



Mitigation of land-related crimes by the integrated team for the prevention and eradication of land mafia in Palangka Raya

Theo Onesiforus Sosanta¹, Novea Elysa Wardhani², Kiki Kristanto³

¹Master of Law Study Program, Faculty of Law, Universitas Palangka Raya, Indonesia.

E-mail: one.less90@gmail.com

^{2,3}Civil Law Lecturer, Faculty of Law, Universitas Palangka Raya, Indonesia

ARTICLE INFO

Keywords:

Crimes;
Integrated Team;
Land Mafia;
Mitigation of Land-Related;
Palangka Raya City.

Article history:

Received Mar 8, 2025;
Revised Mar 17, 2025;
Accepted Mar 28, 2025;
Online Apr 30, 2025.

ABSTRACT

The mitigation of land-related crimes in Palangka Raya has become a serious challenge due to the increasing prevalence of land mafia practices, which harm the public and hinder legal certainty. To address this issue, the government established the Integrated Team for the Prevention and Eradication of Land Mafia, consisting of various agencies, including the police, the prosecutor's office, the National Land Agency (BPN), and local government authorities. This team plays a crucial role in preventing, uncovering, and taking action against various land mafia schemes, such as document forgery, land encroachment, and illegal land transactions. This study aims to analyze the effectiveness of the integrated team's efforts in handling land-related crimes and to identify the challenges faced in policy implementation. Using an empirical approach, the study finds that although the integrated team has successfully uncovered several land-related cases, various challenges remain, including limited inter-agency coordination, weak law enforcement, and a lack of public awareness regarding their legal rights to land. Data was collected through interviews, direct observation, and documentation studies. Therefore, a more comprehensive strategy is needed, including regulatory strengthening, capacity-building for law enforcement officers, and public education, to create a transparent and equitable land governance system in Palangka Raya.

This is an open access article under the [CC BY-NC](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/) license.



Corresponding Author:

Theo Onesiforus Sosanta,
Master of Law Study Program,
Faculty of Law,
Universitas Palangka Raya,
Jalan Hendrik Timang, Palangkaraya 73112, Indonesia.
Email: one.less90@gmail.com

1. Introduction

Indonesia is a developing country that has a fairly high population, this is accompanied by the rapid growth of society with increasingly complex activities in the social, legal, political, cultural and economic fields. Among these aspects, the most visible development is the social aspect which is characterized by the greater and various activities carried out by the community to meet the needs of everyday life. Along with the development of these social aspects,

economic development is also growing. One of the characteristics is the higher need for land or land for the community to support their life needs in the form of land or land that can be used to build a residence or various other activities that can generate economic value from the existence of the land (Nuzul Indrawan et al., 2021).

Land plays a vital role in human life, from supporting basic needs to being a source of livelihood that relies on the soil (Asmadi, 2022). The growing economic demand for land, which exceeds its limited supply, is a key driver of disputes, conflicts, and legal battles over land in Indonesia. Land is perceived as a divine gift to humanity and a fundamental necessity from the moment of birth until death. Humans require land not just for shelter, but also for sustenance (Jaya et al., 2024). Cosmologically, land has a complex function, it serves as a space for human habitation and work while also acting as an element that connects human origins and ultimate destiny (Fuad et al., 2023). In a broader context, land encompasses economic, social, cultural, political, and ecological dimensions, making it a fundamental element in society (Albertus & Klaus, 2025). The existence of land also carries high economic value, making it a highly valuable asset (Nadasdy, 2024). Therefore, it is not surprising that land often becomes a source of complex social issues (Wirawan et al., 2023). Various land disputes or conflicts continue to arise in society in different forms, such as land encroachment, overlapping land certificates, and other practices that trigger disputes between individuals (Khan et al., 2023; Nnoko-Mewanu et al., 2021). Moreover, a phenomenon known as the "land mafia" has recently emerged, further complicating land-related issues in Indonesia (Yuris & Sudiro, 2023).

The land mafia remains a serious problem in Indonesia, harming communities and the government by exploiting legal and administrative loopholes. One of the main modes used is the falsification of land ownership documents, often dragging legitimate owners into legal disputes (Milos, 2022). Data from ATR/BPN shows that in 2018 there were 2,546 cases of land disputes handled. The land mafia network involves various parties, including investors, land speculators, certificate brokers, thugs, local government officials, police officers, and corrupt individuals in the National Land Agency (BPN). They employ various methods, such as purchasing land at cheap prices under the guise of state land (Amrullah & Bakir, 2024; Arthur et al., 2024), forging certificates, issuing duplicate certificates (Nasir, 2024), and resorting to violence and legal manipulation to unlawfully seize land.

The issue of land mafia continues to be a serious problem in Indonesia, including in Palangka Raya, which requires special attention from various parties. Palangka Raya has relatively stable land conditions with a low number of disputes, less than 70 cases by 2024 or around 0.0x% of the total 142,669 certified land parcels. The success of land management in Palangka Raya can be seen from the achievement of land certification, with redistribution reaching 80.2% of the target of 1,500 plots and the realization of PTSL reaching 100%. The PBT PTSL Kota Lengkak program has also reached 98.83% by early November 2024. Meanwhile, data from the Indonesian Attorney General's Office shows that out of 669 reports from the public regarding suspected land mafia cases between 2022 and 2023, only 361 reports have been followed up, while 308 reports are still awaiting supporting data. Of the reports that have been followed up, some cases have been resolved through mediation, referred to the police, or forwarded to general and special criminal law departments. There are still 190 unresolved cases due to ongoing data collection. This shows the difficulties in resolving land disputes, especially with enforcement and cooperation.

The prevalence of land mafia indicates weaknesses in land administration and law enforcement systems in Indonesia (Dewi & Susantio, 2024). Lack of transparency and weak supervision in land certificate issuance create opportunities for these illegal practices (Littewina et al., 2024). Therefore, the government, through ATR/BPN, has established a Task Force against Land Mafia to ensure legal certainty, expedite land certification (Rachmah et al., 2024), and eradicate land mafia through collaboration with the police. These efforts are expected to reduce land disputes and protect community property rights to land.

As a follow-up to the cooperation and coordination, on March 17, 2017 a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Agrarian Affairs and Spatial Planning/National Land Agency and the National Police of the Republic of Indonesia was signed Number: 3/SKB/III/2017 and Number: B/26/III/2017 on Cooperation in the Field of Agrarian Affairs/Land and Spatial Planning, while the work procedures and implementation are outlined in the Work Guidelines between the Ministry of Agrarian Affairs and Spatial Planning/National Land Agency and the National Police of the Republic of Indonesia dated June 12, 2017 Number 26/SKB-900/VI/2017 on Cooperation in the Field of Agrarian Affairs/Land. In order to follow up on the Memorandum of Understanding and Work Guidelines, especially on the Prevention and Eradication of the Land Mafia, the Director General of Agrarian, Spatial and Land Utilization Issues has issued Technical Guidelines Number: 01/JUKNIS/DJ-VII/2018 on the Prevention and Eradication of the Land Mafia. In its handling, a Land Mafia Prevention and Eradication Team was formed whose membership consists of the Ministry of Agrarian Affairs and Spatial Planning/National Land Agency and the Indonesian National Police both at the central and regional levels.

The Central Kalimantan Regional Police and the Head of the Regional Office of the National Land Agency of Central Kalimantan Province have also followed up on the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Agrarian Affairs and Spatial Planning/National Land Agency and the National Police of the Republic of Indonesia Number 3/SKB/III/2017 and Number B/26/III/2017 on Cooperation in the Field of Agrarian Affairs/Land and Spatial Planning and Technical Guidelines Number 01/JUKNIS/DJ-VII/2018 on Prevention and Eradication of Land Mafia, by signing a Joint Decree between the Head of the Regional Office of the National Land Agency of Central Kalimantan Province and the Head of the Central Kalimantan Regional Police with Number 99/SBK-32/IX/2018 and Number KB/1/IX/2018 dated September 18, 2018, concerning the Integrated Team for the Prevention and Eradication of the Land Mafia. Similarly, in 2022, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ministry of Agrarian Affairs and Spatial Planning/National Land Agency and the National Police of the Republic of Indonesia Number: 17/SKB-HK.03.01/VIII/2022 and Number: NK/24/VIII/2022 concerning Synergy of Duties and Functions in the Field of Agrarian Affairs/Land and Spatial Planning. The follow-up is the Decree of the Head of the Regional Office of the National Land Agency of Central Kalimantan Province Number: 35/Sk-62.Mp/I/2024 concerning the Implementation Team for the Prevention and Settlement of Land Crime in 2024.

Sub-Direktorat II (Hardabangtah) of Ditreskrim in the Central Kalimantan Regional Police plays a role in the Integrated Team for the Prevention and Eradication of Land Mafia with the Regional Office of Agrarian Affairs and National Land Agency. This effort includes both penal (law enforcement) and non-penal (prevention through socialization) approaches to protect the community and enhance public welfare (Akbar, 2023). The main objective of criminal policy is to safeguard society and enhance public well-being. Criminal policy is interconnected with law enforcement policy, social policy, and legislative policy. Ultimately, criminal politics plays a vital role in shaping social policies aimed at achieving social welfare. Given the information provided above, this study aims to analyze the effectiveness of handling land crimes by an integrated team and identify obstacles faced in the implementation of policies to prevent and eradicate land mafia in Palangka Raya City.

2. Method

This research uses an empirical juridical or normative empirical approach, which examines law as behavior that occurs in society by analyzing empirical data from observations, interviews, and document studies related to land issues in Palangka Raya City. This research is descriptive-analytical using primary and secondary data. Primary data is acquired firsthand from interviews with resource persons competent in the land sector, including officials of the National Land Agency (BPN), local government, and communities involved in land disputes.

Likewise, secondary data was obtained via literature study that included laws and regulations such as Law No. 5/1960 on Basic Agrarian Principles and Law No. 51/Prp/1960 on the Prohibition of the Use of Land without the Permission of the Rightful Owner or his Proxy, as well as the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Agrarian Affairs and Spatial Planning/National Land Agency and the National Police of the Republic of Indonesia on Cooperation in the Field of Agrarian Affairs/Land and Spatial Planning.

Data was collected through interviews with BPN officials, law enforcement officials, and people experiencing land disputes; direct observation in land conflict-prone areas such as Pahandut, Sabangau, Jekan Raya, Bukit Batu, and Rakumpit sub-districts; and documentation studies that included data on land dispute resolution reports from BPN, police, and legal decisions related to land cases in Palangka Raya City. Data analysis was conducted qualitatively with a descriptive-analytical approach through data reduction to sort out relevant information, data presentation in the form of narratives and tables, and conclusion drawing to identify root causes and formulate solutions in land conflict resolution. Data validity is maintained by applying source triangulation techniques by comparing information from various sources, method triangulation by combining interviews, observations, and documentation studies, and theory triangulation by using various theories of agrarian law and policy in analyzing land issues. With this method, the research can provide a more accurate picture of the complexity of land issues in Palangka Raya City and the solutions that can be applied to overcome them.

3. Analysis and Results

3.1. Overview of Land Issues in Palangka Raya City

The issue of land has become increasingly complex due to the growing needs of the population and limited availability of land, leading to unequal distribution and ownership disputes. Addressing this requires government intervention through legal mechanisms to ensure fair and orderly land management. In Palangka Raya, land conflicts are still common due to overlapping ownership and land certificate issues caused by suboptimal land administration. Districts like Pahandut, Sabangau, Jekan Raya, Bukit Batu, and Rakumpit are prone to disputes, especially along main roads. Resolving these issues necessitates a comprehensive solution, including improvements to the land administration system and stricter supervision in issuing land ownership documents.

1. Problems of overlapping land ownership and use

The issue of land ownership disputes in the Palangka Raya continues to be a major problem, with 32 cases in 2023 and 23 cases in 2024. These conflicts have social, political, and economic impacts, including on investments. The local government, through the National Land Agency (BPN), is making efforts to resolve disputes through mediation and legal channels. Constraints on land availability and differences in forest and non-forest territory boundaries between the BPN and the Ministry of Forestry complicate matters, resulting in invalid land certifications. To address this, the BPN has implemented the IP4T program to transparently map land ownership. Furthermore, mismatches in land use with urban spatial planning exacerbate conflicts and legal uncertainties.

2. Land Certificate Issues

Problems related to the Land Certificate (SKT) are related to the update and quality of land data management at the village (*kelurahan*) level. Yuli Eky Pratiwi note that low knowledge and awareness in conducting land data collection and management are often the main complaints. In addition, village heads under the Ministry of Home Affairs (Mendagri) tend to be more compliant with Mendagri's policies than the National Land Agency (BPN). This mindset has the potential to lead to misuse of the duties and functions of the village head, which in turn can lead to overlapping land ownership and control. Chandra Ismawanto added that the potential for abuse can be seen from the phenomenon of the easy issuance of SKT and Certificate of

Indemnity (SKGR) by village heads, lurah, and camat. This often triggers conflicts in the community, and in some cases land disputes have to be resolved through the courts.

3.2. Efforts to Overcome Land Crime

Crime prevention is a rational effort by authorities and the community to address criminal acts for the sake of social welfare. This strategy is a part of the criminal justice system aimed at promoting order and reducing crime rates. According to Hoefnagels, there are three main approaches to crime prevention, namely criminal law enforcement, punishment-free prevention, and shaping public perception through mass media. Generally speaking, crime prevention is divided into penal and non-penal approaches. The penal approach is repressive in nature, focusing on enforcement after a crime has been committed, while the non-penal approach emphasizes preventive measures to thwart crime before it occurs. The combination of both is necessary to establish an effective crime prevention system. The legal measures implemented by the Integrated Team for the Prevention and Eradication of Land Mafia in Palangka Raya City in addressing land crimes include both penal (repressive) and non-penal (preventive) approaches:

1. Crime prevention efforts using criminal law (Penal-Repressive)

The repressive-penal approach in addressing land crime focuses on the application of criminal law as an enforcement instrument. Chandra Ismawanto states that criminal law serves as an *ultimum remedium*, meaning it is used as a last resort if other legal instruments fail to resolve the issue. Criminal sanctions have a deterrent effect on perpetrators and society to prevent them from repeating or engaging in similar crimes. Additionally, this approach also plays a role in preventing other criminal acts that may arise due to land disputes, such as violent actions that can result in loss of life. In practice, the Integrated Team for Prevention and Eradication of Land Mafia applies criminal law to handle cases that are not resolved through other legal mechanisms.

Law enforcement in cases of land disputes is based on the Indonesian Penal Code (KUHP) and various related laws. Several articles in the Penal Code that are commonly utilized include Article 167 regarding land encroachment, Article 242 concerning false oaths, as well as Articles 263, 264, 266, and 274 which regulate document forgery. Furthermore, Article 385 of the Penal Code governs the crime of *stellionaat*, which involves embezzlement of rights over land or buildings. Additional regulations supporting law enforcement efforts include Article 52 of Law No. 5 of 1960 concerning Basic Agrarian Regulations and Article 6 of Law No. 51/Prp/1960 regarding the prohibition of land use without permission.

Land crime cases occurring in Palangka Raya City show a significant trend, with the dominance of cases reported by the public related to land grabbing, forgery of land documents such as Land Certificate (SKT) and Certificate of Ownership (SHM), as well as fraud through land sales with fake documents. This phenomenon reflects the urgency of strict application of criminal law to provide legal certainty and prevent the recurrence of similar crimes in the future.

Table 1. Complaint report data t.a. 2023 subdit ii/hardabangtah

No.	Type of Crime	Total
1	Embezzlement of Rights Over Immovable Property (Land)	15
2	Unlawful Entry into a Yard or Land	-
3	Data Forgery	6
4	Destruction and Land Grabbing	15
5	Fraud	17
	Total	39

Source: Sub-Directorate II/Hardabangtah, Directorate of General Criminal Investigation, Central Kalimantan Regional Police

Based on data from Subdirectorate II/Harda Bangtah of the General Criminal Investigation Directorate of the Central Kalimantan Regional Police, reports of land crime complaints in 2023, the most common type of crime reported was fraud with 17 cases, followed by embezzlement of rights to immovable property and destruction and land grabbing, each totaling 15 cases.

Meanwhile, data falsification was reported in 6 cases, while the crime of entering the yard without permission was not found in the complaint report that year.

According to Chandra Ismawanto, the crime of unauthorized entry is generally committed with the aim of illegally controlling a piece of land. The modus operandi is often accompanied by acts of destruction and intimidation against the rightful landowner. This practice is often carried out by certain groups who ultimately aim to gain financial benefits by demanding a sum of money from the landowner. Furthermore, reports of land crime complaints recorded up to September 2024 are summarized in Table 2 below:

Tabel 2. Complaint report data t.a. (january-september) 2024 subdit ii/hardabangtah

No.	Type of Crime	Total
1	Embezzlement of Rights Over Immovable Property (Land)	4
2	Unlawful Entry into a Yard or Land	-
3	Data Forgery	1
4	Destruction and Land Grabbing	4
5	Fraud	3
Total		12

Source: Sub-Directorate II/Hardabangtah, Directorate of General Criminal Investigation, Central Kalimantan Regional Police

In 2024, the number of land crime cases reported decreased significantly compared to the previous year. The most reported types of criminal offenses were embezzlement of rights to immovable property and destruction and land grabbing with 4 cases each. Meanwhile, fraud was recorded in 3 cases, while data falsification was reported in 1 case. There were no reports of unauthorized entry. Land crime problems do not only occur in Palangka Raya City, but also in various regions in Indonesia with various forms and complexities. Various settlement mechanisms have been attempted, both through traditional deliberation and mediation and through land mediation managed by the National Land Agency (BPN). In addition, settlements can also be made through a juridical approach using instruments of civil law, state administrative law, and criminal law.

The practice of land mafia in Palangkaraya City has caused unrest among the community. The perpetrators use fake documents to claim land and destroy the area. This practice has been ongoing for decades without a clear solution. In early 2023, several land disputes emerged, involving hundreds of hectares of land. For example, on Victoria Street, 40 residents sued an indigenous group claiming their land. Additionally, the Palangkaraya City Government was sued by one of its residents demanding Rp 16 billion. The Central Kalimantan Regional Police also named a suspect for falsifying documents claiming 810 hectares of land. In March 2023, the government successfully uncovered a case of land deed forgery by a suspect with the initials MG. MG claimed 230 hectares of land in White Shark Street, some of which had been sold to others. As a result, 1,544 individual land ownership certificates and 19 government land use certificates in Central Kalimantan Province were affected. This case has reached the P21 status and is ready for trial. In November 2024, 60% of land mafia cases involved internal personnel. These cases highlight the severity of the land mafia issue in Palangkaraya and the importance of collaborative efforts between the government, law enforcement agencies, and the community to address it.

The number of complaints about land mafia cases in Central Kalimantan in 2023 reached 39 cases, while by September 2024, there were 12 cases reported. The Integrated Team successfully resolved 82.1% of cases in 2023 and 83.3% in 2024, demonstrating the effectiveness of the strategies implemented. Despite the high rate of case resolution, there is still a need for improvement in coordination, human resources, and technology in investigations. Additionally, a survey showed that 85% of respondents were satisfied with the speed and transparency of case handling, although there are still complaints about the openness of information. Overall, the strategies implemented have shown very positive results, but further efforts are needed to increase public trust and expedite the resolution of pending cases.

In the context of criminal law, a repressive approach through criminal sanctions can serve as a preventive instrument against violators and suppress the potential for future land crimes. The effectiveness of criminal sanctions has been proven in various cases, for example in the context of money politics practices in Indonesia, where the application of sanctions helps prevent corruption and increase public confidence in elections (Iskandar & Al Hadad, 2024). Yet, such effectiveness does not always apply in all cases, such as in petty theft offenses where socio-economic factors need to be taken into account to avoid an overly rigid legal approach (Mandasari et al., 2024).

In cases of land crimes, social and cultural aspects play a crucial role in the enforcement of criminal law (Jaeng et al., 2019). Weak supervision and cultural factors can hinder the effectiveness of sanctions, such as in money laundering cases (Basri et al., 2024). Similarly, legal policies on human trafficking must be aligned with social conditions so that sanctions are not only repressive but also restorative (Sinaga, 2023). Hence, addressing land crimes requires a balanced combination of penal and non-penal approaches. Repressive measures must be implemented firmly, but also supported by preventive strategies such as legal education, strengthening land administration, and the role of mediation in dispute resolution. Overly punitive policies run the risk of increasing social tensions, hence there is a need for a balance between law enforcement and solutions aimed at addressing the root causes of the issue.

2. Crime Prevention Efforts Using Non-Penal (Preventive) Approaches

The non-penal approach to crime prevention focuses on addressing the root causes of criminality, such as social issues that increase the risk of criminal behavior. Within the global criminal justice system, this strategy plays a crucial role in preventing crime before it occurs. This method places a greater emphasis on prevention rather than punishment, as preventing crime is considered more effective than rehabilitating offenders. Therefore, the primary focus is on reducing the likelihood of repeat offenses through more proactive prevention efforts. The non-penal efforts to overcome land crimes by the Integrated Team for the Prevention and Eradication of Land Mafia in Palangka Raya City include:

- a. Socialization, in order to prevent and overcome the occurrence of land crimes, the government has actually issued laws and regulations related to land and which regulate the existence of the Integrated Team for the Prevention and Eradication of the Land Mafia, namely: a) Law Number 5 of 1960 concerning Basic Agrarian Principles (State Gazette of the Republic of Indonesia of 1960 Number 104, Supplement to the State Gazette Number 2043); b) Law Number 51/Prp/1960 concerning the Prohibition of Land Use Without Permission from the Entitled Party or Authority (State Gazette of the Republic of Indonesia of 1960 Number 158, Supplement to the State Gazette of the Republic of Indonesia Number 2106); c) Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Agrarian Affairs and Spatial Planning/National Land Agency and the Indonesian National Police Number 3/SKB/III/2017 and Number B/26/III/2017 concerning Cooperation in the Agrarian/Land and Spatial Planning Sector; d) Work Guidelines between the Ministry of Agrarian Affairs and Spatial Planning/National Land Agency and the Indonesian National Police dated June 12, 2017, Number 26/SKB-900/VI/2017 concerning Cooperation in the Agrarian/Land Sector; e) Joint Decree between the Head of the Regional Office of the National Land Agency of Central Kalimantan Province and the Chief of the Central Kalimantan Regional Police Number 99/SBK-32/IX/2018 and Number KB/1/IX/2018 dated September 18, 2018, concerning the Integrated Team for Prevention and Eradication of Land Mafia; f) Technical Guidelines Number 01/JUKNIS/DJ-VII/2018 concerning the Prevention and Eradication of Land Mafia; g) Memorandum of Understanding between ATR/BPN and the Attorney General's Office of the Republic of Indonesia No. 1/Skb-HK.03.01/I/2020 and Number 1 of 2020 concerning Coordination and Cooperation in the Implementation of Tasks for Guidance, Prevention, and Resolution of Land Crimes; h) Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Agrarian Affairs and Spatial Planning/National

Land Agency and the Indonesian National Police Number: 17/SKB-HK.03.01/VIII/2022 and Number: NK/24/VIII/2022 concerning Synergy of Duties and Functions in the Agrarian/Land and Spatial Planning Sector.

According to Yuli Eky Pratiwi, the Coordinator for Dispute Resolution and Land Conflict at the Regional Office of Agrarian Affairs and Spatial Planning/National Land Agency of Central Kalimantan Province, there are still many members of the community who do not have a clear understanding of the provisions set forth in land-related laws and regulations. This lack of understanding has the potential to exacerbate land issues that are escalating over time. One strategic step in increasing public awareness is through socialization efforts aimed at disseminating information on land issues. It is hoped that these efforts will encourage public awareness to refrain from involvement in land crimes or becoming part of land mafia practices, particularly in the city of Palangka Raya. The socialization efforts undertaken by the Integrated Team for Prevention and Eradication of Land Mafia in Central Kalimantan Province include distributing information through pamphlets and brochures containing appeals related to land issues. These pamphlets and brochures are distributed in various strategic locations such as the offices of the National Land Agency (BPN) of the Province/City, sub-district offices, village offices, village halls, and other places with wide reach.

- b. Guidance on Prevention and Eradication of Land Mafia, land issues in Indonesia, especially in Palangka Raya, are mainly caused by the land mafia, who take advantage of the lack of land and the negligence of authorities by forging documents like deeds and certificates. These crimes often involve disputes over ownership or misuse of land rights. The Ministry of ATR/BPN, along with the Central Kalimantan Integrated Team, is working to combat the land mafia through prevention and enforcement measures like raising awareness, coordinating with stakeholders, and enforcing the law. The process for handling cases is outlined in Guidelines No. 01/Juknis/DJ-VII/2018, which includes investigating public complaints, conducting field inspections, and holding hearings to verify land documents.

If strong evidence of land mafia involvement is found, the case will be immediately referred to the police for further legal process. In addition, all steps taken by the task force are reported to the Minister of ATR/BPN and relevant parties at the regional and central levels to formulate more effective prevention strategies. The approach employed not only focuses on law enforcement, but also on improving public awareness of land regulations. With this strategy, it is hoped that the public can better understand their rights and not easily fall into land mafia practices. In order to increase public understanding of land law, the team conducted various socialization initiatives. One of them is the dissemination of information through print media, such as pamphlets and brochures, as well as organizing educational activities in strategic locations to strengthen public awareness. In addition, socialization sessions involving legal experts were held to discuss aspects of land legality and dispute resolution mechanisms, so that the community has a better capacity to deal with land issues (Prianda et al., 2024). In an effort to strengthen synergies between the government, public and private sectors, the team organized training sessions that focused on common patterns of land mafia, such as document forgery and ownership disputes (Zamil et al., 2024). In addition, community involvement in this program is directed at forming a network of stakeholders who have a deep understanding of land issues, so that they can play an active role in preventing illegal practices.

The handling of land mafia cases begins with the collection of reports from the public and official sources, followed by case analysis and data inventory. If evidence of involvement of land mafia is found, the case will be forwarded to law enforcement authorities to ensure transparency and accountability. However, non-criminal prevention strategies are considered less effective without stricter legal reforms, as legal loopholes can still be exploited by land mafia networks. Therefore, more stringent regulations, strong law enforcement, and coordination between the National Land Agency, local governments, and law enforcement agencies are needed to prevent overlapping of authority in resolving land disputes.

The impact of land mafia encompasses legal, social, economic, and governance aspects. From a legal perspective, document forgery and land confiscation must be strictly enforced to serve as a deterrent. Socially, a lack of understanding among the public regarding land laws can trigger prolonged conflicts. Economically, unclear land ownership status can hinder investment and regional development. Therefore, transparency in land administration needs to be strengthened through data digitalization to prevent abuse of power and expedite dispute resolution. With a more holistic approach, the issue of land mafia can be addressed more effectively.

4. Conclusion

Land issues in Palangka Raya City are very complex, with the main cases being overlapping land ownership and use, falsification of land documents, and land mafia practices. The main factors are suboptimal land administration, weak law enforcement, and low public awareness of land regulations. In its settlement efforts, the government has implemented penal (repressive) and non-penal (preventive) approaches. Penal efforts include law enforcement through punishment of violators, while non-penal efforts are carried out through socialization, guidance, and programs to prevent and eradicate the land mafia. The Integrated Team for the Prevention and Eradication of Land Mafia in Palangka Raya City has attempted to increase public awareness and strengthen synergy with various parties in addressing land issues. However, the effectiveness of this strategy is still limited without stricter legal reforms and a more transparent land administration system. Therefore, firmer policies are needed, including harmonization of regulations and increased supervision of officials involved in land administration. The success of the Integrated Team in handling complaints has reached over 80%, reflecting the effectiveness of the strategies applied. The high satisfaction of the community indicates a positive impact on resolving land crimes. However, transparency and communication still need to be improved. Addressing agrarian conflicts in Palangka Raya requires strengthening land administration through the digitization of ownership data and strict monitoring of village officials in issuing land documents. A preventive approach through land law socialization is also crucial for the community to understand rights and legal procedures. This research highlights the synergy among BPN, local government, and law enforcement in reducing land disputes. The novelty lies in mapping conflict-prone areas and analyzing regulations and institutions to combat land mafias, which can serve as a reference for formulating more effective land policies. Further research is required to study the socio-economic effects of land crimes, such as how land mafia activities impact community health and the economy.

References

- Akbar, M. F. (2023). The urgency of law reforms on economic crimes in Indonesia. *Cogent Social Sciences*, 9(1), 2175487. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23311886.2023.2175487>
- Albertus, M., & Klaus, K. (2025). Land and Politics. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 28, 13–28. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-polisci-040623-112955>
- Amrullah, A., & Bakir, H. (2024). Eradication of Land Mafia in Indonesia by the Ministry of Agrarian Affairs and Spatial Planning of the Republic of Indonesia or the National Land Agency. *Edunity Kajian Ilmu Sosial Dan Pendidikan*, 3(11), 1129–1147. <https://doi.org/10.57096/edunity.v3i11.329>
- Arthur, A., Sukamto, H., & Napitupulu, D. R. W. (2024). Implikasi Hukum Transaksi Jual Beli Tanah tanpa PPAT dalam Konteks Hukum Agraria Indonesia. *Jurnal Syntax Admiration*, 5(12), 5779–5786. <https://doi.org/10.46799/jsa.v5i12.1639>
- Asmadi, E. (2022). Reasons Justifying Criminal Abolition in the Indonesian Legal System. *International Journal Reglement & Society (IJRS)*, 3(2), 82–88. <https://doi.org/10.55357/ijrs.v3i2.220>
- Basri, H., Salmon, H. C. J., & Saimima, J. M. (2024). Has the application of sanctions against financial institutions involved in money laundering had a deterrent effect? *IPSO JURE Journal*, 1(8), 32–43. <https://doi.org/10.62872/gp2wnr72>
- Dewi, R. A. R. M., & Susantio, C. (2024). Penggunaan Sertifikat Elektronik Untuk Meningkatkan Efisiensi Pendaftaran Tanah Dalam Upaya Pencegahan Mafia Tanah. *Jurnal Syntax Admiration*, 5(9), 3382–3392. <https://doi.org/10.46799/jsa.v5i9.1441>
- Fuad, F., Tardjono, H., Machmud, A., Rohayah, N., & Maghucu, P. (2023). Ownership of Land: Legal

- Philosophy and Culture Analysis of Land Property Rights. *Jurnal Media Hukum*, 30(2), 98–116. <https://doi.org/10.18196/jmh.v30i2.18264>
- Iskandar, I., & Al Hadad, A. (2024). The Application of Criminal Sanctions Against Perpetrators of Political Dowry Practices in Regional Head Nominations. *Jurnal Politik Pemerintahan Dharma Praja*, 17(2), 59–80. <https://doi.org/10.33701/jppdp.v17i2.4679>
- Jaeng, W. M. Y., Suardikha, I. M. S., & Budiasih, I. G. A. N. (2019). Effect of use of regional financial management information systems on individual performance in BPKAD Sikka Regency. *International Research Journal of Management, IT and Social Science*. <https://doi.org/10.21744/irjmis.v6n6.790>
- Jaya, I. K. G. D. U., Sarjita, S., & Alfons, A. (2024). The Approach of Agrarian Conflict Resolution through Land Redistribution in Sumberklampok Village. *Marcapada: Jurnal Kebijakan Pertanahan*, 4(1), 37–55. <https://doi.org/10.31292/mj.v4i1.66>
- Khan, R. U. A., Shahid, A., & Idrees, R. Q. (2023). Combating Land Grabbing in Pakistan: Legal Challenges and Reforms. *Qlantic Journal of Social Sciences*, 4(3), 254–267. <https://doi.org/10.55737/qjss.503641381>
- Littewina, M., Alamsyah, A., Nurhazizah, E., & Ruwani, T. (2024). Land Certificate Authenticity Using Blockchain Technology in Indonesia. *2024 12th International Conference on Information and Communication Technology (ICoICT)*, 236–243. <https://doi.org/10.1109/ICoICT61617.2024.10698283>
- Mandasari, S., Harun, R. R., Jiwantara, F. A., & Septyanun, N. (2024). Imposition Of Criminal Sanctions for Minor Criminal Actions of Theft (A Case On Judgement Number 826/Pid. B/2023/Pn. Mtr). *Pena Justisia: Media Komunikasi Dan Kajian Hukum*, 23(3), 2236–2244. <https://doi.org/10.31941/pj.v23i3.4825>
- Milos, A. T. (2022). Legitimation of Land Wars as a Form of Organised Crime: A Review of Extant Literature. *Land Tenure Challenges in Africa: Confronting the Land Governance Deficit*, 307–323. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-82852-3_15
- Nadasdy, P. (2024). What is Land? Ontology, Practice, and Indeterminacy. In *The Social Lives of Land*. Cornell University Press. <https://doi.org/10.7591/cornell/9781501771231.003.0005>
- Nasir, M. (2024). The Role of the National Land Agency of Banten Province in Erradiating Land Mafiah (Case Study of Banten Provincial BPN Regional Office). *Journal of Law, Politic and Humanities*, 5(2), 937–945. <https://doi.org/10.38035/jlph.v5i2.1109>
- Nnoko-Mewanu, J., Téllez-Chávez, L., & Rall, K. (2021). Protect rights and advance gender equality to mitigate climate change. *Nature Climate Change*, 11(5), 368–370. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41558-021-01043-4>
- Nuzul Indrawan, L., Arba, & Munandar, A. (2021). Juridicial Review Implementation of Land Registration According To Government Regulation No. 18 of 2021 Concerning Management Rights, Land Rights, Flat Units and Land Registration. *Policy, Law, Notary and Regulatory Issues (Polri)*, 1(1), 39–56. <https://doi.org/10.55047/polri.v1i1.27>
- Prianda, A., Pamungkas, G. P., Hidayah, F., Sholikhawati, A., Putri, I. A., Karimah, S. A., Al Faina, F., Baiti, D. M. L. N., & Alifia, T. D. (2024). Sosialisasi Hukum Agraria (Pertanahan) Kepada Masyarakat Dusun Giyasan dan Kawungon Desa Bumirejo Kecamatan Mungkid. *Cakrawala: Jurnal Pengabdian Masyarakat Global*, 3(3), 36–44. <https://doi.org/10.30640/cakrawala.v3i3.3046>
- Rachmah, A., Djaja, B., & Sudirman, M. (2024). Implementation of Electronic Land Certificates As Legal Land Ownership. *Policy, Law, Notary And Regulatory*, 3(1), 1–8. <https://doi.org/10.55047/polri.v3i1.900>
- Sinaga, H. (2023). Implementation of Criminal Sanctions Policy in Efforts to Prevent and Handle the Crime of Human Trafficking (TPPO) Based on the Theory of Justice. *Jurnal Syntax Transformation*, 4(11), 50–58. <https://doi.org/10.46799/jst.v4i11.847>
- Wirawan, V., Silviana, A., & Widowaty, Y. (2023). Political Reform of Land Mafia Prevention Law in Indonesia. *Russian Law Journal*, 11(55), 482–487. <https://doi.org/10.52783/rj.v11i5s.967>
- Yuris, R. F., & Sudiro, A. (2023). Responsibility Of The Head Of The National Land Agency For The Issuance Of Land Ownership Certificates With Administrative Legal Defects. *Policy Law Notary And Regulatory Issues (POLRI)*, 2(4), 437–445. <https://doi.org/10.55047/polri.v2i4.911>
- Zamil, Y. S., Eprilia, F. F., Firdaus, H., Maharso, T., & Rizal, N. (2024). Pemberantasan Mafia Tanah di Indonesia: Dalam Mewujudkan Keadilan dan Kepastian Hukum Bagi Pemilik Tanah. *JURNAL USM LAW REVIEW*, 7(3), 1305–1322. <https://doi.org/10.26623/julr.v7i3.10239>