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## BULELENG RESORT POLICE EFFORTS IN COUNTERMEASURES AGAINST ILLEGAL RACING IN SINGARAJA CITY

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### Abstract

*This study aims to (1) evaluate the steps taken by Polres Buleleng in overcoming the crime of illegal racing committed by teenagers in Singaraja City, and (2) analyze the obstacles faced by Polres Buleleng in handling the crime of illegal racing in Singaraja City. This research uses empirical legal research method with descriptive approach. Data collection techniques include observation, document analysis, and interviews. This research is supported by various legal materials such as legislation, journals, articles, literature, and academic papers relevant to the topic. The results showed that (1) The steps taken by Buleleng Police in dealing with the problem of illegal racing in Singaraja City were in accordance with the provisions stipulated in Article 2 of Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning Police. The Buleleng Police have carried out their functions through pre-emptive, preventive and repressive measures (2) The Buleleng Police have experienced various obstacles in their efforts to overcome the problem of illegal racing in the city of Singaraja. These obstacles include internal constraints, such as the limited number of police officers, where one patrol car only has four members to monitor various locations.*

### Introduction

In today's globalized world, teens have easy access to information that can broaden their perspectives and offer valuable insights. However, the rapid growth of technology and information requires parental supervision to ensure proper use. This is important so that teens can understand and distinguish between the positive and negative impacts of modern technology. In addition, supervision in teenage relationships is also needed to prevent them from falling into activities that are detrimental to themselves and society (Soetodjo, 2010: 50).

Adolescence is a transitional period from childhood to adulthood. In Indonesia, the concept of Adolescence is a developmental stage that serves as a bridge between childhood and adulthood. In

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Indonesia, this phase varies widely and is not explicitly recognized in current legislation, which classifies individuals strictly as children or adults. Adolescents are no longer children but have not fully developed the mature reasoning of adults (Muladi & Barda, 2010: 75). Typically, adolescents tend to be self-centered and often act in ways that go against the norms of the law and society, which is often referred to as juvenile delinquency.

Illegal racing poses great risk and danger due to the absence of essential safety equipment such as helmets, jackets, protective gloves, as well as necessary vehicle components such as mirrors, lights, and reliable engines. In addition, speeding on public roads causes congestion and disrupts traffic flow. Illegal racing often results in accidents that cause injury or loss of life. This activity violates the law, particularly Article 503 paragraph (1) of the Criminal Code which stipulates sanctions including imprisonment for a maximum of three days or a maximum fine of two hundred twenty-five thousand rupiah for disturbing the peace of the night (Wirajaya and Purba, 2016:5).

In this context, the authorities responsible for ensuring safe, orderly and efficient traffic have established and implemented various regulations and educational campaigns. These regulations are contained in Law No. 22/2009 on Road Traffic and Transportation. Traffic police who handle traffic issues play an important role in prevention and enforcement (Layasina, Sugi Hartono, et al., 2022: Vol 5).

Law No. 22/2009 on Road Traffic and Transportation together with the Criminal Code (KUHP) regulates illegal racing. Many perpetrators of illegal racing often evade law enforcement by taking advantage of the difficulty in identifying the main perpetrators, allowing them to continue the activity. Illegal racing has serious consequences, often resulting in serious accidents or fatalities, as the motorcycles involved often exceed the speed limit set out in Article 287 paragraph (5) of the Road Traffic and Transportation Law.

"Every person driving a Motor Vehicle on the Road who violates the highest or lowest speed limit as referred to in Article 106 paragraph (4) letter g or Article 115 letter a shall be punished with a maximum imprisonment of 2 (two) months or a maximum fine of Rp500,000.00 (five hundred thousand rupiah)"

The problem of illegal racing is a long-standing social problem in the jurisdiction of Buleleng District Police. Especially involving teenagers, this phenomenon has been widely documented. The news often describes how teenagers use various methods to obtain motorbikes for wild racing purposes (Yuliantini et al., 2017: 82), including using stolen bicycles or taking their parents' motorbikes that are still in credit status. They believe this is acceptable as long as they receive appreciation from their peers (Indramurderz, 2022). The increase in illegal racing in Singaraja city has become an outlet for teenagers to express themselves and develop their identity. These young racers often form groups or communities commonly referred to as motorcycle gangs as a means of self-fulfillment. This trend has raised concerns among local residents (Hananta, 2018: 89).

To eradicate the occurrence of illegal racing, especially along the Singaraja - Gilimanuk route, Buleleng Police, especially the Traffic Unit, made preventive efforts. This includes conducting routine patrols, especially late at night from midnight to early morning. Illegal racing often occurs in areas such as Pemaron Village, Tukadmungga Village, Anturan Village, Kartini Street, around Penarukan Village, and several other locations identified as prone to illegal racing activities (Darma, 2022).

**Table 1.1**

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**Number of illegal racing in Singaraja City in 2018-2023**

No.	Year	Number of illegal races
1	2018	32
2	2019	41
3	2020	13
4	2021	125
5	2022	36
6	2023	45

Source: Traffic Bureau of Buleleng Police Station

Wild racing is very disturbing to the community, so residents ask law enforcement officials, especially the police, to regulate and impose sanctions on minors involved in these activities. Therefore, the efforts of Buleleng Police are very important in realizing public peace, security, and order. They ensure protection, guarantee safety, and provide services to the community, enabling effective handling of illegal racing through proactive prevention and law enforcement measures. Based on the observed circumstances, there appears to be a disconnect between theory and practice. Although the Law clearly classifies illegal racing as a traffic offense that can be subject to criminal sanctions, it is still widely practiced in the community, especially among teenagers. In connection with this, the author tends to propose research, namely: "THE EFFORTS OF THE BULELENG RESORT POLICE IN OVERCOMING THE CRIME OF ILLEGAL RACING IN SINGARAJA CITY".

## Research Methods

Legal research involves evaluating whether legal rules are consistent with legal norms, ascertaining that norms represented as commands or prohibitions are consistent with legal principles, and assessing whether actions are consistent with those norms and principles (Marzuki, 2017: 47). This process requires the use of research methods to guide and strengthen the findings. The type of research used in this study is empirical legal research that examines real legal actions or events to unite legal theory (*das sollen*) with practical reality (*das sein*), analyzing how the law functions in society (Ali, 2016: 10). The gap between theory and practice can be seen in the implementation of Law No. 22/2009 on Road Traffic and Transportation, particularly Article 115(b). Despite violating the law, Buleleng Police continue to handle cases of illegal racing. The nature of the research uses descriptive methodology which aims to present factual information about a particular population or area systematically and accurately. The aim is to explore the potential relationship between various indicators in a community (Ali, 2016: 2018). Data and data sources in research (empirical law) using primary data collected from field research conducted in Buleleng Regency with the focus of Buleleng

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Police jurisdiction and secondary data using primary, secondary and tertiary legal materials. In this study, the data collection technique used observation techniques, document studies, and interviews. In this research, processed and analyzed qualitatively. In this qualitative analysis approach, data obtained from interviews undergoes sequential processing stages so as to produce descriptive data.

## Results and Discussion

### Police Efforts of Buleleng Resort Police in Combating the Crime of Wild Racing in Singaraja City

The research was conducted at Polres Buleleng by interviewing related parties. The main sources of this research were Mr. Ipda Kadek Budi Ermawan who served as the Head of Patrol Unit of Buleleng Police and Mr. Aipda Nyoman Wardana Rai, S.H. who served as a member of Gakkum Buleleng Police Tilang Unit. Wild racing often occurs in various locations, especially in the jurisdiction of Buleleng Police. According to Mr. Aipda Nyoman Wardana Rai, S.H., the interview results revealed that the selection of the race location depends on the security conditions and the situation agreed among the participants. This race usually takes place late at night until the early morning. Common locations for illegal racing include roads in the Penarukan, Kartini, Sartika, and Lovina areas, among others. In an interview with Mr. Aipda Nyoman Wardana Rai, S.H. regarding police efforts in eradicating illegal racing, it was stated that Buleleng Police conducted operations by targeting road locations that are often a gathering place for teenagers, because these meetings often lead to incidents of illegal racing. In addition, regular patrols are conducted by a special unit known as the "Last Buser" unit. These patrols occur between 23:00 and 03:00 WITA, which is a period considered high risk for illegal racing activities carried out by teenagers. During the interview, Ipda Budi Ermawan explained the role of the police in ensuring public safety, maintaining order, enforcing the law, and providing protection and services while respecting human rights. He underscored the importance of adhering to Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to reduce the risk of the spread of illegal racing groups, which often lead to accidents as participants and spectators flee. Under his leadership, the SOPs prioritize the safety of officers and the public, including illegal racers, in line with Law No. 22/2009 on Road Traffic and Transportation.

Buleleng District Police, especially the Traffic Police, have responsibilities including conducting traffic patrols, educating the public about traffic regulations (Dikmaslantas), facilitating vehicle and driver registration and identification services, investigating traffic accidents, and enforcing traffic laws. In carrying out their duties, the police adhere to legal standards and uphold human rights principles. The fulfillment of police responsibilities is an important aspect of the profession, thus requiring members of the Indonesian National Police (Polri) to apply their expertise, particularly in law enforcement techniques. Therefore, every police officer is obliged to obey the professional code of ethics which is the basis for ethical behavior. Buleleng Police's efforts to eradicate illegal racing adhere strictly to Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and legal guidelines. In carrying out their operations, the police always follow the SOP to minimize the adverse effects of dispersing wild racing activities, because uncontrolled dispersal often causes casualties. Therefore, the application of SOPs is in line with leadership directives that prioritize the safety and security of both law enforcement officers and the public, including those involved in illegal racing. To eradicate illegal racing in Singaraja, Buleleng Police made preventive efforts by conducting socialization activities to middle and high schools. This initiative was triggered by the fact that most offenders of illegal racing are teenagers. The purpose of these sessions is to educate students about the dangers of wild racing and to underline that it is a violation of the law. Therefore, the role of Polres Buleleng in this socialization

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is a pre-emptive strategy that aims to prevent potential participants of wild racing before committing the activity, this is in line with the pre-emptive function of the police in preventing unlawful intentions.

The community also plays a role in maintaining traffic and public order as stipulated in Article 256 of Law Number 22 Year 2009 on Road Traffic and Transportation in Indonesia. This entails the right of the community to participate in maintaining traffic order on the road. As active members of society who are tasked with participating in the eradication of illegal racing, both individually and collectively, the community plays an important role in encouraging initiatives that can help prevent such activities. One effective method is to foster positive community activities. In addition, individuals can make use of call centers

110 to report cases of illegal racing. By providing reports, the community enables Polres Buleleng to immediately implement the necessary security measures, thus facilitating more effective intervention and situation management. However, these collaborative efforts have not reached their full potential due to constraints in conducting discussions, counseling, and establishing community forums. These initiatives face constraints such as a lack of formal partnerships and reactive activities towards illegal racing cases. In addition, some community members showed passivity or indifference in dealing with illegal racing activities. In addition, the government's negligence in providing facilities such as circuits for teenagers is also another obstacle, although previously Buleleng Police had proposed alternative solutions to eradicate illegal racing in the region.

## **Factors Impeding the Buleleng Resort Police in Efforts to Combat the Crime of Wild Racing in Singaraja City**

The police are actively addressing the issue of teenage illegal racing on highways to restore traffic order and ensure public safety, addressing the concerns of local residents and other road users. They strictly implement Law No. 22 of 2009 on Road Traffic and Transportation to effectively reduce such violations, ensuring compliance by all road users. However, when interviewed by Mr. Aipda Nyoman Wardana Rai, S.H., it was found that there are several challenges both external and internal to Buleleng Police that hinder the enforcement efforts. Internal obstacles include the lack of personnel and the unwillingness of police officers to take risks that might endanger the lives of wild racing perpetrators who manage to escape their operations, so there is often no pursuit until the perpetrators are caught while external obstacles include the dismantling of operations or raids conducted by police officers, wild racing perpetrators often dare to take dangerous risks, and motorcycle repair shops accept the type of vehicle to *upgrade* the vehicle to make it faster.

The presence of illegal motorcycle racing, also known as wild racing, has become a serious concern in the community and among law enforcement officials. Although Law No. 22 of 2009 on Road Traffic and Transportation has been enacted to replace Law No. 14 of 1992, illegal racing activities continue to occur in the community, especially in Singaraja City. Based on an interview with Aipda Nyoman Wardana Rai, S.H., these incidents are influenced by various factors from both the community and the perpetrators themselves. It was explained that the factors that encourage a person to become a wild racing offender include a lack of understanding of traffic rules, the urge to gain prestige as a street ruler among teenagers, the use of wild racing as a means of hobby or entertainment, feelings of identity crisis in searching for identity, constraints in controlling themselves to distinguish acceptable and unacceptable behavior in society because the majority of offenders are unstable teenagers, lack of role models in the environment who can provide effective direction and strategies to prevent teenagers from getting involved in wild racing and the urge to show themselves as cool individuals



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in an effort to find self-identity. This situation is exacerbated by the lack of parental attention which may be reduced due to divorce or even parental support for teenage wild racing activities. Illegal racing or speeding on the highway is a negative behavior often exhibited by adolescents, often associated with a lack of self-control development in behavior regulation. Some adolescents do not successfully develop the ability to control themselves as well as others do during their formative years. While they may be aware of the difference between acceptable and unacceptable behaviors, they struggle to control themselves to adhere to these norms. The rise of illegal motorcycle racing or what is known as wild racing is now a considerable concern for both the community and law enforcement officials. Although Law No. 22 of 2009 on Road Traffic and Transportation has been enacted to replace Law No. 14 of 1992, illegal racing still occurs frequently in the community, especially in Singaraja City. This problem still occurs due to various factors from both the community and the perpetrators, making it a big challenge in eradicating it.

## **Conclusion and recommendations**

### **Conclusion**

1. Buleleng Police's efforts to eradicate illegal racing in Singaraja City are in line with Article 2 of Law No. 2/2002 on Police. They apply preventive, preemptive, and punitive measures. In their enforcement operations, Buleleng Police officers used the provisions of Articles 280, 281, 285 paragraph (1), 287 paragraph (5), and 291 paragraph (1) of Law No. 22 of 2009 on Road Traffic and Transportation, excluding Article 297 of the same law. However, this approach is considered less effective and efficient in ensnaring wild racing violators.
2. Polres Buleleng faces several challenges in its efforts to address the problem of illegal racing in Singaraja city. These constraints include internal limitations, such as the lack of police personnel, where each patrol car is usually only manned by four members who are responsible for monitoring several locations. In addition, police operations are often uncovered due to informants within the illegal racing community. External constraints include the absence of a formal partnership between Buleleng Police and the local government, as well as inadequate racing circuit facilities.

### **Recommendations**

1. Police officers, especially Buleleng Police, are asked to increase the effectiveness of their strategy in eradicating illegal racing through preemptive, preventive and repressive actions. This includes expanding outreach and education efforts beyond students to cover all segments of society, particularly in areas prone to wild racing. In addition, it is imperative to increase personnel for routine patrols, not only on Saturday nights but also on other holidays. It is also important to optimize the enforcement of sanctions by police officers against wild racing offenders to ensure strict compliance with the law and effectively prevent future incidents.
2. Community involvement plays an important role in addressing this issue. Therefore, raising public awareness on the importance of complying with laws and regulations for road safety and order is crucial. In addition, the public is encouraged to immediately report any violations related to illegal racing.
3. Local government involvement plays an important role in addressing the problem of illegal racing. One step that can be taken is to organize official racing events by providing special circuits. This step is considered effective because it can provide a forum for young people to channel their hobbies safely, so they don't need to use public roads that could potentially

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