement agencies. However, the law enforcement process is complex and not always consistent, involving humans with all choices and possibilities. If law enforcement only focuses on formal procedures without considering substantive values, it will be mechanistic and not fulfill the demands of real legal values (Hadi, 2022).

Factors that influence the ineffectiveness of law enforcement can be divided into two categories: internal factors within the legal system and external factors outside the legal system. Internal factors include the law itself, law enforcement, and facilities and infrastructure. While external factors include public legal awareness, social development, cultural elements, and political influence or power (Kelsen, 2011).

Based on the theory of legal effectiveness put forward by Soekanto (2011), there are several factors that influence law enforcement, namely: law or legislation, law enforcers, supporting facilities, society, and culture. In addition, several obstacles in legislation have resulted in effective law enforcement not being achieved. For example, the substance of the legislation is still incomplete and contains weaknesses, thus opening up opportunities for abuse of authority by law enforcement officials. The existence of various factors that affect law enforcement can be explained as follows:

1. The existence of laws, especially regarding the overlap between existing regulations also often causes differences in interpretation among law enforcers, providing room for conflicts of interest that can weaken the implementation of these regulations. On the other hand, regulations tend to prioritize government interests over the interests of the general public. The lack of firmness in distinguishing between executive, judicial and legislative functions is also a problem, as is the lack of awareness and responsibility in producing good legal products and in law enforcement itself.
2. In terms of law enforcement, there are several factors that cause law enforcers to not be able to carry out their duties effectively. Some of them are the low quality of professionalism among law enforcers, their weak thinking ability, lack of work skills, low motivation, damage to the personal morality of the officers, and the low level of education among the police. In addition, the lack of human resource development programs within law enforcement has also exacerbated this situation.
3. Facilities and infrastructure also affect the effectiveness of law enforcement. For example, the lack of modern technology support for legal socialization, limited facilities for serving criminal sentences, and an imbalance between the number of administrative facilities and the number of people to be served. Inadequate physical facilities, operational equipment and financial resources are also major obstacles to law enforcement.
4. Public legal awareness is another factor that affects the effectiveness of law enforcement. The general public's perception of law, order, and the functions of law enforcement often differ from modern legal concepts. Public legal awareness also remains low at all social levels, which contributes to the prevalence of vigilantism.
5. Legal culture also affects law enforcement. Changes in social values often change behavior in social interactions. The clash between old and new values causes value dualism in society, which in turn creates incoherence and value confusion. This

uncertainty often encourages law enforcement officials to take actions that deviate from the rules.

In addition to these five factors, political or ruling factors also play an important role. Government interference and interest groups in law enforcement often occur, especially through intervention from the executive or extra-judicial institutions in the judicial process.

The law, which should be enforced to uphold justice for the community, often creates a sense of injustice. This has led the public to increasingly question the law enforcement process in Indonesia. The function of the law seems to have shifted due to various conflicts of interest that affect its implementation. Law enforcement should run in accordance with the original purpose of the law, which is to uphold justice without any pressure from any party.

3. RESEARCH METHODS

This research uses a qualitative method with a descriptive-analytical approach to describe and analyze the phenomenon of using illegal vehicle license plates and the efforts made by the Traffic Corps (Korlantas) Polri in handling it. The research subjects include relevant agencies, namely the Korlantas Polri, as well as the motorized vehicle user community in Indonesia. The research data consisted of primary data obtained through in-depth interviews with Korlantas officers, legal experts, and people involved or aware of the practice of using illegal license plates, as well as direct observation of traffic operations. In addition, secondary data was obtained from various sources, such as policy documents, laws, official reports, scientific journals, and related news. Data collection techniques involved interviews, observations, and documentation studies. The collected data were analyzed using content analysis techniques to explore the documents and interviews, as well as a thematic approach to identify key patterns in the phenomena and constraints.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1. Efforts Made by the Police Traffic Corps to Address the Issue of Illegal Vehicle License Plates

Vehicle license plates, as the official identity of a motor vehicle, play a crucial role in the traffic system. However, the rampant use of illegal license plates has become a serious problem that undermines the system. The use of license plates that are not in accordance with statutory provisions not only violates the rules, but also has the potential to cause various problems such as the difficulty of tracing vehicles in crime cases, traffic accidents, and misuse of vehicles for irresponsible purposes. In this context, the role of the Police Traffic Corps is needed in an effort to overcome these problems.

The Police Traffic Corps as an institution responsible for the security, safety, order, and smoothness of traffic in Indonesia has a complex task. One of the major challenges faced is the rampant use of illegal vehicle license plates. This phenomenon is not only detrimental to the state in terms of non-tax revenue (PNBP), but also has the potential to threaten public security and order. Therefore, various efforts have been made by the Police Traffic Corps to overcome this problem.

The use of illegal vehicle license plates is a complex and multidimensional problem. On the one hand, it is driven by various factors such as weak supervision, high market demand, and low public awareness. On the other hand, this problem causes various negative impacts, ranging from the difficulty of law enforcement to the potential for criminal acts. In order to overcome these problems, the Police Traffic Corps has made various efforts, both through repressive and preventive actions (Rangkuti et al., 2023).

Illegal license plates are often used to evade legal obligations such as motor vehicle taxes and can be misused in criminal activities, including theft, smuggling, and traffic violations. This phenomenon not only costs the country economically, but also creates injustice and insecurity in society. The National Police Traffic Corps (Korlantas) has been working hard to tackle this problem through various strategic measures. These include the implementation of new technologies such as Electronic Registration and Identification (ERI) and Electronic Traffic Law Enforcement (e-Tilang), which enable more effective monitoring and enforcement of vehicles with illegal license plates. In addition, the Korlantas Polri also conducts curbs through special operations in various regions, as well as issuing regulations on the standard use of vehicle license plates.

In general, the Police Traffic Corps (Korlantas) has made various strategic and technical efforts to overcome the problem of illegal vehicle license plates, including:

1. Implementation of Electronic Registration and Identification (ERI)

The Korlantas Polri introduced the Electronic Registration and Identification (ERI) system, which is a digitized system of motor vehicle registration and identification. The aim is to facilitate supervision and ensure that every motor vehicle operating on the road has a valid and registered license plate. The ERI system integrates vehicle data with owner data, thus minimizing opportunities for license plate forgery. The ERI system creates an integrated motor vehicle database, allowing police officers to check vehicle data in real-time. Through this system, violations or misuse of vehicle license plates can be detected more quickly. Vehicle owners can easily take care of vehicle registration renewal online.

2. Implementation of E-Tilang (Electronic Traffic Law Enforcement System)

E-Tilang or Electronic Traffic Law Enforcement is an electronic ticketing system that uses surveillance cameras or CCTV on major roads to detect traffic violations, including the use of illegal license plates. These cameras are able to recognize registered vehicle license plates and detect vehicles with fake or unregistered license plates. The advantage of E-Tilang is that vehicles with fake license plates that violate traffic are immediately caught by the system, simplifying enforcement. The use of this technology minimizes direct interaction between drivers and officers in the field, thus reducing opportunities for corruption or bribery. The e-Ticket system digitally documents the violation and sends proof of violation to the vehicle owner.

3. Standardized Number Plate Control

The Korlantas Polri also issued regulations regarding the use of standardized vehicle license plates. Standard number plates recognized by the Korlantas have special characteristics, such as size, letter shape, color, and certain materials that can only be produced by official agencies. In field operations, officers actively take action against vehicles that use license plates that are not in accordance with the standards, both in terms of format and material. Routine operations are carried out at various points to check the suitability of vehicle license plates. Vehicles with non-standard or fake license plates will be prosecuted. Korlantas also closely monitors official license plate production centers to ensure that there is no abuse or production leakage that leads to counterfeiting.

4. Law Enforcement and Special Operations

The Korlantas Polri routinely conducts special enforcement operations to crack down on illegal license plate violations. This operation involves a thorough vehicle inspection, both on the highway and in certain places such as ports and borders. Joint operations in collaboration with other agencies such as the Department of Transportation and Satpol PP, this operation targets motor vehicles that use fake or inappropriate license plates. Officers check vehicle documents, such as STNK and BPKB, to ensure that the license plate matches the existing data. Vehicles proven to be using illegal or fake license plates will be subject to sanctions in accordance with the law, including vehicle confiscation and criminal proceedings if related to criminal acts (Shafi et al., 2022).

5. Socialization and Education to the Public

The Korlantas Polri also recognizes the importance of raising public awareness regarding the dangers and legal consequences of using fake license plates. Therefore, various socialization campaigns were conducted through mass media, social media, and field activities. Socialization activities are carried out in crowded centers, such as malls, schools, and government offices, to educate the public about the importance of using valid vehicle license plates. Korlantas actively campaigns for rules related to the use of valid vehicle license plates through social media platforms such as Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook, which have a wide reach. during the SIM making process, applicants are also given an understanding of vehicle license plate regulations and legal sanctions for violators (Simbolon et al., 2023).

6. Technology Development and Innovation

Korlantas Polri continues to innovate in developing new technologies that can help detect the use of illegal license plates. One of these innovations is the use of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR), which is a technology that automatically recognizes vehicle license plates using sophisticated cameras. This technology is able to detect vehicles that use fake license plates more quickly and accurately. The ANPR system is able to read vehicle license plates automatically within seconds, both day and night. This system can be linked to the police database so that officers can immediately know the status of the offending vehicle (Alpert & Noble, 2009).

7. Cooperation with Other Agencies

The Korlantas Polri also cooperates with various agencies such as the Ministry of Transportation, the Regional Revenue Office, and judicial institutions to strengthen the monitoring and prosecution of vehicles with illegal license plates. This collaboration is necessary to ensure that every stage, from vehicle registration to law enforcement, is effective.

In law enforcement theory, there are two main aspects that influence the success of law enforcement, namely legal substance and law enforcement. Korlantas Polri's efforts through the development of digital systems such as ERI (Electronic Registration and Identification) and e-Tilang are in line with improving legal substance. These systems strengthen surveillance mechanisms and provide more effective tools for law enforcement officials to monitor and crack down on violations, particularly related to illegal license plates. In law enforcement theory, these technological innovations also increase the effectiveness of evidence collection and transparency of the legal process, thus strengthening the legitimacy of the law itself (Setiawan et al., 2023).

However, law enforcement theory also emphasizes that in addition to effective legal instruments, the success of law enforcement is highly dependent on law enforcement agents or law enforcers themselves. The efforts of the Korlantas Polri in carrying out special operations and using surveillance technology such as ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) are part of effective law enforcement. In this case, law enforcement is seen as a dynamic process, where the apparatus must continue to adapt to new modes of offense that develop. According to deterrence theory, strict and transparent law enforcement actions can create a deterrent effect for violators, thereby reducing the incentive to commit offenses such as the use of illegal license plates (Haines, 2009).

In addition, collaborative law enforcement theory emphasizes the importance of cross-sector cooperation between law enforcement officials and the community. The efforts of the Korlantas Polri in socializing the importance of public awareness of the use of legal license plates are in line with this theory. Law enforcement will not be effective if there is no support or active participation from the community. In this context, increasing public awareness and collaboration between agencies such as the Ministry of Transportation and related institutions are important in ensuring that illegal license plate violations can be significantly reduced. Thus, the approach taken by Korlantas Polri is in line with the principles in law enforcement theory, where the effectiveness of legal substance, readiness of law enforcement officers, and community participation are key components that support each other to realize sustainable and effective law enforcement.

The explanation above shows that the efforts that have been made by the Korlantas Polri to deal with the problem of illegal vehicle license plates include the development of digital systems such as ERI and e-Tilang, law enforcement through special operations, and technological innovations in surveillance such as ANPR. Nonetheless, challenges in the implementation of this policy remain, especially in addressing new modes that continue to evolve. These efforts require cross-sector cooperation and increased public awareness so that the circulation of illegal license plates can be significantly reduced.

4.2. Obstacles Faced by the Police Traffic Corps in Law Enforcement Against Illegal Vehicle Number Plates

Motor vehicle license plate is an official identity issued by the government through the police for every vehicle operating on the highway. The use of license plates that are legal and in accordance with statutory provisions not only facilitates vehicle identification, but is also an important part of maintaining traffic order and supporting national security. However, in practice, the use of illegal license plates is a serious problem faced by the Police Traffic Corps (Korlantas Polri) throughout Indonesia.

The use of illegal license plates, be it fake plates, license plates that do not match the vehicle documents, or modified plates, is often used to evade law enforcement or disguise the identity of the vehicle in order to commit crimes. This phenomenon complicates the efforts of the Korlantas Polri in monitoring and enforcing the applicable traffic rules, as well as poses challenges in ensuring that vehicles operating on the roads comply with regulations (Ağgöl & Erdemir, 2022).

Although there are regulations governing the use of vehicle license plates, the Korlantas Polri still faces a number of obstacles in its enforcement. Various factors such as technological limitations, low public legal awareness, and loopholes in the legal system cause efforts to prosecute illegal license plates to not be optimal. These obstacles slow down the government's efforts to create safe and orderly traffic throughout Indonesia.

The constraints faced by the Police Traffic Corps (Korlantas Polri) in law enforcement against the use of illegal vehicle license plates include various technical, legal, social, and infrastructure aspects.

1. Technology and Infrastructure

- a) The Electronic Traffic Law Enforcement (ETLE) system has not been fully optimized in all regions of Indonesia. Although several major cities have used ETLE to detect traffic violations, this tool still has limitations in recognizing fake or modified license plates. Automatic scanners or surveillance cameras often have difficulty detecting altered or unauthorized license plates due to small differences in letters or numbers.
- b) The connection between vehicle data, license plate, and owner identity is sometimes not synchronized. Vehicles with fake or unregistered license plates can be difficult to trace, especially in areas that lack digital infrastructure and supporting technology for law enforcement.

2. Legal Compliance and Sanctions

- a) Although there are regulations governing the use of official license plates (based on Regulation of the Chief of the National Police of the Republic of Indonesia Number 5 of 2012 concerning Resident of Motor Vehicles), there are still many legal loopholes that allow vehicle users to fake license plates without being severely sanctioned. The use of illegal license plates is sometimes considered a minor offense so that it does not have a sufficient deterrent effect.
- b) The legal process against users of fake license plates can be slow because law enforcement must ensure that the plates are indeed invalid. The verification process takes a long time, especially if the linkages between agencies, such as Samsat, Korlantas, and the courts, are inefficient (Keerthana & Surya, 2023).

3. Public Awareness and Behavior

Some people do not understand the importance of using official license plates. Many road users use illegal license plates because they think they are cooler, more stylish, or more difficult for authorities to identify. Fake license plates are also often used to evade motor vehicle taxes or commit crimes. Traffic violations, including the use of illegal license plates, are often considered trivial in society. This is exacerbated by the notion that law enforcement against traffic violations can be avoided by giving "peace money" to officers in the field, which reduces the effectiveness of enforcement (Hanum, 2023).

4. Monitoring and Law Enforcement

- a) Korlantas Polri faces challenges in the number of personnel that are not proportional to the number of vehicles on the road. This makes monitoring of illegal license plate violations, especially in high traffic areas, not optimal.
- b) There are elements within the police who can take advantage of this situation by granting special permits for the use of illegal license plates or not taking strict action. Corruption at the operational level can hamper law enforcement that should be applied consistently.

5. Vehicle Mobility and Data Changes

Vehicles often change hands without proper administrative processes, such as delays in vehicle title transfer. This complicates law enforcement because the vehicle data registered in the system does not match the conditions on the ground. Vehicles using license plates from outside the region are also often a challenge for law enforcement.

Differences in regulations and supervision between one region and another make it difficult to crack down on out-of-region vehicles using unauthorized numbers.

6. **Manufacture and Distribution of Counterfeit License Plates**

In some places, making fake license plates or modifying license plates can be done easily and cheaply. Unauthorized parties offer services to make fake license plates with quality that almost resembles the original ones, making it more difficult for the Korlantas Polri to detect and take action against them. Not all places that sell license plates receive strict supervision, allowing the production and distribution of illegal plates to take place without supervision (Fadlan, 2023).

7. **Legal and Judicial Aspects**

Despite the existence of regulations on illegal license plates, the prosecution of these cases is often hampered by lengthy legal procedures that are sometimes considered disproportionate to the offense. This prolongs the law enforcement process and reduces the effectiveness of providing strict penalties. Many regulations have not accommodated new technological developments in detecting and addressing illegal license plate violations, such as digital tracking or the use of more sophisticated sensors (Aradhya et al., 2023).

In Organized Crime Theory, organized crime is a criminal activity carried out by a structured group with the aim of obtaining financial or material gain through unlawful means. The use of illegal license plates is often associated with various criminal activities such as motor vehicle theft, smuggling of illegal goods, and drug trafficking. Vehicles with fake license plates are used to disguise the identity of the perpetrator and avoid detection by the authorities. This reflects the characteristics of organized crime, where criminals take advantage of weaknesses in the law enforcement system, regulatory loopholes, and limitations in technology and infrastructure. Organized crime networks often have access to counterfeit license plate manufacturing through structured illegal networks. They take advantage of the absence of strict supervision of license plate manufacturers or even bribe certain parties to obtain fake license plates that resemble official ones.

In addition, Organized Crime Theory emphasizes that these crimes take place in an environment that supports and facilitates the illegal activity. In the context of illegal license plate use, this is reflected in a culture that is sometimes permissive of traffic violations, low legal awareness, and weaknesses in the coordination system between law enforcement agencies that allow perpetrators to operate with low risk. Organized crime also often takes advantage of corruption within law enforcement agencies to avoid strict enforcement.

Thus, the obstacles faced by Korlantas Polri in enforcing the law against illegal license plates do not only include technical challenges or individual weaknesses, but also relate to the structure of organized criminal networks, which seek to exploit weaknesses in the system to carry out their illegal activities. This issue requires special attention as it not only impacts traffic discipline, but also poses a potential threat to public safety and the effectiveness of the legal system.

To address the use of illegal vehicle license plates, a comprehensive evaluation and strategy development is required. An in-depth evaluation of the effectiveness of current strategies helps identify the strengths and weaknesses of law enforcement. By analyzing field data, cases caught, and public feedback, authorities can devise new, more effective approaches.

The strategy developed should include capacity building of personnel, utilization of modern technology, and inter-agency coordination. Public education campaigns are also important to raise awareness of the risks and impacts of using illegal license plates and encourage case reporting. In addition, training for law enforcement and supervision of vehicle registration procedures should be tightened.

This research proposes a holistic, data-driven approach that blends organized crime theory and prevention strategy evaluation. The focus on international collaboration and information exchange is key in tackling cross-border crime. It is hoped that the results of this research can help policymakers design more innovative solutions, strengthen the legal system and improve public safety.

The urgency of developing this strategy is clear, as the use of illegal license plates makes it difficult to track crimes, increases the risk of criminality, and decreases public trust in law enforcement. Therefore, an adaptive and responsive approach is indispensable to effectively address this issue.

Based on the results of the research analyzing the efforts of the Police Traffic Corps in tackling the use of illegal vehicle number plates, several important implications can be identified. First, this study highlights the importance of strengthening cross-agency cooperation, namely between the Police Traffic Corps and relevant agencies such as the Ministry of Transportation, the Regional Revenue Office, as well as judicial institutions, to ensure more effective law enforcement. This closer collaboration can improve the overall vehicle registration and monitoring system. Furthermore, the development and improvement of technology is also vital in detecting violations related to illegal license plates. This research implies that the use of technologies such as Electronic Registration and Identification (ERI) and Electronic Traffic Law Enforcement (e-Tilang), as well as further development of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR), can improve the accuracy and speed of detecting illegal vehicles.

In addition, this study also emphasizes the importance of public education and socialization to increase legal awareness regarding compliance with legal vehicle number plate regulations. More intensive campaigns through mass and social media could help reduce the perceived triviality of this offense. Improving the professionalism of law enforcement officers is also one of the implications of this study, emphasizing the need to improve the quality of officers in understanding regulations, using technology, and taking firm action against illegal license plate violations to create a deterrent effect. Finally, in relation to obstacles in law enforcement, this research shows the importance of evaluating and improving legal policies, as well as strengthening sanctions for violators. A faster and more transparent legal process is key to ensuring firm action against illegal license plate violations.

5. CONCLUSION

Based on the explanation above, conclusions can be drawn. Firstly, The Police Traffic Corps (Korlantas) has made various efforts to deal with the problem of illegal vehicle license plates that harm the state and society. These efforts include the application of technologies such as Electronic Registration and Identification (ERI) and e-Tilang that allow for more effective monitoring, as well as innovations such as Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) to detect fake license plates. In addition, Korlantas also conducts special operations and curbs vehicles that do not comply with standards, and

increases socialization and education to the public about the importance of using official license plates. Cross-sector cooperation with related agencies was also strengthened to ensure optimal law enforcement. Nevertheless, challenges remain, especially in dealing with new modes of violation, so good collaboration with the community is a mandatory requirement for successful law enforcement related to this issue.

Secondly, The Police Traffic Corps (Korlantas Polri) faces various obstacles in law enforcement against the use of illegal vehicle license plates, including technological limitations, such as the ETLE system that has not been optimized in all regions, as well as difficulties in detecting fake plates. Infrastructure weaknesses, low public legal awareness, and regulatory loopholes also exacerbate the situation, while sanctions that do not provide a deterrent effect and corruption within the police force also hinder strict enforcement. In addition, the circulation of fake license plates is often linked to organized criminal networks that take advantage of law enforcement weaknesses and facilitate criminal activities, such as vehicle theft and smuggling of illegal goods, thus threatening public safety and the overall effectiveness of the law.

Some suggestions that can be made to overcome obstacles to law enforcement against the use of illegal vehicle license plates. First, optimizing and expanding the Electronic Traffic Law Enforcement (ETLE) system in all regions of Indonesia, as well as improving technological capabilities in detecting fake or modified license plates. The use of digital scanning technology and advanced sensors can also facilitate the identification of illegal license plates.

Lastly, tighten the rules related to the use of vehicle license plates and tighten sanctions for violators, so as to provide a deterrent effect. The legal process must be accelerated with increased coordination between agencies such as Samsat, Korlantas, and the courts to minimize regulatory loopholes.

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