



Behind the Mountain of Waste: Legal Dilemmas in Galuga Landfill Management

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Abstract

The management of the Galuga Landfill (TPA Galuga) presents significant legal and environmental challenges, highlighting a conflict between the need for waste management and the obligation to protect public health and the environment. Although regulations are established under Law No. 18 of 2008 concerning Waste Management, implementation at the Galuga Landfill remains inadequate, resulting in air, soil, and water pollution that affects the surrounding community's well-being. This research analyzes law enforcement and regulatory implementation weaknesses, focusing on the lack of effective waste treatment, limited infrastructure, and minimal resources that restrict sustainable waste management. Furthermore, the research examines the social and health impacts of the Galuga Landfill on nearby residents and evaluates potential policy reforms and legal measures, including stricter enforcement and community involvement. The study finds that enhanced coordination among government sectors, improved regulatory enforcement, and public-private partnerships are essential to reducing environmental impacts and promoting sustainable waste management practices.

Keywords: *Galuga Landfill; Waste Management; Environmental Law; Public Health Impact; Regulatory Enforcement; Sustainable Waste Management*

Introduction

Indonesia faces a major challenge in waste management due to urbanization and the increasing population growth rate. One location significantly affected by this issue is the Galuga Landfill in Bogor Regency, West Java. Galuga Landfill receives thousands of tons of waste daily from various areas, including Bogor City and Regency. As the volume of incoming waste grows, the complexity of managing this landfill also increases, creating technical, social, and environmental issues that demand serious attention (Purnama, 2021).

The main issue facing the Galuga Landfill is weak environmental law enforcement, resulting in poor waste management and pollution affecting the surrounding community. Despite regulations like Law No. 18 of 2008 concerning Waste Management, implementation remains far from optimal (Siregar, 2019). This is due to various factors, including overlapping authority between central and local governments, as well as limited resources available to local authorities to enforce these regulations.

This study aims to analyze the legal dilemmas in managing the Galuga Landfill and examine how existing public policies and regulations contribute to the current conditions. Using a case study approach, this research is expected to provide a deeper insight into the legal challenges faced and propose implementable solutions to improve the situation (Lestari, 2021).

Literature Review

Environmental law in Indonesia has a strong legal foundation through various regulations, such as Law No. 32 of 2009 concerning Environmental Protection and Management. This law mandates the government to prevent environmental pollution that could endanger public health (Mulyani, 2020). However, in practice, the implementation of this regulation often encounters obstacles. There is an overlap in authority between central and local governments in managing landfills, including the Galuga Landfill, leading to weak and inconsistent law enforcement (Wibowo, 2019).

Furthermore, several theories also explain the legal dilemmas in environmental management. According to the Environmental Law Enforcement Theory, effective law implementation requires synergy between the government, the community, and the private sector. In reality, however, this synergy often fails to materialize, particularly at the local level, where law enforcement is frequently hindered by political interests and budget limitations (Siregar, 2019). This literature review provides an overview of the legal obstacles faced in environmental management in Indonesia, which will later be connected to the case study of the Galuga Landfill.

Methodology

This study used a qualitative approach with a case study method to examine the legal issues at the Galuga Landfill in depth. Data were collected through in-depth interviews with relevant parties, including local government officials, landfill managers, and nearby residents. Additionally, this research utilizes secondary data, such as policy documents and official reports related to waste management and environmental law in Indonesia. The data analysis technique used is thematic analysis, aiming to identify key patterns in the issues faced by the Galuga Landfill (Santoso, 2019).

Results and Discussion

1. Current Conditions of Galuga Landfill Management

The Galuga Landfill in Bogor Regency serves as a primary waste disposal site for the surrounding areas; however, its conditions are significantly below ideal environmental management standards. Each day, thousands of tons of waste enter this landfill, yet the available infrastructure and facilities are inadequate to handle and process this volume of waste safely and sustainably. Population growth and economic activities in Bogor have led to an increase in waste production, surpassing the landfill's maximum capacity. The lack of capacity has resulted in unmanaged waste piles, causing water, air, and soil pollution in the surrounding areas (Lestari, 2021).

Additionally, the local government often struggles to provide adequate funding and technology for waste management at the Galuga Landfill. Essential facilities, such as leachate management systems, are still limited, resulting in this liquid contaminating groundwater that flows into nearby residential areas. This situation contradicts Article 29, Paragraph (1) of Law No. 32 of 2009 concerning Environmental Protection and Management, which requires that all environmental management activities must not pose health risks to the public (Mulyani, 2020).

2. Weaknesses in Environmental Regulation and Law Enforcement at the Galuga Landfill

Law No. 18 of 2008 concerning Waste Management provides a clear legal framework for waste management in Indonesia. However, its implementation in the field still faces various challenges. One significant issue is the lack of strict oversight by authorities and the lenient sanctions for violations in waste management at the Galuga Landfill. This is due to several factors, including limited human resources and budget allocated for environmental law enforcement (Wibowo, 2019).

The lack of synergy between central and local governments is also an obstacle to implementing environmental regulations at the Galuga Landfill. In some cases, the authority of central and local governments overlaps, leading to ambiguity in decision-making and policy implementation on the ground. This further degrades landfill management quality, as decisions and actions taken are often misdirected or poorly coordinated (Siregar, 2019).

3. Negative Effects of Waste Management on the Environment and Surrounding Communities

The waste management conditions at the Galuga Landfill, which fail to meet environmental standards, have severe impacts on both the environment and surrounding communities. One of the most significant effects is groundwater contamination caused by leachate flowing from the waste piles. This leachate contains hazardous substances, such as heavy metals and organic chemical compounds, which can pollute clean water sources and harm the health of communities relying on groundwater for daily needs (Purnama, 2021).

In addition, air pollution caused by waste decomposition and illegal waste burning around the landfill leads to health issues for the surrounding community, such as respiratory illnesses, skin irritation, and other health problems. The smoke and odor from waste decomposition also diminish the quality of life for nearby residents and result in economic losses due to decreased property values in the area (Arisandi & Wulandari, 2021).

4. Legal Perspective: The Dilemma Between Economic Development and Environmental Sustainability

On one hand, the government is obligated to provide adequate landfills to manage waste from economic and domestic activities. On the other hand, it also has a responsibility to preserve environmental sustainability and public health. This dilemma is particularly evident at the Galuga Landfill, where the demand for a large disposal site often comes at the expense of the surrounding environment. Existing regulations have yet to fully balance economic needs with environmental protection, leading to prolonged issues without effective resolution (Fitriani, 2020).

The Environmental Law Enforcement Theory states that effective environmental regulations must be supported by consistent implementation and strict oversight. In practice, however, efforts to enforce laws in landfill management are often hindered by political interests, legal uncertainties, and funding shortages. Therefore, improving the management of the Galuga Landfill requires a more flexible legal approach that accommodates local conditions and better cross-sectoral coordination (Mulyani, 2020).

5. Policy Analysis: The Need for Revision and Stricter Enforcement of Penalties

The government should consider revising waste management regulations, particularly regarding the enforcement of sanctions on violators. Stronger policies on the application of administrative and criminal sanctions for landfill operators who fail to meet environmental standards are essential. One proposal is the implementation of strict liability, whereby landfill operators are fully responsible for all environmental impacts resulting from poor waste management without the need to prove direct fault (Santoso, 2019).

6. Community Involvement and Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration in Sustainable Solutions

Solutions to the issues at the Galuga Landfill cannot rely solely on government efforts; they require community involvement and private-sector collaboration in a cooperative framework. For instance, developing community-based recycling and waste processing programs can help reduce the volume of waste entering the landfill. Additionally, engaging the private sector through public-private partnership (PPP) mechanisms can help address government budget shortfalls and provide more modern and efficient waste management technology (Lestari, 2021).

Educational and awareness programs for the community on waste management are also essential to raise awareness about the importance of waste reduction and recycling. This way, the community becomes not only passive subjects but also active contributors in addressing the waste problem at the Galuga Landfill (Purnama, 2021).

Conclusion

From the results and discussion above, it can be concluded that the management of the Galuga Landfill faces various legal dilemmas and technical challenges that worsen environmental conditions and the well-being of surrounding communities. Policy reforms and stricter law enforcement are needed to ensure more effective and sustainable landfill management. Collaboration among the government, community, and private sector is also essential to create long-term solutions that can minimize the negative impacts of waste management at the Galuga Landfill.

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