



## Central Kalimantan's National Narcotics Agency: Strategies to Combat the Dangers of Narcotics

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### **Abstract**

The smuggling of narcotics or a type of illegal drugs that enter Indonesian territory illegally has become one of the sources of serious problems and crimes for the Indonesian state. Indonesia as a country with a very large population has great potential to become a target for smugglers to circulate drugs. This poses a serious threat to Indonesia, the impact of the rapid circulation among the community makes the abuse of illegal drugs by people of all age groups. This condition is already very worrying because it can result in a decline in the quality of human resources of the Indonesian people from generation to generation. In order to overcome the many narcotics crimes in Indonesia, especially in the province of Central Kalimantan, a strategy is needed by the National Narcotics Agency (BNN) – the Provincial National Narcotics Agency (BNNP) for the prevention, eradication of narcotics abuse and countermeasures. Therefore, this study aims to find out the strategy of BNN Central Kalimantan Province in dealing with narcotics abuse. This study uses a research method with an empirical juridical law research approach, which is an approach that examines secondary data first followed by primary data for the field with an interview method. The results of this study confirm that the strategy carried out by BNN Central Kalimantan Province to overcome the dangers of narcotics by implementing the P4GN program and massively by conducting counseling to the community, one of which is by instilling resilience in themselves and their families.

**Keywords:** *BNN; Narcotics; Strategy; Abuse*

### **1. Introduction**

Drug-related crime has become a serious threat to countries worldwide. This criminal activity encompasses both organized and transnational crime. From a sociological perspective, crime is any action that harms society, resulting in a loss of balance, peace, and order. The Indonesian government regulates narcotics through existing regulation. Law Number 22 of 1997 concerning Narcotics initially defined drugs as an extension of narcotics, psychotropics, and addictive substance. This regulation was later

replaced by Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics. According to Article 1, paragraph (1) of this law, narcotics are substances that, when consumed, can cause loss of consciousness, affect brain function, and eliminate pain. Additionally, drug users can develop narcotic dependence as a result of their use.

The use of drugs similar to narcotics can basically be used for medical purposes and must comply with applicable provisions as stated in the Regulation of the Minister of Health of the Republic of Indonesia Number 5 of 2023 concerning Narcotics, Psychotropics and Pharmaceutical Precursors. However, considering the reality that the free distribution of and abuse of narcotic-like drugs is a very serious problem and needs to be addressed to prevent the dangers of drugs.

The Government has tackled drugs-related crimes by establishing the National Narcotics Agency (BNN), a non-ministerial government agency directly responsible to the president. The legal basis for BNN includes, Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics, Presidential Regulation (Perpres) Number 47 of 2019 amending the Presidential Regulation Number 23 of 2010 concerning the National Narcotics Agency, and Presidential Instruction Number 2 of 2020 on the National Action Plan for Prevention and Eradication of Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Narcotics and Narcotics Precursors (2020–2024). BNN operates in every province, district, and city throughout Indonesia, its primary task is to prevent the illicit spread of psychotropics, precursors, and addictive substances.

Indonesia demonstrates its commitment to tackling narcotics crime through comprehensive regulations. The National Narcotics Agency (BNN), Provincial National Narcotics Agency (BNNP), and Regency/District Narcotics Agency (BNNK) form an interconnected network of work units at the national, provincial, and district levels. Within this structure, BNN reports directly to the President while BNNP is accountable to the governor.

According to the data from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), as quoted on the official BNN website, approximately 217 million people worldwide—or 5.5% of the global population aged 15 to 64—have used narcotics. This data highlights that drug abuse has become a critical issue requiring immediate action to prevent a potential surge in victims. BNN reports indicate that drug syndicates from Malaysia, Taiwan, and China are intensively smuggling narcotics into Indonesia by sea.

Drug-related crimes, particularly the illegal drug trade in Indonesia, have become a major concern. According to statistical data released by the National Narcotics Agency (BNN), 2021 saw 1,184 drug cases with 1,483 suspects arrested. This figure increased in 2022 to 1,350 cases, with 1,748 people named as suspects and 12.4 tons of evidence confiscated. Moreover, in just the first seven months of 2023, there were 1,125 drug cases involving 1,625 suspects (DPR RI, 2023).

This data reveals the alarming spread of narcotics in Indonesian society that has become a huge problem. Indonesia's rapid population growth and high density—124 people per km<sup>2</sup>—make it a prime target for illicit drug trafficking. These conditions create opportunities for international syndicates to aggressively distribute narcotics through various illegal entry points. This situation threatens to endanger generations of Indonesians with drug addiction. Given these concerns, this research aims to examine the strategies employed by the Central Kalimantan Province BNN in combating the dangers of narcotics.

## ***II. Research Method***

The research method applied in this research is an empirical juridical research approach that analyzes secondary data, which would then proceed to collect primary data through field research. The juridical approach is an approach that refers to applicable laws and regulations. The empirical approach, on the other hand, relies on field data as the primary source, such as interviews and observations. This method analyzes law by viewing it as structured social behavior within communities. It examines how individuals interact and relate to one another within a social context.

Secondary data refers to the theoretical basis, including expert opinions, writings, and other information such as statutory regulations and court decisions. Primary data, on the other hand, comes from field research, such as interviews. This research employs an empirical juridical approach, combining both secondary and primary data sources.

This research employed 2 (two) data collection techniques, among others:

1. interview, which employs in-depth interview to gather extensive data and minimize uncertainty while using 2 (two) methods of interview—closed interview (where respondents answers to predetermined questions only) and open interviews (which allows respondents to provide reasons for their answers).
2. Library research, specifically, various documents obtained during the research, including statutory regulations, international conventions, research findings, and relevant literature.

Once the required data is collected, it will be managed and analyzed using qualitative methods. This analysis will produce conclusions by linking various data points, which will then be described and arranged systematically in the form of a scientific journal. This research primarily uses secondary data. This secondary data is obtained through literature review, involving reading, studying, and understanding the interpretation of legal texts and related literature. The analysis then links these textual interpretations to empirical facts.

This research is augmented by a literature review encompassing theories that support the analysis of the proposed problems, as well as positive law in the form of statutory regulations. Expert opinions in law, socio-culture, economics and politics (gathered from various media sources) will also serve as references to support the empirical data obtained. For secondary data, the pursuit of general truth will employ deductive reasoning, particularly during the initial theoretical analysis.

### ***III. Findings and Results***

Drugs-related crime is classified as one of the extraordinary crimes. According to the National Police Chief Regulation Number 7 of 2009 on the Reporting System for Disturbance in Security and Public Order, cross-border crime is an organized criminal activity involving multiple countries. It has significant global impact on a nation's government, politics, culture, and economy. This encompasses crimes related to the illegal smuggling of narcotics into Indonesia, their distribution within society, and the unrestricted buying and selling of narcotics.

President Joko Widodo declared that “Indonesia is in a narcotics emergency situation.” This poses a significant threat to the nation if not effectively addressed by the law enforcement agencies, particularly the Indonesian National Police and the National Narcotics Agency (BNN). The BNN's duties and functions are outlined in the National Narcotics Agency of the Republic of Indonesia Regulation Number 5 of 2020 concerning the Organization and Work Procedures of the National Narcotics Agency.

Types of drug-related crimes and drug-related criminal offences includes production, free trade, illegal distribution of narcotics, and narcotics abuse. There are two factors that cause drug-related crimes, namely individual factors and environmental factors. Internal factors: trying new things, not having life principles, dealing with problems and stress, following trends or fashion, such as using drugs in order to be accepted by a certain group. External factor: living in a drug induced environment, going to a school in a drug-addicted environment, being in contact with addicts, motivation from the same group, having a disharmonious family.

The illegal or excessive use of narcotics without a doctor's prescription can have severe negative impacts on health, particularly on brain tissue, which may not fully recover or even lead to death. Drug

abuse can cause physical and psychological damage, harm future generations, lead to addiction, and result in loss of life. This situation is extremely dangerous and requires collaborative efforts between the Indonesian government and society to address effectively.

Research conducted at the Central Kalimantan Province BNN reveals that drug-related crimes often stem from habit. Workers in Central Kalimantan's oil palm plantations and mined, who require increased stamina, are given "supplements" by their coordinators to boost energy efficiency, work harder, and resist fatigue. Additionally, economic factors contribute to drug-related crimes in Central Kalimantan, particularly in Palangkaraya. Many individuals choose drug-related work, such as courier services, due to its lucrative nature. Consequently, the BNN's role in Central Kalimantan is crucial in implementing optimal strategies to prevent, control, and eradicate drug-related crimes.

The Central Kalimantan BNNP plays a crucial role in implementing preventive measures and eradicating drug abuse and illicit trafficking (P4GN). To combat drug-related crimes, the BNNP employs a multi-faceted approach. Their efforts encompass four key strategies; Soft Power Approach, Hard Power Approach, Smart Power Approach, and Co-Operation.

The Soft Power Approach is a preventive strategy aimed at fostering self-resilience and deterrence against drug abuse. It comprises three key activities: prevention, community empowerment, and rehabilitation. In the realm of prevention, the Central Kalimantan BNNP educates about the dangers of narcotics and prevention methods across various levels—from villages and sub-districts to families, community organizations, educational institutions, and health facilities. Additionally, they leverage social media platforms to disseminate this crucial information, ensuring easy access for the public to learn about the perils of narcotics and how to guard against them.

In the realm of community empowerment, Central Kalimantan BNNP conducts life skills training in the economic sector. This initiative aims to develop the community's socio-economic potential in entrepreneurship and increase income and welfare. The agency implements strategies to combat the dangers of narcotics in its area, one of which involves engaging with the community through annual state funding allocations. These funds, directed at one or two sub-districts, are intended to develop residents' potential through job training and livestock business capital. BNN continuously monitors the development of community potential. If a program proves successful within a year, the agency then shifts its focus to another area.

BNNP Central Kalimantan also conducts rehabilitation activities. They strive to standardize rehabilitation services through various initiatives. These includes promoting rehabilitation services via diverse media channels, establishing rehabilitation facilities managed by both government and community organizations, and enhancing the expertise of rehabilitation service personnel.

The next strategy is the Hard Power Approach. This approach involves repressive action using firm and measurable means to eradicate drug-related crimes. The BNNP Central Kalimantan conducted raids in several locations suspected of hosting drug transactions or use. Interviews with the Central Kalimantan Province BNN revealed that most narcotics were supplied via land routes. These raids resulted in the arrest of numerous dealers, along with the seizure of evidence. In 2023, the Central Kalimantan Province BNN successfully secured 11 kg of narcotics as evidence.

The BNNP Central Kalimantan next strategy is the Smart Power Approach, which uses information technology and research to combat and prevent drug-related crimes. As part of the P4GN program's prevention stage, BNN provides public reporting facilities. The public can contact the following resources to report drug-related crimes or seek self-examination for recovery through:

1. The BNN call center which is intended for the community;
2. Via BNN's official social media;

3. Via the official BNN website;
4. Directly to the BNN office offline.

The next effort carried out by the BNNP Central Kalimantan is through a cooperation strategy or collaboration between various stakeholders, including the government and components of society. BNNP Central Kalimantan is collaborating with the Central Kalimantan regional police and the Central Kalimantan Prosecutor's Office in efforts to eradicate and handle the dangers of narcotics. In this particular case, carry out measured repressive actions. Then BNNP Central Kalimantan also collaborated with local regional hospitals in terms of further handling of rehabilitation for drug victims/addicts.

When carrying out prevention and eradication of narcotics dangers, BNNP Central Kalimantan faces several obstacles. First among these is the issue of human resources. The limited number of Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI) and Indonesian National Police (Polri) personnel hinders efforts to tackle illicit drug trafficking. Additionally, the Head of the Central Kalimantan BNN highlighted that insufficient government fundings prevents the establishment of BNN offices at city, regency, and sub-district levels. Currently, the Central Kalimantan BNN operates with just 120 personnel. This severely hampers efforts to effectively combat drug trafficking in Central Kalimantan.

The second obstacle is Central Kalimantan's vast area, which poses significant challenges for community outreach. As the second largest province in Indonesia after Papua, Central Kalimantan covers 153,564 km<sup>2</sup>. its extensive land and sea borders create additional difficulties for effective drug control and prevention efforts.

The last obstacle is a lack of community participation. The community's reluctance to report drug abuse and illegal trade in their vicinity hinders BNN's ability to uncover local drug-related issues. This is problematic because BNN heavily relies on social cooperation. Many people are unfamiliar with drug-related laws, and drug users often deny their actions, even when proven guilty. This situation is exacerbated by the passive dissemination of information about drug dangers in society. In response, the Central Kalimantan Province BNN is focusing on strengthening its own resilience efforts and bolstering resilience through family-based initiatives.

#### ***IV. Conclusion***

##### **A. Conclusions**

Based on previous research and discussions, the Central Kalimantan BNNP has implemented various strategic efforts to eradicate and prevent narcotics dangers in the region. These strategies include the Soft Power Approach, Hard Power Approach, Smart Power Approach, and Cooperation. In executing its strategy and implementing the P4GN program, BNN also provides channels for people to report drug-related issues or seek treatment. These channels includes; BNN call center; BNN's official social media; BNN's official website; and In-person visits to BNN offices. Despite these efforts, the Central Kalimantan Province BNN still faces various obstacles in implementation.

These obstacles include the limited number of law enforcement personnel, specifically from the Indonesian National Police (Polri) and Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI). The Central Kalimantan BNNP operates with only 120 staff members, hampering its optimal performance. Insufficient operational funding from the government restricts BNNP's presence to the provincial level, unlike the National Police, which extends to district and sub-district levels. Central Kalimantan's vast area poses another challenge—with limited law enforcement personnel, BNN and TNI struggle to cover the entire region. Finally, despite outreach efforts, community participation remains inadequate in supporting BNN, Police, TNI, and government initiatives to eradicate narcotics. The community's reluctance to report drug abuse and illegal trade in their vicinity hinders the Central Kalimantan BNNP's ability to uncover local drug-related issues.



## **B. Recommendations**

Based on the research findings, the author offers several recommendations:

- 1) The Central Kalimantan regional government should increase funding for the Central Kalimantan's National Narcotics Agency (BNN) to support community programs. These funds would then be used for operational needs related to eradicating drug-related crimes and preventing drug abuse. Given that economic factors, high living costs, and unemployment rates contribute to criminal activities in Central Kalimantan, additional resources are crucial. Moreover, considering Indonesia's vast area, especially Kalimantan, personnel require extra operational funds to cover the entire Central Kalimantan region effectively. It is essential for the Central Kalimantan regional government to actively participate in combating drug-related crimes by providing additional funding. The community programs implemented will have long-term benefits as they focus on developing the community's potential. This approach aims to strengthen individuals' resolve against narcotics consumption and involvement in drug-related crimes. As the community's resilience grows, narcotics crimes and drug abuse are expected to decline. Therefore, in line with the Central Kalimantan BNN's strategy, it is hoped that these goals can be achieved optimally with increased financial support.
- 2) BNN can enhance its effectiveness by increasing personnel and improving the quality of human resources through regular training. Collaboration with the Police and TNI for routine training sessions can further maximize efforts to eradicate drug-related crimes. Additionally, the Central Kalimantan BNN must continue educating the public about the dangers of narcotics, the importance of prevention, and the legal consequences of drug-related offenses. Improving these educational initiatives is crucial to raise awareness about the severe risks associated with narcotics use and the punitive measures that can significantly impact offenders' lives.
- 3) The public is expected to participate actively in preventing, controlling, and eradicating narcotics by reporting to BNN or other authorized authorities. Additionally, personal prevention is crucial for strengthening one's resilience against narcotics consumption. By maintaining a positive lifestyle and staying free from the dangers of narcotics, individuals can avoid the various negative consequences caused by drug abuse.

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