

## Law Enforcement Against Perpetrators of Diploma Forgery Crimes in the Jurisdiction of Samarinda Police Resort

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**Abstract:** This study examines the enforcement of legal actions against perpetrators of diploma forgery crimes within the jurisdiction of the Samarinda Police Resort. Focusing on both procedural and substantive legal approaches, the research explores the implications of legal enforcement efforts in addressing document falsification as a criminal offense. Using normative juridical methods, the research highlights challenges faced by law enforcement in proving criminal intent and ensuring adequate penalties for deterrence. This research contributes to the discourse on improving criminal law systems in combating intellectual fraud while safeguarding the credibility of academic credentials.

**Keywords:** Criminal Law; Diploma Forgery; Law Deterrence; Legal Enforcement; Samarinda Police Re-sort.

### 1. Introduction

The crime of diploma forgery undermines the integrity of academic institutions and disrupts societal trust in qualifications (Indranata, 2024). As a criminal offense regulated under the Indonesian Penal Code, such actions threaten fairness in professional opportunities and economic development (Rizaldi & Hosnah, 2024)(PURBA, 2023). Samarinda, a developing hub in Kalimantan, has seen a rise in such offenses, raising concerns about the effectiveness of current legal measures. The research aims to evaluate the enforcement mechanisms against diploma forgery in Samarinda, addressing gaps in law implementation and procedural barriers faced by law enforcement. The crime of diploma forgery not only undermines the integrity of academic institutions but also devalues genuine educational achievements, causing significant harm to individuals and institutions (Nugroho, 2022)(Jimu, 2018). This offense affects societal trust, disrupts fairness in professional opportunities, and creates an uneven playing field in labor markets. Furthermore, it undermines public confidence in the legitimacy of government-issued certifications and weakens economic growth by allowing unqualified individuals to occupy roles requiring expertise. In Samarinda, a strategic city and economic hub in Kalimantan, the increasing incidence of diploma forgery has prompted a reevaluation of enforcement mechanisms. Despite existing legal frameworks, challenges persist in addressing procedural inefficiencies, inadequate coordination among law enforcement agencies, and limited awareness campaigns to deter such crimes (Kaligis, 2021). The study focuses on understanding the root causes of diploma forgery, assessing the adequacy of law enforcement responses, and identifying effective strategies to strengthen legal measures. Key areas of exploration include collaboration among law enforcement, academic institutions, and policymakers, as well as the potential for introducing technology-based solutions to verify credentials more efficiently.

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## 2. Materials and Methods

This research adopts a normative juridical approach with a focus on primary legal materials, including Indonesian Penal Code provisions and relevant laws. Field data were obtained through interviews with law enforcement officials in Samarinda. Secondary data were sourced from journal articles, reports, and literature, with qualitative analysis employed to synthesize findings on legal challenges and procedural gaps in enforcing anti-forgery laws. This research employs a normative juridical approach, focusing on the analysis of legal materials relevant to the enforcement of anti-forgery laws, particularly in the context of diploma forgery cases. The primary legal materials include the Indonesian Penal Code (KUHP), related statutory regulations, and local ordinances applicable in Samarinda. These were critically examined to identify legal provisions governing document fraud, procedural frameworks, and the corresponding sanctions.

Field data were gathered through structured interviews with law enforcement officials, including police investigators, legal advisors, and judiciary representatives operating in Samarinda. These interviews aimed to uncover challenges faced in practical enforcement, such as limited resources, procedural barriers, and gaps in inter-agency coordination. Additionally, the study explored law enforcement perspectives on recurring patterns of forgery, community involvement in identifying cases, and the influence of societal attitudes on the reporting and prosecution of such crimes. Secondary data were obtained from a diverse range of sources, including peer-reviewed journal articles, government reports, and academic literature. These materials provided insights into the broader context of document forgery in Indonesia and comparative practices in similar jurisdictions. Online databases, such as JSTOR, HeinOnline, and Google Scholar, were extensively used to ensure the inclusion of up-to-date studies published in the last five years. Furthermore, global best practices in combating document fraud were analyzed to contextualize findings and propose viable recommendations for Indonesia.

Qualitative analysis was employed to synthesize the findings. This included a thematic analysis of field data to identify procedural gaps and bottlenecks in enforcement mechanisms. Data triangulation was performed to enhance the validity of findings by cross-verifying interview insights with legal documentation and secondary literature. The study also includes a review of technological tools that have been implemented internationally for verifying academic credentials and mitigating forgery risks. This exploration offers actionable recommendations for integrating similar systems within Indonesia's legal and educational frameworks. Ethical Considerations of this study involved interaction with human participants, such as law enforcement officials and policymakers, all interviews were conducted under the guidance of ethical standards. Approval was obtained from the Institutional Review Board (IRB) at Universitas Muhammadiyah Kalimantan Timur, with ethical approval code IRB/UMKT/2024/0023. Participation was voluntary, with informed consent acquired before any data collection. To ensure confidentiality, personal identifiers were removed, and participants' identities remain anonymized.

Data Accessibility is all materials, including interview transcripts, coding frameworks, and legal documentation, have been archived and will be made available upon reasonable request to the corresponding author. Relevant secondary data have been sourced from

publicly accessible databases and journals. Should additional data become available during the review process, such as enhanced legal databases or updated regulations, they will be included and documented accordingly. By employing this detailed methodological framework, the study ensures replicability, enhances transparency, and facilitates future research on legal enforcement in combating document forgery.

### 3. Results and Discussion

#### **Criminal Law Enforcement Against Diploma Forgery in Samarinda**

The enforcement mechanisms against diploma forgery in Samarinda involve several critical stages. First, investigations are initiated based on public complaints or through proactive monitoring by law enforcement agencies. The use of forensic document analysis is essential to verify the authenticity of the diplomas (Gaol & Bakhtiar, 2024)(Yuadi, n.d.). Collaboration with educational institutions plays a significant role in validating the legitimacy of the qualifications presented (Deni et al., 2024)(Alawiyah & Bakhtiar, 2025). Perpetrators of such crimes are charged under Article 263 of the Indonesian Penal Code, which provides a maximum imprisonment penalty of six years for document forgery (Kawengian, 2021)(SITANGGANG, 2019). Courts in Samarinda have demonstrated a commitment to imposing strict sentences on those convicted, aiming to deter similar offenses in the future.

The impact of these enforcement measures extends to both legal and social domains. From a legal perspective, these actions reinforce the integrity of the Indonesian judicial system in combating forgery crimes. Socially, they help restore public trust in professional qualifications and the credibility of educational institutions (Dulkiah, 2020). However, despite these efforts, the prevalence of diploma forgery cases has increased in recent years, particularly in high-demand employment sectors such as public service and private companies. This trend underscores the necessity for enhanced preventive strategies and stricter oversight mechanisms.

#### **Obstacles to Effective Law Enforcement**

The challenges faced by law enforcement in combating diploma forgery in Samarinda are multifaceted. One significant barrier is the limited public awareness regarding the criminal nature of using forged diplomas. Many individuals, unaware of the legal consequences, continue to engage in these activities, which contributes to the rising number of forgery cases (Somonita et al., 2017). Public education campaigns about the risks and penalties of such crimes remain insufficiently implemented, thereby hindering efforts to prevent the issue at its roots.

Additionally, technological constraints pose another significant challenge. Law enforcement agencies often lack advanced tools for verifying document authenticity, leading to delays in investigation processes. Furthermore, the limited availability of specialized training for officers in digital forgery detection exacerbates the problem. This gap in technical expertise makes it difficult to address increasingly sophisticated methods of forgery. Weak inter-agency collaboration, particularly between law enforcement and educational institutions, further complicates efforts to validate documents promptly (Husamuddin et al., 2024). Strengthening this collaboration and integrating centralized verification systems could greatly enhance the efficiency of investigations and prosecutions.

#### **Law Enforcement Against Diploma Forgery in Samarinda**

The study reveals that diploma forgery cases in Samarinda are often driven by the high demand for academic qualifications in professional settings. Law enforcement agencies, particularly the Samarinda Police Resort, have implemented strict measures to detect and prosecute perpetrators. The process typically involves reports from victims or institutions, followed by thorough investigations that gather evidence such as falsified documents, witness statements, and digital trails. Despite these efforts, the enforcement process faces several challenges, including limited resources, the sophisticated nature of

forgery techniques, and jurisdictional barriers when forgeries involve transnational elements.

The effectiveness of these enforcement efforts is measured by the number of cases successfully prosecuted and the deterrence effect on potential offenders. However, gaps remain in public awareness campaigns about the consequences of diploma forgery, as well as in the availability of advanced forensic tools to authenticate documents swiftly. This highlights the need for collaborative efforts between law enforcement, educational institutions, and policymakers to enhance the legal framework and procedural efficiency.

### **Challenges in Combating Diploma Forgery**

The study identifies several key challenges in addressing diploma forgery in Samarinda. Firstly, the lack of advanced technology in detecting forged documents delays investigative processes. Secondly, limited cooperation between educational institutions and law enforcement hampers the ability to validate academic credentials promptly. Thirdly, lenient penalties for diploma forgery under current legal provisions may fail to deter repeat offenders. These challenges underline the necessity of revising existing laws, improving inter-agency coordination, and incorporating technology-based solutions into investigative practices.

In addition, socio-economic factors such as unemployment and inequality often drive individuals to resort to document forgery. This further complicates law enforcement efforts, as addressing the root causes of forgery requires a multi-faceted approach involving social, economic, and educational reforms. Future policies should aim to balance punitive measures with preventive strategies, ensuring that legal enforcement aligns with broader societal goals. Diploma forgery significantly undermines the integrity of the educational system in Samarinda and Indonesia at large. Academic qualifications are foundational to maintaining meritocracy in professional and institutional environments. Forged diplomas not only compromise this principle but also result in unfair competition in the job market. The findings indicate that such practices erode public trust in the credibility of educational institutions and weaken the value of legitimate certifications. This aligns with the study's objective to evaluate the effectiveness of criminal law enforcement in safeguarding educational integrity.

The prevalence of diploma forgery in Samarinda highlights systemic vulnerabilities, such as inadequate monitoring mechanisms and the absence of a centralized database for academic credentials. Incorporating technology, such as blockchain for credential verification, and fostering partnerships between educational institutions and law enforcement are critical steps. These measures would ensure that diploma forgery cases are detected and addressed more efficiently, reinforcing the legitimacy of academic institutions. In the context of law enforcement, the enforcement mechanisms in Samarinda reflect broader challenges faced across Indonesia. Despite existing legal provisions under the Indonesian Penal Code, there is a lack of uniformity in addressing diploma forgery cases. For instance, disparities in sentencing and inconsistent procedural standards can hinder the deterrence of such crimes. This research ties these gaps to the need for a more robust and specialized legal framework that emphasizes accountability and transparency in handling forgery cases.

Additionally, the research underlines the importance of community engagement in deterring diploma forgery. Educating the public about the legal and societal consequences of such acts can enhance deterrence. Collaboration between law enforcement, educational institutions, and local governments is essential to prevent recurrence, ensuring that justice is upheld while promoting the ethical standards envisioned by the research.

### **Discussion**

The results reveal several gaps in the current enforcement mechanisms and highlight the need for comprehensive strategies to address these issues. Public awareness campaigns should be prioritized to educate individuals about the legal implications of diploma forgery. In addition, the adoption of advanced technologies, such as artificial

intelligence, could improve the efficiency and accuracy of forgery detection. Enhanced inter-agency collaboration, particularly through centralized verification systems, would streamline the process and ensure timely action against offenders. Future research should explore innovative legal and technological solutions to support law enforcement in addressing the evolving challenges of diploma forgery crimes effectively.

This study, titled *“Law Enforcement Against Perpetrators of Diploma Forgery in the Jurisdiction of Samarinda Police Resort,”* is deeply interwoven with the challenges and systemic gaps identified in this discussion. By examining the practicalities of enforcement and the socio-legal impact of diploma forgery, the research provides a critical lens to understand how current measures can be improved. The findings contribute to the broader discourse on ensuring educational integrity while addressing criminal behaviors that exploit institutional weaknesses. The research emphasizes that enforcement alone is insufficient to combat diploma forgery effectively. There is a pressing need to adopt a comprehensive policy framework that integrates preventive, punitive, and rehabilitative strategies. This includes creating a national credential verification system, standardizing enforcement procedures, and revising legal provisions to introduce stricter penalties. Such a framework would align with the study's goal to enhance law enforcement mechanisms and protect the educational and professional sectors from the adverse effects of forgery crimes.

#### 4. Conclusions

The enforcement of laws against diploma forgery in Samarinda underscores the necessity of an integrated approach that combines preventive measures, advanced technologies, and robust inter-agency collaboration. While existing legal frameworks under the Indonesian Penal Code provide a solid basis for prosecuting offenders, significant gaps remain in public awareness, technological capabilities, and institutional synergy. Addressing these challenges requires comprehensive strategies, including public education campaigns, investments in advanced forgery detection tools, and the establishment of centralized document verification systems. Enhanced cooperation between law enforcement agencies and educational institutions is crucial for ensuring the credibility of academic qualifications and maintaining societal trust. Future research should focus on innovative solutions and policy recommendations to strengthen the enforcement mechanisms and curb the growing trend of diploma forgery in Indonesia.

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