

Mandatory Legal Understanding for Government Officials to Realize Good Governance

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ABSTRACT

The lack of legal knowledge and understanding among government officials in Indonesia can lead to poor governance, corruption, and abuse of authority, ultimately affecting the quality of public services and public trust in the government. The purpose of this study is to emphasize the importance of mandatory legal knowledge for government officials in realizing good governance and to identify the need for increased sanctions for government officials who violate the law. The theories used in the analysis are: Principles of Good Governance and the Concept of Mandatory Legal Knowledge. This study uses a normative legal research method with a literature review approach, analyzing relevant laws, regulations, and legal theories, with a qualitative descriptive approach. The study highlights the importance of legal knowledge for government officials in carrying out their duties effectively and efficiently, and the need for increased sanctions for government officials who violate the law to improve accountability and transparency. Mandatory legal knowledge for government officials is crucial for realizing good governance, and increased sanctions for government officials who violate the law can improve accountability, transparency, and public trust in the government. Additionally, this research is expected to contribute to the improvement of legal knowledge and understanding among government officials, and to provide recommendations for policymakers to enhance the quality of public services and promote good governance in Indonesia.

Keywords: Mandatory legal knowledge, Government officials, and Good governance

Introduction

Indonesia is a unitary state in the form of a republic with a legal basis. Law is an essential foundation for governing a country, and its enforcement is essential in all countries. With law, the life of the state and its citizens will be more orderly and regular, thus creating comfort and security. Therefore, legal education is crucial and must be provided to all levels of society, including civil servants as members of Corps Official of Republik Indonesia and the backbone of state administrators carrying out service duties.

As government officials, it is crucial to understand applicable laws and regulations. By understanding the law, government officials can carry out their duties and functions properly and correctly. Furthermore, understanding the law can also help government officials avoid errors and abuse

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of authority. Officials who understand the law are obliged to provide services that are fair, prompt, without discrimination, and based on established standards, as stipulated in Law Number 25 of 2009 concerning Public Services.

Government officials play a crucial role in running the government. They are responsible for providing services to the public and implementing government policies. Therefore, government officials must have a sound knowledge and understanding of applicable laws and regulations. A sound understanding of the law can help government officials make informed and fair decisions. By understanding the law, government officials can carefully consider every decision they make and ensure they do not violate the law. Furthermore, legal knowledge can help government officials avoid conflicts of interest and abuse of authority.

Government officials must also understand state administrative law. State administrative law regulates the relationship between the government and the public. By understanding state administrative law, government officials can carry out their duties and functions properly and correctly. Furthermore, government officials must also understand criminal law. Criminal law regulates criminal acts and the sanctions imposed on perpetrators. By understanding criminal law, government officials can avoid actions that could be considered criminal.

A good knowledge of the law can also help government officials improve the quality of public services. According to (Sarundajang, 2011), public service is a public right that must be fulfilled by the government. This right is a constitutional right enshrined in the preamble to the 1945 Constitution. By understanding the law, government officials can provide better and more

effective services to the public. Government officials must also understand ethics and codes of conduct. Ethics and codes of conduct regulate good and correct behavior for government officials. By understanding ethics and codes of conduct, government officials can carry out their duties and functions with integrity and professionalism. Public service is the obligation of state officials who serve the public.

This understanding means that in carrying out their duties, they must comply with applicable regulations in serving the public interest. Therefore, it can be said that public service is something fundamental to government agencies. The government, as a public servant, has the responsibility and obligation to provide the best, professional, and quality service in providing its services to the public. In carrying out their duties and functions, government officials must also understand the principles of good governance. These principles include transparency, accountability, and public participation. By understanding the principles of good governance, government officials can carry out their duties and functions more effectively and efficiently.

A sound understanding of the law can also help government officials increase public trust. A sound understanding of the law is crucial for government officials. By understanding the law, government officials can carry out their duties and functions properly and correctly, while also improving the quality of public services. Therefore, government officials must continuously improve their legal knowledge and understanding to carry out their duties and functions more effectively and efficiently. Government officials who understand the law can improve the quality of public services. They can provide better and more effective services to the public. Furthermore, government officials who understand the law can also increase public trust in the government. They can carry out their duties and functions professionally and effectively.

A lack of legal knowledge and understanding among government officials can lead to injustice in the performance of their duties and functions, as well as losses for the state and society. Data from Indonesia Corruption Watch (ICW) shows that state losses due to corruption cases reached their highest peak in the last decade, reaching 63 trillion rupiah in 2021 and 29.9 trillion rupiah in 2023. Some examples of cases where a lack of legal knowledge among government officials has led to state losses and injustice include: Corruption cases in the health sector: Drug and medical equipment procurement projects involving government officials have resulted in state losses of up to trillions of rupiah; and Corruption cases in the infrastructure sector: Road, bridge, and irrigation system construction projects have been hampered or incomplete due to misappropriation of project funds. Lack of legal knowledge can also lead to abuse of power by government officials, such as: Bribery: Government officials accept bribes from private parties to win projects or gain other benefits; and Embezzlement: Government officials embezzle public funds for personal gain. To address this problem, efforts are needed to increase legal knowledge and understanding among government officials, as well as strict and transparent law enforcement.

According to (Hadjon, 1997), authority in constitutional law is described as legal power (*rechtsmacht*). In this context, government officials have an obligation to understand the law and carry out their duties in accordance with the authority granted by law. The principles and fundamentals of public service as stipulated in Article 4 of Law Number 25 of 2009 concerning Public Services, namely the implementation of public services based on: Public interest; Legal certainty; Equality of rights; Balance of rights and obligations; Professionalism; Participation; Equal treatment/non-discrimination; Transparency; Accountability; Facilities and special treatment for vulnerable groups; Timeliness; and Speed, ease, and affordability.

Research Question:

1. Can mandatory legal knowledge for government officials improve the quality of good governance in Indonesia?
2. Can stricter sanctions for government officials who violate the law improve accountability and transparency in government?

Research Objectives:

1. To analyze the importance of mandatory legal knowledge for government officials in realizing good governance in Indonesia.
2. To identify the need for stricter sanctions for government officials who violate the law to improve accountability and transparency in government.

Research Methods

This research uses a normative legal research method with a literature review approach. Normative legal research is conducted by examining applicable laws and regulations and legal theories relevant to the research topic. According to (Soerjon Soekanto, 2006), normative legal research is a type of research that focuses on examining the norms and principles of law to understand the meaning and purpose of the law. The study aims to analyze and interpret the existing laws and regulations to provide a deeper understanding of the research topic. As stated by (Satrio, 2012), normative legal research involves analyzing and interpreting the applicable laws and regulations to identify the underlying principles and norms. Additionally, the research will also examine the relevant legal theories to provide a comprehensive analysis of the topic. Furthermore, the study will use a qualitative approach to analyze the data collected from the literature review, as emphasized by (Lexy J. Moleong, 2007), that qualitative research is suitable for analyzing and interpreting complex data.

The data used in this research is secondary data obtained from legal sources, such as laws and regulations, law books, legal articles, and other documents relevant to the research topic. The secondary data is collected through a comprehensive review of existing literature, including academic journals, books, and official government publications. Additionally, the research also utilizes online databases and digital libraries to access relevant information. The collected data is then analyzed and interpreted to draw conclusions and make recommendations. Furthermore, the research also considers relevant case studies and empirical data to support the analysis and findings. Moreover, the study also examines existing policies and regulations to identify gaps and areas for improvement. The data collection process is conducted systematically and rigorously to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the findings.

The data collection method used in this research is a literature review, which involves reviewing and analyzing legal sources relevant to the research topic. According to (John W. Creswell, 2021), a literature review is a systematic and comprehensive approach to identify, evaluate, and synthesize relevant literature on a specific research topic. The literature review is conducted to gather relevant information and data from existing sources, including laws, regulations, and legal theories. A literature review is an essential step in understanding the current state of knowledge on the research topic and provides a basis for the development of the research framework. Furthermore, the literature review helps to identify gaps in existing research and provides a foundation for further analysis and recommendations.

The data analysis method used in this research is qualitative analysis, which involves reviewing and analyzing legal sources relevant to the research topic, then drawing conclusions based on the analysis. According to (Miles, M., & Huberman, 1994), qualitative data analysis involves a systematic process of coding, categorizing, and interpreting data to identify patterns and themes. The qualitative analysis approach is suitable for this research as it allows for an in-depth examination of the legal sources and provides a comprehensive understanding of the research topic. The use of qualitative analysis in this research enables the researcher to provide a nuanced and contextualized understanding of the research topic. Qualitative analysis involves a flexible and iterative process of data analysis, allowing for the identification of emerging themes and patterns.

The purpose of this research is to determine the importance of legal knowledge for government officials and the role of increased sanctions in increasing legal awareness and the quality of public services. This research is expected to contribute to improving the quality of bureaucracy and good governance in Indonesia and serve as a reference for other research relevant to the research topic.

Results and Discussion

Good governance is a concept that emphasizes the importance of transparency, accountability, and responsibility in government. In its implementation, good governance requires government officials who understand and implement the law effectively. (Satjipto Rahardjo, 2000), states that the law exists in society to integrate and coordinate potentially conflicting interests. This coordination of interests is achieved by limiting and protecting those interests.

Mandatory knowledge of the law for government officials is an important foundation for realizing good governance. By understanding the law, government officials can carry out their duties effectively and efficiently, and increase public trust in the government. Increased Transparency and Accountability:

Government officials who understand the law can increase transparency and accountability in government. They can explain applicable procedures and regulations to the public clearly and transparently, so that the public can understand the service process provided.

(Sri Yulianti Mozin, 2025), another equally important aspect is the low accountability of service providers. In many cases, there is no clear mechanism for regularly and transparently evaluating the performance of public service officials. This weak accountability results in the absence of firm sanctions or guidance for officials who commit negligence or violations in providing services. As a result, unprofessional and unresponsive behavior by service officials is often perceived as normal by the public, ultimately fostering a culture of permissiveness toward poor public services.

Understanding the law can also reduce the risk of abuse of authority by government officials. They can understand the limits of their authority and refrain from committing unlawful acts. Increased Government Credibility: Government officials who understand the law can enhance government credibility. They can demonstrate their understanding the law also enables government officials to conduct effective oversight and control over government administration. They can identify potential abuses of authority and take preventative measures to avoid them. Government officials who understand the law can improve the quality of public services. They can provide more effective and efficient services to the public, and increase public trust in the government. Government officials have an obligation to understand the law and carry out their duties in accordance with the authority granted by law.

As stated by (Mahmudi, 2010), public service is a public right that must be fulfilled by the government, and government officials have a responsibility to provide quality services to the public. Furthermore, understanding the law can also help government officials to make informed decisions and avoid mistakes that could harm the public. According to (Satjipto Rahardjo, 2000), the law exists to regulate and protect the interests of society, and government officials have a duty to uphold the law and protect the public interest. In addition, government officials who understand the law can also promote transparency and accountability in government administration.

Government officials have a responsibility to implement transparency and accountability, essential principles of good governance, in their work. Understanding the law also enables them to resolve conflicts and disputes fairly and justly, as the law provides a framework for doing so, and they have a duty to apply it impartially. Furthermore, government officials who grasp the law can contribute to a just and equitable society, using it as a tool to promote social justice and equality.

Commitment to carrying out their duties with integrity and professionalism, thereby increasing public trust in the government. Understanding the law also enables government officials to implement

effective public policies. They can understand policy goals and objectives and develop appropriate strategies and programs to achieve them. Government officials who understand the law can conduct effective oversight and evaluation of government administration. They can identify weaknesses and deficiencies in government administration and develop strategies to improve them.

By understanding the law and implementing it effectively, government officials can increase public trust in the government. The public will feel confident that the government has the capability and commitment to carry out its duties effectively and provide quality services. (Mahmudi, 2010) states that public service is all service activities carried out by public service providers as an effort to meet public needs and implement statutory provisions. Public trust is the foundation for realizing good governance.

Low legal knowledge and understanding among government officials is a serious problem that needs to be addressed. Government officials who do not understand the law well can lead to errors in decision-making and in carrying out their duties. Therefore, a good understanding of the law is crucial for government officials to carry out their duties and functions effectively and efficiently. However, many government officials still lack a good understanding of the law, leading to errors and abuse of authority.

The low level of legal knowledge and understanding among government officials can be caused by several factors, such as a lack of legal training and education, a lack of experience, and a lack of awareness of the importance of legal knowledge. Government officials who do not understand the law well can cause harm to the state and society. They can make wrong and unfair decisions, thereby harming society and the state. The low level of legal knowledge and understanding among government officials can also lead to public distrust of the government. The public may feel that the government is unprofessional and unfair in carrying out its duties and functions. (Rauf, 2015), professionalism is the values or spirit embodied in an individual, group, class, or group consistently to carry out work in accordance with their duties and functions in their profession.

The lack of legal knowledge and understanding among government officials can cause losses to the state and society. Therefore, it is necessary to improve the legal knowledge and understanding of government officials. This lack of legal knowledge and understanding among government officials can also lead to abuse of authority. This lack of legal knowledge and understanding among government officials can lead to injustice in the implementation of their duties and functions. Therefore, it is necessary to improve the legal knowledge and understanding of government officials, as well as to conduct supervision and evaluation of government officials who do not understand the law well.

The low level of legal knowledge and understanding among government officials can be caused

by a lack of available resources. Many government officials still lack adequate legal

knowledge and understanding. This can be caused by several factors, such as: lack of legal training and education, limited resources and budget, and a lack of awareness of the importance of legal knowledge. Therefore, it is necessary to increase available resources to support government officials' legal knowledge and understanding. Government officials who understand the law well can carry out their duties and functions more effectively and efficiently. They can make appropriate and fair decisions, thereby increasing public trust in the government. A sound legal knowledge is crucial for government officials to carry out their duties and functions professionally and effectively. Therefore, efforts are necessary to improve the legal knowledge and understanding of government officials.

The importance of legal knowledge for government officials is to carry out their duties professionally, ensure fair and transparent public services, and protect the public from abuse of authority and corruption. An understanding of state administrative law enables officials to act in accordance with the law, increase accountability, and facilitate good and effective governance. With sound legal knowledge, government officials can enhance their professionalism and public service delivery. They can carry out their duties and functions in accordance with applicable legal principles and regulations, ensuring professional and high- quality service. Furthermore, they can provide better, more efficient, and more responsive public services to the needs of the community. Legal knowledge also ensures fairness and accountability in public services. Officials who understand the law can be neutral and impartial, thereby creating fairness in public services and building public trust. They can also ensure a transparent and accountable decision-making process, thereby reducing the potential for corruption and collusion.

Furthermore, legal knowledge can prevent abuse of authority by public officials. State administrative law serves as a control mechanism to prevent abuse of authority. With a sound legal understanding, officials can avoid legal problems resulting from actions that violate regulations. Legal knowledge is also crucial for realizing clean and accountable governance. Legally literate officials can support the principles of good governance, such as transparency, accountability, and public participation. They can also strengthen the relationship between the government and citizens and protect public rights.

In the digital age, legal knowledge remains relevant for overseeing electronic-based public service systems and ensuring the smooth operation and security of data. (Lilis Sholihah, 2023), one of the methods needed to create quality public services within the framework of good governance is through repositioning the government bureaucracy and implementing e- government. The government has a responsibility to ensure that electronic-based public service systems are secure and reliable, and that the

data of citizens is protected. Therefore, sound legal knowledge is crucial for government officials to carry out their duties effectively and efficiently.

Government officials must have a good understanding of the law to ensure that electronic-based public services are provided in a transparent and accountable manner. Furthermore, legal knowledge is also essential for government officials to address the challenges posed by the digital age, such as cybercrime and data breaches. Government officials must be aware of the legal implications of electronic-based public services and take steps to mitigate the risks associated with them. The development of information technology has opened up significant opportunities to boost the efficiency of public services. The concept of e-government enables faster, more transparent, and more accountable services, (Sri Yulianti Mozin, 2025).

Legal knowledge can also help government officials to promote digital literacy and inclusion, and to ensure that all citizens have access to electronic-based public services. As emphasized by (Dian Suluh Kusuma Dewi, 2020), government officials have a responsibility to promote digital inclusion and to ensure that the benefits of technology are shared by all. Moreover, legal knowledge can also help government officials to develop effective policies and regulations for the digital age. Government officials must have a good understanding of the law to develop policies and regulations that are effective and relevant to the digital age.

Therefore, efforts are needed to improve the legal knowledge and understanding of government officials. Government officials who understand the law well can increase public trust in the government. (Zaenun, 2022), public trust is the foundation for realizing good governance. To improve the legal knowledge and understanding of government officials, intensive and ongoing legal training and education are necessary. This way, government officials can carry out their duties and functions more effectively and efficiently. To address this issue, intensive legal training and education are necessary for government officials. This legal training and education can help government officials understand the law well and carry out their duties and functions effectively and efficiently. Furthermore, monitoring and evaluation of government officials who do not understand the law well are also necessary. This supervision and evaluation can help improve legal awareness and knowledge of government officials.

Cases of corruption and abuse of authority involving government officials remain common in Indonesia. One of the main causes is a lack of legal knowledge and understanding among government officials. When government officials lack a proper understanding of the law, they can make mistakes and abuse their authority, which can harm the state and society.

An example of this is the village fund corruption case involving village officials. In this case, the village officials did not understand the applicable laws and regulations, leading them to abuse their authority and embezzle village funds. This case demonstrates that a lack of legal knowledge and understanding among government officials can cause significant losses to the state and society.

Another case that has occurred is the abuse of authority by police officers. In this case, the police officers failed to understand the applicable laws and procedures, leading to abuse of authority and human rights violations. This case demonstrates that a lack of legal knowledge and understanding among law enforcement officers can cause significant harm to the public and undermine public trust in them. This lack of legal knowledge and understanding among government officials can also lead to injustice and discrimination in law enforcement. When government officials lack a good understanding of the law, they can engage in discrimination and injustice in law enforcement, thus harming the public and undermining public trust in law enforcement. The public service system must regulate the government's role in carrying out its guidance and oversight functions, ensuring that all service delivery complies with laws and regulations, (Agus Dwiyanto, 2023).

To prevent cases like this from occurring, it is necessary to improve legal knowledge and understanding among government officials. The government needs to provide intensive and ongoing legal training and education for government officials so they can understand the law well and carry out their duties effectively and efficiently. Furthermore, transparency and accountability in government management are also needed. With transparency and accountability, the public can monitor and supervise government management, thereby preventing abuse of authority and corruption.

Thus, it is hoped that cases caused by a lack of legal knowledge and understanding among government officials can be minimized, so that the state and society can benefit from good and clean governance.

One concrete activity of good governance is providing excellent and satisfactory public services. Public services are a crucial instrument in government administration because their productivity can be a measure of public support for the government. In providing public services, the government must be held accountable for both its successes and failures, demonstrating the government apparatus' sensitivity to its actions, (Ratna Ani Lestari, 2022).

In the Indonesian context, the legal framework related to public services is explicitly regulated in Law No. 25 of 2009 concerning Public Services. This law is designed to provide a strong legal basis for the management of public services while strengthening the public's position as service users. One important aspect of this regulation is the recognition of service user rights, including the right to

information, the right to file complaints, and the right to receive quality services without discrimination. Therefore, this law emphasizes the importance of the principles of transparency, participation, and accountability as the main foundations of public service delivery, (Sri Yulianti Mozin, 2025).

However, the reality on the ground shows a significant gap between regulations and implementation practices. In many cases, the implementation of public services is marred by bureaucratic red tape, a low service ethic, and a lack of transparency in information. This has resulted in low public satisfaction with the services provided by government institutions, particularly in strategic sectors such as health care, education, and business licensing. In fact, people often have to face administrative and procedural obstacles that actually make it difficult for them to effectively access their rights.

Legal knowledge and understanding are crucial in public service. Government officials with sound legal knowledge and understanding can provide more effective and efficient services to the public. By understanding the law, government officials can carry out their duties professionally and avoid mistakes that could harm the public. Good public service requires adequate legal knowledge and understanding. Government officials must understand applicable laws and regulations to provide services that meet public needs. This will ensure public satisfaction with the services provided and increase public trust in the government.

Legal knowledge and understanding can also help government officials avoid errors and abuse of authority. By understanding the law, government officials can carry out their duties more carefully and avoid actions that could harm the public. This will improve the quality of public services and reduce public complaints. Government officials with sound legal knowledge and understanding can also provide more transparent and accountable services.

They can explain applicable procedures and regulations to the public clearly and transparently, so that the public can understand the service process.

Legal knowledge and understanding can also help government officials improve the quality of public services. By understanding the law, government officials can identify community needs and provide services that meet those needs. This will increase public satisfaction and enhance public trust in the government.

In providing public services, government officials must understand the community's rights and obligations. By understanding the law, government officials can carry out their duties more professionally and avoid violating community rights. Legal knowledge and understanding can also help government officials face challenges and changes in society. By understanding the law, government officials can

adapt to these changes and provide services that meet the community's needs. Government officials with sound legal knowledge and understanding can also increase public trust in the government. The public will feel confident that the government has the ability and competence to carry out its duties effectively and provide quality services.

In the long term, sound legal knowledge and understanding can help government officials improve the quality of public services and increase public trust in the government. This will have a positive impact on national development and improve public welfare. Legal knowledge and understanding are crucial in public service, therefore, government officials must have sound legal knowledge and understanding to be able to provide quality services and increase public trust in the government.

A. Legal Knowledge That Government Officials Must Understand

Government officials must possess a broad and in-depth understanding of the law to carry out their duties effectively and efficiently. The following are some legal matters that government officials must understand:

1. **State Administrative Law:** Government officials must understand state administrative law to carry out their duties effectively and avoid abuse of authority. State Administrative Law is a branch of law that regulates the relationship between the government and the public in the context of state administration. State Administrative Law plays a crucial role in ensuring that the government carries out its duties effectively, efficiently, and in accordance with the law. State Administrative Law contains basic principles that government officials must adhere to, such as the principle of legality, the principle of legal certainty, and the principle of justice. State administrative law requires that government be managed and implemented properly. Good governance is not solely based on the principles of good governance; however, the illegality of government actions and deeds is also relevant to applicable law, (Sri Wahyuni Zees, 2025). State Administrative Law also regulates the authority and obligations of government officials in carrying out their duties. Government officials must have clear and legitimate authority to carry out their duties and must comply with applicable procedures and regulations. Furthermore, government officials are also obligated to provide good service to the public and to act transparently and accountably. In practice, State Administrative Law plays a crucial role in resolving disputes between the government and the public. These disputes can involve permit disputes, community rights disputes, or administrative decisions. To resolve these disputes, the National Administrative Law provides an effective and efficient dispute resolution mechanism, such as through administrative processes or through the courts. State Administrative Law also

plays a crucial role in improving the quality of public services. With State Administrative Law, government officials can carry out their duties more professionally and in accordance with the law. Furthermore, State Administrative Law can help bolster public trust in the government by ensuring that it acts transparently and accountably. According to (Sri Wahyuni Zees, 2025), State Administrative Law plays a role in creating good governance, particularly in the context of public services. This law provides the legal basis for government policies to meet public needs and interests, based on the principles of transparency, accountability, and justice. State Administrative Law plays a crucial role in ensuring that the government carries out its duties effectively, efficiently, and in accordance with the law. By understanding State Administrative Law, government officials can carry out their duties more professionally and in accordance with the law, thereby improving the quality of public services and public trust in the government.

2. Legislation: Government officials must understand applicable laws to carry out their duties in accordance with the law. Government officials have an obligation to understand applicable laws in carrying out their duties. Legislation is the legal basis that governs the relationship between the government and the public, as well as the relationship between the government and the officials themselves. By understanding the laws, government officials can carry out their duties in accordance with the law and avoid abuse of authority. According to (Ida Surya, 2023), many regulations or laws and regulations that are made are not based on writing standards and writing procedures as well as the principles of implementing laws and regulations. Harmonization of laws and regulations is related to the hierarchy of laws and regulations where regulations of lower standing may not conflict with higher laws and regulations. The laws and regulations in force in Indonesia consist of various types, such as the 1945 Constitution, laws, government regulations, presidential regulations, and regional regulations. Government officials must understand the hierarchy of laws and the principles applicable to the creation of laws and regulations. This way, government officials can carry out their duties in accordance with the law and avoid mistakes that could harm the public. Understanding laws and regulations is also crucial for improving the quality of public services. Government officials who understand laws and regulations can provide more effective and efficient services to the public. They can explain applicable procedures and regulations to the public clearly and transparently, so that the public understands the service process. Furthermore, understanding laws and regulations can also help government officials avoid abuse of authority and corruption. By understanding laws and regulations, government officials can carry out their duties more professionally and in accordance with the law. They can identify the limits of their authority and refrain from

committing unlawful acts. Understanding legislation is crucial for government officials in carrying out their duties. By understanding legislation, government officials can carry out their duties in accordance with the law, improve the quality of public services, and avoid abuse of authority and corruption. Therefore, government officials must continuously improve their knowledge and understanding of applicable legislation.

3. **Community Rights:** Government officials must understand community rights to be able to provide services that meet their needs. Government officials have an obligation to understand community rights in carrying out their duties. Community rights are part of human rights that must be respected and protected by the government. By understanding community rights, government officials can provide services that meet community needs and avoid violating community rights. Public rights that government officials must understand include the right to good public services, the right to information, the right to participate in decision-making processes, and the right to protection from abuse of authority. Government officials who understand public rights can provide more effective and efficient services and can increase public trust in the government. Understanding public rights is also crucial for improving the quality of public services. Government officials who understand public rights can identify community needs and provide services that meet those needs. They can also explain applicable procedures and regulations to the public clearly and transparently, so that the public understands the service process. (Sri Yulianti Mozin, 2025), public services are a crucial aspect in the state's efforts to fulfill the fundamental rights of citizens. Law No. 25 of 2009 provides a strong legal foundation for the provision of public services in Indonesia. However, implementation in the field still faces various obstacles that hinder the achievement of quality services. Therefore, ongoing efforts are needed to strengthen the capacity of service delivery institutions, simplify bureaucracy, increase transparency and accountability, and encourage active public participation in the public service process. In this way, it is hoped that public services in Indonesia will operate in accordance with the principles of good governance and meet public expectations. In the context of mandatory legal knowledge for government officials, understanding public rights is an integral part. Government officials who understand public rights can carry out their duties in accordance with the law and avoid violating public rights. They can also improve the quality of public services and bolster public trust in the government. Understanding public rights is crucial for government officials in carrying out their duties. Government officials must continuously improve their knowledge and understanding of public rights to be able to provide services that meet public needs and improve the quality of public

services.

4. **Obligations of Government Officials:** Government officials have obligations that must be understood and carried out in carrying out their duties. These obligations are part of the code of ethics and laws applicable to government officials. By understanding their obligations, government officials can carry out their duties professionally and avoid violations that could harm the public and the state. The obligations of government officials include the obligation to carry out their duties in accordance with the law, the obligation to provide good service to the public, the obligation to act transparently and accountably, and the obligation to maintain confidentiality and integrity. Government officials who understand their obligations can improve the quality of public services and increase public trust in the government. Government officials' understanding of their responsibilities, rights, and obligations as stipulated in Law Number 5 of 2014 concerning Government Apparatus is an effort to create a professional government apparatus in carrying out its functions and duties to organize a government that is authoritative and accountable to all Indonesian people, as outlined by the Founding Fathers of the Republic of Indonesia, (Muzayanah, 2020). Understanding the obligations of government officials is also crucial for enhancing their professionalism. Government officials who understand their obligations can carry out their duties more effectively and efficiently, and can improve the quality of the decisions they make. They can also improve their ability to carry out their duties and increase public trust in the government. In the context of mandatory knowledge of the law for government officials, understanding the obligations of government officials is crucial. Government officials who understand their obligations can carry out their duties in accordance with the law and avoid committing violations that could harm the community and the state. They can also improve the quality of public services and increase public trust in the government. Understanding the obligations of government officials is crucial for them in carrying out their duties. Government officials must continuously improve their knowledge and understanding of their obligations to carry out their duties professionally and avoid violations. In this way, they can improve the quality of public services and increase public trust in the government.
5. **Administrative Procedures:** Government officials must understand administrative procedures to carry out their duties effectively and efficiently. Administrative procedures are the sequence of steps that must be followed in carrying out government duties and functions. By understanding administrative procedures, government officials can carry out their duties

effectively and efficiently, and can improve the quality of public services. Understanding administrative procedures is also crucial for increasing government transparency and accountability. Government officials who understand administrative procedures can explain applicable procedures and regulations to the public clearly and transparently, ensuring the public understands the service process. Furthermore, understanding administrative procedures can help them identify and resolve issues that arise during the service process. In the context of mandatory legal knowledge for government officials, understanding administrative procedures is crucial. Government officials who understand administrative procedures can carry out their duties in accordance with applicable laws and regulations and can avoid errors and abuse of authority. They can also improve the quality of public services and bolster public trust in the government. Understanding administrative procedures can also help government officials improve the efficiency and effectiveness of their duties. By understanding administrative procedures, government officials can identify steps that can be simplified or eliminated, thereby increasing efficiency and effectiveness in carrying out their duties. Furthermore, understanding administrative procedures can also help government officials improve the quality of their decisions. Understanding administrative procedures is crucial for government officials in carrying out their duties. Government officials must continuously improve their knowledge and understanding of administrative procedures to carry out their duties effectively and efficiently, as well as to improve the quality of public services and increase public trust in the government.

6. Criminal Law: Government officials are obligated to understand criminal law in carrying out their duties. Criminal law is part of the legal system that regulates punishable acts and the sanctions that can be imposed on violators. By understanding criminal law, government officials can handle cases involving criminal acts effectively and in accordance with the law. Understanding criminal law is also crucial for improving the quality of public services. Government officials who understand criminal law can identify potential criminal acts and take preventative measures to prevent them from occurring. Furthermore, they can handle criminal cases professionally and in accordance with the law. In the context of mandatory legal knowledge for government officials, understanding criminal law is crucial. Government officials who understand criminal law can carry out their duties in accordance with the law and avoid committing violations that could harm the public and the state. They can also improve the quality of public services and bolster public trust in the government. Government officials who understand criminal law can also assist in enforcing the law and prosecuting perpetrators of criminal acts. They can collaborate with other law enforcement agencies to handle criminal

cases and improve the quality of law enforcement in Indonesia. Understanding criminal law is crucial for government officials in carrying out their duties. Government officials must continuously improve their knowledge and understanding of criminal law to be able to handle cases involving criminal acts effectively and in accordance with the law.

7. **Civil Law:** Government officials must understand civil law to be able to handle cases involving the relationship between the public and the government and in carrying out their duties. Civil law is part of the legal system that regulates the relationship between individuals or legal entities and other individuals or legal entities, including the relationship between the public and the government. By understanding civil law, government officials can handle cases involving the relationship between the public and the government effectively and in accordance with the law. Understanding civil law is also crucial for improving the quality of public services. Government officials who understand civil law can identify the rights and obligations of the public and the government in their relationship. They can also handle disputes between the public and the government professionally and in accordance with the law. In the context of mandatory legal knowledge for government officials, understanding civil law is crucial. Government officials who understand civil law can carry out their duties in accordance with the law and avoid violations that could harm the public and the state. They can also improve the quality of public services and bolster public trust in the government. Government officials who understand civil law can also assist in resolving disputes between the public and the government. They can use their knowledge and understanding of civil law to mediate disputes and seek just and legally sound solutions. Thus, they can improve the quality of relations between the public and the government. Thus, an understanding of civil law is crucial for government officials in carrying out their duties. Government officials must continuously improve their knowledge and understanding of civil law to be able to handle cases involving the relationship between the public and the government effectively and in accordance with the law.
8. **Principles of Good Governance:** Government officials must understand the principles of good governance to carry out their duties transparently, accountably, and participatively. Good governance is a concept that emphasizes the importance of transparency, accountability, and participation in government management. By understanding the principles of good governance, government officials can carry out their duties more effectively and efficiently, and increase public trust in the government. Good governance is a prominent issue in public administration. The government's demands for governance are in line with advances in knowledge and the

influence of globalization. Old patterns of governance are considered no longer appropriate to the changing social order. Therefore, a shift toward good governance should receive a positive response from the government, (Safrijal, 2016). Understanding the principles of good governance is also crucial for improving the quality of public services. Government officials who understand the principles of good governance can provide more transparent, accountable, and participatory services to the public. They can also improve the quality of their decisions and reduce the risk of abuse of authority. In the context of mandatory legal knowledge for government officials, understanding the principles of good governance is crucial. Government officials who understand the principles of good governance can carry out their duties in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, while improving the quality of public services and increasing public trust in the government. Government officials who understand the principles of good governance can also help increase government transparency and accountability. They can use the principles of good governance to improve the quality of government management and reduce the risk of abuse of authority. Thus, they can improve the quality of public services and increase public trust in the government. Understanding the principles of good governance is crucial for government officials in carrying out their duties. Government officials must continuously improve their knowledge and understanding of the principles of good governance to be able to carry out their duties transparently, accountably, and participatively, as well as improve the quality of public services and bolster public trust in the government.

9. Public Policy: Government officials must understand public policy to be able to carry out their duties in accordance with established policies. Public policy is the decisions and actions taken by the government to achieve established goals and objectives. By understanding public policy, government officials can carry out their duties in accordance with established policies and improve the quality of public services. Understanding public policy is also crucial for increasing government effectiveness and efficiency. Government officials who understand public policy can identify priorities and targets to be achieved, and develop appropriate strategies and programs to achieve these goals. They can also improve the quality of decisions made and reduce the risk of abuse of authority. In the context of mandatory legal knowledge for government officials, understanding public policy is crucial. Government officials who understand public policy can carry out their duties in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, while improving the quality of public services and increasing public trust in the government. Government officials who understand public policy can also help improve the

quality of decision-making. They can use their knowledge and understanding of public policy to analyze problems, identify alternative solutions, and choose the most effective and efficient policies. Thus, they can improve the quality of public services and increase public trust in the government. Understanding public policy is crucial for government officials in carrying out their duties. Government officials must continuously improve their knowledge and understanding of public policy to be able to carry out their duties in accordance with established policies and improve the quality of public services.

10. **Ethics and Code of Ethics:** Government officials must understand ethics and codes of ethics to carry out their duties professionally and avoid ethical violations. Ethics and codes of ethics are moral principles that govern the behavior of government officials in carrying out their duties. By understanding ethics and codes of ethics, government officials can carry out their duties professionally and avoid ethical violations that could harm the public and the state. The government bureaucracy, which should serve the public based on rules and norms that do not conflict with the law and maintain a neutral stance, does not side with those in power. Instead, it deliberately demonstrates a biased attitude, creating a feudal bureaucratic culture, namely a tendency to be loyal to those in power and oppress those in power, far from the public interest. If such conditions are not immediately addressed and changed, they will trigger bad governance, as the governance carried out by officials becomes unaccountable or does not align with the hopes and desires of the public, (Imam Maulana YUsuf, 2017). Understanding ethics and codes of ethics is also important in increasing public trust in the government. Government officials who understand ethics and codes of ethics can demonstrate their commitment to carrying out their duties with integrity and professionalism. They can also improve the quality of public services and reduce the risk of abuse of authority. In the context of mandatory legal knowledge for government officials, understanding ethics and codes of conduct is crucial. Government officials who understand ethics and codes of conduct can carry out their duties in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, while improving the quality of public services and increasing public trust in the government.

Government officials who understand ethics and codes of conduct can also help improve the quality of decision-making. They can use their knowledge and understanding of ethics and codes of conduct to analyze problems and identify solutions that align with moral and ethical principles. In doing so, they can improve the quality of public services and increase public trust in the government.

Understanding ethics and codes of conduct is crucial for government officials in carrying out their

duties. Government officials must continuously improve their knowledge and understanding of ethics and codes of conduct to be able to carry out their duties professionally and avoid ethical violations that could harm the community and the state.

B. Aggravating Sanctions for Government Officials Who Violate the Law

A statutory sanction is a coercive instrument or legal consequence imposed on a party who violates a legal norm, with the aim of enforcing compliance and maintaining legal order. This sanction can take the form of a punishment or other coercive measure for failure to comply with applicable laws, rules, or orders. A sanction is a punishment or coercive measure imposed for failure to comply with a law, rule, or order, as defined by (Bryan A. Garner in Black's Law Dictionary, Seventh Edition, 1999) as follows: A penalty or coercive measure that results from failure to comply with a law, rule, or order (a sanction for discovery of abuse). Sanctions imposed can be criminal, civil, or administrative sanctions.

Meanwhile, an aggravating sanction is a criminal sanction that is more severe than a regular criminal sanction, imposed due to the presence of certain elements or circumstances that aggravate the crime, such as the use of violence, threats, or position. Legal basis and examples: Article 52 of the Criminal Code: States that the penalty can be increased if a civil servant commits a crime by abusing the position, power, opportunity or means given to him.

Improving sanctions for government officials who violate the law is an important step to increase legal awareness and reduce the number of violations among government officials. With stricter sanctions, it is hoped that government officials will be more careful in carrying out their duties and refrain from committing violations. Improving sanctions can also increase public trust in the government. When government officials who violate the law are given stricter sanctions, the public will perceive that the government is serious about handling cases of legal violations and will not tolerate corrupt or arbitrary officials.

However, sanctions must be implemented proportionally and commensurate with the severity of the offense. Sanctions that are too severe can negatively impact innocent government officials or those who commit minor offenses. Therefore, careful and objective analysis is necessary in determining appropriate sanctions. Improving sanctions must also be balanced with increased legal awareness among government officials. The government needs to conduct regular legal training and education to improve legal knowledge and awareness among government officials. Furthermore, increased sanctions must be accompanied by increased transparency and accountability within the government. With transparency and accountability, the public can monitor the performance of government officials and report any legal

violations that occur.

Increasing sanctions can also improve the quality of public services. When government officials perceive that they will be subject to severe sanctions if they violate the law, they will be more cautious in providing services to the public. However, increasing sanctions is not sufficient simply by increasing administrative sanctions; it must also be accompanied by increasing criminal sanctions for government officials who commit crimes. This is to ensure that government officials who commit crimes are given sanctions commensurate with the crimes committed.

Increasing sanctions must also be balanced with improving the welfare and security of government officials who carry out their duties honestly and professionally. This way, government officials can carry out their duties better and are less tempted to violate the law. Furthermore, increasing sanctions must be accompanied by increased supervision and monitoring of government officials' performance. With effective supervision and monitoring, legal violations can be detected early and appropriate sanctions can be imposed.

Tightening sanctions can also increase international trust in the Indonesian government. When the Indonesian government demonstrates its commitment to addressing cases of legal violations and imposing severe sanctions on government officials who violate the law, the international community will perceive the Indonesian government as serious about addressing corruption and legal violations. This will attract foreign investment, as they feel secure and assured of their investment in Indonesia.

One form of toughening sanctions is Administrative Sanctions: Administrative sanctions can take the form of warnings, reprimands, temporary suspensions, transfers, and even civil penalties if a public is harmed in the provision of services. These toughening sanctions are imposed because of their position as government officials. However, these toughening sanctions must be implemented fairly and non-discriminatory. Sanctions must be imposed on all government officials who violate the law, without exception. Tightening sanctions must also be accompanied by increased public participation in monitoring and prosecuting violations of the law.

With public participation, the government can obtain more accurate information about legal violations and impose appropriate sanctions. Implementing tougher sanctions for government officials who violate the law requires good coordination between law enforcement agencies, the government, and the public. All parties must work together to create a conducive environment for law enforcement and increased legal awareness.

These tougher sanctions must also be accompanied by improvements in the quality of law enforcement agencies, such as the police and the prosecutor's office. Law enforcement agencies must

possess high levels of capability and integrity to handle cases of legal violations effectively and fairly. In the long term, tougher sanctions for government officials who violate the law can have an impact on improving the quality of bureaucracy and good governance. With tougher sanctions, government officials will be more careful in carrying out their duties and improve the quality of public services.

The increased sanctions must also be balanced with increased legal awareness among government officials. The government needs to conduct regular legal training and

Conclusion

Mandatory legal knowledge for government officials is an important foundation for realizing good governance. By understanding the law, government officials can carry out their duties effectively and efficiently, and increase public trust in the government. Improving Transparency and Accountability: Government officials who understand the law can improve transparency and accountability in government.

A sound legal knowledge is crucial for government officials to carry out their duties effectively and efficiently. By understanding the law, government officials can make appropriate and fair decisions and improve the quality of public services. Therefore, efforts are necessary to improve the legal knowledge and understanding of government officials.

Heavier sanctions for government officials who violate the law are an important step to increase legal awareness and reduce the number of violations. With the introduction of severe sanctions, it is hoped that government officials will be more careful in carrying out their duties and refrain from violating the law. Heavier sanctions can also increase public trust in the government.

Low legal knowledge and understanding among government officials can cause losses to the state and society. Therefore, it is necessary to improve the legal knowledge and understanding of government officials through intensive and ongoing legal training and education. In this way, government officials can carry out their duties professionally and effectively.

Sanctions must be imposed proportionally and commensurate with the severity of the offense. Sanctions that are too severe can negatively impact innocent government officials or those who commit minor offenses. Therefore, careful and objective analysis is necessary to determine the appropriate sanctions.

In the long term, imposing heavier sanctions on government officials who violate the law can improve the quality of bureaucracy and good governance. With heavier sanctions, government officials will be more careful in carrying out their duties and improve the quality of public services. Therefore,

imposing heavier sanctions is a strategic step in realizing good governance.

The present study proposes several recommendations, including:

1. Sanctions must be imposed proportionally and commensurate with the severity of the offense.
2. Sanctions must be balanced with increased legal awareness among government officials through legal training and education.
3. Increased sanctions must be accompanied by increased transparency and accountability in government.
4. Increased sanctions must be balanced by improvements in the quality of law enforcement agencies, such as the police and the prosecutor's office.
5. Increased sanctions must be implemented in a fair and non-discriminatory manner, and involve public participation in monitoring and prosecuting violations of the law.

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