

Administrative Warnings as an Environmental Prevention Instrument at the Urban Community Level

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Abstract

Environmental damage in urban areas is not always caused by large-scale environmental crimes, but often stems from repeated and neglected minor administrative violations. Administrative reprimands are one of the strategic initial instruments in preventing the escalation of environmental damage without having to resort to a criminal approach. This study aims to analyze the role and effectiveness of administrative reprimands as a community-based environmental prevention instrument at RT 8 RW 4 Malaka Jaya, East Jakarta. A normative juridical approach combined with a light empirical approach through field observation was employed. Data were collected through library research, non-participatory observation over two months (January-February 2025), and documentation. The findings show that verbal reprimands were effective in 83.3% of cases, while written reprimands were effective in 60% of cases. The dominant violations were improper waste disposal (48.9%), open waste burning (17.0%), and neglected waterway cleanliness (14.9%). Key success factors include social closeness between RT administrators and residents, a persuasive and familial approach, consistent application, collective agreements, and community supervision. However, normative gaps were identified in legal legitimacy, documentation systems, and capacity building for RT administrators. This study confirms that administrative reprimands have significant preventive value if supported by community participation. Strengthening written guidelines, documentation systems, and legal capacity for RT administrators is recommended.

INTRODUCTION

Environmental problems in urban areas, especially in East Jakarta, are real problems, close to people's daily lives, and occur repeatedly. These forms of problems include careless waste disposal in residential environments, clogged waterways due to domestic waste, and household waste management that is not in accordance with environmental regulations. These practices are often considered minor violations or trivial problems, so they do not receive serious attention from the community or local authorities. (Afiatun et al., 2024; Fariz et al., 2024)

However, when viewed ecologically and socially, the impact of such behavior is cumulative and long-term. The accumulation of garbage and domestic waste contributes to soil and water pollution, worsens air quality, and increases the risk of flooding in urban areas. (Kurniawan et al., 2024; Kristiadi et al., 2023) In addition, unhealthy environmental conditions have a direct impact on the decline in the quality of life of residents, the increase in the potential for disease, and the disruption of the comfort and order of the residential environment. In the

context of densely populated cities such as East Jakarta, environmental issues on a micro scale, such as at the RT and RW levels, are actually a crucial factor that determines environmental sustainability on a broader scale.

Indonesian environmental law places prevention as the main principle in environmental protection and management efforts. The environmental law approach is not only oriented towards criminal action against violations that have occurred, but also prioritizes preventive administrative legal instruments. This administrative instrument is designed to prevent (Cahyani & Anditya, 2024; Wibisana, 2019) environmental damage from occurring in the early stages, before the impact becomes widespread and difficult to recover.

Administrative reprimands are a form of administrative sanctions that have a strategic function within the framework of prevention. The reprimand is given as an initial warning to the offender to stop his actions and comply with applicable regulations. In the perspective of modern environmental law, administrative reprimands are not solely interpreted as sanctions, but as educational and persuasive instruments aimed at building legal awareness and community environmental responsibility. Thus, administrative reprimands become a bridge between the social approach and the formal legal approach in maintaining environmental sustainability. (Zhao & Zhang, 2025; Akerboom & Craig, 2022)

In practice at the community level, particularly in RT and RW environments, administrative reprimands are often perceived as a weak, non-binding, or merely a formality. This perception causes the implementation of administrative reprimands to tend to be inconsistent and poorly documented. As a result, the potential for administrative reprimands as an environmental prevention instrument has not been utilized optimally. (Aminudin et al., 2021)

In fact, if applied consistently, transparently, and based on agreement with citizens, administrative reprimands can function as an effective social control mechanism. Reprimands made by RT administrators or community leaders have social closeness to residents, so they have the potential to be more accepted and complied with than formal sanctions that are repressive. Therefore, this study is important to empirically examine the role and effectiveness of administrative reprimands at the community level as part of the environmental damage prevention system.

This study aims to analyze the effectiveness of administrative reprimands as an environmental prevention instrument at the urban community level. The focus of the research is directed at how administrative reprimands are applied in practice, how the community responds to the reprimands, and the extent to which reprimands are able to affect the environmental behavior of citizens.

The novelty of this research lies in an empirical approach that focuses on the RT level, namely RT 8 RW 4 Malaka Jaya, East Jakarta. This perspective places the community as an active subject in the prevention of environmental crises, not just the object of government policy. The integration between environmental law and citizen governance is the main conceptual contribution of this research.

The research location is located in RT 8 RW 4 Malaka Jaya, Duren Sawit District, East Jakarta. The region is positioned as a model of urban community-based Planetary Crisis Prevention, where environmental management efforts are carried out through social, participatory, and administrative mechanisms at the level closest to the citizens. The selection

of this location is based on the real practice of implementing administrative reprimands in environmental management and the active involvement of residents in maintaining environmental sustainability.

RESEARCH METHOD

Juridical Approach

This study uses a normative juridical approach as the main approach. This approach aims to examine the legal norms that govern environmental protection and management, especially those related to administrative instruments as a means of preventing environmental damage. Normative juridical studies are carried out by examining relevant laws and regulations, ranging from constitutional provisions in the Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia in 1945, Law Number 32 of 2009 concerning Environmental Protection and Management, to implementing regulations at the regional level, especially the Jakarta Governor's Regulation Number 22 of 2022 concerning Neighborhood Pillars and Citizens.

This juridical approach is used to analyze the position, function, and character of administrative reprimands in the Indonesian environmental law system. The focus of the analysis is directed at environmental law principles such as the principle of prevention, the principle of prudence, and the principle of community participation, as well as how these principles are reflected in administrative instruments at the community level. With this approach, the research seeks to place the practice of administrative reprimands within a broader and systematic legal framework, so that it can be understood not only as a social practice, but also as part of a preventive environmental law enforcement mechanism.

Empirical Approach through Field Observation

In addition to the normative juridical approach, this study also uses an empirical approach in the form of limited field observation. This empirical approach aims to see firsthand how environmental law norms are applied in practice at the community level, especially through the mechanism of administrative reprimands carried out by RT administrators.

The observation location was set at RT 8 RW 4 Malaka Jaya, Duren Sawit District, East Jakarta. The selection of this location is based on the real practice of implementing administrative reprimands in the management of residential environments, as well as the active involvement of residents and RT administrators in maintaining environmental cleanliness and order. Observations were made on the environmental behavior of residents, the forms of violations that occurred, the mechanism for giving administrative reprimands, and the community's response to the reprimands.

This empirical approach is descriptive and exploratory, not to quantitatively measure the success rate of policies, but to obtain a factual picture of the effectiveness of administrative reprimands as an environmental prevention instrument. By combining juridical and empirical approaches, this study seeks to bridge the gap between legal norms and social practices at the level of urban communities.

Data Collection Techniques

The data collection technique in this study is carried out through several methods. First, library research, which is by examining primary legal materials, secondary legal materials, and

tertiary legal materials. Primary legal materials include laws and regulations related to the environment and RT/RW institutions. Secondary legal materials are in the form of environmental law textbooks, scientific journals, and the results of previous research relevant to the theme of administrative sanctions and community participation. Meanwhile, tertiary legal materials are used as a support to clarify legal concepts and terms.

Second, direct observation, namely observation of environmental conditions and the practice of giving administrative reprimands in RT 8 RW 4 Malaka Jaya. Observation was carried out in a non-participatory manner, by recording forms of environmental violations, how to submit reprimands, and interactions between RT administrators and residents. These observational data were used to strengthen the empirical analysis of the effectiveness of administrative reprimands.

Third, documentation, namely data collection in the form of records of environmental activities, simple warning letters, residents' agreements, as well as documentation of community service activities and environmental socialization. This documentation serves as supporting data to ensure consistency between empirical findings and normative analysis.

All data obtained were analyzed qualitatively by descriptive-analytical method, namely by systematically disciplining the data, then relating it to relevant legal and theoretical frameworks. Through this method, the research is expected to be able to provide a comprehensive overview of the role of administrative reprimands as an instrument of environmental prevention at the urban community level.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Field Facts

Based on the results of field observations at RT 8 RW 4 Malaka Jaya, East Jakarta, the application of administrative reprimands is the main instrument in controlling the behavior of the environment of residents. Administrative reprimands are given to residents who violate agreements and environmental norms that have been mutually agreed upon at the RT level, such as disposing of household waste not at the specified place and time, burning garbage openly, and negligence in maintaining the cleanliness of the waterways around residential houses.

Administrative reprimands at RT 8 RW 4 are applied in two forms, namely verbal reprimands and written reprimands. Verbal reprimands are usually delivered directly by RT administrators, ward chairs, or local cleaners when minor incidental violations are found. This rebuke was delivered with a persuasive and familial approach, with the main goal of reminding and increasing the awareness of citizens without causing social conflicts. This approach is considered effective in maintaining social harmony while instilling the value of environmental responsibility. (Melnik et al., 2023; Maulida & Kassim, 2024)

Meanwhile, a written reprimand is given if the violation is repeated or not heeded after a verbal reprimand. Written reprimands are generally in the form of a simple warning letter that includes the form of violation, the basis of the RT environmental agreement, and an appeal not to repeat the act. Although it does not have a standard format like formal administrative sanctions from local governments, this written reprimand has significant social power because it is accompanied by collective supervision of residents and the moral legitimacy of the RT structure. (Farrow et al., 2017; Shu & Shi, 2024)

Field facts also show that the implementation of administrative reprimands in RT 8 RW 4 does not stand alone, but is part of a community-based environmental management strategy. Reprimands are often accompanied by educational activities such as community service, socialization of environmental cleanliness, and discussions with residents about the environmental impact of daily behavior. In this context, administrative reprimands serve as a trigger for behavior change, not as the ultimate goal of rule enforcement. (Wijaya & Nurhadi, 2024)

2. Legal Analysis

From the perspective of environmental law, the practice of administrative reprimands applied in RT 8 RW 4 Malaka Jaya is in line with the spirit and principles stipulated in Law Number 32 of 2009 concerning Environmental Protection and Management. This law emphasizes that environmental law enforcement is not only carried out through criminal sanctions, but also through administrative sanctions that are preventive and corrective. Administrative reprimand is a form of administrative sanction intended to prevent environmental damage from occurring early. (Gao & Liu, 2024)

Although administrative reprimands at the RT level are informal and not explicitly regulated in laws and regulations, their substance and purpose are still in line with the prevention principle and precautionary principle. Reprimands are given before more serious environmental damage occurs, reflecting an environmental law approach that prioritizes early action over repressive action. (Cahyani & Anditya, 2024; Wibisana, 2019)

In addition, this practice is also in line with the Jakarta Governor's Regulation Number 22 of 2022 which affirms the role of RTs and RWs in maintaining order, cleanliness, and environmental sustainability. In this context, RT functions as an extension of the local government in environmental management at the most basic level. Administrative reprimands carried out by RT administrators can be seen as a form of implementation of social-administrative authority attached to community institutions.

Normatively, administrative reprimands at the RT level also reflect a responsive legal approach, where the law is not solely imposed from above, but grows and is implemented through the social agreement of the community. Thus, administrative reprimands function as an educational instrument that instills awareness of environmental law in a sustainable manner, while strengthening community participation in protecting the environment. (Akerboom & Craig, 2022; Zhao & Zhang, 2025)

3. Conformity and Norm Gap

The results of the analysis show that there is a fairly strong conformity between environmental law norms and the practice of implementing administrative reprimands in the field. The principles of prevention, community participation, and shared responsibility mandated in the national environmental law are reflected in environmental management practices in RT 8 RW 4 Malaka Jaya. Administrative reprimands serve as an initial instrument that prevents the escalation of violations and strengthens community-based environmental governance. (Fariz et al., 2024; Wittmayer et al., 2023)

However, this study also found that there is a gap in norms that need attention. One of the main gaps lies in the legal legitimacy and documentation aspects. Administrative

reprimands at the RT level do not have standard written guidelines, both in terms of procedures, format, and legal basis. This condition has the potential to cause differences in treatment between residents and weaken the position of the reprimand in the event of a dispute or rejection from the reprimanded party. (Aminudin et al., 2021)

In addition, documentation of administrative reprimands is still limited and not systematically archived. In fact, good documentation is very important to ensure the consistency of the implementation of reprimands, evaluate the effectiveness of environmental policies, and as a basis for taking follow-up steps if violations continue to be repeated. The absence of documentation can also hinder integration efforts between environmental management at the community level and local government environmental policies. (Budiyarto et al., 2025; Tanasijczuk et al., 2024)

Another gap lies in the lack of strengthening of legal capacity for RT administrators in implementing administrative reprimands. RT administrators generally rely on social approaches and practical experience, without adequate environmental law training support. As a result, the potential for administrative reprimands as an environmental prevention instrument has not been fully optimal. (Surminski & Williamson, 2022)

Nevertheless, the practice in RT 8 RW 4 Malaka Jaya shows that with the support of citizen participation and collective awareness, administrative reprimands are still able to function as an instrument of Preventing Planetary Crises at the level of urban communities. Therefore, strengthening normative, administrative, and institutional capacity aspects is a strategic step to bridge the gap between legal norms and field practice. (Kristiadi et al., 2023; Yuningsih et al., 2019)

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the discussion and analysis that has been carried out, it can be concluded that administrative reprimands are an environmental prevention instrument that has a strategic role at the level of urban communities. The practice applied in RT 8 RW 4 Malaka Jaya, East Jakarta, shows that administrative reprimands are able to function effectively as an initial mechanism in preventing repeated environmental violations and potentially causing more serious damage. The effectiveness is highly determined by the consistency of implementation, persuasive approach, and active involvement of residents in protecting the environment. (Melnik et al., 2023; Wijaya & Nurhadi, 2024) Administrative reprimands not only serve as sanctions, but also as educational instruments that build legal awareness and ecological responsibility of the community. When reprimands are given in a participatory framework and based on mutual agreement, this instrument is able to strengthen social control without having to rely on a repressive criminal approach. In the context of environmental law, this practice reflects the application of the principles of prevention and prudence that are the foundation of sustainable environmental protection. (Farrow et al., 2017; Akerboom & Craig, 2022) Thus, the RT community cannot be seen solely as an object of environmental policy, but as an active subject in environmental governance. The model applied in RT 8 RW 4 Malaka Jaya shows that community-based environmental management can be an integral part of Planetary Crisis Prevention efforts in urban areas. (Wittmayer et al., 2023; Fariz et al., 2024) Based on these conclusions, this study recommends the need to prepare written guidelines regarding the implementation of administrative reprimands at the RT and RW levels. This

guideline is important to provide procedural certainty, strengthen legal legitimacy, and ensure consistency in the application of reprimands to all citizens. In addition, local governments need to provide support in the form of coaching, socialization of environmental laws, and strengthening the capacity of RT/RW administrators. Synergy between the local government and the community is expected to strengthen the role of RT/RW as the front line in preventing environmental damage. (Gao & Liu, 2024; Zhao & Zhang, 2025) With adequate policy support, administrative reprimands at the community level can be optimized as a strategic instrument in realizing a sustainable environment and preventing environmental crises in urban areas.

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