

THE ROLE OF THE MEDAN CITY RESORT POLICE IN TACKLING ACTIONS ON ADOPTED FUEL OIL IN MEDAN CITY

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Abstract: The circulation of Fuel Oil (BBM) that has been mixed in the city of Medan is an economic violation that harms consumers, the state, and disrupts healthy business competition. This research aims to understand and analyze the role of the Medan Kota Besar Resort Police (Polrestabes) in cracking down on fuel smugglers, as well as to recognize various obstacles faced by investigators in the field. The method used in this study is empirical juridical with a legal sociology approach. Data was obtained through the analysis of documents about law enforcement and interviews with investigators from the Medan Police Criminal Investigation Unit. The findings of this study show that the Medan Police play an active role in carrying out firm action through raids on illegal locations and the application of Article 54 or Article 55 of Law Number 22 of 2001 concerning Oil and Gas which has been amended by Law No. 6 of 2023 concerning Job Creation. However, this enforcement effort is still faced with obstacles such as the lack of laboratory testing equipment that can be used at the scene, the perpetrator's modus operandi that continues to change (mobile system), and the limited number of personnel when compared to the area of jurisdiction of the City of Medan. There is a need for increased coordination between the Medan Police, BPH Migas, and Pertamina in conducting supervision from upstream to downstream.

Keywords: Polrestabes Medan, Law Enforcement, Fuel Oil, Oplosan.

1. Introduction

Fuel Oil (BBM) is an important commodity that has a great influence on people's lives and has an essential role in encouraging the country's economic growth. Due to its strategic position, oil and gas management, distribution, and trade are closely monitored by the government to ensure availability and accessibility for all community groups. In the city of Medan, which is the largest metropolitan city on the island of Sumatra, the demand for fuel supply is very high in line with the increasing number of vehicles and industrial activities. The high demand in the market and the price difference between subsidized and non-subsidized fuel oil have triggered the emergence of new economic crimes, one of which is the practice of fuel mixing. The way that is often found in the field is to mix subsidized Peralite or Diesel fuel with crude oil from illegal refining from outside the region, or mixing Peralite with synthetic dyes to make it look like Pertamina, then sold at a non-subsidized price to achieve more profits.¹

This action clearly violates regulations, harms consumer rights by damaging car engines, disrupts the state's financial stability with regard to subsidy quotas, and threatens public safety due to the risk of fires in storage facilities for illegal oplosan materials. As the main institution in law enforcement and the guardian of public security and order, the Medan Kota Besar Resort Police (Polrestabes) has a legal responsibility to eradicate illegal practices

¹ R. P. Tanjung, "Strategi kepolisian dalam menanggulangi tindak pidana minyak dan gas bumi di tingkat kepolisian resor," *Medan Law Journal* 7, no. 2 (2023): 115–30.

in its area. The steps in dealing with crime in the oil and gas sector are based on Law Number 22 of 2001 which regulates Oil and Gas, which was later revised through Law Number 6 of 2023 related to the Stipulation of Government Regulations in Lieu of Law Number 2 of 2022 concerning Job Creation into Law.²

Although the Medan Police have routinely conducted raids at illegal fuel storage sites in several crucial locations, reports indicate that irregularities are still taking place in secret using a structured network. Therefore, in-depth research on the effectiveness of the police role as well as the real challenges on the ground are crucial to finding a comprehensive law enforcement strategy. In addition to fuel oil, the government is also developing the use of gas as a better energy option. The use of gas as a fuel is considered quite effective because it can slowly replace oil. However, the limited amount of gas supply makes it difficult for people to switch from oil. The government still provides considerable financial support for the use of fuel oil. This subsidy is given to the industrial sector, small and medium enterprises, as well as for vehicles.³

Supervision of business activities carried out by the Regulatory Agency. Supervision of the implementation of the supply and distribution of oil through pipelines is carried out by the Regulatory Agency. The Regulatory Institution regulates so that the availability and distribution of Oil determined by the Government can be guaranteed throughout the territory of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia.⁴ To take strict action against the perpetrators of the smuggling and hoarding of subsidized fuel oil and gas that have disturbed the community and harmed the state's finances, they can be sentenced to up to 4 years in prison. This is included in Law Number 22 of 2001 concerning oil and gas, especially in Article 53 Letter c, which states that the storage and stockpiling of subsidized fuel oil without a permit can be threatened with imprisonment for a maximum of 3 years and a fine of 30 billion. In addition, Article 55 regulates abuse in the transportation and sale of subsidized fuel oil which is punishable by imprisonment for a maximum of 6 years.

In Presidential Regulation Number 15 of 2012, Article 7 Number 2 emphasizes that Business Entities and/or the community are prohibited from stockpiling and/or storing and using certain types of fuel oil that are contrary to the law. Meanwhile, Article 7 Number 3 states that "Business Entities and/or communities that violate the provisions referred to in paragraphs (1) and (2) will be subject to sanctions in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations."⁵ Crime arises due to a number of factors related to the

² Oktana Wahyu Perdana Firli Afriyeni, "ANALISIS HUKUM TERHADAP TINDAK PIDANA PENGOPLOSAN BBM DAN EFEKTIVITAS UU MIGAS," *DHARMA PENDIDIKAN UNIVERSITAS PGRI MPU SINDOK NGANJUK* 20, no. 2 (2025): 165–75, <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.69866/dp.v20i2.609>.

³ Bram Setiawan, "Mengenal Bentuk Subsidi Energi di Indonesia," *transisienergiberkeadilan.id/*, 2026, <https://transisienergiberkeadilan.id/id/special-reports/detail/mengenal-bentuk-subsidi-energi-di-indonesia>.

⁴ humas bph migas, "FUNGSI & TUGAS Badan Pengatur Hilir Minyak dan Gas Bumi," <https://www.bphmigas.go.id/>, 2021, <https://www.bphmigas.go.id/fungsi-dan-tugas/>.

⁵ PRESIDEN REPUBLIK INDONESIA, *PERATURAN PRESIDEN REPUBLIK INDONESIA NOMOR 15 TAHUN 2012 TENTANG HARGA JUAL ECERAN DAN KONSUMEN PENGGUNA*

economy and society, which are the main causes of criminal acts. Therefore, efforts to overcome crime can be made if the economic situation or social conditions that encourage a person to behave criminally can be improved in a more positive direction. In other words, improving economic conditions and the social environment are essential to reduce crime rates.⁶

The community is considered prosperous if the economy is at an upper-middle level and a peaceful security situation. This can be realized if every individual in society behaves in harmony with existing norms. To behave in accordance with these norms, it is important to establish guidelines or laws in the midst of the community so that crime can be avoided.⁷ Each individual cannot be separated from various mutual relationships and interrelated interests, which can be seen from various perspectives, such as religion, ethics, socio-culture, politics, and also from a legal point of view. In the context of diverse interests, there is often a conflict of interest that ultimately leads to what is called a criminal act. To maintain these interests, it is necessary to have regulations or legal norms that must be complied with. For those who violate the rule of law and cause harm to others, action will be taken in the form of compensation or fines, while for those who commit criminal acts, they will be subject to criminal sanctions in the form of imprisonment, confinement, or fines.⁸

Since the enactment of Law No. 22 of 2001 concerning Oil and Gas, it has been stated that oil and gas as natural resources contained in Indonesia's mining jurisdiction are national assets under state control. State control is carried out by the government which acts as a mining manager. Oil and gas as very important natural resources play a crucial role as financial supporters, energy providers, and fuels to support the country's economic development.⁹

Business activities related to the supply and distribution of Fuel Oil have been exploited in the city of Medan. This often happens in the business of providing and selling fuel in the area. What is the formulation of the problem in this study is what are the obstacles faced by the Medan Police in taking action against the crime of fuel oil (BBM) in the city of Medan?

2. Method

This research applies an empirical legal research methodology (socio-legal), which aims to analyze the application of positive law in the social context in the field.¹⁰ The methods

JENIS BAHAN BAKAR MINYAK TERTENTU (Jakarta, 2012), <https://perpajakan.ddtc.co.id/id/sumber-hukum/peraturan-pusat/peraturan-presiden-15-tahun-2012>.

⁶ Atmasasmita Romli, *Kapita Selekta Hukum Pidana dan Kriminologi* (Bandung: Penerbit Maju Mundur, 2005). 57.

⁷ KPU KAB-TOLIKARA, "Norma Hukum Adalah Aturan yang Mengikat, Ini Pengertian dan Contohnya," <https://kab-tolikara.kpu.go.id/>, 2026, https://kab-tolikara.kpu.go.id/blog/read/8477_norma-hukum-adalah-aturan-yang-mengikat-ini-pengertian-dan-contohnya.

⁸ Damos Dumoli Agusman, *Suatu Pengantar Hukum Pidana Indonesia* (Bandung: Refika Aditama, 2013). 25.

⁹ Suwanjoko Warpani, *Merencanakan Sistem Pengangkutan* (Bandung: Penerbit ITB, 2009). 12.

¹⁰ M. Y. Harahap, *Pembahasan permasalahan dan penerapan KUHAP: Penyidikan dan penuntutan*, Ed. ke-3 (Jakarta: Sinar Grafika, 2022).

applied are the approach of legal sociology and case analysis. The primary data source was obtained directly through an in-depth interview with investigators from the Criminal Investigation Unit (Satreskrim) of the Certain Crimes Unit (Tipidter) of the Medan Police. Secondary data is in the form of primary legal materials (Oil and Gas Law, Job Creation Law, case files) and secondary legal materials (books, legal journals, official cyber news).¹¹

The analysis of the data obtained was then analyzed with a qualitative approach using an analytical descriptive method, where the facts in the field were explained and related to theories in criminal law and role theories.¹²

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 Obstacles to the Medan Police in Cracking Down on Fuel Crime

From the outside, the petroleum business seems safe, but it actually has a lot of problems in it, such as distribution, smuggling, oil smuggling. Many people play in this lucrative business, even allegedly involving powerful people who have great power in it. Although the number of crimes related to the abuse of natural gas and fuel oil (BBM) continues to increase every year, the results seem to be less than satisfactory. Countermeasures are very difficult to carry out because various factors are influenced. In carrying out the responsibility to stop the criminal act of misuse of fuel oil (BBM).

To achieve this, law enforcement officials, especially the police, must take decisive action. Fuel abuse has a negative impact on many communities. However, there are many obstacles when it comes to taking action against perpetrators, leading to a lack of deterrent effect on those who abuse fuel oil. Law enforcement against the illegal practice of processing Fuel Oil (BBM) by the Medan Kota Besar Resort Police (Polrestabes) did not occur in a vacuum. By referring to concrete data and the results of interviews in the field, the decisive actions carried out by the Criminal Investigation Unit (Satreskrim) of the Medan Police were faced with a series of organized challenges. These challenges can be grouped into four main factors:

- a. Technical Barriers and Limitations of Scientific Evidence (Scientific Crime Investigation)

The crime of fuel smuggling is a crime that requires special evidence to show the modification of chemical substances and a decrease in the quality of fuel standards. One of the biggest challenges faced by Medan Police investigators in the field is the

¹¹ et al Bintang Adi Putra, "METODOLOGI PENELITIAN HUKUM NORMATIF DALAM PERSPEKTIF KONSEP DAN TEKNIK ANALISIS DALAM KAJIAN YURIDIS," *Jurnal Kajian Ilmiah Multidisipliner* 10, no. 4 (2026): 97–112.

¹² Zainuddin Ali, *Metode Penelitian Hukum*, 1st edn (Jakarta: Sinar Grafika Offset, 2016). 27.

lack of rapid testing tools that can directly detect octane or cetane levels at the scene when hand-holding operations are carried out.¹³

Investigators must collect samples and send them to the official laboratory of PT Pertamina or the Forensic Laboratory Center (Puslabfor). This laboratory test procedure takes anywhere from weeks to months, resulting in delays in determining suspect status and causing legal uncertainty during the offender's initial detention.¹⁴

b. The Modus Operandi of Perpetrators is Dynamic and Mobile

The perpetrators of economic crimes in the oil and gas sector in the city of Medan always update their strategies to avoid the supervision of the police. If previously smuggling activities were carried out on a regular basis inside illegal storage facilities, the latest trend shows a shift towards a mobile way of smuggling.¹⁵ The perpetrator mixed chemical dyes or crude oil directly on the modified tank truck, while the truck passed on the Sumatra route (Medan-Deli Serdang or Medan-Binjai). Movements outside this jurisdiction make it difficult for the Medan Police Tipidter Unit to conduct monitoring and arrests, as it is often constrained by the limitations of the police administrative jurisdiction.¹⁶

c. Sociological Barriers and Local Community Resistance

From a legal sociology perspective, the effectiveness of law enforcement is greatly influenced by the legal culture of the local community. In several vulnerable loci in Medan City, the existence of oplosan fuel warehouses or oil "pee" bases is passively protected by the surrounding local community.¹⁷ The perpetrators apply a social incentive approach by providing financial support, distributing food packages, or recruiting local youth to work as transport workers. As a result, the public tends to show apathy and serves as an early warning system (informant) for the perpetrators when they see police patrol vehicles approaching the warehouse area, so raid plans are often revealed.¹⁸

d. Limited Personnel Quantity and Special Operational Budget

¹³ Oktana Wahyu Perdana Firli Afriyeni, "Analisis hukum terhadap tindak pidana pengoplosan BBM dan efektivitas UU Migas," *Dharma Pendidikan* 20, no. 2 (2025), <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.69866/dp.v20i2.609>.

¹⁴ Ipda Devi Alni, "Hasil Wawancara Dengan Petugas Kepolisian Resort Kota Besar Medan" (Kota Medan, 2025).

¹⁵ Rizaldi Ritonga, "ANALISIS HUKUM TERHADAP TINDAK PIDANA TURUT SERTA MELAKUKAN PERBUATAN MENYALAHGUNAKAN NIAGA BAHAN BAKAR SOLAR (Studi Putusan 2296/Pid.Sus/2023/PN.Mdn)" (UNIVERSITAS MEDAN AREA, 2025), <https://repositori.uma.ac.id/jspui/bitstream/123456789/29843/1/198400017> - Rizaldi Ritonga - Fulltext.pdf.

¹⁶ Ipda Devi Alni, "Hasil Wawancara Dengan Petugas Kepolisian Resort Kota Besar Medan."

¹⁷ L. Marpaung, "Perlindungan hukum bagi pekerja domestik dan dampak ekonomi kejahatan niaga di kota metropolitan: Studi kasus di Kota Medan.," *Jurnal Hukum Lex Ecclesiastica* 9, no. 2 (2021): 201–15.

¹⁸ Mugiono Kurniawan, "Penegakan Sanksi Pinada Dalam Peraturan Daerah Tingkat II Surakarta Nomor 1 Tahun 1975 Tentang Pemberantasan Tuna Susila" (Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta, 2005).

The area under the responsibility of the Medan Police, which includes dense urban areas to coastal locations such as Medan Labuhan and Belawan, is not balanced with the number of members in the Specific Crime Unit. Handling crime in the oil and gas sector requires very high operational funds, which include the cost of renting a tanker truck to confiscate evidence, the cost of emptying the cargo, as well as the cost of storing evidence in a safe depot that meets safety standards so as not to pose the risk of explosion.¹⁹ Limitations in budgeting for this particular operation required investigators to determine a priority scale, causing some reports of small-sized illegal refueling stations to not be properly handled.²⁰

Laws and regulations give authority to law enforcement officials. Inconsistencies between values, rules, and behavior patterns can lead to law enforcement. This incompatibility occurs when the paired values develop into inconsistent rules and directionless behavior that disrupts the harmony of life.²¹ Therefore, law enforcement does not solely mean the implementation of the law. In Indonesia, it also means carrying out the judge's decision. From this understanding, there is a shortcoming if its implementation actually disturbs the harmony of the community.

e. Law Enforcement Officers Who Are Behind Illegal Actions

The parties who form and implement the law are known as law enforcement officers. Every law enforcement has a position (status) and role (role) sociologically. The problem that arises from law enforcement is how law enforcement functions. Since the law contains coercion, the law must be used to implement the command. If the order cannot be enforced, the punishment is meaningless. Therefore, law enforcement agencies (such as police, prosecutors, and judges) are responsible for ensuring that the law is applied.

f. Factors of people who want to make big profits by committing illegal acts

With a heterogeneous lifestyle in the city of Medan and its surroundings, some communities want to make huge profits quickly and break the law, even in places where the law is in force and applied. Public opinion of the law also affects law enforcement with legal compliance. For example, people believe that the meaning of the law is the same as that of an officer, so they will obey the law if the officer is present.²² In this case, society functions as a barrier, either by providing social facilities that allow law enforcement to run, or by presenting obstacles that prevent it from

¹⁹ J. Siregar, H., & Lubis, "Dekonstruksi pertimbangan hukum hakim dan kendala operasional polri pada penindakan kejahatan ekonomi migas," *Medan Law Review* 10, no. 1 (2026): 22–38.

²⁰ Ipda Devi Alni, "Hasil Wawancara Dengan Petugas Kepolisian Resort Kota Besar Medan."

²¹ Satjipto Raharjo, *Masalah Penegakan Hukum: Suatu Tinjauan Sosiologis* (Bandung: Sinar Baru, 2002).

²² Soerjono Soekanto, *Teori Sosiologi Tentang Pribadi Dalam Masyarakat* (Jakarta: Ghalia Indonesia, 2008).

running or not running effectively. Therefore, the community is one of the components that affects the existence of law enforcement.²³

In social life, the behavior of individuals or individuals in a community is governed by the system of rules that exist in the society or the social environment in which the rules are applied. According to researchers of obstacles in the law enforcement process in Indonesia, the elements of law or laws that govern a particular field are very important because the law determines whether an act is a crime or not. In this study, Law Number 22 of 2001 concerning Oil and Gas does not adequately regulate violations of the misuse of fuel oil.²⁴

Thus, it can be concluded that the obstacles to criminal law enforcement in the case of oil and gas fuel abuse committed by perpetrators in the Deli Serdang area are very large and are influenced by various factors, including the legal factors themselves, namely the lack of detail of the law regulating the criminal act of misuse of oil and gas fuel committed by perpetrators in Law Number 22. Legal cultural factors are also important in handling cases of fuel oil and gas abuse. Law enforcement officials must have a strong mentality when handling cases of oil and gas fuel abuse, especially in the Deli Serdang area, regardless of who the perpetrators are who commit the misuse of oil and gas fuels.

3.2 The Role of the Medan Police in the Enforcement of Oplosan Fuel

As oil prices soar around the world, many crimes are related to the misuse and scarcity of fuel oil. For most people, fuel is a vital need, both for household and business needs, such as gasoline, diesel, and kerosene. Therefore, fuel shortages will hamper people's efforts to meet their basic needs. In this case, the lower middle class is the most affected.

Although not all illegal activities are carried out by organized networks, the crime of misuse of fuel oil (BBM) is usually carried out by the oil mafia. According to a report received by the Medan Police, fuel abuse in this country is carried out by many groups, not just one. From the outside, the petroleum business seems safe, but it actually has many problems inside, such as distribution, smuggling, and smuggling of gas and oil. Many people play in this profitable business, even allegedly involving powerful people who have great power in it.

As a government agency tasked with enforcing the law, the police must take strict action against those who abuse fuel oil. To do this, they are required to act quickly,

²³ et al Azmiaty Zuliah, "Kesadaran Hukum Masyarakat Terhadap Hukum Di Area Publik Kota Medan Dalam Kehidupan Sehari-Hari," *Jurnal Ilmiah Penegakan Hukum* 8, no. 1 (2021): 59–66, <https://doi.org/https://dx.doi.org/10.31289/jiph.v8i1.4746>.

²⁴ Erfandi, "PENGANGKUTAN BAHAN BAKAR MINYAK BERSUBSIDI DITINJAU DARI UNDANG-UNDANG REPUBLIK INDONESIA No.22 TAHUN 2001 TENTANG MINYAK DAN GAS BUMI" (UNIVERSITAS WIRARAJA, 2025).

responsively, and appropriately. This will certainly be a difficult task for members of the police, especially investigators, due to the fact that the perpetrators of fuel oil abuse involve many people. In Barda Nawawi Arief, GP Hoefnagels mentioned three ways to deal with crime, namely the application of criminal law (criminal law application), prevention without punishment, and influencing the views of society on crime and punishment (media). The National Police believes that crime occurs because of a combination of intent and opportunity. Based on the factors that cause crime, they do three ways to fight crime.²⁵

A review of these factors is important to know their influence on the development of increasingly sophisticated and widespread crime trends. This can be seen from the increase in crime both in quantity and quality, as well as from the perpetrators, victims, time, place, and modus operandi. Crime is inseparable from the influence of the environment and the instruments that cover it. The police can respond to these matters by holding routine and special activities or operations. In addition, Sabar Simbolon stated that in an effort to fight crime.

Based on the findings of the research, the function of the Medan Police, especially the Tipidter Satreskrim Unit in handling cases of fuel fraud crimes, depends on the repressive law enforcement authority contained in the Criminal Procedure Code and Law No. 2 of 2002 concerning the National Police of the Republic of Indonesia. The implementation of these functions is divided into three tactical steps:

a. Research and Intelligence Gathering (*Undercover Profiling*)

The practice of blending fuel oil is confidential and is generally carried out in suburban areas or unseen locations (such as the Medan Labuhan area or the Deli Serdang border). The Medan Police made maximum use of cyber functions and reports from the public to supervise the movement of "urine" tank trucks (load irregularities) which were used as basic materials for smuggling.

b. Law Enforcement and Coercive Efforts (Case Titles and Raids)

The police conducted the raid, or arrest, after enough preliminary evidence. Articles 54 and/or 55 of Law No. 22 of 2001 concerning Oil and Gas as amended in Law No. 6 of 2023 (Job Creation) have layered provisions that threaten perpetrators with a maximum prison sentence of six years and a maximum fine of Rp 60,000,000,000.00. to imitate or counterfeit fuel or trade subsidized fuel without a permit.

c. Seizure of Material Assets Case

The Medan Police confiscated important evidence, including pump engines, dyes, jerrycans, modified trucks, and thousands of liters of oplosan gasoline. These items were then arranged with Pertamina to be kept safe during the trial.

²⁵ Barda Nawawi Arief, *Bunga Rampai Kebijakan Hukum Pidana* (Jakarta: Prenada Media Group, 2018).

4. Conclusion

Studies and discussions conducted regarding the role of the Medan Kota Besar Resort Police (Polrestabes Medan) in cracking down on fuel oil (BBM) violations in Medan City show that the Satreskrim Tipidter Unit carries out repressive actions. Intelligence investigation (undercover profiling), arrest (raid), confiscation of evidence, and application of criminal sanctions based on Article 54 jo. Article 55 of Law No. 22 of 2001 concerning Oil and Gas as amended in Law No. 6 of 2023 concerning Job Creation is all part of this process. This action helps the state subsidy quota remain stable and protects the economic rights of Medan City consumers.

The four main obstacles faced by the Medan Police in the field are as follows: technical-laboratory obstacles, namely the absence of an instant fuel quality testing tool at the crime scene, which forces investigators to wait for the results of forensic laboratory tests for a long time; the dynamic modus operandi of the car incorporation system in tank trucks moving across jurisdictions; sociological barriers, namely the existence of resistance and passive protection from local communities that commit violations.

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