Journal of Contemporary Accounting

Factors affecting the control of budget abuse

Agnes Eka Saraswati
Department of Accounting, Universitas Mercu Buana, Jakarta, Indonesia
agnesaraswati@gmail.com

Hari Setiyawati
Department of Accounting, Universitas Mercu Buana, Jakarta, Indonesia
hari_setiyawati@mercubuana.ac.id

Factors affecting the control of budget abuse

Agnes Eka Saraswati[1], Hari Setiyawati[2]

1,2 Department of Accounting, Universitas Mercu Buana, Jakarta, Indonesia

Abstract

This research begins with a phenomenon where some government institutions experienced an increase in corruption cases in budget absorption so that it did not reflect the implementation of effective good government governance. This study aims to examine and analyze the effect of implementing an internal control system and the enforcement of good government governance on the level of budget abuse control and its impact on public accountability. This research is quantitative research. Collecting data using a questionnaire to 78 samples from total of 196 employees in the Travel Document Management and Analysis Work Unit at the Directorate of Immigration Traffic. Data analysis using SmartPLS. The results of the study show internal control system and good government governance significant effect on the control of budget abuse. In addition, the control of budget abuse also has a significant effect on public accountability.

Introduction

Several phenomena of corruption cases or budget abuse from several agencies, Indonesia Corruption Watch (ICW) released the results of research on the Trends in Enforcement of Corruption Cases 2015-2018 that occurred in various institutions and various sectors, especially the Government (ICW, 2018). The sector that is most prone to corruption is the village budget which includes the Village Fund Budget, Village Fund, and Village Original Income. Public sectors such as education, health, and transportation still have gaps for corruption. Social assistance funds also have the potential to be corrupted by the existence of the corruption mapping chart. With the above phenomena regarding the level of budget abuse, it is very necessary to be able to manage the budget in order to avoid budget abuse. Budget abuse can be said as an act of fraud that violates the procedures for using the budget so that it is not in accordance with the predetermined work estimate. The level of budget abuse can be influenced by several variables, including the implementation of the Internal Control System and the enforcement of good government governance. In addition, the level of budget abuse will have an impact on public accountability. The Internal Control System is a system created to provide confidence for the elements in the government unit. Internal control is carried out to maintain the assets and wealth of the government unit and maintain all aspects of the government unit (Sujarweni, 2015). The results of research conducted by Widiyarta et al. (2017) state that there is a positive and significant influence between the Internal Control System on fraud prevention in the management of village funds in the village government. The higher the level of the internal control system, the higher the level of fraud prevention in managing village funds.

Good government governance is the exercise of political economy, and administrative authority to manage state affairs at all levels. The results of research conducted by Djalil et al. (2017) state that the application of governance standards greatly affects the quality of local

government financial reports. This shows that the application of these standards is able to affect the level of fraud prevention. Accountability is a form of obligation for providers of public activities to be able to explain and answer all matters concerning the steps of all decisions and processes carried out, as well as accountability for results and performance (Lukito, 2014). The results of research conducted by Anton et al. (2016) stated that by carrying out the Performance-Based Budget properly and correctly in accordance with Law No. 17 of 2003, and carrying out duties and mandates with full responsibility so that the realization of the activity program that has been previously determined is a supporting public accountability. There are several differences with research conducted with previous research, namely there are differences in the object of research, the dependent variable, and the time span of the study. From the background of the problems described above, the problems that will be discussed in this study are factors affecting the control of budget abuse, case studies at the Directorate General of Immigration.

Literature Review

Theory of Reasoned Action (TRA)

This theory connects belief, attitude, intention and behavior. The Theory of Reasoned Action (TRA) can only be used for behavior that is completely under the control of the individual, and is not appropriate if it is used to explain behavior that is not fully under the control of the individual because of other factors, namely the possibility that it can inhibit or support the achievement of the individual's intention to behave (Ajzen & Fishbein, 1980). In short, practice or behavior according to Theory of Reasoned Action (TRA) is influenced by intentions, while intentions are influenced by subjective attitudes and norms. Attitudes are influenced by beliefs about the results of past actions. Subjective norms are influenced by belief in the opinions of others and the motivation to obey those opinions. More simply, this theory says that a person will perform an action if he views the action positively and if he believes that other people want him to do it.

Theory of Planned Behavior

Theory of Planned Behavior (Theory of Planned Behavior) is a theory that emphasizes the rationality of human behavior as well as the belief that the target behavior is under the control of individual consciousness. Theory of Planned Behavior (Theory of Planned Behavior) explains the behavior of individuals that arise because of the intention of the individual to behave and the intention of the individual due to internal and external factors of the individual (Ajzen, 1991). Theory of Planned Behavior can be used to estimate or predict a person's intention to behave.

Internal Control System

Internal Control System is a process, influenced by the board of directors, management and other personnel of an entity, designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the achievement of objectives related to operations, reporting and compliance. Meanwhile, the elements of internal control consist of: 1) control environment, namely the development of organizational integrity and ethical values, 2) risk assessment begins by looking at the suitability between the objectives of activities carried out by government agencies and their objectives, as well as conformity with strategic objectives set by the government. Control activities are actions required to address risks as well as the establishment and implementation of policies and procedures to ensure that the actions to address risks have been implemented effectively. Poor internal controls provide opportunities for fraud to occur (Hamdani & Albar, 2016).

Good Government Governance

The essence of good governance is improving organizational performance through supervision or monitoring of management performance and the existence of management accountability to other stakeholders, based on the applicable rules and regulations framework (Falah & Purwanto, 2019). Good government governance (GGG) is a concept approach that is oriented towards the development of the public sector by good government (Mardiasmo, 2018). Meanwhile, the principles of good government governance consist of: 1) openness by conveying information or activities carried out, 2) accountability as a form of accountability for the regulations that have been made, 3) participation through various inputs from various parties in the policy-making process, and 4) coordination that ascertains the extent to which other interested parties.

Budget Abuse Control

One of the reasons for the misuse of the budget is the abuse of authority by parties who have access to the budget itself. PThe definition of abuse of authority in administrative law can be interpreted as: 1) abuse of authority to carry out actions that are contrary to the public interest or to benefit personal, group or group interests, 2) abuse of authority in the sense that the official's actions are properly intended to public interest, but deviates from the purpose of the authority granted by the law or other regulations, and 3) abuse of authority in the sense of abusing procedures that should be used to achieve certain goals, but have used other procedures to be carried out. While the definition of control is a process that directs, straightens, and makes everything run according to the goals that have been set (Sumarsan, 2013). The budget realization report is very important in controlling in an organization. The Budget Realization Report presents an overview of the sources, allocation and use of government-managed economic sources of funds, which illustrates the comparison between the budget and its realization in one reporting period (Afiah, 2009).

Public Accountability

Accountability is a form of obligation for providers of public activities to be able to explain and answer all matters concerning the steps of all decisions and processes carried out, as well as accountability for results and performance (Lukito, 2014). Accountability is one of the prerequisites for the implementation of good governance. Accountability, which is the main principle of the implementation of good governance, is one of the government's references in the implementation of public services. Meanwhile, indicators of public accountability include: 1) legal accountability and honesty, 2) process accountability, 3) program accountability, and 4) policy accountability.

Framework

The implementation of a good internal control system will have a good influence on controlling budget abuse. An adequate internal control is needed as a method to prevent fraud and inaccuracies in financial reporting, including budget reporting. Through a good internal control will minimize fraud that has the potential to harm the state. This is in line with the conclusions of research from (Aditya Amanda Pane, 2018) which shows that the better the implementation of the Internal Control System in a government agency can suppress/reduce the occurrence of fraud. Enforcement of the principles of good government governance is very necessary in eradicating budget abuse, namely by becoming a clean government and free of corruption, increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of government activities, improving the quality of policy making and improving the quality of public services. A government system that enforces the principles of good government governance will have an effect on controlling budget abuse. This is in line with the conclusion of the study Listari et al. (2018), namely the implementation of

Good Government Governance is influenced by the internal control system through the results of audit findings. Accountability is believed to contribute to efforts to suppress the practice of criminal acts of corruption. If an agency, both government and private sector, has a high level of budget abuse, it will lead to public assumptions that the agency cannot be held accountable for its accountability. This is in line with the conclusions of research from Yusnaini et al. (2017) which is related to the role of internal auditors who have higher responsibility and efforts in detecting fraud due to accountability pressures. The research model can be seen in the figure 1.
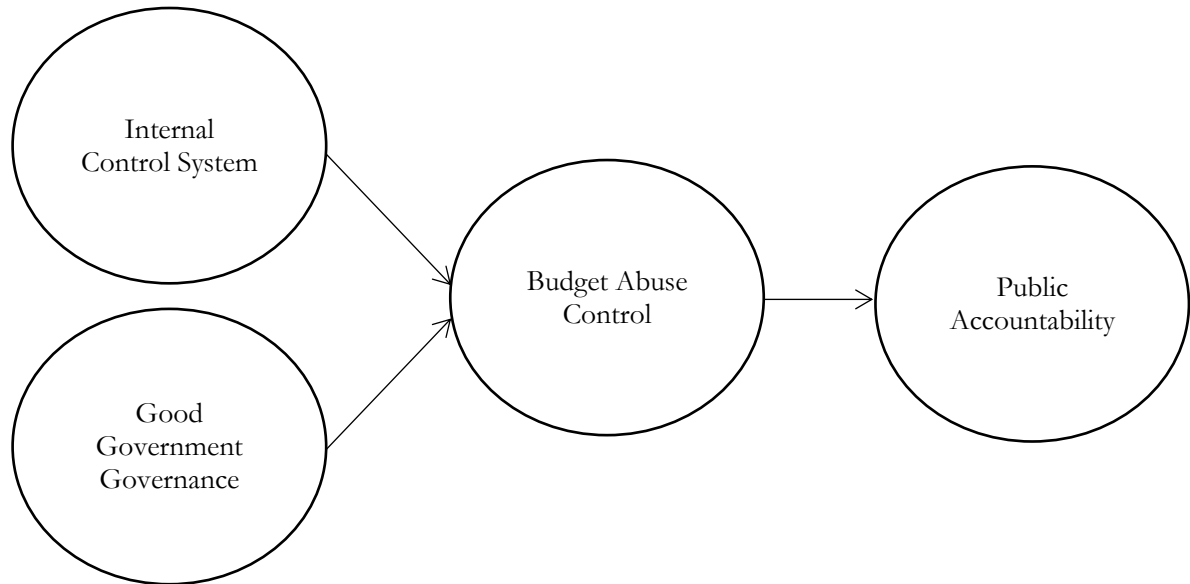

Figure 1. Framework

The research hypothesis as follows:

H_1 : The internal control system has an effect on increasing budget abuse control

H_2 : Good government governance has an effect on increasing budget abuse control

H_3 : Budget abuse control has an effect on increasing public accountability

Research Methods

This study uses primary data by distributing questionnaires, quantitative causal, with purposive sampling. The variable measurement scale used in this study is a Likert scale, while to distinguish categories, it uses an interval scale. The population in this study were employees who worked in the Travel Document Management and Analysis Work Unit at the Directorate of Immigration Traffic as many as 196 people by setting the criteria for the research sample so that a total sample of 78 people was obtained. This study uses a questionnaire as the main data. The questionnaire was circulated via google form from July 2020 to October 2020. The statistical description used the Partial Least Square – Structural Equation Modeling (PLS-SEM) program. The analysis to test the hypothesis that has been determined uses statistical techniques, namely the partial regression analysis method with SmartPLS 3.2.9 (Partial Least Square) software. In PLS Path Modeling there are 2 (two) models, namely the outer model and the inner model. Tests on the outer model are carried out for validity testing and reliability testing. Testing the structural model (inner model) can be seen using R-square to assess how much influence certain independent variables have on the dependent variable, and the path coefficient or p-value of each t-path. Operational variables along with the dimensions and indicators of each variable used can be seen in Table 1.

Table 1. Operational Variables

No.	Variabel	Dimensions	Indicators
1	Internal Control System (Sujarweni, 2015)	1. Control Environment	a. Rule norms b. Organizational structure c. Duties and responsibilities d. Policies and their functions
		2. Risk Assessment	a. Risk identification guidelines b. Risk assessment evaluation
		3. Control Activities	a. Review of control activities b. Policy on performance c. Internal control policy d. Asset control procedures
		4. Information & Communication	a. Information system procedures b. System repair
		5. Internal Control Monitoring	a. Security system b. Decision-making c. Supervision
2	Good Government Governance (Yasminingrum, 2013)	1. Transparancy	a. Easy access to information b. Information disclosure c. Budget management
		2. Accountability	a. Performance accountability b. Code of conduct and ethics c. Internal Control System
		3. Participation	a. Opinion forum b. Policy making process
		4. Coordination	a. Performance improvement cooperation b. Achievement of objectives
3	Budget Abuse Control (Halim, 2016)	1. Planning Function	a. Activity formulation b. Goal setting c. Activity implementation details
		2. Work Guidelines	a. Resource restrictions b. Expenditure efficiency
		3. Coordination Function	a. Activities according to purpose b. Coordination of activities
		4. Supervision Function	a. Implementation of activities b. Achievement evaluation c. Budget efficiency
4	Public Accountability (Kusumastuti, 2014)	1. Honesty & Legal Accountability	a. Abuse of office b. Compliance with the law
		2. Process Accountability	a. System procedure b. Public service
		3. Program Accountability	a. Goal achievement stage b. Alternative program
		4. Policy Accountability	a. Policy accountability b. Policy realization

Source: Secondary Data processed 2020

Results and Discussion

Descriptive Statistics

This research was conducted on Travel Document Management and Analysis Work Unit at the Directorate of Immigration Traffic with a total sample of 78 respondents with the following characteristics:

Table 2. Characteristics of Respondents by Gender

Classification	Respondent (person)	Percentage Respondents (%)
Male	64	82.1
Female	14	17.9
Total	78	100

Source: Primary Data processed 2021

The Table 2 shows that male respondents are more dominant than female respondents. Meanwhile, Table 3 show the characteristics based on years of service indicate that respondents are dominated by working years of more than 15 years.

Table 3. Characteristics of Respondents Based on Working Years

Classification	Respondent (person)	Percentage Respondents (%)
25 years	22	28.2
6 - 10 Years	12	15.4
11 - 15 Years	13	16.7
> 15 Years	31	39.7
Total	78	100

Source: Primary Data processed 2021

Validity & Reliability Test

The following is the result of the output factor loading of the internal control system construct, good government governance, budget abuse control and public accountability in Smart PLS.
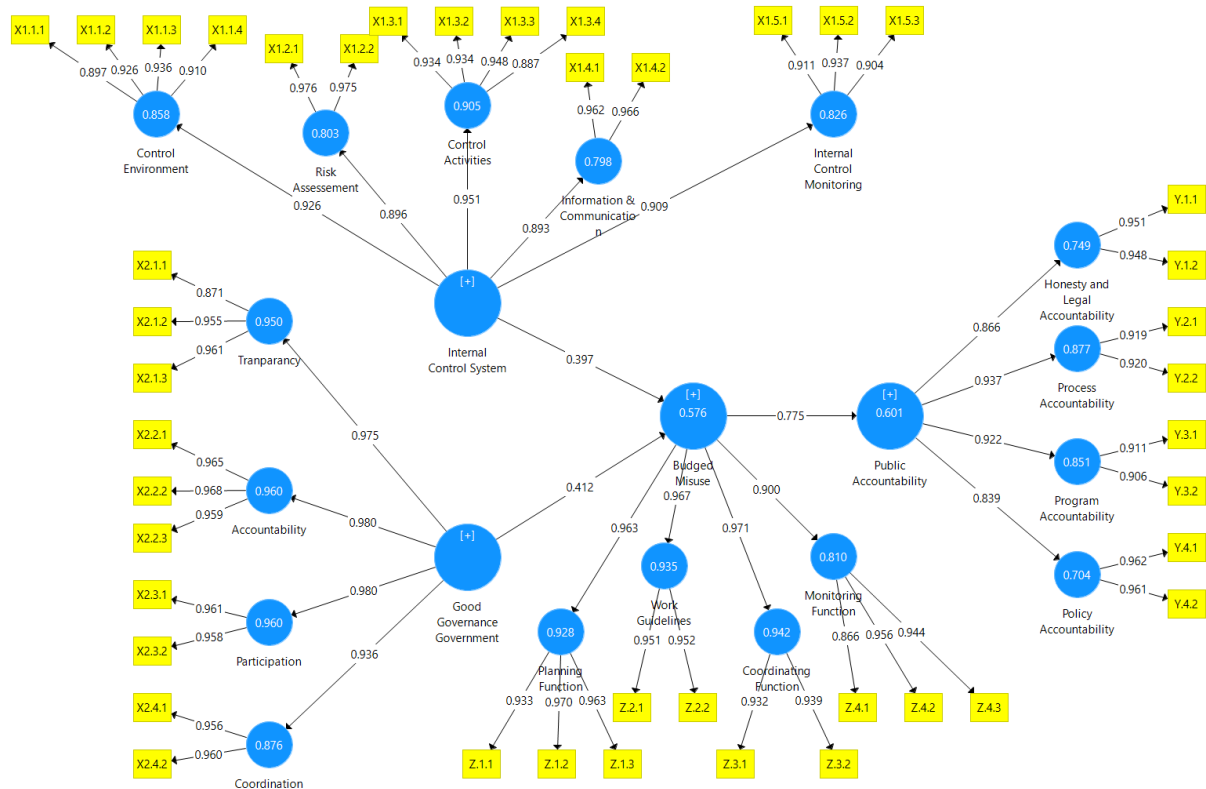
Figure 2. Research Loading Output

In this study, each variable has a value above 0.5 and the AVE value for each variable has a value above 0.5 so it can be concluded that all indicators in the variables in this study can be declared valid.

Table 4. Results of Average Variance Extracted (AVE)

No	Variable	AVE
1.	Budget Abuse Control	0.795
2.	Good Government Governance	0.851
3.	Internal Control System	0.739
4.	Public Accountability	0.693

Source: Primary Data processed, 2021

The crossloading results show that the crossloading value results in good discriminant validity. In this study, the correlation value for each variable with the variable itself has a greater value than the correlation with other variables so that it is declared valid and has met the discriminant validity test.

Table 5. Results of Cross Loading Discriminant Validity

Fornell-Larcker Criterion	Budget Abuse Control	Good Government Governance	Internal Control System	Public Accountability
Budget Abuse Control	0.892			
Good Government Governance	0.713	0.923		
Internal Control System	0.709	0.758	0.860	
Public Accountability	0.775	0.785	0.816	0.832

Source: Primary Data processed, 2021

Table 6 shows that all constructs or variables are sufficient (sufficient reliability) because Cronbach alpha and composite reliability > 0.7 means that all constructs are reliable and all tests consistently have strong reliability.

Table 6. Results of Cronbach Alpha Reliability and Composite Reliability

No	Construct	Cronbach Alpha	*Composite Reliability*
1.	Internal Control System	0.975	0.977
2.	Good Government Governance	0.980	0.983
3.	Budget Abuse Control	0.971	0.975
4.	Public Accountability	0.937	0.947

Source: Primary Data processed, 2021

Evaluation of Goodness of Fit Structural Model (Inner Model)

Table 7 describes the results of the evaluation of the coefficient of determination or R-square of research variables.

Table 7. Results of R-Square

No	Variable	*R-Square*	*R-Square Adjusted*
1.	Budget Abuse Control	0.576	0.565
2.	Public Accountability	0.601	0.596

Source: Primary Data processed, 2021

Based on the data in the Table 7, the R-square value of the Budget Abuse Control variable is 0.577, meaning that the ICS variable and the GGG variable simultaneously and jointly affect the Budget Abuse Control variable by 57.7%. Likewise, the R-square value of the Public Accountability variable is 0.601, meaning that the ICS variable and the GGG variable simultaneously and jointly affect the Public Accountability variable by 60.1%.

Hypothesis Testing

The hypothesis testing phase is carried out to obtain results whether the hypothesis is accepted or not through path coefficients testing. The output path coefficients using the PLS bootstrapping procedure are presented in Table 8.

Table 8. Path Coefficients Results (Mean, STDEV, t-Value)

Hypothesis	Original Sample (O)	T Statistics	P Values	Information
Budget Abuse Control → Public Accountability	0.775	14,124	0.000	Positive and Significant
Good Government Governance →Budget Abuse Control	0.412	2,563	0.011	Positive and Significant
Internal Control System →Budget Abuse Control	0.397	2,461	0.014	Positive and Significant

Source: Primary Data processed, 2021

Based on the Table 8 p-value of the control variable budget abuseon public accountability of 0.000, namely the p-value < significant (0.000 < 0.05) with a positive beta value of 0.775 and the t-statistics value > t-value (14,124 > 1.96) it can be concluded that the control budget abusesignificant positive effect on public accountability. Variable p-value *good government governance* against budget abuse control penyalahgunaan of 0.011, namely the p-value < significant (0.011 < 0.05) with a positive beta value of 0.412 and the t-statistics value > t-value (2.563 > 1.96) it can be concluded that *good government governance* positive and significant effect on control budget abuse. The p-value of the internal control system variable on control budget abuse of 0.014, namely the p-value < significant (0.014 < 0.05) with a positive beta value of 0.397 and the t-statistics value > t-value (2.461 > 1.96), it can be concluded that the internal control system has a significant positive effect on control budget abuse.

Discussion

The internal control system has a positive effect on increasing budget abuse control. This means that the better the implementation of the internal control system, the better the control of budget abuse will be.The implementation of the Internal Control System should rely on strengthening the control system that has been built and implemented by all parties in the organization starting from the existence of policies, organizational formation, budget preparation, facilities and infrastructure, determination of implementing personnel, determination of procedures and reviews at all stages. This study is in line with the conclusion (Pane, 2018; Widiyarta et al., 2017). Good government governance positive effect on increasing budget abuse control. This means that by increasing the implementation of good government governance in entities or institutions, it will be able to increase control over budget abuse. Good governance in general is characterized by the application of the principles of transparency, participation and accountability as the basic foundation. Research conducted by Listari et al. (2018) and Wu and Wang (2018)concluded the same results. Control budget abuse positive effect on increasing public accountability. This means that the better the control of budget abuse, the higher the public accountability for the entity or institution. The audit opinion of financial statements shows a fairness level that reflects the level

of accountability in financial statements that are believed to contribute to efforts to reduce corruption. A reasonable audit opinion shows good accountability, obtained from a low level of budget abuse and vice versa. If an agency, both government and private sector, has a high level of budget abuse, it will lead to public assumptions that the agency cannot be held accountable for its accountability (Anton et al., 2016; Schleiter & Voznaya, 2016; Yusnaini et al., 2017).

Conclusion

The internal control system has a positive effect on increasing the control of budget abuse. An adequate internal control is needed as a method to prevent fraud and inaccuracies in financial reporting, including budget reporting. The implementation of the elements of the internal control system, namely the control environment, risk assessment, control activities, information & communication and monitoring of internal control in the Travel Document Management and Analysis Work Unit has been good so that it can control budget abuse.

Good government governance positive effect on increasing the control of budget abuse. Good governance in general is characterized by the application of the principles of transparency, accountability, participation and coordination as the basic foundation. The application of the principles of good government governance carried out by the Travel Document Management and Analysis Work Unit is effective as one of the factors that can control budget abuse.

The control of budget abuse has a positive effect on increasing public accountability. Accountability is believed to contribute to efforts to suppress the practice of criminal acts of corruption. A reasonable audit opinion shows good accountability, obtained from a low level of budget abuse and vice versa. The functions of planning, monitoring, coordinating and working guidelines that are implemented as a form of controlling budget abuse are successful and can reflect accountability in the Travel Document Management and Analysis Work Unit.

The Directorate of Immigration Traffic in the Travel Document Management and Analysis Work Unit must increase supervision over the budget use with an effective and sustainable internal control system and good government governance so that no more cases of budget abuse are found. In order to realize the program of activities that have been previously determined, it is necessary to have better management of the government budget by adding a monitoring and evaluation process to support public accountability.

References

Afiah, N. N. (2009). *Akuntansi Pemerintahan: Implementasi Akuntansi Keuangan Pemerintah Daerah.* Kencana.

Ajzen, & Fishbein, M. (1980). *Understanding Attitudes And Predicting Sosial Behavior.* Englewood Cliffs. Nj: Prentice-Hall.

Ajzen, I. (1991). The theory of planned behavior. *Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Processes, 50*, 179–211.

Anton, M. G., Tinangon, J. J., & Elim, I. (2016). Penerapan anggaran berbasis kinerja untuk menunjang akuntabilitas publik pada badan lingkungan hidup kota Manado. *Jurnal EMBA, 4*(3), 553–563.

Djalil, M. A., Nadirsyah, & Fatmi, L. (2017). Influence of implementation of government accounting standard and the effectiveness of government's internal control system on the quality of local financial report and its impact toward the accountability of regional financial management (a research on g. *Research Journal of Finance and Accounting, 8*(4), 106–114.

Falah, F., & Purwanto. (2019). Institution of drought mitigation in Grobogan Regency. *Journal of Watershed Management Research, 8*(5), 55.

Hamdani, R., & Albar, A. R. (2016). Internal controls in fraud prevention effort: a case study. *Jurnal Akuntansi & Auditing Indonesia*, *20*(2), 127–135.

ICW. (2018). *Laporan tren penindakan kasus korupsi tahun 2018*. https://antikorupsi.org/sites/default/files/laporan_tren_penindakan_kasus_korupsi_2018.pdf

Listari, S., Hermanto, & Martiningsih, R. S. P. (2018). The influence of the government internal control system, government accounting standards, role of internal auditors, and completion of audit findings to good governance. *IOSR Journal of Business and Management*, *20*(2), 66–79.

Lukito, P. K. (2014). *Membumikan Transparansi Dan Akuntabilitas Kinerja Sektor Publik: Tantangan Demokrasi Ke Depan*. Grasindo.

Mardiasmo. (2018). *Akuntansi Sektor Publik*. Yogyakarta: Andi.

Pane, A. A. (2018). Pengaruh penerapan sistem pengendalian internal pemerintah terhadap kecurangan: Survei pada pemprov Sumatera Utara. *Jurnal Akuntansi Dan Bisnis*, *4*(2), 40–48.

Schleiter, P., & Voznaya, A. (2016). Party system institutionalization, accountability and governmental corruption. *British Journal of Political Science*, *48*(2), 315–342.

Sujarweni, V. W. (2015). *Sistem Akuntansi*. Pustaka Baru Press.

Sumarsan, T. (2013). *Sistem Pengendalian Manajemen: Konsep, Aplikasi, dan Pengukuran Kinerja*. Indeks.

Widiyarta, K., Herawati, N. T., & Atmadja, A. T. (2017). Pengaruh kompetensi aparatur, budaya organisasi, whistleblowing dan sistem pengendalian internal terhadap fraud dalam pengelolaan dana desa꞉ Kabupaten Buleleng. *Jurnal Ilmiah Mahasiswa Akuntansi Undiksha*, *8*(2), 1–12.

Wu, X., & Wang, J. (2018). Management's materiality criteria of internal control weaknesses and corporate fraud: Evidence from China. *The International Journal of Accounting*, *53*(1), 1–19.

Yusnaini, Ghozali, I., Fuad, & Yuyetta, E. N. A. (2017). Accountability and fraud type effects on fraud detection responsibility. *International Journal of Civil Engineering and Technology*, *8*(8), 424–436.