

# Illegal Land Acquisition and Environmental Crimes: The Surya Darmadi Corruption Case

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# Overview

- Biggest corruption case in Indonesia's history
- Billionaire Surya Darmadi sentenced to 15 years in prison
- Crime: Illegal palm oil plantations and money laundering
- 37,000 hectares of protected forest in Sumatra destroyed
- Profited for 20 years at the cost of severe environmental damage
- Verdict criticized as too lenient by environmental group

# Personality Involve in Crime

## Surya Darmadi

**Role:** Owner of PT Duta Palma.

### What Happened:

- Bribed officials for illegal palm oil permits.
- Sentenced to 16 years in prison.

## Annas Maamun

**Role:** Riau Governor.

### What Happened:

- Accepted bribes to change forestry laws.
- Convicted of corruption.

## Raja Thamsir Rachman

**Role:** head of Indragiri Hulu district.

### What Happened:

- Approved illegal permits.
- Faced legal scrutiny.

# Chronology of the Corruption



## Early 2000s

Surya planned illegal plantations on protected land.



## 2010-2021

Exported illegal palm oil to six countries.



## 2020

Cited new law allowing plantation legalization.



## February 2023

Sentenced to 15 years and fined \$2.7 billion.



## 2004

Secured permits for 37,000 hectares with bribes.



## 2014

Bribed Riau Governor, fled as a fugitive.



## August 2022

Arrested on return to Indonesia.

# Motives of the Corruption

## Maximizing Profits

Wanted to earn more money from his palm oil business by ignoring laws.

## Gaining Influence

Used corruption to build strong connections with powerful officials.

## Getting Permits

Bribed officials to get access to protected lands for plantations.

## Avoiding Environmental Laws

Paid bribes to bypass rules protecting forests and expand his business.

# Impact on Individuals : Surya Darmadi



Sentenced to 15 years in prison by the Jakarta Anti-Corruption Court.

Ordered to pay 1 billion rupiah (around RM 283 000) in fines.

Mandated to pay 2.23 trillion rupiah (about RM 630 Million) as restitution.

Instructed to pay an additional 39.7 trillion rupiah (around RM 11 billion) for state losses.

# Impact on Individuals



Raja Thamsir  
Rachman

Currently on trial and, if convicted, could face up to 10 years in prison.



Annas  
Maamun

Sentenced to seven years in prison but was released in 2019 after a presidential pardon.

# IMPACT ON SOCIETY, NATION § WORLD

## SOCIETY : Loss of Public Trust

The case damages public trust in government institutions, as it shows how corruption within local and national governments can lead to large-scale resource exploitation with little accountability.

## NATION : Economic Loss and Financial Burden

Corruption and resource exploitation caused significant financial losses, including IDR 4.7 trillion, USD 7.8 million, and additional damages of IDR 73.9 trillion, draining funds from public services.

## WORLD : International Relations and Environmental Commitments

The case could potentially impact Indonesia's reputation and international relations, potentially leading to pressure or sanctions from international bodies aiming to meet global climate goals.

# PREVENTION STRATEGIES



## Stricter Penalties for Environmental Crimes

- **Bigger Fines:** Make penalties match the harm done.
- **Fix the Damage:** Companies must restore what they destroy.
- **Hold Leaders Accountable:** Jail executives for serious crimes.



## Track Palm Oil Sources

- **Use Blockchain:** Make supply chains easy to verify.
- **Certified Products:** Ensure palm oil comes from legal, sustainable sources.
- **Ban Illegal Imports:** Stop unverified products from entering markets.



## Better Control of Plantation Licenses

- **Clear and Open Process:** Share permits publicly to reduce corruption.
- **Regular Checks:** Audit permits to ensure they follow the rules.
- **Digital System:** Track permits online for better monitoring.

## Public Monitoring for Transparency

- **Share Data:** Make land and permit records easy to access online.
- **Watchdog Groups:** Support NGOs to keep an eye on plantations.
- **Community Reporting:** Let locals report problems through apps or hotlines.



# THANK YOU