ARTIKEL ILMIAH

IMPLEMENTATION OF CRIMINAL LAW POLICY IN HANDLING CASES OF NARCOTICS DISTRIBUTION IN JURISDICTION PALANGKA RAYA POLICE REGIONAL

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KEMENTERIAN PENDIDIKAN TINGGI, SAINS, DAN TEKNOLOGI
UNIVERSITAS PALANGKA RAYA
FAKULTAS HUKUM
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Palangka Raya, 05 November 2026

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Demi pengembangan ilmu pengetahuan, menyetujui untuk memberikan kepada Dosen Pembimbing, Fakultas Hukum dan Universitas Palangka Raya atas karya ilmiah saya yang berjudul :*"Implementation Of Criminal Law Policy In Handling Cases Of Narcotics Distribution In Jurisdiction Palangka Raya Police Regional"* untuk menyimpan, mempublikasikan tugas akhir saya selama tetap mencantumkan nama saya sebagai penulis. Dengan pernyataan ini dibuat dengan sebenarnya.

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LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE

Date: 25 October 2026
ID: 4800
Dear: Indriani, Tahasak Sahay, Yurika F. Dewi, H. Suriansyah Murhaini
Universitas Palangka Raya

Thank you for your submission to our journal!

We are pleased to inform you that your paper entitled **"IMPLEMENTATION OF CRIMINAL LAW POLICY IN HANDLING CASES OF NARCOTICS DISTRIBUTION IN JURISDICTION PALANGKA RAYA POLICE REGIONAL "** reviewed by 2 reviewers and had a positive opinion. This paper has been accepted for publication at the peer-reviewed ***Multidiciplinary Output Research For Actual and International Issue (MORFAI JOURNAL)*** to Published in **Volumes 6, Number 6, 2026.**

Thank you for publishing with us. We look forward to receiving future manuscripts from you.

With warm regards,

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IMPLEMENTATION OF CRIMINAL LAW POLICY IN HANDLING CASES OF NARCOTICS DISTRIBUTION IN JURISDICTION PALANGKA RAYA POLICE REGIONAL

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Abstract

This study aims to analyze the Implementation of Criminal Law Policy in Handling Narcotics Distribution Cases in the Palangka Raya Police Department's Jurisdiction. The narcotics problem has become a global and national threat that requires systematic handling from both preventive and repressive aspects. Drug distribution has currently become a concern of various countries throughout the world, especially in Palangka Raya City, therefore it is carried out through a strict investigation process by the Narcotics Unit based on Law Number 35 of 2009 which regulates that narcotics distribution is an illegal act that violates the law. This is due to the existence of an increasingly widespread drug trafficking network, the spread of drugs in various regions and the illicit trade in narcotics continues to escalate in various parts of the world. The research method used in this study is the empirical juridical method, where data is obtained through in-depth interviews with the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit and direct observation in the field. The research results show that the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit implements a measurable operational strategy, starting from public information-based investigations, syndicate network development, and the utilization of integrated *Electronic Investigation Management* (EMP) technology. Case data obtained from the field for the 2022-2026 period recorded 222 cases with 244 suspects, dominated by Class I narcotics such as methamphetamine and ecstasy. The main challenges in implementing criminal law policies in handling narcotics trafficking cases include the need for regulatory adjustments and a balance between a punitive approach to dealers and rehabilitation efforts for users. In conclusion, law enforcement at the Palangka Raya Police has been running in accordance with standard operating procedures, but strengthening inter-agency coordination and updating criminal law policies are still needed to address the ever-evolving dynamics of narcotics trafficking.

Keywords: Criminal Law Policy, Narcotics Distribution, Law Enforcement, Palangka Raya Police, Repressive Strategy.

INTRODUCTION

A. Background

Narcotics are substances or drugs that come from plants. or non-plant, either synthetic or semi-synthetic, which can cause a decrease or change consciousness, loss of feeling, reduced to relieve pain, and can cause dependence, which is divided into groups as attached in Law Number 39 of 2009 concerning Narcotics [1]. Some types of Narcotics in Indonesia are: Marijuana, heroin, cocaine, crystal methamphetamine, ecstasy, *ketamine, liysergyde, ermin-5, inhalants, prescription drugs,* in Palangka Raya City, the Narcotics Unit of the Police often finds Class I Narcotics, namely ecstasy and crystal methamphetamine. [2]Narcotics can only be used for the benefit of health services and or the development of science and technology. To improve the health of Indonesian human resources in order to realize the welfare of the

[1] Law Number 39 of 2009 concerning Narcotics

[2] Dr. Nata Irawan, Drs. Ali Johardi, SH, Dra. Yunis Farida Oktoris, M.Si, Dini Anggraini, SE, M.Si, Dian Angraeni, SE, M.Si, Sudirman, S.Ag., M.Si, Istik Karim, SE, M.AP, Guntur Maulana, ST, M.Si, Ifit Qalita, S.IP., M.Si, Lamini, S.Sos., M.Si, Soimin, SH, MH, Bogie Setia Perwira Nusa, SH, S.HI, MH, M.AP, Levina Ayudiakusuma, SIKOM. (2018). *"Watch Out! Drugs Enter Villages"* . East Jakarta: Deputy for Prevention, BNN RI, Directorate of Advocacy

people, it is necessary to make efforts to improve the field of treatment and health services, including by ensuring the availability of certain types of Narcotics that are urgently needed as medicine and by preventing and eradicating the dangers of abuse and illicit trafficking of Narcotics. Narcotics on the one hand are drugs or materials that are useful in the field of treatment or health services and the development of science and on the other hand can also cause very detrimental dependencies if misused or used without strict and careful control and supervision. [3]The types of narcotics crimes are: importing, exporting, producing, planting, storing, distributing, and or using narcotics without strict and careful control and supervision and are contrary to laws and regulations because they are very detrimental and constitute a very big danger to human life, society, nation, and state as well as the national resilience of Indonesia.[4]

Legal policy is a strategy or course of action determined by an authorized institution to achieve certain goals through legal instruments. In the context of criminal law, criminal law policy can be interpreted as an effort to realize criminal legislation that is appropriate to the circumstances and situations at a certain time and in the future. [5]The criminal law policy in handling narcotics trafficking cases in the jurisdiction of the Palangka Raya Police is an implementation of Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics which aims to eradicate illicit narcotics trafficking through a firm but just legal approach. This policy includes a law enforcement strategy that not only focuses on the aspect of action (*repressive*) against perpetrators of narcotics trafficking, especially teenagers who lack parental supervision, but also integrates a rehabilitation approach for narcotics users in accordance with the legal philosophy that positions users as victims who need treatment and recovery. [6]Within the jurisdiction of the Palangka Raya Police, this policy is implemented through special operations coordinated with various related agencies such as the National Narcotics Agency (BNN), the Prosecutor's Office, and the Courts, by implementing an integrated criminal justice system that prioritizes effectiveness and efficiency in the investigation, prosecution, and sentencing processes. This criminal law policy also emphasizes a proportional approach, where criminal sanctions are adjusted to the level of involvement of the perpetrator in the narcotics distribution network, from dealers and dealers to couriers, and takes into account factors such as the type and quantity of narcotics traded, the level of danger to the community, and the potential for rehabilitation of the perpetrator.[7] Drug trafficking has now become a concern for various countries around the world. This is due to the existence of illicit drug trafficking networks that are increasingly spreading drugs in various regions. This poses a serious threat to national defense and is very worrying for the global community, including Indonesia. [8]Therefore, international supervision and cooperation are needed to control and prevent illicit drug trafficking across countries. Various international policies in drug eradication efforts also need maximum support from all countries to prevent drug trafficking, especially in certain regions.[9]

The drug trafficking problem has become a pressing global threat to all countries worldwide. Through organized syndicates operating internationally, the illicit drug trade continues to escalate worldwide. Global data released by the *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)* shows that drug abuse has reached 296 million people internationally, making this problem a health and security crisis that requires serious attention. Addressing this issue requires strict international oversight and collaboration to control and prevent the illicit trafficking of narcotics across borders. Various international policies and conventions designed to combat the illicit drug trade must receive the full support of all countries worldwide to prevent drug distribution in certain regions. The circulation of narcotics or

[3]Nasrianti, Muhibuddin, *"Legal Analysis of the Dangers of Narcotics for the Future Health of the Young Generation," Jurnal Reusam* Vol. VIII No. 2, (2020): P. 82.

[4] Adilane Sutriliawan.S, Marwan Mas, Abd Haris Hamid, *"Effectiveness of Investigation of Narcotics Abuse Perpetrators in Polewali Mandar Regency (Case Study at Polewali Mandar Police Resort,"* Indonesia Journal of Legality of Law, (2023): P. 175.

[5] Yossri Mantaw Sihombing, Ismaidar. *"Legal Politics in Enforcing the Death Penalty Against Narcotics Traffickers in Indonesia."* Journal of Social Science Research Vol. 3 No. 6, (2023): pp. 5-7.

[6] National Narcotics Agency. (2012). *"Guidebook for Early Prevention of Drug Abuse."* East Jakarta: Directorate of Information Dissemination, Deputy for Prevention, National Narcotics Agency of the Republic of Indonesia.

[7] Results of the Author's Interview with Ipda Acep Sopandi, Head of Unit 2 of the Narcotics Crime Unit and Ipda Nopri Ilega Putra, SH , Head of the Narcotics Crime Unit of the Palangka Raya Police, at the Palangka Raya City Police Resort, on Monday, November 11, 2025, at 10.00 WIB, the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Crime Unit Headquarters.

[8] Gazali Ahmad, *"Policy and Strategy of the National Narcotics Agency of the Republic of Indonesia in Facing Non-Military Threats of Transnational Organized Crime of Illicit Narcotics Trafficking in Indonesia."* Indonesian Scientific Journal p–ISSN Vol. 9, No. 4, (2024): P. 2339-2341.

[9] Freniarma Lestari Cahyani, Helen Intania, Endang Setyowati. *"Illicit Narcotics Trafficking in International and National Law Perspectives."* Semarang Law Review. Vol 4, No. 2. (2023): Pp. 102-103.

dangerous drugs in Indonesia has become a serious problem in recent years and has reached a state of concern and become a national issue. The victims of drug abuse have spread so widely that they transcend social strata, age, and gender. The rampant circulation of narcotics in society and other groups has had a devastating impact, resulting in economic and social losses.[10]

Indonesia is currently in a very worrying situation and has the potential to threaten national security and sovereignty. The massive circulation of narcotics continues throughout the country, from urban to rural areas. This fact proves that the illicit drug trade is growing very rapidly and expanding uncontrollably. Developments in technology have provided new, increasingly sophisticated and complex modus operandi for perpetrators of narcotics crimes, including those carried by the National Narcotics Agency (BNN). These evolving modus operandi include smuggling through various means such as passenger luggage, shipments , and other illegal activities carried out by the BNN. International drug syndicates even exploit Indonesia's geographical conditions by using back routes to smuggle drugs. Various innovative techniques are used, such as hiding drugs in camping equipment, baby equipment, vacuum cleaners, and even *bed covers* .[11]

The development of drug trafficking methods is now in line with advances in science and technology and social changes in global society. Dealers utilize information technology and the internet as a means to facilitate the illegal distribution of narcotics. Not only adults but also children are now becoming victims of drug abuse in Indonesian society. Perpetrators of drug crimes are not limited to adults, but also involve children under the age of 18. Children who have not reached adulthood are particularly susceptible to being influenced into drug-related activities, given their unstable mental state resulting from their physical and mental developmental stages. Dealers exploit this situation as a strategy to generate significant profits and ensure the continued existence of customers in the illicit drug business.[12]

In the jurisdiction of the Palangka Raya Police, the most frequently handled narcotics trafficking cases are methamphetamine and ecstasy, showing a very worrying trend, where cases successfully uncovered by the police show that Palangka Raya is not only a transit area, but also an active distribution location around it involving organized networks. Based on data from the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit throughout this year (2025) there have been 64 cases and 66 suspects, where the average handled by the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit is around 60 Narcotics Cases per year. [13]The high rate of abuse and trafficking of Narcotics places the City of Palangka Raya in a vulnerable position to the negative impacts caused by narcotics crimes, thus requiring serious attention from various parties, especially in terms of criminal law policy. The increasing circulation of narcotics in Indonesia demands strict legal regulations to eradicate their abuse and distribution. The circulation of narcotics or dangerous drugs in Indonesia has become a serious problem in recent years, reaching a concerning level and becoming a national issue. The number of victims of drug abuse has spread to such an extent that it transcends social strata, age, and gender. The rampant circulation of narcotics in society and other groups has had a negative impact, resulting in economic and social losses. [14]The government then issued Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics in the hope of suppressing drug distribution in society. Previously, Indonesia had Law Number 5 of 1997 concerning Psychotropics, but this law was not effective enough in preventing and handling drug distribution. Therefore, the government formulated a new, more comprehensive law as a legal basis for dealing with this transnational crime.[15]

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[10]Najwa Ulinnuha, Suharmanto, Andi Eka Yunianto. *"The Relationship Between Knowledge and Drug Abuse Prevention Behavior in Students"* . Journal of Language and Health. Vol. 5, No. 3. (2024): P. 1095-1096.

[11] Mohammad Hatta, SH, LL.M.,Ph.D. (2022). *"Law Enforcement on Narcotics Abuse in Indonesia."* Jakarta: Prenadamedia Group.

[12] M., SH, MH, Dr. Davit Rahmadan, SH, MH (2025). *"Rehabilitation VS Imprisonment: The Dilemma of Law Enforcement Against Narcotics Abuse in Indonesia."* West Java: *PT. Adab Indonesia* .

[13] Results of the Author's Interview with Ipda Acep Sopandi, Head of Unit 2 of the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit, at the Palangka Raya City Police Resort, on Monday, November 11, 2025, at 10.00 WIB, Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit Headquarters.

[14]Trian Hardiansyah, Wreda Danang Widoyoko. " *Law Enforcement on Narcotics Distribution in Correctional Institutions.* " *Judiciary Journal of Law and Justice Vol. 13, No. 1, (2024): P. 114.*

[15] Yevi Mulyana Erawana, Novayandra Arinurdin, A. Kami Razak, Dani Durahman. *"Criminal Law Policy on Narcotics Crimes in Efforts to Combat Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Indonesia."* Al-Zayn Journal of Social Sciences & Law Vol. 4, No. 2, (2026): Pp. 3306-3307.

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In the concept of a state based on the rule of law, every action taken must be based on applicable legal regulations. The police, as part of the implementing elements of state duties, play a crucial role in maintaining order and security. Therefore, a structured division of tasks is necessary for effective implementation and facilitation of coordination. Therefore, a police organization was established with the goal of protecting and serving the public, particularly in handling criminal acts, to ensure the proper execution of all duties. Furthermore, the police also play a role in enforcing the law and fostering a sense of security within the community. With an organized work system guided by applicable regulations, it is hoped that every police action will remain in accordance with legal principles and will be able to provide justice for the community as a whole.[16]

From a legal perspective, the handling of narcotics crimes is regulated by Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics, which provides the legal basis for law enforcement officials to conduct investigations, prosecutions, and criminal penalties against perpetrators. This law emphasizes the important role of investigators in gathering evidence, conducting investigations, and ensuring that the legal process is carried out in accordance with applicable provisions. However, the application of this law in a local context, such as in Palangka Raya City, requires evaluation to determine the extent to which the role of investigators can be optimized in facing various existing challenges. In addition, the Criminal Code (KUHP) also regulates general criminal offenses that can be applied in narcotics cases, including articles related to the distribution and misuse of prohibited goods. In addition, Law Number 20 of 2025 concerning Criminal Procedure Code (KUHAP) serves as a guideline in the investigation process, ensuring that the rights of suspects remain protected throughout the legal process.[17]

Nevertheless, the implementation of criminal law policy in handling narcotics trafficking cases within the jurisdiction of the Palangka Raya Police Department covers various stages, from investigation, inquiry, prosecution, to the implementation of court decisions. Within the context of statutory regulations, the Narcotics Crime Investigation Unit (Satresnarkoba) continues to utilize police officers, who function as the frontline in law enforcement, playing a crucial role in uncovering trafficking networks, gathering evidence, and apprehending perpetrators. However, there is a gap in research indicating that studies specifically discussing the role of investigators in handling narcotics cases within the jurisdiction of the Palangka Raya Police Department are still limited. Most studies focus more on general aspects of narcotics law enforcement without highlighting the dynamics and obstacles faced by investigators at the regional level.[18]

Based on a review of several previous studies, there are differences in the focus of the issues that have attracted researchers' attention, thus opening up opportunities for further research. Research indicates that studies specifically discussing the role of investigators in handling narcotics trafficking cases within the jurisdiction of the Palangka Raya Police are still limited. Most studies focus more on general aspects of narcotics law enforcement without highlighting the dynamics and obstacles faced by investigators at the regional level. Based on several previous studies, it appears that the implementation of criminal law policies in handling narcotics crimes has been widely studied from various perspectives. Research by Damayanti and Pangaribuan (2017) focuses on the implementation of Law Number 35 of 2009 at the regional police level, particularly in Balikpapan City, which shows that law enforcement has been ongoing but still faces technical obstacles in the field. [19]Meanwhile, Noviyanti (2024) shifts the focus to institutional strategies through a collaborative governance approach by the Sleman National Narcotics Agency (BNNK) in efforts to prevent and eradicate narcotics. [20]Prastasena and Utama's (2024) research focused more on prevention efforts through early detection by local government

[16] Adilane Sutriliawan.S, Marwan Mas, Abd Haris Hamid, *"Effectiveness of Investigation of Narcotics Abuse Perpetrators in Polewali Mandar Regency (Case Study at Polewali Mandar Police Resort,"* Indonesia Journal of Legality of Law, (2023): P. 175.

[17] Baharuddin, MJ . *"The Role of the National Narcotics Agency (BNN) in Preventing and Overcoming Drug Trafficking in Polewali Mandar Regency."* Alauddin Law Development Journal, Vol.3, No.(3) (2021): Pp. 591-596.

[18]Results of the Author's Interview with Mrs. Yonika Winner Te'dang, ST, MH, Head of the Narcotics Unit of the Palangka Raya Police and Ipda Nopri Ilega Putra, SH , Head of the Narcotics Unit of the Palangka Raya Police at the Palangka Raya City Police Resort, on Monday, November 11, 2025 and March 4, 2026, at 10:00 WIB, the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit Location.

[19] Damayanti, S., & Pangaribuan, P. *"Implementation of Narcotics Crime Regulations Based on Law Number 35 of 2009 Concerning Narcotics in Balikpapan City"* . Journal de Facto, Vol.4, No.(1), (2017): P. 1-21.

[20]Noviyanti, Marlina. *"BNNK Sleman's Strategy in Reducing Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking: Collaborative Governance Perspective."* Anterior Journal, Vol. 23, No. 3. (2024): pp. 26-36.

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agencies in Palangka Raya. [21]Meanwhile, Nurlaelah, Ahmad Harakan, and Ansyari Mone (2019) examined the National Narcotics Agency's (BNN) strategy for preventing drug trafficking in Makassar.[22] Although these studies have made significant contributions in building a framework for understanding narcotics law enforcement in general, these studies have not yet deeply touched on empirical aspects in the field, particularly those related to the operational dynamics of investigations, structural obstacles faced by investigators, and the effectiveness of implementing criminal law policies in the local context within the jurisdiction of the Palangka Raya Police.

Although various related studies have been conducted, to date, no study has been found that specifically discusses how the implementation of criminal law policies in handling narcotics distribution in the jurisdiction of the Palangka Raya Police using an empirical approach that directly observes investigative practices, operational obstacles, and the level of effectiveness of law enforcement in the field. This indicates a significant gap in research, considering that Palangka Raya City has special characteristics as the capital of Central Kalimantan Province, which geographically has the potential to be a transit route and a narcotics distribution area. In addition, various challenges faced by the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit, such as limited resources, less than optimal inter-agency coordination, and the development of increasingly diverse criminal modus operandi, have not been widely discussed in previous research. Therefore, this study, entitled "Implementation of Criminal Law Policies in Handling Narcotics Distribution Cases in the Jurisdiction of the Palangka Raya Police," was conducted to fill this gap by presenting a more comprehensive analysis that is in accordance with real conditions in the field, while also contributing to the development of criminal law science, especially in the aspect of narcotics law enforcement at the regional level.

B. Formulation of the problem

Based on the explanation of the problem background above, the author concludes 2 (two) problem formulations, namely:

1. How is the implementation of criminal law policy in handling narcotics distribution cases in the jurisdiction of the Palangka Raya Police?
2. What obstacles and stages are faced by the Palangka Raya Police in the process of handling narcotics distribution cases in Palangka Raya City?

C. Research methods

This research uses the Empirical Juridical Research method (*Field Research*) or sociological research which is a legal research method that analyzes law factually, by collecting data from the field to see how the law actually works in practice and supported by secondary data that acts as supporting evidence to strengthen empirical findings in the field. This research views law as a social phenomenon (*law in action*), so the main data is obtained through observation, interviews, surveys, or practice documents.[23] The data used in this study are primary data from questionnaires submitted to respondents in a survey at the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Investigation Unit with the research topic "Implementation of Criminal Law Policy in Handling Narcotics Distribution Cases in the Palangka Raya Police Jurisdiction". The empirical juridical approach was chosen because this study not only focuses on the study of written legal rules, but also sees how the law is applied directly in the field, especially in handling narcotics distribution cases. Empirical legal research focuses more on legal behavior in society *(legal behavior)* , so this study not only discusses the contents of articles in the law, but also examines the extent to which these regulations are actually implemented by law enforcement officers. In the context of narcotics law enforcement, this approach is very appropriate because the problems faced are quite complex, ranging from procedural constraints, institutional limitations, to social factors that influence the effectiveness of handling in the field.[24] Primary data collection in this study was conducted by distributing questionnaires to members of the Palangka Raya Police

[21]Prastasena, Rafli Restu, & Lalu Satria Utama . *"Prevent Early Detection in Preventing Drug Distribution by the National Unity and Politics Agency in Palangka Raya City, Central Kalimantan Province."* (2024): pp. 5-7.

[22]Nurlaelah, Ahmad Harakan, Ansyari Mone. "The National Narcotics Agency (BNN) Strategy in Preventing Narcotics Distribution in Makassar City." *Gorontalo Journal of Government and Political Studies* Vol. 2, No. 1. (2019): P. 024-031.

[23] Agus Widanarko, Suprawi, Hafid Zakariya. *"An Empirical Legal Review of Community Stigma Towards Drug Addicts Post-Rehabilitation".* Jurnal Bevending, Vol. 03, No. 01 (2025).: Pp. 19-21.

[24] Dr. Muhaimin, SH., M.Hum. (2020). *"Legal Research Methods. West Nusa Tenggara". Mataram University Press.*

Narcotics Investigation Unit, the primary respondents. The questionnaires were used to obtain systematic and measurable data regarding the perceptions and experiences of law enforcement officers in handling drug trafficking cases in the region. In addition to primary data, this study also utilized secondary data such as laws and regulations, court decisions, police reports, and relevant scientific literature to support and strengthen the analysis.

D. Results and Discussion

Implementation of criminal law policies in handling narcotics distribution cases in the jurisdiction of the Palangka Raya Police.

In some literature, criminal law enforcement policy is also referred to as criminal law policy. According to Jazim Hamidi, legal policy is a policy pursued or implemented by the state through authorized state institutions or administrators to decide which laws need to be changed, maintained, or adjusted, so that through this policy, state institutions and the state government can carry out their duties properly and orderly, so that state goals can be planned and achieved gradually.[25] The implementation of criminal law policy in handling narcotics distribution cases in the jurisdiction of the Palangka Raya Police is carried out through a strict investigation process by the Narcotics Unit, with the main legal basis being Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics, the Criminal Procedure Code, and the Regulation of the Republic of Indonesia National Police Number 6 of 2019 concerning Management of Criminal Investigations . In practice, the Palangka Raya Police consistently charges perpetrators with Law Number 35 of 2009 Article 114 paragraph 1 subsidiary Article 112 paragraph 1 concerning narcotics, which is explained "Anyone who without rights or against the law offers for sale, sells, buys, receives, acts as an intermediary in the sale and purchase, exchanges, or delivers Class I Narcotics, shall be punished with life imprisonment or imprisonment for a minimum of 5 (five) years and a maximum of 20 (twenty) years and a fine of at least Rp1,000,000,000.00 (one billion rupiah) and a maximum of Rp10,000,000,000.00 (ten billion rupiah)". The perpetrator can be charged with Article 114 paragraph 2 subsidiary to Article 112 paragraph 2 which provides a maximum penalty of 20 years imprisonment or even life imprisonment, depending on the weight and type of narcotics controlled. This legal framework provides strong authority for the police to take firm action against perpetrators of narcotics distribution in order to provide a deterrent effect and protect the public from the dangers of narcotics abuse.[26]

In the implementation of criminal law policy, particularly in handling narcotics crimes, there is an important aspect that needs to be clarified, namely the provisions regarding the time limit for arresting suspects. In law enforcement practices, differences in interpretation often arise among law enforcement officials, such as police investigators and prosecutors, regarding the permissible duration of arrest. Meanwhile, Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics has specifically regulated that arrests of perpetrators of narcotics crimes can be carried out for 3 x 24 hours. This provision differs from the general provisions contained in Article 19 paragraph (1) of the Criminal Procedure Code which states that arrests by the police can only be carried out for a maximum of 1 x 24 hours. This difference in provisions has the potential to cause misunderstandings in its implementation. Therefore, reaffirmation is needed in the implementation of criminal law policy so that the rules regarding the time limit for arrest in narcotics cases can be understood and applied appropriately and in line with applicable legal provisions.[27]

In handling narcotics crime cases, the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit uses Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics as the main legal basis in the investigation and law enforcement process. Although the new Criminal Code has been ratified and will come into full effect in 2026 which also includes articles on narcotics,

[25] Jazim Hamidi, quoted from Abdul Latif and Harki Ali, Politics and Law, Sinar Graphics, Jakarta, 2014, p. 21

[26]The results of the Author's interview with Mrs. Yonika Winner Te'dang, ST, MH, Head of the Narcotics Unit of the Palangka Raya Police, Ipda Nopri Ilega Putra, SH , Head of the Narcotics Unit of the Palangka Raya Police, and Aiptu Aswansyah SH, Head of Subunit 1 of the Narcotics Unit of the Palangka Raya Police, at the Palangka Raya City Police Resort, on Monday, November 11, 2025 and March 4, 2026, at 10:00 WIB, the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit.

[27]The results of the Author's interview with Mrs. Yonika Winner Te'dang, ST, MH, Head of the Narcotics Investigation Unit of the Palangka Raya Police, Ipda Nopri Ilega Putra, SH , Head of the Narcotics Investigation Unit of the Palangka Raya Police, on Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at 09:00 WIB, the Narcotics Investigation Unit of the Palangka Raya Police.

based on the principle of *Lex Specialis Derogat Legi Generali* , special laws regulating narcotics remain the main priority in handling cases. Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics is a special regulation *(lex specialis)* that comprehensively regulates all aspects related to narcotics, starting from definitions, types of narcotics, narcotic groups, narcotic precursors, criminal acts, criminal sanctions, medical and social rehabilitation, to legal protection for witnesses and informants who provide information to law enforcement officers.[28]

The Criminal Law Policy implemented by the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit in an effort to combat illicit drug trafficking is essentially a series of law enforcement actions aimed at ensuring public compliance with narcotics laws and regulations. This policy is not only oriented towards repressive action, but also includes preventive efforts to reduce the number of drug abuse. [29]From the perspective of the legal system theory put forward by Lawrence M. Friedman, the effectiveness of law enforcement is greatly influenced by three main elements, namely the legal structure (law enforcement agencies), legal substance (applicable rules), and legal culture (public awareness and behavior). Therefore, the policies implemented, such as various efforts to eradicate illicit drug trafficking, are not only a form of implementation of the existing legal substance, but also part of an effort to strengthen the legal structure and build a legal culture in society to be more aware and compliant with the dangers of drugs.[30]

In addition, there are also Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) mechanisms and procedures applied in handling narcotics trafficking cases, starting from the investigation to the investigation by the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Investigation Unit. In carrying out criminal investigation duties, both General Crimes and Special Crimes including Narcotics, the Narcotics Investigation Unit (Satresnarkoba) uses the main legal basis, namely Regulation of the Chief of the Republic of Indonesia National Police Number 6 of 2019 concerning Criminal Investigation and Investigation. In addition, for the administrative filing process, Satresnarkoba is also guided by Bareskrim Regulation Number 1 of 2022 concerning Standard Operating Procedures for Criminal Investigation and Investigation. This Bareskrim Regulation Number 1 of 2022 has several attachments that serve as technical guidelines for implementation, namely:

a. Attachment 1 concerning Investigation Techniques;
b. Appendix 2 on Investigation Methodology (Mindik);
c. Appendix 3 on Technical Assistance;
d. Appendix 4 on Investigation Management (MP); and
e. Appendix 5. Specifically, the Technical Appendix provides a comprehensive explanation of laboratory procedures, Investigation Report (LE) research, and other technical procedures. Therefore, the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) used are comprehensively explained in Bareskrim Regulation Number 1 of 2022.[31]

The following are the stages from receiving a report of a drug case to arrest. Stages of Handling Drug Crimes Before the Head of the Unit, who usually works in the field, explains further, it is important to understand that drug crimes are rarely reported by the public. The Narcotics Unit typically actively seeks information because drug cases are not reported as complaints, but rather incidents discovered directly in the field by the public and police. [32]The following are the stages from receiving a case to arrest:

a. Investigation Stage

[28] The results of the Author's interview with Ipda Acep Sopandi, Head of Unit 2 of the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit, at the Palangka Raya City Police Resort, on Monday, November 11, 2025, at 10.00 WIB, the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit Headquarters.

[29] Results of the Author's Interview with Ipda Nopri Ilega Putra, SH , Head of the Narcotics Unit of the Palangka Raya Police, at the Palangka Raya City Police Resort, on Monday, November 11, 2025, at 10.00 WIB, the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Research Unit Location.

[30]Indriana, Alvi Syahrini, Edi Yunara, Affila. "Criminal Law Policy for Eradicating Narcotics Abuse and Distribution Through the Destruction of Marijuana Plantations in North Sumatra Province." Locus: Journal of Legal Science Concepts. Vol. 4, No. 1 (2024): P. 19.

[31] The results of the Author's interview with IPDA Nopri Ilega Putra, SH , Head of the Narcotics Unit of the Palangka Raya Police, at the Palangka Raya City Police Resort, on Monday, November 11, 2025, at 10.00 WIB, the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Research Unit Headquarters.

[32]The results of the Author's interview with Mrs. Yonika Winner Te'dang, ST, MH, Head of the Narcotics Crime Unit of the Palangka Raya Police, at the Palangka Raya City Police Resort, on Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at 09:00 WIB.

After receiving information from the public, we conduct an investigation. An investigation is the initial step in determining whether a crime has actually occurred. If the investigation leads to a drug crime, whether involving a user, dealer, seller, or courier, the process proceeds to the next stage.

b. Arrest Stage

After an investigation is conducted, the perpetrator is usually caught red-handed based on information from the public. In accordance with Articles 182 and 184 of the Criminal Procedure Code, "If evidence is found on the suspect, the appropriate articles will be applied depending on the type and amount of evidence found." It should be emphasized that the handling of drug crime cases is *Lex Specialis* (special law), meaning that investigators do not wait for reports from the public, but actively seek out and solve cases.

c. Disclosure and Initial Examination Stage

During the disclosure stage, we confirm whether a crime has occurred. If drug trafficking is proven, an arrest is made. Following the arrest, we conduct an initial investigation in accordance with standard operating procedures (SOP), which includes: questioning the suspect, examining evidence, and analyzing the elements of the crime. We assess whether the case deserves to be escalated to a criminal offense.

d. Investigation Stage

If a case meets the elements as per the applicable Criminal Procedure Code 184, the status is upgraded from a physical report to a further investigation. The purpose of an investigation is to seek and find evidence to determine the status of a suspect. Without upgrading the status from an inquiry to a preliminary investigation, we cannot name someone as a suspect. Therefore, the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit prepares a physical report based on the results of the investigation. In this case, the reporter is ourselves (the police), not the community. The differences between these types of reports include: LPH (Results of Event Reports), namely events discovered by the police and LPB (Complaint/News Reports), complaints from the community. Points that often become obstacles in the handling process are when we arrive at the location, it turns out the place is empty or the perpetrator immediately fled. This is an obstacle we often face in the field.[33]

Therefore, as long as this special law is still in effect and has not been revoked, it will remain the main reference for investigators in handling narcotics cases in the field. This law is a "holy book" or fundamental guideline for every investigator, both those handling general crimes and special crimes, in carrying out various stages of investigation starting from arrest, detention, search, confiscation, determination of suspects, determination of the articles charged, to the preparation of case files that will be submitted to the Prosecutor's Office. By adhering to Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning narcotics, investigators can ensure that every action and legal process carried out has a strong, clear, and legally accountable legal basis, so that law enforcement against perpetrators of narcotics crimes can run optimally, professionally, and provide a maximum deterrent effect to perpetrators of narcotics crimes while protecting the public from the dangers of narcotics abuse.[34] The Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit implemented a systematic and measurable operational strategy in uncovering narcotics trafficking cases throughout 2025. The public information-based investigation method is the main approach, where arrests begin with public information regarding suspicious narcotics transaction activities, which are then followed up with in-depth investigations and intensive monitoring before arrests are made to ensure the accuracy and completeness of evidence. Case disclosure data shows a handling pattern that includes various types of narcotics, including ecstasy pills with varying weights from 3.26 grams to 70.28 grams (6-200 pills), as well as significant amounts of methamphetamine ranging from 15.06 grams to 200.23 grams packaged in dozens of ready-to-distribute packages. The operational areas are spread across various strategic sub-districts in Palangka Raya, including Jekan Raya Sub-district (Menteng, Petuk Katimpun, Bukit Tunggal Sub-district), Sabangau Sub-district

[33] The results of the Author's interview with IPDA Nopri Ilega Putra, SH , Head of the Narcotics Unit of the Palangka Raya Police, at the Palangka Raya City Police Resort, on Monday, November 11, 2025, at 10.00 WIB, the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Research Unit Headquarters.

[34] The results of the Author's interview with IPDA Nopri Ilega Putra, SH , Head of the Narcotics Unit of the Palangka Raya Police, at the Palangka Raya City Police Resort, on Monday, November 11, 2025, at 10.00 WIB, the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Research Unit Headquarters.

(Sabaru Sub-district), and Pahandut Sub-district (Langkai Sub-district), indicating that narcotics circulation has spread to various areas requiring strict supervision and coordinated operations to break the distribution chain.[35]

The implementation of criminal law policies at the Palangka Raya Police Station is inseparable from the synergy and support of the national strategy in eradicating narcotics. At the national level, collaboration between the National Narcotics Agency (BNN), the Indonesian National Police (Polri), Customs and Excise, and other relevant institutions has successfully uncovered 27 national and international narcotics syndicates throughout 2024, demonstrating the government's serious commitment to eradicating cross-regional narcotics trafficking. Nationally, the National Police's achievements in 2024 recorded the disclosure of 42,824 drug cases with a resolution rate of 84.47%, as well as the confiscation of narcotics evidence worth a staggering Rp8.6 trillion, demonstrating the effectiveness of coordination between law enforcement agencies. This success at the national level has had a positive impact and strengthened the capacity of the Palangka Raya Police Station in implementing criminal law policies, thanks to the exchange of intelligence information, standardization of operational procedures, and resource support that enable the professional and comprehensive handling of narcotics cases down to the regional level.[36]

Despite showing positive achievements in law enforcement, the implementation of narcotics criminal law policy at the Palangka Raya Police Department still faces various challenges that require evaluation and policy adjustments. Factors influencing the effectiveness of law enforcement need to be re-examined to produce a more responsive and effective policy, so the revision of Law Number 35 of 2009 is a strategic step to adapt the policy to the challenges and dynamics of contemporary narcotics problems that continue to develop. Currently, the National Narcotics Agency (BNN) is synergizing with the National Police (Polri) to prepare a proposal to merge the Narcotics and Psychotropics Bill by emphasizing a holistic approach that emphasizes not only punitive aspects, but also efforts to save drug abusers through rehabilitation programs, decriminalization of drug abusers to differentiate them from dealers, and institutional strengthening in order to increase prevention and handling capacity.[37]

The Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit carries out systematic steps in the process of enforcing criminal law for narcotics crime cases, starting from the prevention stage to the submission of case files to the Prosecutor's Office. According to Mr. Ipda Nopri Ilega Putra, SH as Head of the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit, the first step taken is prevention through outreach activities to the community to provide an understanding of the dangers of narcotics. In addition, the Narcotics Unit also conducts joint patrols every 23.00 WIB to anticipate and monitor places indicated as locations for illicit narcotics trafficking. In the Indonesian criminal justice system, duties and authorities are clearly divided where the police are tasked with conducting investigations, the Prosecutor's Office carries out prosecutions, and the Court issues sentences against defendants. As explained by Mr. Aiptu Aswansyah SH, Narcotics Investigation investigators work based on applicable laws by applying the regulated articles, while prosecution matters are the domain of the Prosecutor's Office and sentencing decisions are the authority of the Judge.[38] The process of prosecuting drug dealers in drug cases, whether involving dealers, distributors, or users, essentially recognizes that drug trafficking occurs through an organized network. Therefore, when investigators successfully arrest one individual, the investigation doesn't stop there, but continues to expand to identify other perpetrators involved. For example, several users caught with limited evidence are questioned to determine where they obtained the drugs. Based on this information, the police then arrest their suppliers and further develop the case to uncover a larger network, including the dealers. This demonstrates that drug case handling is carried out sustainably and purposefully, given the organized nature of this crime. Therefore, law enforcement officers always strive to prosecute all perpetrators involved by conducting thorough investigations to uncover and eradicate the entire drug distribution network.[39]

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[35] The results of the Author's interview with IPDA Nopri Ilega Putra, SH , Head of the Narcotics Unit of the Palangka Raya Police, at the Palangka Raya City Police Resort, on Monday, November 11, 2025, at 10.00 WIB, the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Research Unit Headquarters.

[36] Ibid. Interview results

[37] National Narcotics Agency. (2017). *"Drugs and Their Problems"* . Jakarta: Deputy for Prevention, BNN RI.

[38] The results of the Author's interview with IPDA Nopri Ilega Putra, SH , Head of the Narcotics Unit of the Palangka Raya Police, at the Palangka Raya City Police Resort, on Monday, November 11, 2025, at 10.00 WIB, the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Research Unit Headquarters.

[39]The results of the Author's interview with Mrs. Yonika Winner Te'dang, ST, MH, Head of the Narcotics Crime Unit of the Palangka Raya Police, at the Palangka Raya City Police Resort, on Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at 09:00 WIB.

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The Narcotics Unit's task in handling narcotics cases ends at the P21 stage, which is the stage where the case file is declared complete by the Public Prosecutor. P21 marks the completion of the police's task in the investigation process of a case. The process begins with the preparation of the case file by the investigator which is then sent to the Prosecutor's Office for review, correction, and examination of its completeness. If the case file still contains deficiencies, the Prosecutor's Office will issue a P19 file containing instructions on matters that must be completed or added by the investigator. After the investigator completes the deficiencies, the case file will be sent back to the Prosecutor's Office for re-examination. If the case file is declared complete, a P21 determination will be issued, indicating that the file has formally met the requirements to be transferred to the prosecution stage.[40]

After the P21 status is issued, the Narcotics Crime Investigation Unit then issues a letter handing over the case files, evidence, and suspect to the Prosecutor's Office. Generally speaking, case files submitted by the police and declared P21 are fit for trial because they comply with applicable laws and meet both formal and material requirements for further processing. At this stage, full responsibility shifts from the police to the Prosecutor's Office, including the process of detaining the suspect and securing evidence. However, the Narcotics Crime Investigation Unit's role does not completely end. If there is a summons from the Court to provide testimony as a witness or for clarification regarding the investigation process, investigators are still obliged to attend and assist in the trial process. Coordination with the Court is also maintained, especially regarding the sending of letters regarding the status of evidence that has been secured by the police.[41]

In today's digital era, the criminal case handling system in Indonesia has adopted electronic-based technology that is integrated across law enforcement agencies. According to the explanations of IPDA Nopri Ilega Putra, Aiptu Aswansyah SH, and Ipda Acep Sopandi, the police have an application system called EMP (Electronic Investigation Management) which is connected to SPPT or SPPPI (Integrated Criminal Justice Information System). This system allows for online information exchange between the Police, the Prosecutor's Office, the Court, and the relevant Ministries. Every investigative process must be input into the EMP system, including when determining suspect status and sending an SPDP (Notification Letter of Commencement of Investigation) to the Prosecutor's Office as a form of initial coordination that an investigation against a person has begun. If data is not input into the system, the case file will not be accepted and will be returned by the Prosecutor's Office. This system is online throughout Indonesia and has a special operator who uses a separate password to access it, so that data is more secure and cannot be misused by unauthorized parties.[42]

A very important aspect in handling narcotics trafficking cases is proving the authenticity and validity of the confiscated evidence, the heart of handling narcotics cases lies in the evidence, so the police must ensure that the confiscated goods are truly narcotics containing addictive substances in accordance with the provisions of the law. For this reason, the Narcotics Unit requested assistance from the Forensic Laboratory Center (Balai Propelkom/Puslabfor) to conduct laboratory tests on the confiscated evidence. Mr. IPDA Nopri Ilega Putra, SH emphasized that investigators cannot unilaterally determine that an item is a narcotic without first undergoing laboratory testing, because the item could be alum or other substances that are not narcotics. This testing process has strict Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), starting from the sampling mechanism to the filling of evidence that must be carried out by experts with special expertise. The results of this laboratory research are what legally state that the evidence contains addictive substances and materials that are classified as narcotics according to the law.[43]

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[40] The results of the author's interview with Ipda Acep Sopandi, Head of Unit 2 of the Narcotics Crime Unit and Ipda Nopri Ilega Putra, SH , Head of the Narcotics Crime Unit of the Palangka Raya Police, at the Palangka Raya City Police Resort, on Monday, November 11, 2025, at 10.00 WIB, the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Crime Unit Headquarters.

[41] The results of the author's interview with Aiptu Aswansyah SH, Head of Subunit 1 of the Narcotics Crime Unit, Ipda Acep Sopandi, Head of Unit 2 of the Narcotics Crime Unit, and Ipda Nopri Ilega Putra, SH , Head of the Narcotics Crime Unit, Ipda Acep Sopandi, Head of Unit 2 of the Narcotics Crime Unit and Ipda Nopri Ilega Putra, SH , Head of the Narcotics Crime Unit, Palangka Raya Police, at the Palangka Raya City Police Resort, on Monday, November 11, 2025, at 10:00 WIB, Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Crime Unit Headquarters.

[42]Ibid **.** Interview Results

[43] Results of the Author's Interview with Ipda Acep Sopandi, Head of Unit 2 of the Narcotics Crime Unit, Ipda Nopri Ilega Putra, SH , Head of the Narcotics Crime Unit, and Aiptu Aswansyah SH, at the Palangka Raya City Police Resort, on Monday, November 11, 2025, at 10.00 WIB, Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Crime Unit Headquarters.

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According to the explanation of Mr. Ipda Acep Sopandi, what certifies that an item is a narcotic is not the object itself or the investigator's statement, but rather a letter of laboratory test results from the Propelkom Center. This laboratory test document is valid and strong evidence in court to prove that the defendant has committed a narcotics crime. Thus, the success of handling narcotics cases depends heavily on the quality of the evidence and accurate laboratory test results. This entire process demonstrates that handling narcotics cases requires systematic stages, good coordination between law enforcement agencies, as well as technological support and specialized expertise to ensure that the law enforcement process runs in accordance with applicable laws and can be legally accounted for. [44]

Thus, the Palangka Raya Police are expected to continue to implement a firm narcotics criminal law policy through a (preventive) approach based on active community participation and (repressive) through consistent law enforcement based on Law Number 35 of 2009 Concerning, with a primary focus on taking action against dealers and developing narcotics distribution networks, while also paying attention to the rehabilitation aspect for victims of narcotics abuse to create a more comprehensive and equitable narcotics prevention ecosystem. The following is data on narcotics distribution cases handled by the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit:

Table 1.1
Data on Drug Case Handling at the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit for the 2022-2026 Period

No.	Year	Number of Cases	Number of Suspects	Information
1.	2022	60 Cases	69 People	Annual average estimate
2.	2023	40 Cases	46 People	Annual average estimate
3.	2024	51 Cases	55 People	Annual average estimate
4.	2025	66 Cases	68 People	Annual average estimate
5.	2026	5 Cases- April	6 People	Fingerprint

Source : Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Research Unit 2025-2026.
Total Estimate (2022-2026): 222 Cases
Total Suspects (2022-2026): 244 Suspects
Types of Narcotics Handled

1. Class I crystal methamphetamine: Most commonly handled
2. Ecstasy Class I: Second most common case

Types of Narcotics Rarely Found/Non-Existing

1. Morphine: Rare or no cases yet
2. Marijuana: There is but the amount is small/not much

Vital Records:

- The average number of cases handled per year is 44.4 cases.
- Almost every year, the cases handled are dominated by crystal methamphetamine and ecstasy.
- Other types of narcotics cases (apart from crystal methamphetamine and ecstasy) are very rarely handled by the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit.
- The year 2026 shows a figure of 5 cases with 6 suspects up to January (data does not cover the full year).

[44] Results of the Author's Interview with Ipda Acep Sopandi, Head of Unit 2 of the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit, at the Palangka Raya City Police Resort, on Monday, November 11, 2025, at 10.00 WIB, Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit Headquarters.

Obstacles and stages faced by the Palangka Raya Police in the process of handling narcotics distribution cases in Palangka Raya City

In substance, the legal regulations regarding narcotics in Indonesia are actually quite adequate and do not have significant shortcomings. However, in practice, drug distribution and use continue to increase due to relatively easy access for the public. In terms of law enforcement, particularly by the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit, which handles narcotics cases within its jurisdiction, The main obstacles faced by the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit in handling narcotics distribution cases are:

1) The lack of information obtained from the public is caused by the fear among the public to submit reports or provide information to the police. According to Mr. Ipda Acep Sopandi as Head of Unit 2 of the Narcotics Crime Unit, this public fear is an influential obstacle in efforts to uncover drug cases in the field. Even though the authorities have known the alleged perpetrator or dealer, without sufficient evidence, the case cannot be continued to the court stage. Therefore, proof through evidence is very crucial.
2) The discovery of the Modus Operandi carried out by the perpetrators of illicit drug trafficking has become an obstacle for investigators from the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit in making arrests in the field. Some of the current narcotics distribution methods used include sending online packages, involving children as couriers, disguising drugs in the form of food and drinks, and distributing them in nightclubs. These various methods make the investigation process and arrest operations carried out by the Police, especially the Palangka Raya Police, more difficult and hampered. In addition, although there is coordination and synergy between institutions such as the BNN and various community organizations including the Dayak Anti-Drug Movement that have been running well, efforts to combat narcotics still depend heavily on the level of public awareness in avoiding and reporting drug abuse.
3) The public's low level of understanding of the dangers of narcotics in Palangka Raya City is one of the causes of the rampant drug trafficking in the area, especially among teenagers. This lack of knowledge about the dangers of drugs, particularly among parents, leads many teenagers to become drug users and dealers without their families' knowledge .[45] The causes of drug abuse are also related to the decision-making characteristics of adolescents. Adolescents possess good judgment and are capable of making wise decisions when given sufficient time to think. However, adolescents sometimes tend to make emotional decisions rather than careful, considered, and logical ones. This situation ultimately leads to the widespread distribution of drugs among today's youth.[46]

Due to these issues, the Narcotics Investigation Unit (Satresnarkoba) routinely conducts outreach by involving various parties such as the National Narcotics Agency (BNN) and Community Organizations (ORMAS) in integrated activities to raise public awareness not only to stay away from drugs, but also to be brave in providing as much information as possible to the police. As explained by Mr. Aiptu Aswansyah SH, the public actually does not need to be afraid because Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics has regulated legal protection for anyone who provides information related to narcotics distribution, where the identity of the reporter such as name, background, and other personal data is guaranteed confidentiality by law. Even in the Narcotics Law and related Ministerial Regulations, it is regulated regarding the informant service system that provides rewards for members of the public who provide valuable information in uncovering drug cases. Thus, the rights and obligations of the public to report narcotics crimes are legally protected, so that active community participation is highly expected to assist the Satresnarkoba in eradicating narcotics distribution in Palangka Raya City.[47]

[45] The results of the author's interview with Aiptu Aswansyah SH, Head of Subunit 1 of the Narcotics Crime Unit, Ipda Acep Sopandi, Head of Unit 2 of the Narcotics Crime Unit, and Ipda Nopri Ilega Putra, SH , Head of the Narcotics Crime Unit, Ipda Acep Sopandi, Head of Unit 2 of the Narcotics Crime Unit and Ipda Nopri Ilega Putra, SH , Head of the Narcotics Crime Unit, Palangka Raya Police, at the Palangka Raya City Police Resort, on Monday, November 11, 2025, at 10:00 WIB, Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Crime Unit Headquarters.

[46]Retno Wibowo, Nanik Suwaryani, Aria Ahmad M, Purwanto, Ani k Budi Utami, Asih Priamsari. (2018). *"Smartly Facing Drugs"*. Jakarta: Directorate of Family Education Development, Directorate General of Early Childhood Education and Community Education, Ministry of Education and Culture.

[47] Results of the Author's Interview with Ipda Acep Sopandi, Head of Unit 2 of the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit and Aiptu Aswansyah SH, at the Palangka Raya City Police Resort, on Monday, November 11, 2025, at 10.00 WIB, Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit Headquarters.

The Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit implements criminal law policies by combining two approaches, namely preventive efforts and Repressive (enforcement). In terms of repressive measures, the police use Law No. 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics as the primary basis for prosecuting perpetrators of narcotics crimes. However, in practice, the implementation of this policy still faces several serious obstacles. One of the main obstacles is limited facilities and budget, where the costs required for the investigative process, such as forensic laboratory examinations and pursuing suspects outside the region, are relatively high. Furthermore, narcotics traffickers often use a disconnected network system, where couriers and buyers do not know each other and only communicate through social media or the "trace" method of leaving goods in certain locations, making it difficult for authorities to uncover the network and reach the main perpetrators. Furthermore, low public participation, which is still afraid or reluctant to testify, and the geographical conditions of the Palangka Raya region, which has many unofficial routes and densely populated areas, also contribute to the difficulty of optimal supervision.[48]

According to Mr. Ipda Nopri Ilega Putra, SH , as KBO of the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit, where The Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit focuses not only on enforcement but also on prevention and community outreach programs through Friday Chats and Sunday of Love activities. These programs support the aspirations of the President of the Republic of Indonesia, one of which is the eradication of illicit drug trafficking. They also implement the directives of the Chief of Criminal Investigation of the National Police and the Director of Narcotics Crimes to enhance prevention efforts in dealing with narcotics. These programs are designed as a comprehensive strategy that combines law enforcement with a humanistic approach to the community.[49]

The stages of the process of handling narcotics trafficking cases in the jurisdiction of the Palangka Raya Police are as follows : The Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit also holds Friday Curhat (Friday Chat) which has two main strategic functions in drug eradication efforts. First, this program serves as a forum to collect information from the public regarding drug trafficking in their area, so that officers can obtain accurate data and intelligence regarding narcotics illicit trafficking activities. Second, this activity is a means to listen to public complaints related to criminal acts, especially those related to narcotics, so that effective two-way communication is created between the authorities and the community. In its implementation, officers approach the community by asking about the condition of drug trafficking in their environment, providing an understanding of the dangers of narcotics, conveying the latest information regarding the modus operandi of drug trafficking, and providing socialization about efforts to prevent and overcome drug abuse.[50]

Third, the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit proactively visits places where people gather, such as markets, schools, offices, places of worship, and community groups, to conduct direct communication and outreach to gather information and build public trust in the police force. The Love Sunday program is also part of police activities that are not only carried out by the Narcotics Unit, but involve all ranks of the Palangka Raya Police as a form of concern and service to the community in creating an environment free from illicit drug trafficking. Through these prevention programs, it is hoped that a strong synergy will be created between the police and the community in a joint effort to eradicate drug trafficking in Palangka Raya City, so that it does not only rely on repressive action but also builds awareness and active participation of the community as a bulwark against the dangers of narcotics.[51] Law enforcers are role models in society and should possess specific skills aligned with societal aspirations. They must be able to communicate and gain understanding from target groups, while also being able to perform roles that are acceptable to them. Role models must also be able to choose the right time and environment to introduce new legal norms and principles, and set a good example. [52]Community participation in drug prevention includes the following:

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[48] Results of the Author's Interview with IPDA Nopri Ilega Putra, SH , Head of the Narcotics Unit of the Palangka Raya Police, at the Palangka Raya City Police Resort, on Monday, November 11, 2025, at 10:00 WIB, the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Research Unit Location.

[49]Ibid. Interview Results.

[50] Results of an Interview with the Author IPDA Nopri Ilega Putra, SH , Head of the Narcotics Unit of the Palangka Raya Police, at the Palangka Raya City Police Resort, on Monday, November 11, 2025, at 10:00 WIB, the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Research Unit Location.

[51]Results of the Author's Interview with Mrs. Yonika Winner Te'dang, ST, MH, Head of the Narcotics Crime Unit of the Palangka Raya Police, at the Palangka Raya City Police Resort, on Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at 09:00 WIB.

[52] M. Sadam Husin, SH, MH, Dr. Davit Rahmadan, SH, MH (2025). *"Rehabilitation VS Imprisonment: The Dilemma of Law Enforcement Against Narcotics Abuse in Indonesia."* West Java: *PT. Adab Indonesia* .

a. The community has the widest possible opportunity to participate in helping efforts to prevent and eradicate the abuse and illicit trafficking of narcotics.
b. The public is obliged to report to the relevant authorities if they become aware of any narcotics abuse or distribution.
c. The government is obliged to provide security guarantees and protection to the reporter as referred to in the paragraph.

Likewise, only with the operational activities of law enforcers with broader insight, besides requiring a complete understanding of the background of the formation of the crime and the modus operandi of the crime which with the advancement of the era of increasingly sophisticated technology, it is also necessary to carefully recognize the types of crime in terms of the level of the perpetrator's ties with social groups, as well as the levels of behavior measured from the number and level of involvement in certain crimes, their roles and professional levels.[53]

E. Conclusion

Based on the explanation of the results of the discussion above, the conclusion of this study is:

1) The implementation of criminal law policy in handling narcotics trafficking cases in the jurisdiction of the Palangka Raya Police is carried out systematically by the Narcotics Unit based on Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics as lex specialis, the Criminal Procedure Code, and the Regulation of the Chief of Police Number 6 of 2019 and the Regulation of the Chief of Criminal Investigation Agency Number 1 of 2022 as technical operational guidelines. The implementation of this policy includes two complementary approaches, namely a repressive approach through firm law enforcement by ensnaring perpetrators using Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning narcotics Articles 114 and 112, and a preventive approach through counseling programs, joint patrols, Friday Curhat, and Sunday of Love which aim to build public legal awareness. The case handling process is carried out in stages starting from investigation, arrest, disclosure, investigation, to submission of case files to the Prosecutor's Office at the P21 stage, supported by an integrated EMP-based technology system connected to SPPT/SPPPI between law enforcement agencies, as well as scientific evidence through forensic laboratory tests at the Propelkom Center to ensure the legal validity of evidence. Throughout the 2022–2026 period, the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit successfully handled 222 cases with 244 suspects, with the dominant type of narcotics being methamphetamine and Class I ecstasy, which demonstrates the institution's consistency and commitment in combating illicit drug trafficking in Palangka Raya City.
2) From the aspect of community participation and preventive strategies, the implementation of criminal law policies in handling narcotics trafficking cases in the jurisdiction of the Palangka Raya Police still faces various significant obstacles and requires serious attention from various parties. The main obstacles faced include the lack of information from the community due to fear of reporting, the development of increasingly sophisticated modus operandi of narcotics trafficking such as online package delivery, the use of children as couriers, and a disconnected network system that makes it difficult to reveal the main perpetrators, in addition to the low public understanding of the dangers of narcotics, especially among teenagers. Limited budget and operational facilities, the geographical conditions of the Palangka Raya area which has many unofficial routes, and low community participation as witnesses also become inhibiting factors that weaken the effectiveness of law enforcement. Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen the synergy between the Narcotics Crime Unit, the National Narcotics Agency (BNN), the Prosecutor's Office, the Courts, and all elements of society in an integrated manner, accompanied by encouragement to accelerate the revision of Law Number 35 of 2009 which is more holistic by emphasizing the balance between punitive aspects for dealers and rehabilitative aspects for users, so that narcotics control in Palangka Raya City can be carried out in a more comprehensive, equitable, and sustainable manner.

F. Suggestion

The suggestions that the author wishes to convey are:

[53]Deny Albar, Nelvetia Purba, M. Arif Sahlepi . *"Community Legal Communication and Information Media."* Jurnal Hukum Kaidah Vol. 22, No. 1, (2022): Pp. 128-129.

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1) Based on the discussion regarding the Implementation of Criminal Law Policy in Handling Narcotics Distribution Cases in the Palangka Raya Police Department's Jurisdiction, as well as the obstacles and stages in handling these cases, the author proposes several suggestions as strategic solutions. First, from a policy and institutional perspective, the author proposes that the revision of Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics be completed immediately with a sharper view in distinguishing between dealers and abusers through a decriminalization approach, so that victims of abuse can be directed to comprehensive rehabilitation programs rather than imprisonment. Furthermore, the capabilities of the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit need to be enhanced by improving the quality of human resources through training in modern investigations and digital forensic technology, providing a budget for tools such as narcotics detection and artificial intelligence-based intelligence systems, and developing an EMP system to monitor distribution patterns directly. Cooperation with the Forensic Laboratory Center must also be strengthened so that evidence examination can be carried out more quickly, and the importance of establishing a special unit for cybercrime to deal with narcotics distribution on digital platforms.
2) In terms of community participation and prevention strategies, the challenge of lack of information due to fear must be addressed by expanding programs such as Friday's Curhat (Friday's Confessions) and Sunday of Love (Sunday of Love) involving community leaders, religious leaders, and social organizations. The informant system must also be strengthened by providing incentives and security guarantees through an app-based anonymous reporting mechanism or a 24-hour hotline, as well as budgetary support from local governments. Prevention must be carried out in a planned manner through collaboration with the Education Office to include anti-narcotics education from an early age, targeting vulnerable groups, and utilizing social media as a campaign tool. Furthermore, drug handling must focus more on rehabilitation programs by providing adequate facilities, professional staff, and implementing a restorative justice approach for minor cases. Going forward, it is hoped that the public will be more actively involved in prevention efforts by boldly reporting suspicious activity and increasing awareness of their surroundings, particularly in monitoring the social interactions of young people. The government is expected to continue strengthening policies that support drug prevention and handling, including increasing the budget, expanding rehabilitation facilities, and ensuring the availability of sustainable and equitable education programs. Meanwhile, law enforcement officials are expected to improve their professionalism, integrity, and inter-agency collaboration, as well as be more responsive to technological developments and increasingly complex crime modes, so that drug case handling can be more effective, fair, and sustainable. With consistent implementation and support from transparent monitoring and evaluation, these efforts are expected to make Palangka Raya free from drug trafficking through collaboration between law enforcement officials, the government, and the community.

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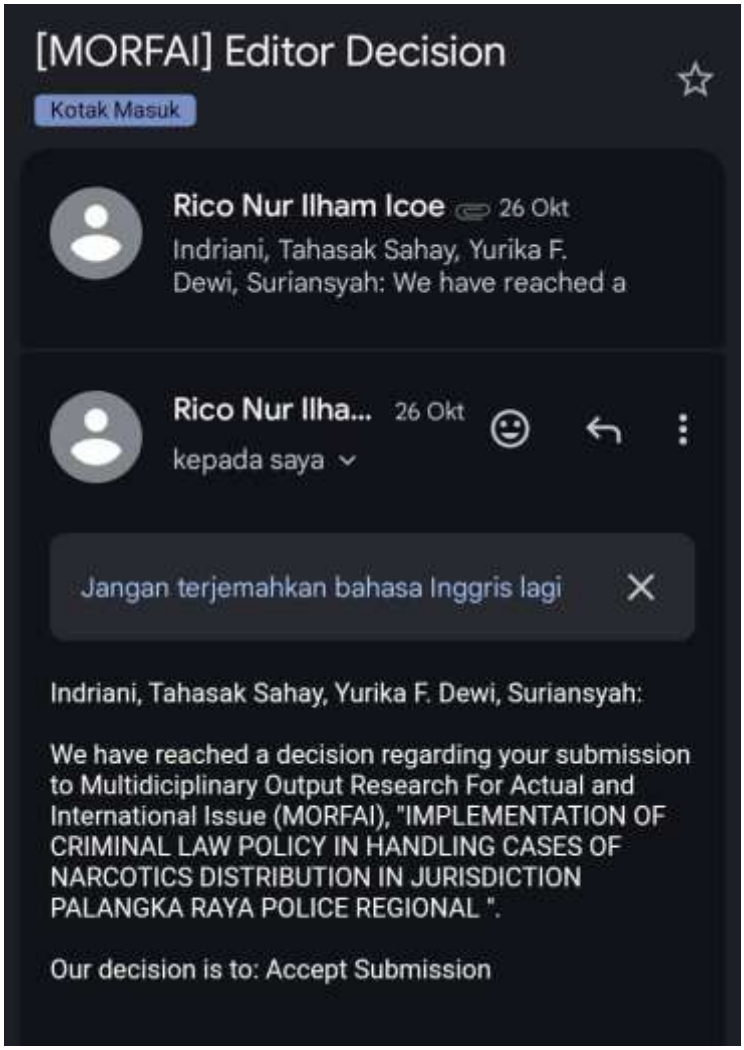

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IMPLEMENTATION OF CRIMINAL LAW POLICY IN HANDLING CASES OF NARCOTICS DISTRIBUTION IN JURISDICTION PALANGKA RAYA POLICE REGIONAL

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Abstract

This study aims to analyze the Implementation of Criminal Law Policy in Handling Narcotics Distribution Cases in the Palangka Raya Police Department's Jurisdiction. The narcotics problem has become a global and national threat that requires systematic handling from both preventive and repressive aspects. Drug distribution has currently become a concern of various countries throughout the world, especially in Palangka Raya City, therefore it is carried out through a strict investigation process by the Narcotics Unit based on Law Number 35 of 2009 which regulates that narcotics distribution is an illegal act that violates the law. This is due to the existence of an increasingly widespread drug trafficking network, the spread of drugs in various regions and the illicit trade in narcotics continues to escalate in various parts of the world. The research method used in this study is the empirical juridical method, where data is obtained through in-depth interviews with the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit and direct observation in the field. The research results show that the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit implements a measurable operational strategy, starting from public information-based investigations, syndicate network development, and the utilization of integrated *Electronic Investigation Management* (EMP) technology. Case data obtained from the field for the 2022-2026 period recorded 222 cases with 244 suspects, dominated by Class I narcotics such as methamphetamine and ecstasy. The main challenges in implementing criminal law policies in handling narcotics trafficking cases include the need for regulatory adjustments and a balance between a punitive approach to dealers and rehabilitation efforts for users. In conclusion, law enforcement at the Palangka Raya Police has been running in accordance with standard operating procedures, but strengthening inter-agency coordination and updating criminal law policies are still needed to address the ever-evolving dynamics of narcotics trafficking.

Keywords: Criminal Law Policy, Narcotics Distribution, Law Enforcement, Palangka Raya Police, Repressive Strategy.

INTRODUCTION

A. Background

Narcotics are substances or drugs that come from plants. or non-plant, either synthetic or semi-synthetic, which can cause a decrease or change consciousness, loss of feeling, reduced to relieve pain, and can cause dependence, which is divided into groups as attached in Law Number 39 of 2009 concerning Narcotics [1]. Some types of Narcotics in Indonesia are: Marijuana, heroin, cocaine, crystal methamphetamine, ecstasy, *ketamine, liysergyde, ermin-5, inhalants, prescription drugs,* in Palangka Raya City, the Narcotics Unit of the Police often finds Class I Narcotics, namely ecstasy and crystal methamphetamine. [2]Narcotics can only be used for the benefit of health services and or the development of science and technology. To improve the health of Indonesian human resources in order to realize the welfare of the

[1] Law Number 39 of 2009 concerning Narcotics
[2] Dr. Nata Irawan, Drs. Ali Johardi, SH, Dra. Yunis Farida Oktoris, M.Si, Dini Anggraini, SE, M.Si, Dian Angraeni, SE, M.Si, Sudirman, S.Ag., M.Si, Istik Karim, SE, M.AP, Guntur Maulana, ST, M.Si, Ifit Qalita, S.IP., M.Si, Lamini, S.Sos., M.Si, Soimin, SH, MH, Bogie Setia Perwira Nusa, SH, S.HI, MH, M.AP, Levina Ayudiakusuma, SIKOM. (2018). *"Watch Out! Drugs Enter Villages"* . East Jakarta: Deputy for Prevention, BNN RI, Directorate of Advocacy

people, it is necessary to make efforts to improve the field of treatment and health services, including by ensuring the availability of certain types of Narcotics that are urgently needed as medicine and by preventing and eradicating the dangers of abuse and illicit trafficking of Narcotics. Narcotics on the one hand are drugs or materials that are useful in the field of treatment or health services and the development of science and on the other hand can also cause very detrimental dependencies if misused or used without strict and careful control and supervision. [3]The types of narcotics crimes are: importing, exporting, producing, planting, storing, distributing, and or using narcotics without strict and careful control and supervision and are contrary to laws and regulations because they are very detrimental and constitute a very big danger to human life, society, nation, and state as well as the national resilience of Indonesia.[4]

Legal policy is a strategy or course of action determined by an authorized institution to achieve certain goals through legal instruments. In the context of criminal law, criminal law policy can be interpreted as an effort to realize criminal legislation that is appropriate to the circumstances and situations at a certain time and in the future. [5]The criminal law policy in handling narcotics trafficking cases in the jurisdiction of the Palangka Raya Police is an implementation of Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics which aims to eradicate illicit narcotics trafficking through a firm but just legal approach. This policy includes a law enforcement strategy that not only focuses on the aspect of action (*repressive*) against perpetrators of narcotics trafficking, especially teenagers who lack parental supervision, but also integrates a rehabilitation approach for narcotics users in accordance with the legal philosophy that positions users as victims who need treatment and recovery. [6]Within the jurisdiction of the Palangka Raya Police, this policy is implemented through special operations coordinated with various related agencies such as the National Narcotics Agency (BNN), the Prosecutor's Office, and the Courts, by implementing an integrated criminal justice system that prioritizes effectiveness and efficiency in the investigation, prosecution, and sentencing processes. This criminal law policy also emphasizes a proportional approach, where criminal sanctions are adjusted to the level of involvement of the perpetrator in the narcotics distribution network, from dealers and dealers to couriers, and takes into account factors such as the type and quantity of narcotics traded, the level of danger to the community, and the potential for rehabilitation of the perpetrator.[7] Drug trafficking has now become a concern for various countries around the world. This is due to the existence of illicit drug trafficking networks that are increasingly spreading drugs in various regions. This poses a serious threat to national defense and is very worrying for the global community, including Indonesia. [8]Therefore, international supervision and cooperation are needed to control and prevent illicit drug trafficking across countries. Various international policies in drug eradication efforts also need maximum support from all countries to prevent drug trafficking, especially in certain regions.[9]

The drug trafficking problem has become a pressing global threat to all countries worldwide. Through organized syndicates operating internationally, the illicit drug trade continues to escalate worldwide. Global data released by the *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)* shows that drug abuse has reached 296 million people internationally, making this problem a health and security crisis that requires serious attention. Addressing this issue requires strict international oversight and collaboration to control and prevent the illicit trafficking of narcotics across borders. Various international policies and conventions designed to combat the illicit drug trade must receive the full support of all countries worldwide to prevent drug distribution in certain regions. The circulation of narcotics or

[3]Nasrianti, Muhibuddin, *"Legal Analysis of the Dangers of Narcotics for the Future Health of the Young Generation," Jurnal Reusam* Vol. VIII No. 2, (2020): P. 82.

[4] Adilane Sutriliawan.S, Marwan Mas, Abd Haris Hamid, *"Effectiveness of Investigation of Narcotics Abuse Perpetrators in Polewali Mandar Regency (Case Study at Polewali Mandar Police Resort,"* Indonesia Journal of Legality of Law, (2023): P. 175.

[5] Yossri Mantaw Sihombing, Ismaidar. *"Legal Politics in Enforcing the Death Penalty Against Narcotics Traffickers in Indonesia."* Journal of Social Science Research Vol. 3 No. 6, (2023): pp. 5-7.

[6] National Narcotics Agency. (2012). *"Guidebook for Early Prevention of Drug Abuse."* East Jakarta: Directorate of Information Dissemination, Deputy for Prevention, National Narcotics Agency of the Republic of Indonesia.

[7] Results of the Author's Interview with Ipda Acep Sopandi, Head of Unit 2 of the Narcotics Crime Unit and Ipda Nopri Ilega Putra, SH , Head of the Narcotics Crime Unit of the Palangka Raya Police, at the Palangka Raya City Police Resort, on Monday, November 11, 2025, at 10.00 WIB, the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Crime Unit Headquarters.

[8] Gazali Ahmad, *"Policy and Strategy of the National Narcotics Agency of the Republic of Indonesia in Facing Non-Military Threats of Transnational Organized Crime of Illicit Narcotics Trafficking in Indonesia."* Indonesian Scientific Journal p–ISSN Vol. 9, No. 4, (2024): P. 2339-2341.

[9] Freniarma Lestari Cahyani, Helen Intania, Endang Setyowati. *"Illicit Narcotics Trafficking in International and National Law Perspectives."* Semarang Law Review. Vol 4, No. 2. (2023): Pp. 102-103.

dangerous drugs in Indonesia has become a serious problem in recent years and has reached a state of concern and become a national issue. The victims of drug abuse have spread so widely that they transcend social strata, age, and gender. The rampant circulation of narcotics in society and other groups has had a devastating impact, resulting in economic and social losses.[10]

Indonesia is currently in a very worrying situation and has the potential to threaten national security and sovereignty. The massive circulation of narcotics continues throughout the country, from urban to rural areas. This fact proves that the illicit drug trade is growing very rapidly and expanding uncontrollably. Developments in technology have provided new, increasingly sophisticated and complex modus operandi for perpetrators of narcotics crimes, including those carried by the National Narcotics Agency (BNN). These evolving modus operandi include smuggling through various means such as passenger luggage, shipments , and other illegal activities carried out by the BNN. International drug syndicates even exploit Indonesia's geographical conditions by using back routes to smuggle drugs. Various innovative techniques are used, such as hiding drugs in camping equipment, baby equipment, vacuum cleaners, and even *bed covers* .[11]

The development of drug trafficking methods is now in line with advances in science and technology and social changes in global society. Dealers utilize information technology and the internet as a means to facilitate the illegal distribution of narcotics. Not only adults but also children are now becoming victims of drug abuse in Indonesian society. Perpetrators of drug crimes are not limited to adults, but also involve children under the age of 18. Children who have not reached adulthood are particularly susceptible to being influenced into drug-related activities, given their unstable mental state resulting from their physical and mental developmental stages. Dealers exploit this situation as a strategy to generate significant profits and ensure the continued existence of customers in the illicit drug business.[12]

In the jurisdiction of the Palangka Raya Police, the most frequently handled narcotics trafficking cases are methamphetamine and ecstasy, showing a very worrying trend, where cases successfully uncovered by the police show that Palangka Raya is not only a transit area, but also an active distribution location around it involving organized networks. Based on data from the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit throughout this year (2025) there have been 64 cases and 66 suspects, where the average handled by the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit is around 60 Narcotics Cases per year. [13]The high rate of abuse and trafficking of Narcotics places the City of Palangka Raya in a vulnerable position to the negative impacts caused by narcotics crimes, thus requiring serious attention from various parties, especially in terms of criminal law policy. The increasing circulation of narcotics in Indonesia demands strict legal regulations to eradicate their abuse and distribution. The circulation of narcotics or dangerous drugs in Indonesia has become a serious problem in recent years, reaching a concerning level and becoming a national issue. The number of victims of drug abuse has spread to such an extent that it transcends social strata, age, and gender. The rampant circulation of narcotics in society and other groups has had a negative impact, resulting in economic and social losses. [14]The government then issued Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics in the hope of suppressing drug distribution in society. Previously, Indonesia had Law Number 5 of 1997 concerning Psychotropics, but this law was not effective enough in preventing and handling drug distribution. Therefore, the government formulated a new, more comprehensive law as a legal basis for dealing with this transnational crime.[15]

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[10]Najwa Ulinnuha, Suharmanto, Andi Eka Yunianto. *"The Relationship Between Knowledge and Drug Abuse Prevention Behavior in Students"* . Journal of Language and Health. Vol. 5, No. 3. (2024): P. 1095-1096.

[11] Mohammad Hatta, SH, LL.M.,Ph.D. (2022). *"Law Enforcement on Narcotics Abuse in Indonesia."* Jakarta: Prenadamedia Group.

[12] M., SH, MH, Dr. Davit Rahmadan, SH, MH (2025). *"Rehabilitation VS Imprisonment: The Dilemma of Law Enforcement Against Narcotics Abuse in Indonesia."* West Java: *PT. Adab Indonesia* .

[13] Results of the Author's Interview with Ipda Acep Sopandi, Head of Unit 2 of the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit, at the Palangka Raya City Police Resort, on Monday, November 11, 2025, at 10.00 WIB, Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit Headquarters.

[14]Trian Hardiansyah, Wreda Danang Widoyoko. " *Law Enforcement on Narcotics Distribution in Correctional Institutions.* " *Judiciary Journal of Law and Justice Vol. 13, No. 1, (2024): P. 114.*

[15] Yevi Mulyana Erawana, Novayandra Arinurdin, A. Kami Razak, Dani Durahman. *"Criminal Law Policy on Narcotics Crimes in Efforts to Combat Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Indonesia."* Al-Zayn Journal of Social Sciences & Law Vol. 4, No. 2, (2026): Pp. 3306-3307.

In the concept of a state based on the rule of law, every action taken must be based on applicable legal regulations. The police, as part of the implementing elements of state duties, play a crucial role in maintaining order and security. Therefore, a structured division of tasks is necessary for effective implementation and facilitation of coordination. Therefore, a police organization was established with the goal of protecting and serving the public, particularly in handling criminal acts, to ensure the proper execution of all duties. Furthermore, the police also play a role in enforcing the law and fostering a sense of security within the community. With an organized work system guided by applicable regulations, it is hoped that every police action will remain in accordance with legal principles and will be able to provide justice for the community as a whole.[16]

From a legal perspective, the handling of narcotics crimes is regulated by Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics, which provides the legal basis for law enforcement officials to conduct investigations, prosecutions, and criminal penalties against perpetrators. This law emphasizes the important role of investigators in gathering evidence, conducting investigations, and ensuring that the legal process is carried out in accordance with applicable provisions. However, the application of this law in a local context, such as in Palangka Raya City, requires evaluation to determine the extent to which the role of investigators can be optimized in facing various existing challenges. In addition, the Criminal Code (KUHP) also regulates general criminal offenses that can be applied in narcotics cases, including articles related to the distribution and misuse of prohibited goods. In addition, Law Number 20 of 2025 concerning Criminal Procedure Code (KUHAP) serves as a guideline in the investigation process, ensuring that the rights of suspects remain protected throughout the legal process.[17]

Nevertheless, the implementation of criminal law policy in handling narcotics trafficking cases within the jurisdiction of the Palangka Raya Police Department covers various stages, from investigation, inquiry, prosecution, to the implementation of court decisions. Within the context of statutory regulations, the Narcotics Crime Investigation Unit (Satresnarkoba) continues to utilize police officers, who function as the frontline in law enforcement, playing a crucial role in uncovering trafficking networks, gathering evidence, and apprehending perpetrators. However, there is a gap in research indicating that studies specifically discussing the role of investigators in handling narcotics cases within the jurisdiction of the Palangka Raya Police Department are still limited. Most studies focus more on general aspects of narcotics law enforcement without highlighting the dynamics and obstacles faced by investigators at the regional level.[18]

Based on a review of several previous studies, there are differences in the focus of the issues that have attracted researchers' attention, thus opening up opportunities for further research. Research indicates that studies specifically discussing the role of investigators in handling narcotics trafficking cases within the jurisdiction of the Palangka Raya Police are still limited. Most studies focus more on general aspects of narcotics law enforcement without highlighting the dynamics and obstacles faced by investigators at the regional level. Based on several previous studies, it appears that the implementation of criminal law policies in handling narcotics crimes has been widely studied from various perspectives. Research by Damayanti and Pangaribuan (2017) focuses on the implementation of Law Number 35 of 2009 at the regional police level, particularly in Balikpapan City, which shows that law enforcement has been ongoing but still faces technical obstacles in the field. [19]Meanwhile, Noviyanti (2024) shifts the focus to institutional strategies through a collaborative governance approach by the Sleman National Narcotics Agency (BNNK) in efforts to prevent and eradicate narcotics. [20]Prastasena and Utama's (2024) research focused more on prevention efforts through early detection by local government

[16] Adilane Sutriliawan.S, Marwan Mas, Abd Haris Hamid, *"Effectiveness of Investigation of Narcotics Abuse Perpetrators in Polewali Mandar Regency (Case Study at Polewali Mandar Police Resort,"* Indonesia Journal of Legality of Law, (2023): P. 175.

[17] Baharuddin, MJ . *"The Role of the National Narcotics Agency (BNN) in Preventing and Overcoming Drug Trafficking in Polewali Mandar Regency."* Alauddin Law Development Journal, Vol.3, No.(3) (2021): Pp. 591-596.

[18]Results of the Author's Interview with Mrs. Yonika Winner Te'dang, ST, MH, Head of the Narcotics Unit of the Palangka Raya Police and Ipda Nopri Ilega Putra, SH , Head of the Narcotics Unit of the Palangka Raya Police at the Palangka Raya City Police Resort, on Monday, November 11, 2025 and March 4, 2026, at 10:00 WIB, the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit Location.

[19] Damayanti, S., & Pangaribuan, P. *"Implementation of Narcotics Crime Regulations Based on Law Number 35 of 2009 Concerning Narcotics in Balikpapan City"* . Journal de Facto, Vol.4, No.(1), (2017): P. 1-21.

[20]Noviyanti, Marlina. *"BNNK Sleman's Strategy in Reducing Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking: Collaborative Governance Perspective."* Anterior Journal, Vol. 23, No. 3. (2024): pp. 26-36.

agencies in Palangka Raya. [21]Meanwhile, Nurlaelah, Ahmad Harakan, and Ansyari Mone (2019) examined the National Narcotics Agency's (BNN) strategy for preventing drug trafficking in Makassar.[22] Although these studies have made significant contributions in building a framework for understanding narcotics law enforcement in general, these studies have not yet deeply touched on empirical aspects in the field, particularly those related to the operational dynamics of investigations, structural obstacles faced by investigators, and the effectiveness of implementing criminal law policies in the local context within the jurisdiction of the Palangka Raya Police.

Although various related studies have been conducted, to date, no study has been found that specifically discusses how the implementation of criminal law policies in handling narcotics distribution in the jurisdiction of the Palangka Raya Police using an empirical approach that directly observes investigative practices, operational obstacles, and the level of effectiveness of law enforcement in the field. This indicates a significant gap in research, considering that Palangka Raya City has special characteristics as the capital of Central Kalimantan Province, which geographically has the potential to be a transit route and a narcotics distribution area. In addition, various challenges faced by the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit, such as limited resources, less than optimal inter-agency coordination, and the development of increasingly diverse criminal modus operandi, have not been widely discussed in previous research. Therefore, this study, entitled "Implementation of Criminal Law Policies in Handling Narcotics Distribution Cases in the Jurisdiction of the Palangka Raya Police," was conducted to fill this gap by presenting a more comprehensive analysis that is in accordance with real conditions in the field, while also contributing to the development of criminal law science, especially in the aspect of narcotics law enforcement at the regional level.

B. Formulation of the problem

Based on the explanation of the problem background above, the author concludes 2 (two) problem formulations, namely:

1. How is the implementation of criminal law policy in handling narcotics distribution cases in the jurisdiction of the Palangka Raya Police?
2. What obstacles and stages are faced by the Palangka Raya Police in the process of handling narcotics distribution cases in Palangka Raya City?

C. Research methods

This research uses the Empirical Juridical Research method (*Field Research*) or sociological research which is a legal research method that analyzes law factually, by collecting data from the field to see how the law actually works in practice and supported by secondary data that acts as supporting evidence to strengthen empirical findings in the field. This research views law as a social phenomenon (*law in action*), so the main data is obtained through observation, interviews, surveys, or practice documents.[23] The data used in this study are primary data from questionnaires submitted to respondents in a survey at the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Investigation Unit with the research topic "Implementation of Criminal Law Policy in Handling Narcotics Distribution Cases in the Palangka Raya Police Jurisdiction". The empirical juridical approach was chosen because this study not only focuses on the study of written legal rules, but also sees how the law is applied directly in the field, especially in handling narcotics distribution cases. Empirical legal research focuses more on legal behavior in society *(legal behavior)* , so this study not only discusses the contents of articles in the law, but also examines the extent to which these regulations are actually implemented by law enforcement officers. In the context of narcotics law enforcement, this approach is very appropriate because the problems faced are quite complex, ranging from procedural constraints, institutional limitations, to social factors that influence the effectiveness of handling in the field.[24] Primary data collection in this study was conducted by distributing questionnaires to members of the Palangka Raya Police

[21]Prastasena, Rafli Restu, & Lalu Satria Utama . *"Prevent Early Detection in Preventing Drug Distribution by the National Unity and Politics Agency in Palangka Raya City, Central Kalimantan Province."* (2024): pp. 5-7.

[22]Nurlaelah, Ahmad Harakan, Ansyari Mone. "The National Narcotics Agency (BNN) Strategy in Preventing Narcotics Distribution in Makassar City." *Gorontalo Journal of Government and Political Studies* Vol. 2, No. 1. (2019): P. 024-031.

[23] Agus Widanarko, Suprawi, Hafid Zakariya. *"An Empirical Legal Review of Community Stigma Towards Drug Addicts Post-Rehabilitation"*. Jurnal Bevending, Vol. 03, No. 01 (2025).: Pp. 19-21.

[24] Dr. Muhaimin, SH., M.Hum. (2020). *"Legal Research Methods. West Nusa Tenggara"*. *Mataram University Press.*

Narcotics Investigation Unit, the primary respondents. The questionnaires were used to obtain systematic and measurable data regarding the perceptions and experiences of law enforcement officers in handling drug trafficking cases in the region. In addition to primary data, this study also utilized secondary data such as laws and regulations, court decisions, police reports, and relevant scientific literature to support and strengthen the analysis.

D. Results and Discussion

Implementation of criminal law policies in handling narcotics distribution cases in the jurisdiction of the Palangka Raya Police.

In some literature, criminal law enforcement policy is also referred to as criminal law policy. According to Jazim Hamidi, legal policy is a policy pursued or implemented by the state through authorized state institutions or administrators to decide which laws need to be changed, maintained, or adjusted, so that through this policy, state institutions and the state government can carry out their duties properly and orderly, so that state goals can be planned and achieved gradually.[25] The implementation of criminal law policy in handling narcotics distribution cases in the jurisdiction of the Palangka Raya Police is carried out through a strict investigation process by the Narcotics Unit, with the main legal basis being Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics, the Criminal Procedure Code, and the Regulation of the Republic of Indonesia National Police Number 6 of 2019 concerning Management of Criminal Investigations . In practice, the Palangka Raya Police consistently charges perpetrators with Law Number 35 of 2009 Article 114 paragraph 1 subsidiary Article 112 paragraph 1 concerning narcotics, which is explained "Anyone who without rights or against the law offers for sale, sells, buys, receives, acts as an intermediary in the sale and purchase, exchanges, or delivers Class I Narcotics, shall be punished with life imprisonment or imprisonment for a minimum of 5 (five) years and a maximum of 20 (twenty) years and a fine of at least Rp1,000,000,000.00 (one billion rupiah) and a maximum of Rp10,000,000,000.00 (ten billion rupiah)". The perpetrator can be charged with Article 114 paragraph 2 subsidiary to Article 112 paragraph 2 which provides a maximum penalty of 20 years imprisonment or even life imprisonment, depending on the weight and type of narcotics controlled. This legal framework provides strong authority for the police to take firm action against perpetrators of narcotics distribution in order to provide a deterrent effect and protect the public from the dangers of narcotics abuse.[26]

In the implementation of criminal law policy, particularly in handling narcotics crimes, there is an important aspect that needs to be clarified, namely the provisions regarding the time limit for arresting suspects. In law enforcement practices, differences in interpretation often arise among law enforcement officials, such as police investigators and prosecutors, regarding the permissible duration of arrest. Meanwhile, Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics has specifically regulated that arrests of perpetrators of narcotics crimes can be carried out for 3 x 24 hours. This provision differs from the general provisions contained in Article 19 paragraph (1) of the Criminal Procedure Code which states that arrests by the police can only be carried out for a maximum of 1 x 24 hours. This difference in provisions has the potential to cause misunderstandings in its implementation. Therefore, reaffirmation is needed in the implementation of criminal law policy so that the rules regarding the time limit for arrest in narcotics cases can be understood and applied appropriately and in line with applicable legal provisions.[27]

In handling narcotics crime cases, the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit uses Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics as the main legal basis in the investigation and law enforcement process. Although the new Criminal Code has been ratified and will come into full effect in 2026 which also includes articles on narcotics,

[25] Jazim Hamidi, quoted from Abdul Latif and Harki Ali, Politics and Law, Sinar Graphics, Jakarta, 2014, p. 21

[26] The results of the Author's interview with Mrs. Yonika Winner Te'dang, ST, MH, Head of the Narcotics Unit of the Palangka Raya Police, Ipda Nopri Ilega Putra, SH , Head of the Narcotics Unit of the Palangka Raya Police, and Aiptu Aswansyah SH, Head of Subunit 1 of the Narcotics Unit of the Palangka Raya Police, at the Palangka Raya City Police Resort, on Monday, November 11, 2025 and March 4, 2026, at 10:00 WIB, the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit.

[27] The results of the Author's interview with Mrs. Yonika Winner Te'dang, ST, MH, Head of the Narcotics Investigation Unit of the Palangka Raya Police, Ipda Nopri Ilega Putra, SH , Head of the Narcotics Investigation Unit of the Palangka Raya Police, on Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at 09:00 WIB, the Narcotics Investigation Unit of the Palangka Raya Police.

based on the principle of *Lex Specialis Derogat Legi Generali* , special laws regulating narcotics remain the main priority in handling cases. Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics is a special regulation *(lex specialis)* that comprehensively regulates all aspects related to narcotics, starting from definitions, types of narcotics, narcotic groups, narcotic precursors, criminal acts, criminal sanctions, medical and social rehabilitation, to legal protection for witnesses and informants who provide information to law enforcement officers.[28]

The Criminal Law Policy implemented by the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit in an effort to combat illicit drug trafficking is essentially a series of law enforcement actions aimed at ensuring public compliance with narcotics laws and regulations. This policy is not only oriented towards repressive action, but also includes preventive efforts to reduce the number of drug abuse. [29]From the perspective of the legal system theory put forward by Lawrence M. Friedman, the effectiveness of law enforcement is greatly influenced by three main elements, namely the legal structure (law enforcement agencies), legal substance (applicable rules), and legal culture (public awareness and behavior). Therefore, the policies implemented, such as various efforts to eradicate illicit drug trafficking, are not only a form of implementation of the existing legal substance, but also part of an effort to strengthen the legal structure and build a legal culture in society to be more aware and compliant with the dangers of drugs.[30]

In addition, there are also Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) mechanisms and procedures applied in handling narcotics trafficking cases, starting from the investigation to the investigation by the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Investigation Unit. In carrying out criminal investigation duties, both General Crimes and Special Crimes including Narcotics, the Narcotics Investigation Unit (Satresnarkoba) uses the main legal basis, namely Regulation of the Chief of the Republic of Indonesia National Police Number 6 of 2019 concerning Criminal Investigation and Investigation. In addition, for the administrative filing process, Satresnarkoba is also guided by Bareskrim Regulation Number 1 of 2022 concerning Standard Operating Procedures for Criminal Investigation and Investigation. This Bareskrim Regulation Number 1 of 2022 has several attachments that serve as technical guidelines for implementation, namely:

a. Attachment 1 concerning Investigation Techniques;
b. Appendix 2 on Investigation Methodology (Mindik);
c. Appendix 3 on Technical Assistance;
d. Appendix 4 on Investigation Management (MP); and
e. Appendix 5. Specifically, the Technical Appendix provides a comprehensive explanation of laboratory procedures, Investigation Report (LE) research, and other technical procedures. Therefore, the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) used are comprehensively explained in Bareskrim Regulation Number 1 of 2022.[31]

The following are the stages from receiving a report of a drug case to arrest. Stages of Handling Drug Crimes Before the Head of the Unit, who usually works in the field, explains further, it is important to understand that drug crimes are rarely reported by the public. The Narcotics Unit typically actively seeks information because drug cases are not reported as complaints, but rather incidents discovered directly in the field by the public and police. [32]The following are the stages from receiving a case to arrest:

a. Investigation Stage

[28] The results of the Author's interview with Ipda Acep Sopandi, Head of Unit 2 of the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit, at the Palangka Raya City Police Resort, on Monday, November 11, 2025, at 10.00 WIB, the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit Headquarters.

[29] Results of the Author's Interview with Ipda Nopri Ilega Putra, SH , Head of the Narcotics Unit of the Palangka Raya Police, at the Palangka Raya City Police Resort, on Monday, November 11, 2025, at 10.00 WIB, the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Research Unit Location.

[30]Indriana, Alvi Syahrini, Edi Yunara, Affila. "Criminal Law Policy for Eradicating Narcotics Abuse and Distribution Through the Destruction of Marijuana Plantations in North Sumatra Province." Locus: Journal of Legal Science Concepts. Vol. 4, No. 1 (2024): P. 19.

[31] The results of the Author's interview with IPDA Nopri Ilega Putra, SH , Head of the Narcotics Unit of the Palangka Raya Police, at the Palangka Raya City Police Resort, on Monday, November 11, 2025, at 10.00 WIB, the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Research Unit Headquarters.

[32]The results of the Author's interview with Mrs. Yonika Winner Te'dang, ST, MH, Head of the Narcotics Crime Unit of the Palangka Raya Police, at the Palangka Raya City Police Resort, on Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at 09:00 WIB.

After receiving information from the public, we conduct an investigation. An investigation is the initial step in determining whether a crime has actually occurred. If the investigation leads to a drug crime, whether involving a user, dealer, seller, or courier, the process proceeds to the next stage.

b. Arrest Stage

After an investigation is conducted, the perpetrator is usually caught red-handed based on information from the public. In accordance with Articles 182 and 184 of the Criminal Procedure Code, "If evidence is found on the suspect, the appropriate articles will be applied depending on the type and amount of evidence found." It should be emphasized that the handling of drug crime cases is *Lex Specialis* (special law), meaning that investigators do not wait for reports from the public, but actively seek out and solve cases.

c. Disclosure and Initial Examination Stage

During the disclosure stage, we confirm whether a crime has occurred. If drug trafficking is proven, an arrest is made. Following the arrest, we conduct an initial investigation in accordance with standard operating procedures (SOP), which includes: questioning the suspect, examining evidence, and analyzing the elements of the crime. We assess whether the case deserves to be escalated to a criminal offense.

d. Investigation Stage

If a case meets the elements as per the applicable Criminal Procedure Code 184, the status is upgraded from a physical report to a further investigation. The purpose of an investigation is to seek and find evidence to determine the status of a suspect. Without upgrading the status from an inquiry to a preliminary investigation, we cannot name someone as a suspect. Therefore, the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit prepares a physical report based on the results of the investigation. In this case, the reporter is ourselves (the police), not the community. The differences between these types of reports include: LPH (Results of Event Reports), namely events discovered by the police and LPB (Complaint/News Reports), complaints from the community. Points that often become obstacles in the handling process are when we arrive at the location, it turns out the place is empty or the perpetrator immediately fled. This is an obstacle we often face in the field.[33]

Therefore, as long as this special law is still in effect and has not been revoked, it will remain the main reference for investigators in handling narcotics cases in the field. This law is a "holy book" or fundamental guideline for every investigator, both those handling general crimes and special crimes, in carrying out various stages of investigation starting from arrest, detention, search, confiscation, determination of suspects, determination of the articles charged, to the preparation of case files that will be submitted to the Prosecutor's Office. By adhering to Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning narcotics, investigators can ensure that every action and legal process carried out has a strong, clear, and legally accountable legal basis, so that law enforcement against perpetrators of narcotics crimes can run optimally, professionally, and provide a maximum deterrent effect to perpetrators of narcotics crimes while protecting the public from the dangers of narcotics abuse.[34] The Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit implemented a systematic and measurable operational strategy in uncovering narcotics trafficking cases throughout 2025. The public information-based investigation method is the main approach, where arrests begin with public information regarding suspicious narcotics transaction activities, which are then followed up with in-depth investigations and intensive monitoring before arrests are made to ensure the accuracy and completeness of evidence. Case disclosure data shows a handling pattern that includes various types of narcotics, including ecstasy pills with varying weights from 3.26 grams to 70.28 grams (6-200 pills), as well as significant amounts of methamphetamine ranging from 15.06 grams to 200.23 grams packaged in dozens of ready-to-distribute packages. The operational areas are spread across various strategic sub-districts in Palangka Raya, including Jekan Raya Sub-district (Menteng, Petuk Katimpun, Bukit Tunggal Sub-district), Sabangau Sub-district

[33] The results of the Author's interview with IPDA Nopri Ilega Putra, SH , Head of the Narcotics Unit of the Palangka Raya Police, at the Palangka Raya City Police Resort, on Monday, November 11, 2025, at 10.00 WIB, the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Research Unit Headquarters.

[34] The results of the Author's interview with IPDA Nopri Ilega Putra, SH , Head of the Narcotics Unit of the Palangka Raya Police, at the Palangka Raya City Police Resort, on Monday, November 11, 2025, at 10.00 WIB, the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Research Unit Headquarters.

(Sabaru Sub-district), and Pahandut Sub-district (Langkai Sub-district), indicating that narcotics circulation has spread to various areas requiring strict supervision and coordinated operations to break the distribution chain.[35]

The implementation of criminal law policies at the Palangka Raya Police Station is inseparable from the synergy and support of the national strategy in eradicating narcotics. At the national level, collaboration between the National Narcotics Agency (BNN), the Indonesian National Police (Polri), Customs and Excise, and other relevant institutions has successfully uncovered 27 national and international narcotics syndicates throughout 2024, demonstrating the government's serious commitment to eradicating cross-regional narcotics trafficking. Nationally, the National Police's achievements in 2024 recorded the disclosure of 42,824 drug cases with a resolution rate of 84.47%, as well as the confiscation of narcotics evidence worth a staggering Rp8.6 trillion, demonstrating the effectiveness of coordination between law enforcement agencies. This success at the national level has had a positive impact and strengthened the capacity of the Palangka Raya Police Station in implementing criminal law policies, thanks to the exchange of intelligence information, standardization of operational procedures, and resource support that enable the professional and comprehensive handling of narcotics cases down to the regional level.[36]

Despite showing positive achievements in law enforcement, the implementation of narcotics criminal law policy at the Palangka Raya Police Department still faces various challenges that require evaluation and policy adjustments. Factors influencing the effectiveness of law enforcement need to be re-examined to produce a more responsive and effective policy, so the revision of Law Number 35 of 2009 is a strategic step to adapt the policy to the challenges and dynamics of contemporary narcotics problems that continue to develop. Currently, the National Narcotics Agency (BNN) is synergizing with the National Police (Polri) to prepare a proposal to merge the Narcotics and Psychotropics Bill by emphasizing a holistic approach that emphasizes not only punitive aspects, but also efforts to save drug abusers through rehabilitation programs, decriminalization of drug abusers to differentiate them from dealers, and institutional strengthening in order to increase prevention and handling capacity.[37]

The Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit carries out systematic steps in the process of enforcing criminal law for narcotics crime cases, starting from the prevention stage to the submission of case files to the Prosecutor's Office. According to Mr. Ipda Nopri Ilega Putra, SH as Head of the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit, the first step taken is prevention through outreach activities to the community to provide an understanding of the dangers of narcotics. In addition, the Narcotics Unit also conducts joint patrols every 23.00 WIB to anticipate and monitor places indicated as locations for illicit narcotics trafficking. In the Indonesian criminal justice system, duties and authorities are clearly divided where the police are tasked with conducting investigations, the Prosecutor's Office carries out prosecutions, and the Court issues sentences against defendants. As explained by Mr. Aiptu Aswansyah SH, Narcotics Investigation investigators work based on applicable laws by applying the regulated articles, while prosecution matters are the domain of the Prosecutor's Office and sentencing decisions are the authority of the Judge.[38] The process of prosecuting drug dealers in drug cases, whether involving dealers, distributors, or users, essentially recognizes that drug trafficking occurs through an organized network. Therefore, when investigators successfully arrest one individual, the investigation doesn't stop there, but continues to expand to identify other perpetrators involved. For example, several users caught with limited evidence are questioned to determine where they obtained the drugs. Based on this information, the police then arrest their suppliers and further develop the case to uncover a larger network, including the dealers. This demonstrates that drug case handling is carried out sustainably and purposefully, given the organized nature of this crime. Therefore, law enforcement officers always strive to prosecute all perpetrators involved by conducting thorough investigations to uncover and eradicate the entire drug distribution network.[39]

[35] The results of the Author's interview with IPDA Nopri Ilega Putra, SH , Head of the Narcotics Unit of the Palangka Raya Police, at the Palangka Raya City Police Resort, on Monday, November 11, 2025, at 10.00 WIB, the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Research Unit Headquarters.

[36] Ibid. Interview results

[37] National Narcotics Agency. (2017). *"Drugs and Their Problems"* . Jakarta: Deputy for Prevention, BNN RI.

[38] The results of the Author's interview with IPDA Nopri Ilega Putra, SH , Head of the Narcotics Unit of the Palangka Raya Police, at the Palangka Raya City Police Resort, on Monday, November 11, 2025, at 10.00 WIB, the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Research Unit Headquarters.

[39]The results of the Author's interview with Mrs. Yonika Winner Te'dang, ST, MH, Head of the Narcotics Crime Unit of the Palangka Raya Police, at the Palangka Raya City Police Resort, on Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at 09:00 WIB.

The Narcotics Unit's task in handling narcotics cases ends at the P21 stage, which is the stage where the case file is declared complete by the Public Prosecutor. P21 marks the completion of the police's task in the investigation process of a case. The process begins with the preparation of the case file by the investigator which is then sent to the Prosecutor's Office for review, correction, and examination of its completeness. If the case file still contains deficiencies, the Prosecutor's Office will issue a P19 file containing instructions on matters that must be completed or added by the investigator. After the investigator completes the deficiencies, the case file will be sent back to the Prosecutor's Office for re-examination. If the case file is declared complete, a P21 determination will be issued, indicating that the file has formally met the requirements to be transferred to the prosecution stage.[40]

After the P21 status is issued, the Narcotics Crime Investigation Unit then issues a letter handing over the case files, evidence, and suspect to the Prosecutor's Office. Generally speaking, case files submitted by the police and declared P21 are fit for trial because they comply with applicable laws and meet both formal and material requirements for further processing. At this stage, full responsibility shifts from the police to the Prosecutor's Office, including the process of detaining the suspect and securing evidence. However, the Narcotics Crime Investigation Unit's role does not completely end. If there is a summons from the Court to provide testimony as a witness or for clarification regarding the investigation process, investigators are still obliged to attend and assist in the trial process. Coordination with the Court is also maintained, especially regarding the sending of letters regarding the status of evidence that has been secured by the police.[41]

In today's digital era, the criminal case handling system in Indonesia has adopted electronic-based technology that is integrated across law enforcement agencies. According to the explanations of IPDA Nopri Ilega Putra, Aiptu Aswansyah SH, and Ipda Acep Sopandi, the police have an application system called EMP (Electronic Investigation Management) which is connected to SPPT or SPPPI (Integrated Criminal Justice Information System). This system allows for online information exchange between the Police, the Prosecutor's Office, the Court, and the relevant Ministries. Every investigative process must be input into the EMP system, including when determining suspect status and sending an SPDP (Notification Letter of Commencement of Investigation) to the Prosecutor's Office as a form of initial coordination that an investigation against a person has begun. If data is not input into the system, the case file will not be accepted and will be returned by the Prosecutor's Office. This system is online throughout Indonesia and has a special operator who uses a separate password to access it, so that data is more secure and cannot be misused by unauthorized parties.[42]

A very important aspect in handling narcotics trafficking cases is proving the authenticity and validity of the confiscated evidence, the heart of handling narcotics cases lies in the evidence, so the police must ensure that the confiscated goods are truly narcotics containing addictive substances in accordance with the provisions of the law. For this reason, the Narcotics Unit requested assistance from the Forensic Laboratory Center (Balai Propelkom/Puslabfor) to conduct laboratory tests on the confiscated evidence. Mr. IPDA Nopri Ilega Putra, SH emphasized that investigators cannot unilaterally determine that an item is a narcotic without first undergoing laboratory testing, because the item could be alum or other substances that are not narcotics. This testing process has strict Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), starting from the sampling mechanism to the filling of evidence that must be carried out by experts with special expertise. The results of this laboratory research are what legally state that the evidence contains addictive substances and materials that are classified as narcotics according to the law.[43]

[40] The results of the author's interview with Ipda Acep Sopandi, Head of Unit 2 of the Narcotics Crime Unit and Ipda Nopri Ilega Putra, SH , Head of the Narcotics Crime Unit of the Palangka Raya Police, at the Palangka Raya City Police Resort, on Monday, November 11, 2025, at 10.00 WIB, the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Crime Unit Headquarters.

[41] The results of the author's interview with Aiptu Aswansyah SH, Head of Subunit 1 of the Narcotics Crime Unit, Ipda Acep Sopandi, Head of Unit 2 of the Narcotics Crime Unit, and Ipda Nopri Ilega Putra, SH , Head of the Narcotics Crime Unit, Ipda Acep Sopandi, Head of Unit 2 of the Narcotics Crime Unit and Ipda Nopri Ilega Putra, SH , Head of the Narcotics Crime Unit, Palangka Raya Police, at the Palangka Raya City Police Resort, on Monday, November 11, 2025, at 10:00 WIB, Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Crime Unit Headquarters.

[42]Ibid . Interview Results

[43] Results of the Author's Interview with Ipda Acep Sopandi, Head of Unit 2 of the Narcotics Crime Unit, Ipda Nopri Ilega Putra, SH , Head of the Narcotics Crime Unit, and Aiptu Aswansyah SH, at the Palangka Raya City Police Resort, on Monday, November 11, 2025, at 10.00 WIB, Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Crime Unit Headquarters.

According to the explanation of Mr. Ipda Acep Sopandi, what certifies that an item is a narcotic is not the object itself or the investigator's statement, but rather a letter of laboratory test results from the Propelkom Center. This laboratory test document is valid and strong evidence in court to prove that the defendant has committed a narcotics crime. Thus, the success of handling narcotics cases depends heavily on the quality of the evidence and accurate laboratory test results. This entire process demonstrates that handling narcotics cases requires systematic stages, good coordination between law enforcement agencies, as well as technological support and specialized expertise to ensure that the law enforcement process runs in accordance with applicable laws and can be legally accounted for. [44]

Thus, the Palangka Raya Police are expected to continue to implement a firm narcotics criminal law policy through a (preventive) approach based on active community participation and (repressive) through consistent law enforcement based on Law Number 35 of 2009 Concerning, with a primary focus on taking action against dealers and developing narcotics distribution networks, while also paying attention to the rehabilitation aspect for victims of narcotics abuse to create a more comprehensive and equitable narcotics prevention ecosystem. The following is data on narcotics distribution cases handled by the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit:

Table 1.1
Data on Drug Case Handling at the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit for the 2022-2026 Period

No.	Year	Number of Cases	Number of Suspects	Information
1.	2022	60 Cases	69 People	Annual average estimate
2.	2023	40 Cases	46 People	Annual average estimate
3.	2024	51 Cases	55 People	Annual average estimate
4.	2025	66 Cases	68 People	Annual average estimate
5.	2026	5 Cases- April	6 People	Fingerprint

Source : Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Research Unit 2025-2026.
Total Estimate (2022-2026): 222 Cases
Total Suspects (2022-2026): 244 Suspects
Types of Narcotics Handled

1. Class I crystal methamphetamine: Most commonly handled
2. Ecstasy Class I: Second most common case

Types of Narcotics Rarely Found/Non-Existing

1. Morphine: Rare or no cases yet
2. Marijuana: There is but the amount is small/not much

Vital Records:

- The average number of cases handled per year is 44.4 cases.
- Almost every year, the cases handled are dominated by crystal methamphetamine and ecstasy.
- Other types of narcotics cases (apart from crystal methamphetamine and ecstasy) are very rarely handled by the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit.
- The year 2026 shows a figure of 5 cases with 6 suspects up to January (data does not cover the full year).

[44] Results of the Author's Interview with Ipda Acep Sopandi, Head of Unit 2 of the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit, at the Palangka Raya City Police Resort, on Monday, November 11, 2025, at 10.00 WIB, Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit Headquarters.

Obstacles and stages faced by the Palangka Raya Police in the process of handling narcotics distribution cases in Palangka Raya City

In substance, the legal regulations regarding narcotics in Indonesia are actually quite adequate and do not have significant shortcomings. However, in practice, drug distribution and use continue to increase due to relatively easy access for the public. In terms of law enforcement, particularly by the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit, which handles narcotics cases within its jurisdiction, The main obstacles faced by the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit in handling narcotics distribution cases are:

1) The lack of information obtained from the public is caused by the fear among the public to submit reports or provide information to the police. According to Mr. Ipda Acep Sopandi as Head of Unit 2 of the Narcotics Crime Unit, this public fear is an influential obstacle in efforts to uncover drug cases in the field. Even though the authorities have known the alleged perpetrator or dealer, without sufficient evidence, the case cannot be continued to the court stage. Therefore, proof through evidence is very crucial.
2) The discovery of the Modus Operandi carried out by the perpetrators of illicit drug trafficking has become an obstacle for investigators from the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit in making arrests in the field. Some of the current narcotics distribution methods used include sending online packages, involving children as couriers, disguising drugs in the form of food and drinks, and distributing them in nightclubs. These various methods make the investigation process and arrest operations carried out by the Police, especially the Palangka Raya Police, more difficult and hampered. In addition, although there is coordination and synergy between institutions such as the BNN and various community organizations including the Dayak Anti-Drug Movement that have been running well, efforts to combat narcotics still depend heavily on the level of public awareness in avoiding and reporting drug abuse.
3) The public's low level of understanding of the dangers of narcotics in Palangka Raya City is one of the causes of the rampant drug trafficking in the area, especially among teenagers. This lack of knowledge about the dangers of drugs, particularly among parents, leads many teenagers to become drug users and dealers without their families' knowledge .[45] The causes of drug abuse are also related to the decision-making characteristics of adolescents. Adolescents possess good judgment and are capable of making wise decisions when given sufficient time to think. However, adolescents sometimes tend to make emotional decisions rather than careful, considered, and logical ones. This situation ultimately leads to the widespread distribution of drugs among today's youth.[46]

Due to these issues, the Narcotics Investigation Unit (Satresnarkoba) routinely conducts outreach by involving various parties such as the National Narcotics Agency (BNN) and Community Organizations (ORMAS) in integrated activities to raise public awareness not only to stay away from drugs, but also to be brave in providing as much information as possible to the police. As explained by Mr. Aiptu Aswansyah SH, the public actually does not need to be afraid because Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics has regulated legal protection for anyone who provides information related to narcotics distribution, where the identity of the reporter such as name, background, and other personal data is guaranteed confidentiality by law. Even in the Narcotics Law and related Ministerial Regulations, it is regulated regarding the informant service system that provides rewards for members of the public who provide valuable information in uncovering drug cases. Thus, the rights and obligations of the public to report narcotics crimes are legally protected, so that active community participation is highly expected to assist the Satresnarkoba in eradicating narcotics distribution in Palangka Raya City.[47]

[45] The results of the author's interview with Aiptu Aswansyah SH, Head of Subunit 1 of the Narcotics Crime Unit, Ipda Acep Sopandi, Head of Unit 2 of the Narcotics Crime Unit, and Ipda Nopri Ilega Putra, SH , Head of the Narcotics Crime Unit, Ipda Acep Sopandi, Head of Unit 2 of the Narcotics Crime Unit and Ipda Nopri Ilega Putra, SH , Head of the Narcotics Crime Unit, Palangka Raya Police, at the Palangka Raya City Police Resort, on Monday, November 11, 2025, at 10:00 WIB, Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Crime Unit Headquarters.

[46]Retno Wibowo, Nanik Suwaryani, Aria Ahmad M, Purwanto, Ani k Budi Utami, Asih Priamsari. (2018). *"Smartly Facing Drugs"*. Jakarta: Directorate of Family Education Development, Directorate General of Early Childhood Education and Community Education, Ministry of Education and Culture.

[47] Results of the Author's Interview with Ipda Acep Sopandi, Head of Unit 2 of the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit and Aiptu Aswansyah SH, at the Palangka Raya City Police Resort, on Monday, November 11, 2025, at 10.00 WIB, Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit Headquarters.

The Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit implements criminal law policies by combining two approaches, namely preventive efforts and Repressive (enforcement). In terms of repressive measures, the police use Law No. 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics as the primary basis for prosecuting perpetrators of narcotics crimes. However, in practice, the implementation of this policy still faces several serious obstacles. One of the main obstacles is limited facilities and budget, where the costs required for the investigative process, such as forensic laboratory examinations and pursuing suspects outside the region, are relatively high. Furthermore, narcotics traffickers often use a disconnected network system, where couriers and buyers do not know each other and only communicate through social media or the "trace" method of leaving goods in certain locations, making it difficult for authorities to uncover the network and reach the main perpetrators. Furthermore, low public participation, which is still afraid or reluctant to testify, and the geographical conditions of the Palangka Raya region, which has many unofficial routes and densely populated areas, also contribute to the difficulty of optimal supervision.[48]

According to Mr. Ipda Nopri Ilega Putra, SH , as KBO of the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit, where The Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit focuses not only on enforcement but also on prevention and community outreach programs through Friday Chats and Sunday of Love activities. These programs support the aspirations of the President of the Republic of Indonesia, one of which is the eradication of illicit drug trafficking. They also implement the directives of the Chief of Criminal Investigation of the National Police and the Director of Narcotics Crimes to enhance prevention efforts in dealing with narcotics. These programs are designed as a comprehensive strategy that combines law enforcement with a humanistic approach to the community.[49]

The stages of the process of handling narcotics trafficking cases in the jurisdiction of the Palangka Raya Police are as follows : The Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit also holds Friday Curhat (Friday Chat) which has two main strategic functions in drug eradication efforts. First, this program serves as a forum to collect information from the public regarding drug trafficking in their area, so that officers can obtain accurate data and intelligence regarding narcotics illicit trafficking activities. Second, this activity is a means to listen to public complaints related to criminal acts, especially those related to narcotics, so that effective two-way communication is created between the authorities and the community. In its implementation, officers approach the community by asking about the condition of drug trafficking in their environment, providing an understanding of the dangers of narcotics, conveying the latest information regarding the modus operandi of drug trafficking, and providing socialization about efforts to prevent and overcome drug abuse.[50]

Third, the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit proactively visits places where people gather, such as markets, schools, offices, places of worship, and community groups, to conduct direct communication and outreach to gather information and build public trust in the police force. The Love Sunday program is also part of police activities that are not only carried out by the Narcotics Unit, but involve all ranks of the Palangka Raya Police as a form of concern and service to the community in creating an environment free from illicit drug trafficking. Through these prevention programs, it is hoped that a strong synergy will be created between the police and the community in a joint effort to eradicate drug trafficking in Palangka Raya City, so that it does not only rely on repressive action but also builds awareness and active participation of the community as a bulwark against the dangers of narcotics.[51] Law enforcers are role models in society and should possess specific skills aligned with societal aspirations. They must be able to communicate and gain understanding from target groups, while also being able to perform roles that are acceptable to them. Role models must also be able to choose the right time and environment to introduce new legal norms and principles, and set a good example. [52]Community participation in drug prevention includes the following:

[48] Results of the Author's Interview with IPDA Nopri Ilega Putra, SH , Head of the Narcotics Unit of the Palangka Raya Police, at the Palangka Raya City Police Resort, on Monday, November 11, 2025, at 10:00 WIB, the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Research Unit Location.

[49]Ibid. Interview Results.

[50] Results of an Interview with the Author IPDA Nopri Ilega Putra, SH , Head of the Narcotics Unit of the Palangka Raya Police, at the Palangka Raya City Police Resort, on Monday, November 11, 2025, at 10:00 WIB, the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Research Unit Location.

[51]Results of the Author's Interview with Mrs. Yonika Winner Te'dang, ST, MH, Head of the Narcotics Crime Unit of the Palangka Raya Police, at the Palangka Raya City Police Resort, on Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at 09:00 WIB.

[52] M. Sadam Husin, SH, MH, Dr. Davit Rahmadan, SH, MH (2025). *"Rehabilitation VS Imprisonment: The Dilemma of Law Enforcement Against Narcotics Abuse in Indonesia."* West Java: *PT. Adab Indonesia* .

a. The community has the widest possible opportunity to participate in helping efforts to prevent and eradicate the abuse and illicit trafficking of narcotics.
b. The public is obliged to report to the relevant authorities if they become aware of any narcotics abuse or distribution.
c. The government is obliged to provide security guarantees and protection to the reporter as referred to in the paragraph.

Likewise, only with the operational activities of law enforcers with broader insight, besides requiring a complete understanding of the background of the formation of the crime and the modus operandi of the crime which with the advancement of the era of increasingly sophisticated technology, it is also necessary to carefully recognize the types of crime in terms of the level of the perpetrator's ties with social groups, as well as the levels of behavior measured from the number and level of involvement in certain crimes, their roles and professional levels.[53]

E. Conclusion

Based on the explanation of the results of the discussion above, the conclusion of this study is:

1) The implementation of criminal law policy in handling narcotics trafficking cases in the jurisdiction of the Palangka Raya Police is carried out systematically by the Narcotics Unit based on Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics as lex specialis, the Criminal Procedure Code, and the Regulation of the Chief of Police Number 6 of 2019 and the Regulation of the Chief of Criminal Investigation Agency Number 1 of 2022 as technical operational guidelines. The implementation of this policy includes two complementary approaches, namely a repressive approach through firm law enforcement by ensnaring perpetrators using Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning narcotics Articles 114 and 112, and a preventive approach through counseling programs, joint patrols, Friday Curhat, and Sunday of Love which aim to build public legal awareness. The case handling process is carried out in stages starting from investigation, arrest, disclosure, investigation, to submission of case files to the Prosecutor's Office at the P21 stage, supported by an integrated EMP-based technology system connected to SPPT/SPPPI between law enforcement agencies, as well as scientific evidence through forensic laboratory tests at the Propelkom Center to ensure the legal validity of evidence. Throughout the 2022–2026 period, the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit successfully handled 222 cases with 244 suspects, with the dominant type of narcotics being methamphetamine and Class I ecstasy, which demonstrates the institution's consistency and commitment in combating illicit drug trafficking in Palangka Raya City.
2) From the aspect of community participation and preventive strategies, the implementation of criminal law policies in handling narcotics trafficking cases in the jurisdiction of the Palangka Raya Police still faces various significant obstacles and requires serious attention from various parties. The main obstacles faced include the lack of information from the community due to fear of reporting, the development of increasingly sophisticated modus operandi of narcotics trafficking such as online package delivery, the use of children as couriers, and a disconnected network system that makes it difficult to reveal the main perpetrators, in addition to the low public understanding of the dangers of narcotics, especially among teenagers. Limited budget and operational facilities, the geographical conditions of the Palangka Raya area which has many unofficial routes, and low community participation as witnesses also become inhibiting factors that weaken the effectiveness of law enforcement. Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen the synergy between the Narcotics Crime Unit, the National Narcotics Agency (BNN), the Prosecutor's Office, the Courts, and all elements of society in an integrated manner, accompanied by encouragement to accelerate the revision of Law Number 35 of 2009 which is more holistic by emphasizing the balance between punitive aspects for dealers and rehabilitative aspects for users, so that narcotics control in Palangka Raya City can be carried out in a more comprehensive, equitable, and sustainable manner.

F. Suggestion

The suggestions that the author wishes to convey are:

[53]Deny Albar, Nelvetia Purba, M. Arif Sahlepi . *"Community Legal Communication and Information Media."* Jurnal Hukum Kaidah Vol. 22, No. 1, (2022): Pp. 128-129.

1) Based on the discussion regarding the Implementation of Criminal Law Policy in Handling Narcotics Distribution Cases in the Palangka Raya Police Department's Jurisdiction, as well as the obstacles and stages in handling these cases, the author proposes several suggestions as strategic solutions. First, from a policy and institutional perspective, the author proposes that the revision of Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics be completed immediately with a sharper view in distinguishing between dealers and abusers through a decriminalization approach, so that victims of abuse can be directed to comprehensive rehabilitation programs rather than imprisonment. Furthermore, the capabilities of the Palangka Raya Police Narcotics Unit need to be enhanced by improving the quality of human resources through training in modern investigations and digital forensic technology, providing a budget for tools such as narcotics detection and artificial intelligence-based intelligence systems, and developing an EMP system to monitor distribution patterns directly. Cooperation with the Forensic Laboratory Center must also be strengthened so that evidence examination can be carried out more quickly, and the importance of establishing a special unit for cybercrime to deal with narcotics distribution on digital platforms.
2) In terms of community participation and prevention strategies, the challenge of lack of information due to fear must be addressed by expanding programs such as Friday's Curhat (Friday's Confessions) and Sunday of Love (Sunday of Love) involving community leaders, religious leaders, and social organizations. The informant system must also be strengthened by providing incentives and security guarantees through an app-based anonymous reporting mechanism or a 24-hour hotline, as well as budgetary support from local governments. Prevention must be carried out in a planned manner through collaboration with the Education Office to include anti-narcotics education from an early age, targeting vulnerable groups, and utilizing social media as a campaign tool. Furthermore, drug handling must focus more on rehabilitation programs by providing adequate facilities, professional staff, and implementing a restorative justice approach for minor cases. Going forward, it is hoped that the public will be more actively involved in prevention efforts by boldly reporting suspicious activity and increasing awareness of their surroundings, particularly in monitoring the social interactions of young people. The government is expected to continue strengthening policies that support drug prevention and handling, including increasing the budget, expanding rehabilitation facilities, and ensuring the availability of sustainable and equitable education programs. Meanwhile, law enforcement officials are expected to improve their professionalism, integrity, and inter-agency collaboration, as well as be more responsive to technological developments and increasingly complex crime modes, so that drug case handling can be more effective, fair, and sustainable. With consistent implementation and support from transparent monitoring and evaluation, these efforts are expected to make Palangka Raya free from drug trafficking through collaboration between law enforcement officials, the government, and the community.

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Dokumen Wawancara Penulis dengan Ibu Yonika Winner Te'dang, S.T., M.H, Kasat Satresnarkoba Polresta Palangka Raya pada hari Senin, 04 Maret 2026, pukul 10.00 WIB, Tempat Satuan Reserse Narkoba Polresta Palangka Raya.



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Mengucapkan

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Kepada

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