



## THE ROLE OF NGOs AS CIVIL SOCIETY CONTROL IN CORRUPTION ERADICATION IN NORTH BENGKULU REGENCY

Halilul Khairi\*

Institute of Domestic Governance (IPDN)  
Jl. Aceh No. 36, Bandung, 40117, Indonesia

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### Abstract

The role of NGOs is important because it is carried out directly by the community in general without any restrictions in terms of both quantity and time, so it is expected that it is difficult for collusion to happen between NGOs and corruptors. However, in practice, the role of NGOs can become elitist and NGOs are not rooted in the community and do not represent the interests of the wider community so that the role of NGOs can be manipulated by officials for personal gains. This study aims to describe the role of NGOs in its function as a social control agent in the eradication of corruption in North Bengkulu Regency. By using a qualitative approach and descriptive type of research, data collection is done through interviews, documentation, and observational studies. The results of this study indicate that there are 3 (three) main roles of NGOs, namely educative, advocative, and investigative roles. The role of non-governmental organizations in building community awareness is only carried out by a small number of NGOs with limited frequency. The role of non-governmental organizations in the form of advocacy on government policies is carried out passively by providing input when requested by local governments such as in meetings or discussions arranged by the government. The role of non-governmental organizations in the form of demonstrations against corruption behavior and practices is still very limited by non-governmental organizations in North Bengkulu. While the role of non-governmental organizations in the form of investigations on corrupt practices has been carried out by almost all non-governmental organizations engaged in the eradication of corruption and the monitoring of the administration of governance in North Bengkulu, but follow-up efforts to encourage an official investigation into the results of the investigation have not been maximized and even some Non-governmental organizations utilize the results of investigations to obtain personal gains.

**Keywords:** Corruption, Social Control, Non-Governmental Organizations, Investigation

### I. INTRODUCTION

In the aftermath of the fall of the New Order regime and the emergence of a new government called the reform government which aims to reform all aspects of governance. Since then, various improvements and new policies issued by state administering institutions, including reforming the 1945 Constitution as a starting point, have become the main foundation for moving towards other operational policy changes.

One of the main agendas of reform is to eradicate corruption, collusion, and nepotism (KKN) completely indiscriminately. Lopa (Lopa, 1997) defines corruption as a criminal act of bribery and unlawful acts that harm/can harm the

state's finances or the country's economy, harming the welfare or interests of the people. Mark pointed out at length about the notion of corruption which includes actions such as 1) vague payments in the form of gifts, administrative fees, services, giving gifts to relatives, social influence, and any relationship that is detrimental to the interests and general welfare, with or without a payment of money; 2) Manipulation and financial decisions that endanger the economy; and 3) corruption in elections, including obtaining votes with money, promises on positions at office or special gifts, coercion, intimidation, and interference with freedom of choice (Mark, 1978). While Henderson & Kuncoro (Henderson & Kuncoro, 2011) define

\* Corresponding Author  
Phone : +62 811 856 657  
Email : halilulipdn@gmail.com



corruption by giving the following characteristics of corruption:

(1) a betrayal of trust; (2) fraud against government agencies; (3) deliberately neglecting the public interest for certain interests; (4) carried out confidentially, except in circumstances where those in power or their subordinates consider it unnecessary; (5) involving more than one person or party; (6) the existence of obligations and mutual benefits, in the form of money or other things; (7) the discontinuation of activity (corruption) for those who want a definite decision and they can influence it; (8) an attempt to cover up corrupt acts in forms of ratification or law; and (9) shows a dual function that is contradictory to those who commit corruption.

Eradicating corruption in the reform era legally and politically has been mandated by the Decree of the People's Consultative Assembly Number XI/MPR/1998 on the implementation of a clean and free state of corruption, collusion, and nepotism. This arises in line with the awareness of the Indonesian people regarding the practice of corruption in the country. Lopa said that corruption had occurred in every country, both in developed and underdeveloped countries (Lopa, 1997). To follow up on the MPR's decree, the government and the House of Representatives made several laws concerning the eradication of corruption, namely Law No. 31 of 1999 on the eradication of corruption which was later amended by Law No. 20 of 2001 and Law No. 30 of 2002 on the establishment of the Corruption Eradication Commission, all of which are aimed at streamlining the eradication of corruption in Indonesia.

After almost twenty years of reform, the main agenda of eradicating corruption is still a major problem that cannot be resolved, even the results of Transparency International's survey show that the level of corruption in Indonesia is still very high, where Indonesia scored 32 and ranked 118 (2012), scored 32 and ranked 114 (2013), scored 34 and ranked 107 (2014), scored 36 and ranked 88 (2015), scored 37 and ranked 90 (2016), as well as scored 37 and ranked 96 (2017). Meanwhile, the sectors most affected by corruption according to the same report are licensing, procurement, and issuance of trade quotas (Transparency International, 2017a). This was expressed by Rose-Ackerman and Campos that economic motives are one of the main causes of corruption (Campos & Giovannoni, 2017; Rose-Ackerman & Palifka, 2016) besides the power factor as stated by Rock (Rock, 2009).

The audit results of the Finance Audit Agency (BPK's Branch Office in Bengkulu) for the North Bengkulu Regional Government's 2016 Fiscal Year financial report found that North Bengkulu Regency

was one of the regencies in the Bengkulu Province that obtained the status of Fair with Exceptions (WDP). The BPK audit results also found about 1.6 billion irregularities in the management of the 2015 APBD (BPK RI, 2016). BPK's opinion on the financial statements of the North Bengkulu Regency Government can be seen in Table 1.

**Table 1.**  
LKPD Opinion on North Bengkulu Regency, 2011-2016

No	Year	Opinion
1	2011	WDP
2	2012	WTP
3	2013	WTP
4	2014	WTP
5	2015	WDP
6	2016	WDP

Source: BPK RI (2016)

The data shows that the existing system of internal control of the government has not been able to prevent corrupt behavior committed by state administrators.

Meanwhile, the results of the Global Transparency survey (research) show that the most corrupt institutions are actually parliamentary institutions, law enforcement agencies (courts, police, prosecutors), and political parties. This means that expecting corruption eradication through law enforcement cannot be expected because the institution in charge of eradicating corruption, such as the police, prosecutor's office, and the courts, is actually the main perpetrator of corruption, so to expect the firmness of law enforcement from the institution will be very difficult (Transparency International, 2017b). So that the term social control emerged as defined by group supervision by groups, by groups against their members, or by individuals against individuals (Agnew, 1991; Booth, Farrell, & Varano, 2008). Therefore, Ndraha said that with the tri-politics, the relationship between functions in a system changes to a relationship between three powers, each of which is increasingly autonomous, but interacts in various forms of bargaining, exchange, conflict, collusion, corruption and so on (Ndraha, 2005).

Since the reform that was rolled out in 1998, which opened the door to the freedom of the community to organize themselves and opened a

very wide door to provide input and criticism of the administration of government, it has given birth to various non-governmental organizations (NGOs). LP3ES, as quoted by Alrasyid, stated that after the Soeharto regime, 450 prominent NGOs were born and there were 50 NGOs engaged in anti-corruption. Therefore, that political control which has been the main weapon in eradicating corruption in a country seems to be shifting to social control (Alrasyid, 2005).

Based on the data from North Bengkulu Regional Police, North Bengkulu Attorney, and North Bengkulu Court, throughout 2015 there were 245 complaints of corruption in Bengkulu province and 20 reports were stated as indicating corruption. Between 2009 and 2016, there were 90 reports of corruption in North Bengkulu Regency. At the same time, there were 11 corruption actors in North Bengkulu who had been convicted by the court. Amid the rampant corruption behavior, it turns out that from 2007 to 2017 there were 8 NGO administrators who became suspects and sentenced to be involved in corruption cases.

The aforementioned fact has given rise to a research question, namely how the role of local NGOs in combating corruption by government officials in North Bengkulu Regency.

## II. METHOD

This research was conducted in a qualitative research design. The qualitative design was chosen considering that the research aimed to reveal what happened in empirical reality and this study observes and explores more on the behavior of the object under study so that a causal relationship is not possible from the results of this study. This research was conducted in 2017.

The observed reality varied, and many facts were not possible to be revealed through questionnaires, such as the background of object behavior, how corruption was done, how the interaction between NGOs and government officials, which would be revealed from observations and interactions between researchers and objects to obtain emic interpretation, namely a description based on the informant's perception of a phenomenon. Meanwhile, the approach used in this study is a phenomenological approach, in which the data collection, analysis, and interpretation are carried out on the phenomena or events that occur in the object under study. The phenomenological approach is used because the data related to the phenomenon of corruption and the role of NGOs in the eradication of corruption cannot be obtained through regular question and answer interviews but through experiences experienced by informants

told to researchers. Based on the expression of the experience of the informants, the researcher interpreted the meaning of the experience of the informant (*verstehen*) to draw conclusions emotionally.

## III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The amount of power owned by the government and its instruments, such as the armed forces, police, and other power tools that can impose its decisions on the public are the causes of irregularities committed by power holders. For that reason, the implementation of state power by the government needs to be controlled so that there is no abuse of power by the government (Widodo, 2001). This social control is a concretization of the role of the community in relations with the government. In his paper presented by Larry Diamond in the Workshop on "Civil Society, Social Capital, and Civic Engagement in Japan and the United States at Harvard University on 12-13 June 2001 under the title What Civil Society Can Do to Reform, Deepen, and Improve Democracy states that the role of community social control needs to be organized in order to achieve more effective results. NGOs are part of community organizations that need to play a role in exercising control over the administration of government.

Non-government organizations in Indonesia appear in various forms. In general, Indonesia is known as a social organization, which refers to the terms used in Law No. 8 of 1985 on Community Organizations. In this Law, all organizations formed by the community are voluntarily called community organizations. The community organization is divided into four groups, which are based on the similarity of function, a similarity of professions, similarity of activities, and similarity of religion.

Based on these provisions, the Office of National Unity and Community Protection of North Bengkulu Regency has registered community organizations in North Bengkulu Regency, but many social organizations did not register themselves with the Office of National Unity and Community Protection of North Bengkulu Regency, and among those who registered, there are also many who do not renew the management that has expired.

Meanwhile, the list of community organizations can be seen in Table 2.

Organizations that are included in the common function group are generally organizations that are based on similarities in regional origin and similarities in other functions, such as retired officers or family relationships. Meanwhile, professional organizations are motivated by similar types of work, such as the ties of Indonesian doctors,

**Table 2.**  
Community Organization in North Bengkulu Regency

No	Organization	Total	Remarks	
			Active	Inactive
1	Equal Function	44	36	8
2	Equal Profession	25	29	7
3	Equal Religion	17	17	0
4	Youth	16	5	11
5	Equal Activities (NGOs and Foundation)	35	19	16

Source: Kantor Kesatuan Bangsa dan Politik Kabupaten Bengkulu Utara (2016)

Organda, and other professions. Youth organizations are organizations under the Indonesian National Youth Committee (KNPI) which specialize in youth movements, while organizations based on similarities in activities come from community organizations with a common background of activities with a particular focus and are generally foundations and NGOs.

NGOs must grow independently of the full awareness of the community about the dangers and major losses caused by corrupt behavior by government officials and other corruption actors involving the government. The regional government itself does not really want to empower the community in eradicating corruption.

Under these conditions, the role of non-governmental organizations is a very appropriate choice to conduct public awareness education to fight corrupt behavior by government officials. Public awareness education by non-governmental organizations must be carried out systematically with the right targets, methods, and media to achieve maximum goals.

To conduct public awareness education, the main obstacle faced by non-governmental organizations is the lack of funds to implement the program. Almost all non-governmental organizations in North Bengkulu Regency are not able to systematically educate the public with the right methods, targets, and media. Some non-governmental organizations carry out public awareness education on a very limited scale and frequency, so that the effectiveness of activities is not optimal and it can almost be said that there are no non-governmental organization programs that are able to shape or build people's understanding of the dangers of corrupt behavior towards the interests of many people, it means also that there will be no

**Table 3.**  
NGO Activities in North Bengkulu Regency

No	NGO Names	Education Activities	Frequency
1	Laskar Merah Putih	None	0
2	Komite Pengkajian Daerah Membangun (KPDM)	Seminar	2 times
3	Sumatra Corruption Watch	None	0
4	Parliament Watch Indonesia Bengkulu Utara	None	0
5	Kantor Bantuan Hukum Arga Makmur	Meeting with the community	23 times
		Media Posts	10 times
6	Gapensi	None	0

Source: Kantor Kesatuan Bangsa dan Politik Kabupaten Bengkulu Utara (2016)

enthusiasm and willingness of the community to participate in fighting corruption in North Bengkulu Regency. Meanwhile, NGOs in North Bengkulu Regency and its activities can be seen in Table 3.

The data shows that there are no non-governmental organizations that continuously and programmatically carry out public awareness education, some organizations do so through seminars and writings through limited media coverage and influence.

The role of NGOs in conducting education is the core and the first step that will determine the implementation of the role of other NGOs, with a high public awareness, will be formed a democratic society and the parallels between the government and society and the diminish of opinion among the community that society is a subordinate of the government. Based on data from North Bengkulu in figures, it is known that the level of education of the people in North Bengkulu Regency, most of whom are still educated at the junior high school level up to more than 80%, and poverty rates of 39% have given rise to low awareness and understanding of the corruption problem, where the community does not have sufficient thought about the nature of corruption and its consequences.

On the other hand, the community is preoccupied with efforts to fulfill the increasingly heavy needs of everyday life, so that the anti-corruption stance of the community is unlikely to be expected to grow independently and effectively. In the midst of this kind of community condition, the attention and non-profit-oriented participation of

the community organizations are needed to direct the understanding of the community which is no longer possible through formal education. There needs to be informal education from community institutions in fostering public awareness based on several facts and considerations. Some of the causes of NGO control were not running optimally in other North Bengkulu regencies; First, a low level of education has resulted in people not having a good understanding of their rights and obligations as citizens, including in assessing corrupt behavior committed by government officials around them.

Second, the low economic condition of the community has resulted in almost all public attention focused on efforts to fulfill their living needs which must be fulfilled with very heavy efforts, thus confiscating the entire time of the community and resulting in insufficient time to assess and supervise the conduct of government officials in their area. On the other hand, maximum social control by Rothstein and Epperly can improve the economy and further make governments more democratic (Epperly & Lee, 2013; Rothstein & Eek, 2009).

Third, there is a tendency of government officials to exploit public distrust in controlling the administration of government to practice corruption, so that empowerment from the government is deliberately directed to activities that do not touch on public awareness to fight corruption;

Fourth, the limitations of law enforcement officials in dealing with corrupt practices both in terms of quantity and quality/awareness, have demanded direct participation from the community both to expose corrupt practices by government officials and efforts to pressure law enforcement officials to carry out a serious official investigation into every indication of corrupt practices. Therefore, Bardhan (Bardhan, 2014) said that corruption is an immoral behavior or Scanlan called it a dishonest act (Scanlan, 2004).

High public awareness will foster a critical attitude which is a strong foundation for the growth of healthy non-governmental organizations and with the better awareness and ability of the community, it is a powerful tool in eradicating corruption in the region and eradicating arbitrariness committed by government officials. This awareness is seen in the people of Central Java as a result of Ketut Suwondo's research, where with a good economic level, the community participates more in making decisions on the implementation of village governance from planning to technical implementation of the policy (Ketut, 2006).

## **A. Revealing Government Errors (Investigation)**

Gruber (1988) explains that there are four types of control approaches. First, control through participation, where control is carried out by involving participation in decision making. Second, control through relationships with clients by consulting with clients so that the substance of the policy decided can meet the client's interests. Third, the approach to the public interest (public interest approach), this approach is done by avoiding the government to take policies that are oriented to a particular group of interests, and instead, it must be oriented to the public interest (Collective interest). Fourth, an accountability approach that emphasizes procedural rather than substantive aspects, with procedural restrictions that will guarantee the absence of irregularities. Fifth, the self-control approach that relies on the understanding that bureaucrats are professionals who have their own will to reach their goals fully.

To carry out corruption eradication activities carried out by government administrators required sufficient data about what program and how the program is implemented by the government, to obtain data or information about the activities of government administrators, NGOs need to conduct investigations to obtain information on policy background, policy objectives, and policy implementation strategies, while in the implementation of government activities, investigations are carried out to see whether the program has been implemented properly in accordance with applicable standards and norms.

NGOs in North Bengkulu have investigated the implementation of government activities, especially activities related to the implementation of regional budgets, ranging from the implementation of project tenders to the implementation in the field which aims to reveal the possibility of irregularities in the process of determining or implementing government policies. Almost all non-governmental organizations engaged in corruption eradication conduct investigations to reveal whether development activities on the ground are carried out properly or not.

NGO administrators conduct a good investigation by seeking information about the background and objectives of the government program as well as by conducting surveys of government activities in the form of developments or projects carried out in the field. In the course of the investigation, they recorded and took pictures of activities carried out by each agency, the results of the investigation were confirmed with the SKPD leaders. The existence of non-governmental

organizations in this area has been used as a profession that is used as a place to earn income for its administrators through collusion with government officials or private sector officials who commit irregularities. Although there are several cases reported by NGOs to law enforcement or published through mass media, most investigations carried out by non-governmental organizations are not intended to exercise control so that the implementation of government activities goes according to standards and norms but aims to find fault in the implementation of activities or mistakes in policy formulations which are then bargained for personal gains.

The results of published or reported investigations to law enforcement officials are the result of investigations against uncooperative government institutions or are not willing to cooperate by providing compensation to administrators of non-governmental organizations who find indications of irregularities. The general pattern used by NGOs in following up on the results of the investigation is to confirm the findings of the head of the agency responsible for the deviation. Confirmation is also a means of negotiation to follow up on the findings of the investigation. Negotiations that do not find an agreement usually give rise to complaints or publications from NGO administrators for indications of irregularities occurring in a government agency. This has resulted in very few complaints about corrupt practices entering law enforcement agencies, such as data obtained at the State Attorney's Office showing the number of complaints about corruption in 2007 there were only 4 complaints, in 2006 there were only 6 complaints, in 2005 there were only 3 complaints, in 2004 there were 4 complaints, in 2003 there were 4 complaints, and 2002 there were 9 complaints, although some informants stated that in almost all government projects there were corruption practices.

The failure to negotiate directly with the head of the agency that committed irregularities has not stopped the efforts of the NGO management to get compensation from the institution that was assumed of deviation. The management is still trying to collaborate with law enforcement officials, where NGO administrators offer information on irregularities or indications of corrupt practices to law enforcement officials which are usually followed by requests to complete these findings with the relevant agency leaders. The legal apparatus is used as an instrument to pressure agency leaders to make settlement by submitting compensation in accordance with the collective agreement.

However, if there is no agreement in the discussion between the head of the agency and

the legal apparatus, then such cases are usually processed in accordance with the applicable legal procedures, so that it can be understood that corruption carried out by law enforcement officers is usually a small-scale corruption which, if resolved through the agreement, does not make enough money.

This condition has led to the emergence of various non-governmental organizations in the regions, both branches of national NGOs and those formed at the local level themselves. The presence of NGOs is no longer to build awareness and empowerment that is not profit-oriented but is a vehicle to engage in government activities including to gain benefits from irregularities. The paradigm and orientation of NGOs that are more oriented to the search for personal gains has encouraged the birth of various types of NGOs in the region without regard to the quality and capabilities of the management, whereas to empower, build awareness, and promote democracy to the community members, the NGO management must have sufficient knowledge and financial resources, and independence. Many NGOs are used as a mere camouflage from individual administrators to increase bargaining power against government officials and as a wrapper in communicating with other parties. During 2007 to 2017 there were 8 NGO administrators who were arrested by the police for the extortion of North Bengkulu regional government officials using data from the investigations they conducted.

From this fact, it can be revealed that the investigation carried out by the NGO management was aimed at the interests of obtaining personal compensation and not to encourage and prevent the occurrence of irregularities in the context of carrying out the function of social control which is the background of the establishment of the NGO. This condition confirms that the existence of NGOs and investigations carried out contribute to increasing the chances of corruption.

The behavior of NGOs that view information about corruption activities as rare items and become commodities has reduced the effectiveness of the role of NGOs in eradicating corruption and even, on the contrary, the behavior of NGOs has placed NGOs as one of the corruptors and encouraged institutionalization of corruption by government officials in the region. NGOs involvement in corruption activities has shown that corruption can occur in all forms of organizations or individuals both in government, the private sector, and NGOs. The absence of a control mechanism for NGOs and the position of NGOs that do not always have ties with many communities has become a factor that causes non-accountable NGOs and eventually becomes part of corrupt practices. This fact is

consistent with the view which states that one of the obstacles faced by NGOs is that NGOs face the problem of mismanagement, corruption, and other issues related to governance practices within themselves (Antlöv, Ibrahim, & Van Tuijl, 2012).

This condition is contrary to the role of NGOs which should be the guardian of public interests through the social control function they have. The presence of NGOs should be a solution to the conditions in which the government is filled with deviant behavior and law enforcement does not go as it should.

The condition of corruption in Indonesia that has plagued and infected all levels of government and all law enforcement agencies. The presence of NGOs should be a solution that is believed to be able to break through the impasse of law enforcement and the implementation of corrupt governance. However, this condition does not occur in North Bengkulu Regency, where NGOs are not entirely a solution in eradicating corruption but can even be part of corruption itself.

The involvement of NGOs in corruption shows that corruption behavior has spread to all government and non-government organizations. NGO administrators represent themselves more than representing collegial management which should be a feature of a non-governmental organization. This kind of thing makes the NGO leader be exclusive and separate from other administrators and even separate from the public interest. The investigation should be one of the ways carried out by NGOs in carrying out social control in the administration of government and eradicating corruption.

One form of the role of NGOs in carrying out social control in eradicating corruption is conducting activities to uncover mistakes made by the government that is not known to the public. The investigation is intended to obtain evidence of errors made by government officials.

The material and evidence of the error as material for carrying out pressure and advocacy to change the behavior of government officials and at the same time pressure to take action against government officials who make mistakes. But this investigative role was used for other purposes by some NGOs in North Bengkulu. This is one of the causes of corruption eradication programs that are unsuccessful and corrupt behavior is increasingly fertile in Indonesia, and North Bengkulu in particular.

## **B. Advocacy**

Advocacy is an effort to encourage the formation of policies that provide space for participation, encourage the formation of cooperation between

NGOs and the Government, and influence government policies. Advocacy is also carried out to form a government system that is clean from collusion, corruption, and nepotism, and sues every policy that is detrimental to the public interest.

At the local level, advocacy carried out by local NGOs is aimed at influencing local government policies in favor of the public interest and for the realization of accountable governance and based on the values of universal governance. In addition, advocacy can also take the form of a legal lawsuit against the government that takes policies or actions that are detrimental to the interests of the people, especially harming the interests of the people as a result of corrupt behavior and practices carried out by government officials.

Advocacy carried out by NGOs is generally in the form of efforts to influence local government policies through various forums held by local governments, such as public discussions in the preparation of work plans for local governments and through the delivery of opinions and input through the mass media. But the weakness of the advocacy carried out by local NGOs is the lack of understanding of the substance of the issues being discussed, so that the follow-up and proposed solutions are incomplete and unable to solve the problems discussed. In the case of demands for the resolution of the handling of corruption, it also experiences the same obstacles where the input and information submitted by NGOs are not supported by an understanding of the adequate legal substance.

To influence a policy, strong arguments are needed both based on facts and based on the concept of the substance discussed, so that only a few NGOs are able to conduct policy advocacy in the regions. One of the NGOs that have done a lot of advocacy is the Arga Makmur Legal Aid Office (KBHA) whose members are members of the North Bengkulu peasant union with the number of members with a membership card of 10,224 people.

KBHA's main focus in conducting advocacy is to fight for the interests of its farmers' members both in dealing with the private sector and with the government. One of the advocacies that was successfully carried out by KBHA was to fight for the release of plasma rubber farmers' debt repayment payments in Ketahun and Seblat sub-districts through the TCSSP program financed by the central government. The release was carried out with the consideration that rubber plantations owned by farmers from the program were not productive because the seeds prepared by the government were non-quality seeds. The government's mistake in preparing these seeds should not be borne by farmers who only receive gardens after they are ready to harvest (Mayhew, 2005).

However, the KBHA NGO focuses more on the interests of its members so that they are not involved much in other government policies, especially in development policies, both in the macro and micro activities of government projects.

Another form of advocacy carried out by NGOs is to advocate for citizens who are disadvantaged by government policies, both individually and collectively. This type of advocacy has never been carried out by all research area's NGOs. The outbreak of kerosene that was mixed with gasoline and caused many community stoves to explode and claimed several lives in 2005 has prompted the Indonesian Consumers Foundation (YLKI) to carry out a class action lawsuit on behalf of the victims of PT. Pertamina, but this effort was not carried out completely due to the limited costs and weak support from the victims.

### C. Protests and Demonstrations

Another role that needs to be carried out by NGOs in practicing social control to eradicate corruption is to put pressure on protests and actions to deliver public opinion (demonstrations) to government officials and law enforcement officials to take strong action against any official actions indicated by corruption.

Protests can begin with oral and written statements that contain objections or opposition to the actions of government officials who commit deviant or corrupt actions. Furthermore, if protests in the form of verbal or written statements do not receive the appropriate response and resolution, the NGO needs to take a larger and organized action through activities of public opinion or demonstration as a forum to express protest and objection to corruption or the settlement of corruption cases committed by government officials.

During 2005 to 2007, there was only one demonstration carried out by an alliance of various NGOs and community organizations in February 2006 demanding the investigation of corruption cases carried out by members of the North Bengkulu DPRD in 2004-2009 term. The case has now been brought to court and all suspects are declared free by the Arga Makmur district court judges.

Although demonstrations are considered an effective way of expressing attitudes and to pressure government officials, demonstrations are very difficult to do because they have to involve many people, which means there must also be a process to equate views with everyone who will be involved in a demonstration. Besides that, demonstration also requires a very large cost because it has to provide logistics to the people involved in the demonstration.

The difficulty in financing sources is one of the main obstacles for all local NGOs in carrying out their actions, including in conducting demonstrations and other protest actions, where almost all local NGOs do not have their own sources of financing that can finance daily organizational activities, especially for activities such as advocacy, education, or demonstration.

Raising alliances and equating perceptions with fellow NGOs and other community components to demonstrate against a policy or action that is deemed corrupt requires enormous capacity and attention. The common sense between fellow NGOs and other components of society towards a case becomes an absolute requirement if you want to conduct demonstrations and protest actions that move a large number of people.

Aside from the cost and communication between NGOs, other things that complicate the occurrence of protests are the attractiveness of various interests among fellow NGOs themselves and the existence of links between NGOs and government officials who deviate from linkages based on friendship, family, or class and relationships that are set behind economy or funding.

Because of the difficulty of conducting demonstrations, there have been almost no demonstrations by NGOs in the context of eradicating corruption in North Bengkulu Regency. The only demonstration ever carried out in February 2006 was attended by only a handful of people who were estimated to be no more than 50 people. This shows that the role of local NGOs in the form of demonstrations or protests in the eradication of corruption in the region has not been able to be implemented and cannot be used as a way to pressure the government in eradicating corruption.

Overall, it can be concluded that the control by NGOs in eradicating corruption is still not successful. The existence of community freedom in the reform era which has produced various self-help groups both at the center and in the regions does not automatically influence directly the success of the corruption eradication movement, which is one of the main agendas of the reform movement in Indonesia. This fact is in line with Budi Winarno's opinion that the presence of NGOs is not linear with efforts to develop democracy in a country, and even in some countries many NGOs are supporting the authority of an authoritarian government and taking advantage of the authoritarian power (Winarno, 2008). The weak control makes pressure on government officials to avoid corruption still low and the space for corruption is still open. This condition is corroborated by the opinions expressed by several informants namely IPP 10 and IPP 12 which stated that corruption was carried out if they



**Table 4.**  
NGO Activities on Corruption Eradication

Activity	Year		
	<=2015	2016	2017
Education	1	-	1
Advocacy	1	1	1
Investigation	5	5	3
Demonstration	1	-	-

Source: *Badan Kesatuan Bangsa dan Politik Kabupaten Bengkulu Utara (2018)*

were convinced that the general public did not know in detail the deviant acts they committed.

Based on the information above, there are 4 (four) aspects that are at least in the activities of NGOs as social control, namely independence, education, advocacy, and investigation. From a number of NGOs in North Bengkulu Regency, NGO activities based on their activities can be seen in Table 4.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

Corruption in North Bengkulu Regency was carried out with several patterns based on the object where the corruption practice itself occurred. Corruption in the management of regional finances, corruption in law enforcement, and corruption in public services are carried out despite the formal controls that are already underway. This encourages the importance of the role of LSD as a control of the social community towards overcoming corruption in North Bengkulu Regency.

The role of non-governmental organizations in eradicating corruption has not run optimally. The role of non-governmental organizations in building community awareness is only implemented by a small number of NGOs with a limited frequency. The role of non-governmental organizations in the form of advocacy on government policies is carried out passively by providing input when requested by local governments, such as in meetings or discussions implemented by the government. The role of non-governmental organizations in the form of demonstrations against behavior and practices has not been able to be carried out by non-governmental organizations in North Bengkulu.

Meanwhile, the role of non-governmental organizations in the form of investigations on corrupt practices has been carried out by almost all non-governmental organizations engaged in eradicating corruption and monitoring the administration of governance in North Bengkulu.

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