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THE CIVIL RESPONSIBILITY OF ELECTRONIC MEDIA IN DISSEMINATING INACCURATE NEWS (HOAXES)

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ABSTRAK

Tanggung jawab umumnya dikaitkan dengan kesadaran manusia mengenai perilaku, meliputi pemahaman akan konsekuensi dari tindakan seseorang dan kesiapan untuk bertanggung jawab atasnya. Kemajuan teknologi internet, yang sering disebut sebagai internet atau media sosial, telah secara signifikan mengubah pola interaksi manusia. Kemajuan teknologi, khususnya dalam ranah platform online, telah dimanfaatkan oleh masyarakat sebagai sarana untuk mengakses informasi dan mengejar berbagai kepentingan. Namun, kemudahan ekspresi kreatif telah menyebabkan eksploitasi peluang tersebut oleh berbagai entitas yang tidak bertanggung jawab, yang menghasilkan tindakan yang merugikan orang lain. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengeksplorasi mekanisme penegakan hukum khususnya dalam tanggung jawab sipil terhadap penyebaran berita yang tidak akurat, yang mengakibatkan penyebaran berita palsu (hoaks), serta tantangan yang dihadapi dalam menerapkan langkah-langkah hukum tersebut.

Kata kunci: *Teknologi, Tanggung Jawab, Media Sosial.*

ABSTRACT

Responsibility is commonly linked to human consciousness regarding behavior, encompassing an understanding of the repercussions of one's actions and a willingness to be accountable for them. The advent of internet technology, often referred to as the internet or social media, has significantly altered patterns of human interaction. Technological advancements, particularly in the realm of online platforms, have been utilized by the public as a means to access information and pursue various interests. However, the ease of creative expression has led to the exploitation of these opportunities by numerous irresponsible entities, resulting in actions that are detrimental to others. This research endeavors to explore the mechanisms for legal enforcement particularly in civil responsibility against the proliferation of inaccurate news, giving rise to the dissemination of fake news (hoaxes), and the challenges encountered in implementing such legal measures.

Keywords: *Technology, Responsibility, Social Media.*

INTRODUCTION

A hoax is crafted information designed to obscure factual realities. Essentially, a hoax can be seen as an effort to manipulate facts by presenting information that seems plausible but cannot be confirmed for its accuracy. The deliberate aim of a hoax is to foster feelings of insecurity, unease, and bewilderment within society. Hoaxes are intentionally formulated to mislead readers or listeners, inducing them to accept a particular belief and molding their perspectives in accordance with the motives of the hoax originator. It is crucial to emphasize that inaccurate information spreads rapidly and easily, as a significant portion of individuals engages in disseminating news without verifying its truthfulness.¹

Electronic media represents a medium that utilizes electronic or digital technology for the purpose of presenting and distributing information to audiences. This media encompasses the utilization of electronic devices, including computers, television, radio, and mobile devices, for the transmission, presentation, and retrieval of content. Electronic media leverages digital technology to deliver, present, and consume information rapidly and efficiently. Technological advancements have transformed the way we access and interact with information, enabling users to swiftly and easily gain access to diverse content from various sources. The contemporary internet has indeed demonstrated its role in modernizing and streamlining human life.²

As time progresses, the advancement of information technology has proven capable of altering and shaping communication patterns, particularly within the digital community. The progression of communication tools and applications in the era of digitalization presents distinct challenges for society to prudently leverage these digital technologies in facilitating day-to-day activities.³ This, undoubtedly, is intricately linked to the impact of internet technology development, which has expanded extensively and is accessible to the general public, notwithstanding the fact that there are still remote areas in Indonesia lacking internet connectivity. The existence of the internet as an online medium expedites the swift dissemination of information, regardless of its verification status.⁴

Within seconds, an incident has the capacity to swiftly propagate and be accessed by internet users through social media platforms. Social media channels disseminate hundreds or even thousands of pieces of information daily, often without assurance of their veracity.⁵ The formulation of news necessitates adherence to at least two criteria: 1)

¹ Imam Khalid, "Kredibilitas Media Cetak dan Media Online," *Jurnal At-Tadabbur* 9, no. 1 (2019): 84–105.

² Khalid.

³ Dita Novita Sari et al., "Etika dalam Penggunaan Media Informasi," *Jikmas: Jurnal Pegabdian Dan Pemberdayaan Masyarakat Desa* 1, no. 1 (2023): 14–17.

⁴ Syed Mohammad Hilmi Syed Abdul Rahman et al., "Pengidentifikasian Kajian-Kajian Berkaitan Isu Penyalahgunaan Media Sosial Dalam Interaksi Sosial Berasaskan Systematic Literature Review," *International Journal Of Law, Government And Communication (IJLGC)* 7, no. 28 (2022): 166–91, <https://doi.org/10.35631/IJLGC.728013>.

⁵ Nuhdi Futuhal Arifin and A. Jauhar Fuad, "Dampak Post-Truth Di Media Sosial," *Jurnal Intelektual: Jurnal Pendidikan Dan Studi Keislaman* 10, no. 3 (2020): 376–88, <https://doi.org/10.33367/ji.v10i3.1430>.

the facts must not be manipulated to the extent that the truth is partially obscured, and 2) the news must provide a comprehensive narrative of all facets. If the disseminated information is inaccurate or inconsistent with the facts, then that information can be definitively categorized as a hoax.⁶

In the current era, individuals can easily create and write news on various platforms such as websites, blogs, or their personal social media accounts. Upon scrutiny of the content they generate, it may even excel in quality compared to news available on current social media platforms.⁷ Nevertheless, this phenomenon is accompanied by several challenges, primarily the insufficient understanding and knowledge among the public in validating the accuracy of news. This inadequacy contributes to the swift dissemination of misinformation or hoaxes.⁸ As a result, the overall public interest in reading diminishes, particularly in dedicating time for comprehensive reading. Consequently, their perspective is often formed solely based on reading headlines or paragraphs, from which they extract the essence of the presented news.⁹

This is certainly due to the support of various news formats, where some websites present information in an engaging manner, creating curiosity among readers even though the data presented may not be accurate or in line with the truth. Inaccurate news that has already circulated has also been manipulated by certain individuals to capture the interest of readers.¹⁰ Internet users actively participate in expressing their opinions in the comment section to discuss a piece of news, believing that their comments or opinions can rectify the information.¹¹ However, upon closer examination, it is not guaranteed that their comments can be comprehended by others or other readers. Consequently, there is a possibility that more individuals will join in commenting and providing opinions on the news, either independently or through the arguments of others.

From a psychological perspective, there are two factors that can lead individuals' tendency to easily believe in hoaxes. Individuals are more prone to believing in hoaxes when the information corresponds with their preexisting opinions or attitudes.¹²

⁶ Anissa Rahmadhany, Anggi Aldila Safitri, and Irwansyah, "Fenomena Penyebaran Hoax Dan Hate Speech Pada Media Sosial," *Jurnal Teknologi Dan Informasi Bisnis* 3, no. 1 (2021): 30–43, <https://doi.org/10.47233/jteksis.v3i1.182>.

⁷ Rahmadhany, Safitri, and Irwansyah.

⁸ Dewi Ayu Pranesti and Ridwan Arifin, "Perlindungan Korban Dalam Kasus Penyebaran Berita Hoax Di Media Sosial Di Indonesia," *Jurnal Hukum Media Bhakti* 3, no. 1 (2019): 8–17, <https://doi.org/10.32501/jhmb.v3i1.28>.

⁹ Darwadi MS, Akhmad Rosihan, and Dian Novitasari, "Literasi Digital Bagi Remaja Dan Karang Taruna Dalam Upaya Mencegah Informasi Hoax Di Desa Sukaraja Kecamatan Lengkiti Kabupaten Ogan Komering Ulu," *Jurnal PKM Ilmu Kependidikan* 5, no. 2 (2022): 178–87, <https://doi.org/10.31851/dedikasi.v5i2.7536>.

¹⁰ Isabella, Atrika Iriyani, and Delfiazi Puji Lestari, "Literasi Digital Sebagai Upaya Membangun Karakter Masyarakat Digital," *Jurnal Pemerintahan Dan Politik Islam Al-Imarah* 8, no. 3 (2023): 167–72, <https://doi.org/10.36982/jpg.v8i3.3236>.

¹¹ Aiman Fadillah, "Perlindungan Hukum Terhadap Korban Kejahatan Berita Bohong (Hoax) Melalui Media Sosial Ditinjau Dari Sistem Peradilan Pidana" (Universitas Islam Kalimantan Muhammad Arsyad Al Banjari Banjarmasin, 2023).

¹² Paulina Silitonga, "Pengaruh Positif Dan Negatif Media Sosial Terhadap Perkembangan Sosial,

Naturally, positive feelings arise within an individual when their opinions or beliefs receive affirmation, leading them to be less concerned about the accuracy of the information they receive. In fact, they may easily propagate such information.¹³ This inclination is further heightened when the disseminator lacks the proficiency to adeptly leverage the internet for acquiring more comprehensive information.

Prior researchers have addressed the issue of misinformation disseminated on social media, examining aspects such as Criminal Accountability for the Dissemination of False Information (Hoax) on Social Media.¹⁴ Furthermore, there has been an exploration of Government Initiatives to Address the Spread of (Hoax) on Social Media, drawing insights from a case study conducted on the Communication and Information Agency of Manado City.¹⁵ Additionally, studies have delved into legal safeguards for individuals adversely affected by the dissemination of false information.¹⁶ This research delves into the significant responsibility that electronic media bears towards society. The civil liability of electronic media encompasses various aspects, including fact verification, editorial responsibility in news creation, and upholding journalistic ethics in reporting. An integral component of this responsibility is the provision of clarification and corrections in the event of inaccuracies. In the fast-paced and dynamic era of digital information, electronic media encounters the challenge of delivering news swiftly without compromising accuracy. Consequently, optimal practices in maintaining credibility involve prioritizing fact-checking and furnishing accurate information to the public.

A comparative analysis between the civil liability of electronic media and governmental efforts to counter the dissemination of misinformation on social media underscores the pivotal roles played by both entities in preserving the veracity and integrity of information.¹⁷ Electronic media is responsible for adhering to professional standards and journalistic ethics, while the government has a role in creating regulations and implementing preventive measures and enforcement. Overall, collaboration between electronic media and the government is imperative to cultivate a healthy information environment, necessitating active engagement from all pertinent stakeholders.

Psikologis, Dan Perilaku Remaja Yang Tidak Terbiasa Dengan Teknologi Sosial Media Di Indonesia,” *Jurnal Pendidikan Dan Sosial Humaniora* 2, no. 4 (2023): 13076–89.

¹³ Lati Praja Delmana, “Strategi Penanganan Hoaks Pemilu Melalui Penerapan Smart Contract Logic Serta Sistem Deteksi Hoaks Otomatis,” *Electoral Governance: Jurnal Tata Kelola Pemilu Indonesia* 4, no. 2 (2023): 188–211, <https://doi.org/10.46874/tkp.v4i2.825>.

¹⁴ Yunita Rahayu Kurniawati, “Pertanggung Jawaban Pidana Atas Penyebaran Berita Bohong (Hoax) Di Media Sosial,” *Dinamika : Jurnal Ilmiah Ilmu Hukum* 26, no. 4 (2020): 422–37.

¹⁵ Risna Nurlatun, Herman Nayoan, and Fanley Pangemanan, “Upaya Pemerintah Dalam Mengatasi Penyebaran Berita Palsu (Hoax) Di Media Sosial (Studi Kasus Dinas Kominfo Kota Manado),” *Jurnal Governance* 1, no. 2 (2021): 1–8.

¹⁶ Rusmala Ratnawati and Erna Tri, “Perlindungan Hukum Bagi Korban Yang Dirugikan Akibat Penyebaran Berita Bohong,” *Journal Widya Pranata Hukum* 3, no. 1 (2021): 90–104, <https://doi.org/10.37631/widyapranata.v3i1.271>.

¹⁷ Nurlatun, Nayoan, and Pangemanan, “Upaya Pemerintah dalam Mengatasi Penyebaran Berita Palsu (Hoax) di Media Sosial (Studi Kasus Dinas Kominfo Kota Manado).”

RESEARCH METHODS

The research method employed in this study is a normative juridical research, specifically characterized as legal library research. Within normative legal research, the analysis is centered on scrutinizing library materials or exclusively relying on secondary data.¹⁸ The research approach adopted is the statute approach, entailing a comprehensive study and analysis of all legal statutes, regulations, and provisions relevant to the legal issues being investigated.¹⁹ The legal materials utilized in this research, particularly within the normative framework, are derived from literary sources rather than empirical field data.²⁰ Data collection in this research involves a literature review to gather legal materials in doctrinal legal research. The researcher also seeks secondary legal materials such as textbooks, electronic books, legal research journals, doctrines, or opinions of legal experts.

DISCUSSION

A. Legal Regulation Concerning the Dissemination of Inaccurate News or Hoaxes in Indonesia

Hoaxes are a detrimental outcome of the freedom of speech and expression on the internet. The spoken and written language used in hoaxes can influence the public's thinking, causing them to be ensnared in a shared deception.²¹ Despite the various advantages that society experiences through the existence of the internet, such as the convenient access to information worldwide and the facilitation of communication, its development has led to not only benefits for users but also numerous violations in the virtual domain. This is notably evident with the rise of various easily accessible social media platforms for the public. This is particularly evident with the emergence of various social media platforms that are readily accessible to the public.²²

In the current era, technological advancements is progressively intricate, and these advancements can have both positive and negative influences on society. The sophistication of technology, particularly in the swift dissemination of information through diverse social media platforms such as Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, as well as mobile messaging applications like WhatsApp and Telegram,

¹⁸ Anik Iftitah, ed., *Metode Penelitian Hukum*, Mei 2023 (Sada Kurnia Pustaka, 2023), <https://repository.sadapenerbit.com/index.php/books/catalog/book/54>.

¹⁹ David Tan, "Metode Penelitian Hukum: Mengupas dan Mengulas Metodologi dalam Menyelenggarakan Penelitian Hukum," *Nusantara: Jurnal Ilmu Pengetahuan Sosial* 8, no. 8 (2021): 2463–78, <https://doi.org/10.31604/jips.v8i8.2021.2463-2478>.

²⁰ Hari Sutra Disemadi, "Lensa Penelitian Hukum: Esai Deskriptif tentang Metodologi Penelitian Hukum," *Journal of Judicial Review (JJR)* 24, no. 2 (2022): 289–304, <https://doi.org/10.37253/jjr.v24i2.7280>.

²¹ Paulus Setiawan et al., "Edukasi Attitude Heading Reference System Bagi Mahasiswa Dan Alumni Teknik Elektro Kedirgantaraan," *Jurnal Peradaban Masyarakat* 3, no. 6 (2023): 211–18, <https://doi.org/10.55182/jpm.v3i6.334>.

²² Yuliati Rosmina Mangode, Adi Tirta Koesomo, and Victor Demy Kasenda, "Tindak Pidana Pencemaran Nama Baik Melalui Media Sosial Ditinjau Berdasarkan Uu No. 19 Tahun 2016 Tentang Perubahan Atas Uu No. 11 Tahun 2008 Tentang Informasi Dan Transaksi Elektronik," *Jurnal Lex Administratum* 12, no. 25 (2023): 1–11.

presents a convenience that is not always effectively screened.²³ Technology and the law are two elements that mutually influence each other, significantly impacting society. The symbiotic relationship between technology and the law is discernible in the tailored development of technology to address specific needs, delivering benefits and services to society, thereby augmenting operational efficiency and effectiveness. Moreover, legal provisions serve as parameters governing conduct, with transgressions subject to sanctions in accordance with prevailing regulations. This intricate interplay underscores the purpose of technological advancements in meeting specific societal needs, providing benefits and services that enhance overall efficiency. Concurrently, legal frameworks delineate behavioral boundaries, with any breaches met by sanctions prescribed by extant legal statutes.

Hence, hoax news tends to be more popular, potentially overshadowing the presence of authentic news. The proliferation of false information has evolved into a national and international concern, with the potential to cause confusion or disintegration, political instability, and disruptions to national security that hinder developmental progress. The government has implemented a blocking system to regulate websites and accounts on social media disseminating false news. In more severe cases, the government utilizes the legal basis of the Electronic Information and Transactions Law to bring those disseminating false content to justice. Many individuals in society are still unaware that misusing technology constitutes a criminal act according to the Criminal Code, the Civil Code, and Law Number 1 of 2024, the second amendment to Law Number 11 of 2008 concerning Electronic Information and Transactions.²⁴

The Information and Electronic Transactions Law concerns electronic information and transactions, with state-established regulations playing a vital role in trade and the national economy's growth to foster societal well-being. The government needs to support the development of information technology through legal infrastructure and regulations to ensure the secure utilization of information technology, preventing its misuse while considering the religious, social, and cultural values of the Indonesian community.²⁵ The Information and Electronic Transactions Law functions as a decree applicable to individuals involved in legal activities as outlined by this law, regardless of whether they are within or beyond Indonesia's jurisdiction. This law holds significant advantages in the contemporary Digital Era, as it can proactively address potential misuse and offer legal safeguards for both electronic transactions and information.

²³ Nurlatun, Nayoan, and Pangemanan, "Upaya Pemerintah Dalam Mengatasi Penyebaran Berita Palsu (Hoax) Di Media Sosial (Studi Kasus Dinas Kominfo Kota Manado)."

²⁴ Kenes Annesia Herlambang, "Perlindungan Hukum Terhadap Korban Berita Hoax Di Media Sosial Perspektif Undang-Undang Nomor 19 Tahun 2016 Tentang Informasi Dan Transaksi Elektronik," *Jurnal Hukum Dan Pembangunan Ekonomi* 11, no. 1 (2023): 107–17, <https://doi.org/10.20961/hpe.v11i1.67859>.

²⁵ Ria Safitri, "Undang-Undang Informasi Dan Transaksi Elektronik Bagi Perguruan Tinggi," *Salam : Jurnal Sosial Budaya Dan Syar'i* 3, no. 5 (2018): 197–218, <https://doi.org/10.15408/sjsbs.v5i3.10279>.

Criminal liability, denominated as such in foreign languages, encompasses the accountability an individual holds for an illicit act they have committed, rendering them susceptible to legal repercussions. At its core, criminal liability is ascribed to the individual who perpetrates a criminal act, contingent upon the fulfillment of four essential prerequisites, delineated as follows: 1) the occurrence of an action (commission or omission) by the individual; 2) the action aligning with the formulations of criminal offenses as prescribed by the law; 3) the act must be unlawful in nature; and 4) the individual's capability of being held accountable.²⁶

B. Civil Responsibilities of Electronic Media in Disseminating Inaccurate News or Hoaxes

Within the realm of civil liability, individuals have the opportunity to seek legal recourse in accordance with existing regulations. Apart from criminal charges, defamation disputes may find resolution through civil litigation, entailing fines and compensation for both tangible and intangible damages. The compensation for unlawful acts in the Civil Code only addresses material losses and does not encompass compensation for immaterial losses. Material losses refer to tangible losses that can be assessed monetarily.²⁷ The transition to civil law eliminates the prospect of imprisonment for defamation allegations, replacing it with proportional compensation.

Fundamental principles in civil law establish two types of accountability: fault-based accountability and accountability without fault. The fundamental principle of fault-based accountability implies that an individual is held responsible for causing harm to others due to their wrongdoing. Conversely, the principle of risk responsibility holds that the consumer plaintiff is no longer obliged, and the defendant producer directly assumes responsibility as a risk of their business.²⁸ Individuals whose civil rights are infringed upon by others have the right to pursue legal action by filing a lawsuit against the responsible party in the local District Court, seeking compensation for damages. The legal recourse pursued takes the form of a lawsuit for an unlawful act, as governed by the stipulations of Article 1365 of the Civil Code.²⁹ Law enforcement endeavors to attain societal harmony, and the efficacy of the law is intricately linked to public perceptions and understanding of legal principles. Consequently, the effectiveness of the law is contingent upon the community's comprehension and legal awareness.³⁰

²⁶ Ratnawati and Tri, "Perlindungan Hukum Bagi Korban Yang Dirugikan Akibat Penyebaran Berita Bohong."

²⁷ Markus Suryoutomo, Siti Mariyam, and Adhi Putra Satria, "Koherensi Putusan Hakim Dalam Pembuktian Ganti Rugi Imateriel Perbuatan Melawan Hukum," *Jurnal Pembangunan Hukum Indonesia* 4, no. 1 (2022): 139–44, <https://doi.org/10.14710/jphi.v4i1.139-144>.

²⁸ Harry A Tuhumury, "Pertanggungjawaban Perdata Pelaku Penyebar Hoax Melalui Media Masa," *Jurnal Legal Certainty* 1, no. 1 (2019): 1–8.

²⁹ I Made Heriyana, Anak Agung Sagung Laksmi Dewi, and Ni Made Puspasutari Ujjanti, "Gugatan Ganti Kerugian Dalam Kasus Pencemaran Nama Baik Menurut Kitab Undang-Undang Hukum Perdata," *Jurnal Preferensi Hukum* 1, no. 1 (2020): 87–90.

³⁰ Putri Yashila Rahimah Athifahputih, "Penegakan Hukum Terhadap Penyebaran Berita Hoax Di Lihat

In the context of the Civil Code in Indonesia, civil liability concerning the dissemination of inaccurate news can be examined through several related articles. While the Civil Code predominantly focuses on civil legal relationships between individuals or conflicting parties, specific articles reflect the principle of accountability for the dissemination of information that may inflict harm. Key articles include Article 1365 of the Civil Code, stipulating that any action contravening the law and resulting in harm to others necessitates the wrongdoer to indemnify for the ensuing losses. In the realm of electronic media, the dissemination of inaccurate news causing harm to individuals or groups can be construed as an unlawful act. Article 1366 of the Civil Code asserts that individuals who unlawfully cause harm to others are obligated to provide compensation. Furthermore, Article 1367 of the Civil Code states that someone who, due to an error, negligence, or violation of duty, causes harm to others is responsible for compensating for it. If electronic media makes mistakes in reporting, civil liability can arise.

The sanctions that may be imposed as a consequence of such violations involve the obligation to compensate for the resulting damages. The affected party has the option to initiate a civil lawsuit seeking redress for the losses incurred due to the dissemination of inaccurate news. These sanctions may include the payment of damages, treatment costs, or reputation restoration. It is crucial to acknowledge that each case may present unique contexts and factors, and the ascription of responsibility and sanctions can be influenced by diverse legal considerations and specific facts in each circumstance.

In Indonesia, hoaxes are governed by Law Number 1 of 2024, the second amendment to Law Number 11 of 2008 concerning Electronic Information and Transactions. This legislation concern to the propagation of false news in electronic media, including social media, stipulating that "Any person intentionally and without authorization spreading false and misleading news that causes consumer losses in Electronic Transactions." Violating the stipulations of Article 28 of the ITE Law may lead to sanctions as outlined in Article 45A, paragraph (1) of Law 1/2024, which specifies: "Any person who intentionally and without authorization spreads false and misleading news causing consumer losses in Electronic Transactions, as referred to in Article 28, paragraph (1), shall be subject to imprisonment for a maximum of 6 (six) years and/or a fine of up to IDR 1 billion."³¹

Through this article, it can be concluded that those who spread false news may face a maximum prison sentence of 6 (six) years and/or a fine of up to IDR 1 billion. Perpetrators of spreading false news should indeed be subject to punishment due to their actions causing disturbance to the public. However, in this country, despite

Dari Tinjauan Hukum," *Jurnal Hukum Dan Pembangunan Ekonomi* 10, no. 2 (2022): 65–77, <https://doi.org/10.20961/hpe.v10i1.62843>.

³¹ Direktorat Utama Pembinaan dan Pengembangan Hukum Pemeriksaan Keuangan Negara, "Perubahan Kedua Atas Undang-Undang Nomor 11 Tahun 2008 Tentang Informasi Dan Transaksi Elektronik," JDIH BPK, 2024.

existing regulations prohibiting the dissemination of false news, there are still individuals who violate these rules. The elements outlined in Article 14 (1) of Law Number 1 of 1946 are as follows: 1) Anyone disseminating false news or information; 2) Intentionally causing unrest among the people; 3) The maximum punishment is 10 years.

The application of this article requires the perpetrator's awareness that the news they disseminate is false, yet they intentionally broadcast or send it with the aim of causing public unrest. This article is applicable to address both perpetrators/creators and spreaders of hoaxes who deliberately circulate false information to create chaos. However, it may not be suitable for spreaders who are unaware that the information they are sharing is false. The Restorative Justice paradigm can serve as a framework for a peaceful resolution strategy in criminal cases related to the dissemination of false and misleading news that harms consumers on social media.³²

Reporting inaccurate news can be done by identifying any misleading information, especially when it reaches a level of potential harm. It is advisable to report such instances to the respective social media platforms where the news is disseminated. Typically, seeking compensatory damages is considered one of the best alternatives, especially given the minimal impact on the freedom of expression of citizens. Any action that is not proven to cause harm cannot be subjected to obligations or claims for compensation. Actions that lack proof of causing harm should not be subject to obligations or compensation claims. The primary intent behind seeking compensation for defamation is to offer restitution for the direct losses suffered by individuals whose reputations have been damaged, rather than aiming to punish the defendant. Using compensation for alternative purposes may negatively impact freedom of expression in a democratic society.

Every social media platform features a reporting mechanism for content or comments that violate their policies. For example, on Facebook, there is a report status feature with various violation categories. If there are numerous user complaints, Facebook may remove the reported status. Google's search engine incorporates a feedback feature for reporting sites with false information in search results. Twitter includes a Report Tweet feature to highlight negative tweets, and Instagram offers a Report feature for spam or inappropriate content.

CONCLUSIONS

Disseminating inaccurate news significantly impacts information integrity and public trust. Electronic media holds moral, ethical, and professional obligations to ensure the accuracy, balance, and adherence to journalistic standards of the information presented to the public. When electronic media fails in its responsibilities, there is a risk

³² Andi Faiz Alf Wiputra, "Penyelesaian Perkara Penyebaran Berita Bohong (Hoax) Yang Merugikan Konsumen Di Media Sosial Melalui Media Penal," *Badamai Law Journal* 5, no. 1 (2020): 71–86, <https://doi.org/10.32801/damai.v5i1.10004>.

of damaging the reputation of individuals or groups, creating societal distrust. In the fast-paced and dynamic era of digital information, electronic media is expected to adeptly navigate these challenges, upholding standards of balance and accuracy while maintaining the prompt delivery of news. Awareness of the social and moral impact of the dissemination of inaccurate news should be a primary driver for electronic media to uphold its responsibility to society.

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