

The Effect of Competence and Independence on Fraud Detection (Empirical Study at The West Java Representatives of The Audit Board of The Republic of Indonesia)

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Abstract: *This research examines whether good auditor competence and independence affect fraud detection by the West Java representatives of the Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia. The population in this research was the auditors of the West Java representatives of the Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia. The purposive sampling technique was used to obtain 106 auditors of the Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia. The data for this research were obtained from primary data through a questionnaire. Multiple Linear regression analysis It was used to analyze the data in the study. The regression The coefficient of the competence variable indicates that the variable has a partially positive and significant effect on fraud detection The regression The coefficient of the independent variable suggests that the variable has partial and insignificant Effect on fraud detection. Simultaneous hypothesis testing shows the competence and independence of the West. Java representatives of the Audit The Board of the Republic of Indonesia have a significant and positive Effect on fraud detection.*

Keywords: *Competence, Independence, Fraud Detection*

Introduction

The management of state finances must be managed in an orderly manner following the legislation, which is carried out transparently and responsibly and pays attention to fairness and compliance in the management. It is

possible to have deviations that lead to acts of fraud, such as disobeying statutory regulations, namely pre-determined procedures or mechanisms.

Table 1. The phenomenon of Fraud Cases

CASES
Edhy Prabowo, the Minister of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, was designated a suspect in a bribery case The licensing of lobster Aquaculture business in November 2020. From the interception results, the Corruption Eradication Commission discovered luxury items such as LV bags, Hermes, Old Navy apparel, Rolex watches, Jacob n Co watches, Tumi luggage bags and LV luggage bags worth IDR 750 million allegedly obtained through bribes [<i>kompas.com</i>].

CASES
The Mayor of Cimahi, Ajay Muhammad Priatna, is an automotive sports enthusiast. He owns a row of luxury cars, including the 2016 Nissan Elgrand worth IDR 500 million, the 2014 Fortuner, valued at IDR 300 million, the 2005 Nissan X-Trail worth IDR 90 million, and the 2017 Land Cruiser worth IDR 2 billion. Finally, he owns a 2017 Mercedes-Benz sedan (unknown model) worth IDR 720 million. The Corruption Eradication Commission Task Force team again conducted a hand-arrest operation (OTT) related to licensing for the addition of the Kasih Bunda hospital building [<i>detiknews.com</i>].
The former Governor of Banten, Ratu Atut Chosiyah, enjoys shopping for luxury goods, as evidenced by the use of her credit-card transactions totalling hundreds of millions to more than IDR 1 billion in Swiss, Korean and Singaporean boutiques. After being investigated at the end of 2013, she was proven involved in the bribery case in the election dispute in Lebak, Banten, and the medical equipment corruption case [<i>coverage6.com</i>].
The case of the Mayor of Cimahi, Aty Suharti Tohijya, in 2016. The Corruption Eradication Commission has named Aty and, her husband, as the suspect in the bribery of the permit for the new market development project in the city of Cimahi worth IDR 57 billion from entrepreneurs named Triswara Dhanu Brata and Hendriza Soleh Gunadi [<i>detiknews.com</i>].
Irfan Revano, the Regent of Cianjur, received IDR 6.9 billion from illegal levies to 137 school principals before the school disbursed the special allocation funds. The case began when Cianjur Regency received a State Budget assistance worth IDR 48 billion for the special allocation funds of 137 schools in 2018 [<i>detiknews.com</i>].
Imas, the former Regent of Subang, was proven to have received a bribe of IDR 410 million in the case of permitting the construction of a factory. She was confirmed to have committed a joint and sustainable act of corruption [<i>detiknews.com</i>]
In the case of the former director of the Lembang Hospital, the Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia found that the fraud in the West Bandung Regency Government of IDR 7.7 billion was misappropriated by the former director of the Lembang Hospital, dr. Onni Habie and his treasurer Meta Susanti. The director and his treasurer are suspected of embezzling hospital funds worth IDR 7.7 billion from BPJS health claims in 2017 and 2018, which were not deposited into the regional treasury [http://bandung.bpk.go.id accessed on January 28, 2020].

Based on the Association Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE) survey and several cases above, an audit of the financial management process by an external government auditor with competence and independence, such as the Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia, is required. The Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia is the only State institution with the authority and responsibility to carry out audits of state financial management in a free and independent manner to promote transparency in state financial accountability (<http://bpk.go.id>). The

purpose of the Audit is to follow up on various irregularities to make improvements and ensure that the data obtained from the inspection is of good quality and in conformity with applicable laws and regulations. Deviations and fraud in financial management generate irregular practices such as corruption. According to ACFE Indonesia, the government is one of the most vulnerable organizations to fraud. According to ICW's monitoring, there are 12 types of corruption cases:

Table 2. Types of Corruption in Semester 1 of 2018 in Indonesia

No	Cases	Total	Loss
1	misuse of budget	39 cases	IDR 86.5 billion
2	Cost markup	26 cases	IDR 372 billion

No	Cases	Total	Loss
3	Bribery	24 cases	IDR 41.7 billion
4	Illegal charges	17 cases	IDR 32 million
5	Embezzlement	11 cases	IDR 11.3 billion
6	Fictitious report	111 cases	IDR 52.2 billion
7	abuse of authority	4 cases	IDR 569 billion
8	Gratification	2 cases	IDR 435 million
9	Budget cut-offs	2 cases	IDR 1.4 billion
10	Double budgeting	1 case	IDR 1.6 billion
11	Fictitious Activities or Projects	1 case	IDR 810 million
12	Cost Markdown	1 case	IDR 1.4 billion

Source: ICW, 2018

Literature Review

State Finance Audit

Law Number 31 of 1999 concerning the eradication of criminal acts of corruption as amended by Law Number 20 of 2001 defines state finances as all state assets, in any form that can be separated or cannot be separated, and all rights and obligations that arise due to being assigned, managed and accountable of state officials, both serving at the central and regional levels, and accountability of state or village-owned enterprises, foundations, legal entities, and companies that include third party capital-based on agreements with the state. Meanwhile, according to Law Number 17 of 2003, state finances can be viewed from an object, subject, process and purpose perspective.

Fraud Triangle Theory

According to Donald R. Cressey (1953), the fraud triangle and the background of a person committing fraud are due to the pressure to commit fraud being more dependent on specific circumstances, such as someone with financial, opportunity and justification issues. Rationalization occurs when a person or group builds justifications for the fraud committed.

GONE Theory

Jack Bologne (1993) has also addressed fraud behaviour in theory. This theory is known as the GONE theory. Bologne in Soepardi (2006) explained the factors that encourage fraud, such as greediness which has the potential to exist in everyone. Opportunity, on the other hand, is related to the situation of the organization or community agency in such a way that someone could commit fraud against him. At the same time, he needs to refer to the factors individuals require to support their lives, which he believes are reasonable. Finally, exposure (disclosure) refers to actions or consequences that fraud perpetrators will face if they are proven to have committed fraud.

Fraud Detection

State Financial Audit Standards (2017) defined fraud as an act that contains intentional elements and has previously been intended to benefit oneself or other parties by deceiving, hiding and or embezzling, as well as illegally abusing trust, which can be in the form of money, goods, or failure to pay for services that have been performed by one or more parties responsible for governance, employees, or third parties.

According to the State Financial Audit Standards (2017), an initial indication of fraud in the form of a symptom (red flag) indicates the possibility of fraud. The level of fraud detection is the ability to detect fraud as quickly as possible that has been carried out by a group or

individual (Bolton & Hand: 2002; Kou et al.: 2004; Aral et al.: 2013).

Competence

The regulation of the Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia, Number 1 of 2017 concerning the State Financial Audit Standards, states that competence is the education, knowledge, experience, and expertise possessed by a person, both in terms of examinations and in terms of specific matters or fields. According to H. Susanto et al. (2019), auditor competence is one of the factors that can affect the level of fraud detection. In line with the statement of Biegelman and Bartow (2012), Cendrowski et al. (2007), and Robbins (2015), which stated that competence is a factor that can affect the ability of external auditors to detect fraud. Rai (2008) also noted that auditor competence is required for an audit to be carried out correctly.

Independence

The independence of the Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia is based on the regulation of the Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia Number 4 of 2018 concerning the Code of Ethics of the Supreme Audit Agency, which stated that an attitude and action in carrying out audits must be unbiased to all parties involved and unaffected by outside influences. Strengthened by the regulation of Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia number 1 of 2017 concerning State Financial Audit Standards, the fundamental value of Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia defined independence as being free in attitude and appearance from all interests of institutions, organizations and individuals in all aspects relating to the examination. The law of the Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia stated independence as an objective and professional attitude in carrying out audits to determine the truth and credibility of state financial management and responsibility.

The Effect of Competence on Fraud Detection

Competence is a skill in demonstrating one's knowledge, expertise and abilities on an ongoing basis to achieve audit objectives (Lee & Stone (1995), Ulrich et al. (2007) Armstrong & Taylor (2014)). In the same article, Choo and Troatman (1991) categorize expert auditors as auditors with more than four years of experience. The duration calculates the experience in question and the number of audits carried out by the Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia auditors. Auditors' expertise includes their knowledge of current accounting issues, general auditing, handling or solving cases or problems, and knowledge of special audits or investigative audits. An auditor must understand the facts to be audited during the audit process in the same field. Auditors require expertise from formal education and certification to perform a good audit.

According to Simanjuntak (2015), auditor competence positively affects auditors' ability to detect fraud. It is expected that competence will affect auditors' ability to detect fraud in this research. As a result, auditors' ability to detect fraud will increase as their skill grows.

H₁: Competence has a positive effect on the ability of auditors to detect fraud.

The Effect of Independence on Fraud Detection

According to Hartan and Waluyo (2016), independence positively affects the auditor's ability to detect fraud. An auditor with high integrity has an independent attitude and maintains it throughout the audit process, regardless of whether or not there is interference and even pressure from other parties. As a result, more auditor independence leads to a better ability of an auditor to detect fraud.

H₂: Independence has a positive effect on the ability of the auditor to detect fraud.

The Effect of Auditor Competence and Independence on Fraud Detection

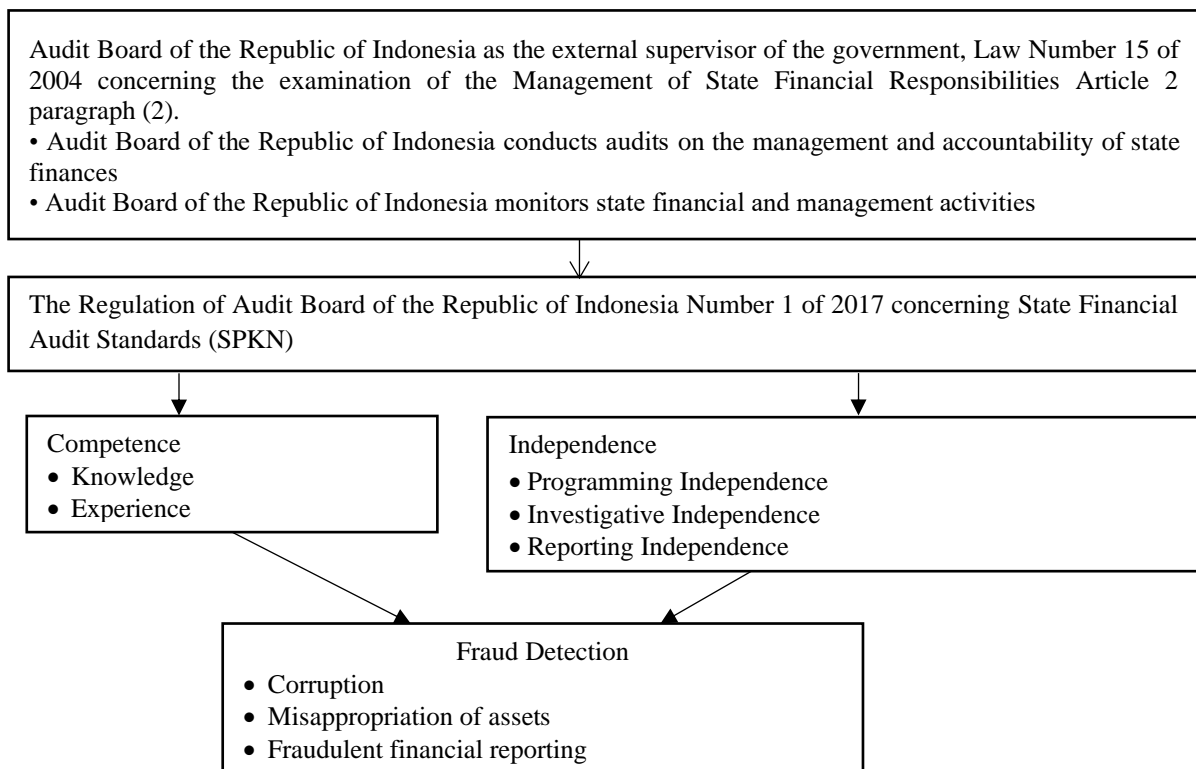
Simanjuntak (2015) examined fraud detection at the North Sumatra representatives of the Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia. The

findings indicate that competence, professional scepticism, and professionalism affect the ability to detect fraud. Meanwhile, independence does not affect the ability to detect fraud. On the other hand, Lita Tanti et al. (2018) examined fraud detection at the Aceh inspectorate and concluded that competence affects fraud detection. Aligned with this result, Marcellina W and Sugeng P (2009) concluded that competence, independence, and professionalism significantly

and positively affect auditors' ability to detect fraud in the Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia in Jakarta.

H₃: Competence and independence have a positive effect on fraud detection.

Figure 1. Research Framework



Research methods

This research used descriptive verification research with a quantitative method, namely study to verify solutions to temporary problems (hypotheses) based on specific theories. The method used to obtain descriptive, systematic, factual and accurate descriptions of the facts about the nature and relationship between the variables studied is referred to as the explanatory survey method (Sekaran, 2011). Competence and independence are the independent variables

in the research, and the ability to detect fraud is the dependent variable.

Research Population and Sample

A population of 118 person is used in the research. The population used in this research is the auditors of the West Java representatives of the Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia who are still working in 2021. The sampling technique used is purposive sampling. According to Sekaran (2011), purposive

sampling is a technique used by researchers when they have specific concerns about taking samples for certain purposes.

Data Collection Methods

Field research and library research were the methods used in this research. This research uses a questionnaire to obtain data regarding the general description of the institution/agency and data relevant to the research object conducted at the institution/agency. At the same time, library research aims to obtain a theoretical basis and understanding of the subject matter, specifically through evaluating and researching literature relevant to the problem under study.

Data Analysis Methods

Multiple regression analysis with the ordinary least squares (OLS) approach was used to analyze the data in this research. Multiple regression analysis was used because there are two independent variables within the study. This method is useful for predicting the effect of several independent or explanatory variables on the determined dependent variable (Gujarati, 2003:18). A classical assumption test is required in the regression model to determine the relationship between research variables. The classical assumptions used in this research are Normality Test, Multicollinearity Test and Heteroscedasticity Test.

Result and Discussion

Competence

The competency variable is measured from nine indicators, namely: education, knowledge of accounting principles, knowledge of audit standards of the Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia, knowledge of fraud, knowledge of the law, knowledge of state/regional finances, period of work, number of audit assignments, and ability to work.

Based on inquiries on education indicators, it was found that most of the respondents representing the auditors of the

West Java representatives of the Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia are bachelor/diploma-IV graduates (52.8 per cent). Even the other 9.4 per cent stated that they had obtained a Doctorate and graduated with an Accounting major. However, the West Java representatives of the Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia stated that 88.7 per cent had not received CFE certification and 77.4 per cent had not taken the CFrA/CFE exam, but 71.7 per cent indicated that they had obtained certification as an auditor or accountant other than CSFA/CFrA/CFE and stated that 99.1 per cent have carried out education, training, and mentoring at the PKN training and education centre.

This indicates that most of the auditors in the West Java representatives of the Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia are highly qualified, particularly in terms of education, certification as auditors OR accountants, and implementation of PKN training. But on the other hand, many auditors have not received the CSFA/CFrA/CFE certification.

In the 11 questions that became the measurement of the experience indicator, it was found that the majority of respondents representing the auditors of the Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia in West Java stated that they had carried out an investigative audit (39.6 per cent), others claimed that they have a good understanding upon the audit process (20.8 per cent) and 79.2 per cent said they understood the regulations, legislation, policies, procedures, and state financial management mechanisms related to the entities being examined. In total, 69.8 per cent of the auditors in the West Java representatives of the Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia have served as auditors for more than five years, and 74.5 per cent of them have completed more than ten audit assignments. On the other hand, 55.7 per cent stated that they had never done an assignment related to an audit with a specific purpose.

This shows that the majority of auditors in the West Java Representatives of the Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia have sufficient experience, particularly in

terms of carrying out Audit assignments for more than five years, as well as a thorough understanding of the laws and regulations, policies, procedures, and state financial management mechanisms related to entities examined. However, on the other hand, many auditors have never carried out audits with specific purposes where experience regarding audits with a particular purpose can be used as reference material for subsequent examinations.

Independence

Independence is measured by three indicators: programming independence, Investigative independence, and reporting independence. Based on the questions presented to the indicators of the independence of the audit program, it was found that most of the auditors in the West Java Representatives of the Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia stated that when managers wanted to eliminate, demand, or change anything in the audit process, they often used it as findings (57.5 per cent). However, 66 per cent stated that managerial intervention, such as an uncooperative attitude toward the audit procedure, was not used as a reference for findings. This can be seen from the majority of responses (65.1 per cent) stating that often external party forces the audit work to be viewed from outside the limits of fairness; it is not made as a finding.

For the second indicator of the independence variable (investigative independence), it was found that the auditors in the West Java Representatives of the Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia were free to directly access the company's activities, obligations, and sources, as evidenced by the response of 77.4 per cent of respondents choosing frequent answers to this question. Auditors frequently collaborate actively with the leadership of the company/institution being audited, as evidenced by the fact that 79.2 per cent chose frequent answers. Fifty per cent of respondents stated that if an auditee's effort to assign or regulate activities that must be examined determines the admissibility of an evidentiary matter (any matter with evidential value), it is often used as a reference for fraud.

The auditors in the West Java Representatives of the Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia also stated 76.4 per cent.

According to the results of the third indicator of independence, namely reporting independence, the majority of respondents (81.1 per cent) stated that they often avoided the practice of issuing important matters from formal reports to informal reports in any form, and 83 per cent of auditors were also quite good at using language in the reports. The examination can be seen from the answers of respondents who answered often, and 48.1% per cent of respondents stated that if there is an attempt to veto the auditor's judgment regarding what should be included in the audit report, both fact and opinion, it is often used as a finding.

Fraud Detection

Fraud detection is measured from eight indicators, namely: internal control testing, financial audits and operational audits, information gathering using elicitation techniques, exception principles in controls and procedures, deviation review in operating performance, reactive approach, risk-based auditing, informant network development (intelligence audit).

Testing of internal control. Based on the questionnaire distributed, it was found that most auditors in the West Java Representatives of the Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia conducted audits arbitrarily and suddenly. This can be seen from the responses of the majority of the respondents, with 58.5 per cent stating that they often conduct random audits and 59.4 per cent of respondents stating that they carried out audits on a sudden basis.

Financial Audit and Operational Audit. For financial Audit and operational Audit indicators, it was found that the auditor was very good at detecting findings that appeared in the field during the inspection process. This can be seen from the statement of respondents who stated that 77.4 per cent of auditors included results in the inspection report (LHP) if a local government asset information system detected could not be relied upon to prepare regional property reports and financial reports. 77.4 per cent of auditors also stated that any detection of

improper administration of fixed assets of the provincial government is included in the audit report (LHP). 78.3 per cent of auditors stated that if embezzlement of regional income were detected, it would be included in the audit report; if a condition is detected where local government employees intentionally use/control government assets without any evidence of borrowing and use for personal interests, it would also be included in the report, this can be seen from the responses of respondents who answered 'frequently' (78.3 per cent). The auditor was also very good at detecting the findings; this can be seen from 76.4 per cent of respondents stating that a condition where local government employees intentionally eliminate tangible assets by manipulating documents will be included in the audit report, and if a treasurer/activist implementing activities is detected to authorize payment for a purchase of goods that were never purchased. The bill is made by themselves and will also be included in the audit report.

Information Gathering Using Elicitation Techniques. Based on the questionnaire distributed to respondents, it was found that most respondents (77.4 per cent) stated that the auditors had sought personal information of someone suspected of being a fraud perpetrator and that auditors had sometimes detected it with elitism techniques on lifestyle. Other information can be seen from the respondents who chose the answer 'sometimes' (43.4 per cent).

Use of Exception Principles in Controls and Procedures. This indicator shows that auditors in the West Java representatives of the Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia often seek information about internal control (77.4 per cent), and others (75.5 per cent) stated that irregular transactions are permanently recorded as findings in the report.

Review of Deviations in Operational Performance. Based on this indicator, it was found that most of the respondents (74.5 per cent) stated that if they detected significant deviations in terms of budgets, work plans, goals, and organizational goals, the findings were included in the audit report.

Reactive Approach. In this indicator, respondents stated that they are occasionally

reactive/responsive to concerns and complaints of local government employees in detecting fraud. This can be seen by the 61.3 per cent of respondents who answered 'sometimes'. This shows that not every concern and complaint from government employees is responded to immediately, but there are procedures or other means to reveal fraud.

Risk-Based Audit. Based on the data obtained from the distributed questionnaires, it can be seen that the auditors carried out mapping, observation, and verification of data analysis transactions, as evidenced by the responses of respondents of 70.8 per cent of those who chose 'frequent' answers. 76.4 per cent of respondents stated that any inflated price of goods and contract value where the price is much higher than the market price would be included in the audit report. 75.5 per cent of the auditors stated that any detection of unregistered taxpayers and levies would also be included in the audit report.

Respondents stated that the audit report would also include detecting auditees due to missing supporting documents. This can be seen from the answers of respondents who answered 'frequently' by 76.4 per cent. Respondents also stated that if they detected regional officials and business people carrying out ruslaag (swapping) on regional government assets by lowering the price of regional government assets and increasing the price of partner assets, the findings would be included in the report. This can be seen from the answers of respondents who answered 'frequently' 76.4 per cent and 73.6 per cent of respondents stated that if they detect a regional official who is the guarantor of another business unit when the business unit is unable to fulfil its obligations, and the reprovincialovernment becomes the guarantor who bears the responsibilities of the business unit is unable to meet its obligations, then the regional government becomes the guarantor who bears the duties of the business unit, they will report the findings in the audit report.

Informant Network Development (Audit Intelligence). The last indicator of the competence variable of the auditors in West Java Representative of the Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia has developed an informant network (audit intelligence). This can

be observed from the respondents' responses in Table 4.16, which shows that 41.5 per cent of respondents stated that they often communicate informally with internal parties to detect fraud. They frequently use audit media to receive inputs or complaints in the assignment process. This can be seen from 64.2 per cent of respondents who chose 'frequently'.

The Effect of the Competence of Auditors in the West Java Representatives of the Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia on Fraud Detection – Partial Effect

The regression coefficient of the competency variable (X1) indicates that this variable partially affects fraud detection (Y). The magnitude of this effect is 0.007 or 0.7 per cent for the competency variable (X1). Any addition or increased competence will increase fraud detection by 0.7 per cent when all variables remain constant. Furthermore, the competence variable significantly affects fraud detection at the 95 per cent confidence level ($\alpha = 0.05$). This is indicated by the t-count value of 3.127 for the competency variable, which is greater than the t-table value of 1.943 (at the 95% confidence level with a degree of freedom or a significance value of 0.020 is smaller than the error rate of 0.05). It is concluded that there is a significant positive (partial) effect of competence on fraud detection at the 95% confidence level ($\alpha = 0.05$).

The results of this study are consistent with H. Susanto et al. 1 (2019). It suggests that the competence of auditors affected directly and positively the levels. Simanjuntak (2015) means competence is influential, taking the position of the auditor's ability to fraud detection.

The Effect of the Independence of the Auditors in the West Java Representatives of the Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia on Fraud Detection - Partial Effect

The regression coefficient of the independent variable (X2) shows that this variable partially affects fraud detection (Y). The magnitude of this effect is 0.004 or 0.4 per cent for the independent variable (X2). This indicates that each addition or increase in independence will

increase fraud detection by 0.4% when all other variables remain constant. Furthermore, the independent variable significantly affects fraud detection at the 80% confidence level ($\alpha = 0.20$).

Thus it can be concluded that there is a significant positive (partial) effect of the auditors' independence in the west java Representatives of the Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia on fraud detection at the 80% confidence level ($\alpha = 0.20$). It was concluded that there was an independence effect, positive (partial) effect of independence at the 90% confidence level ($\alpha = 0.10$). The higher the attitude of independence that the auditor has, the higher the responsibility of the auditor to detect fraud. When completing audit responsibilities, an auditor is expected to maintain an attitude of independence since maintaining an attitude of independence increases the responsibility of an auditor in detecting fraud.

This coincides with research by hartan and waluyo (2016) that suggests that independence affects a positive auditor's ability to detect fraud. Isti Fatimah & Rudy suryanto's (2016) research states that independence significantly positively affects the power of deep auditors for detection. The higher the independence of the auditor, the higher the responsibility of auditors will fraud detection.

The Effect of Competence and Independence of Auditors in the West Java Representatives of the Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia on Fraud Detection – Simultaneous Effect

Through the F-test, the results obtained F-count (6.787) > F-table (3.0863), which means that with an error rate of 5% ($\alpha = 0.05$), H_0 , which stated that competence and independence simultaneously do not affect fraud detection, is rejected. In other words, the competence and independence of the auditors in the West Java Representatives of the Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia have a simultaneous, significant effect on fraud detection.

As a result, it can be concluded that strengthening the competency and independence of the auditors in the West Java Representatives of the Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia may also increase fraud detection. This means that the actions of the Audit Board of the

Republic of Indonesia are aimed at improving the competence and independence of auditors of the Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia with the primary objective of enhancing the quality and valuable state financial governance, becoming a trusted auditing agency that plays an active role in realizing the quality and useful state financial governance to achieve state goals, examining good governance and the responsibility of state finances to provide recommendations, opinions, and considerations, improve audit quality, encourage corruption prevention and accelerate the settlement of state compensation, and implement transparent and sustainable organizational governance to set an example for other institutions.

Conclusion

According to the finding of the research, it is found that competence has a partial, positive effect on fraud detection. Thus, it can be interpreted that when the competence of the auditors in the West Java Representatives of the Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia is further improved and encouraging auditors to carry out further studies and certification, it will encourage auditors to enhance their competence further. This may increase fraud detection among auditors of West Java Representatives of the Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia in improving transparency and accountability of government finances, especially in detecting fraud. The independence variable has a significant positive effect. This means that although the auditor upholds a high level of independence, namely having a free mental attitude and cannot be affected by any party, there are several acts of fraud that are not attached to the report on the results of the examination, as when the auditor found managerial intervention.

This study has made possible limits a consideration for the next researcher to get better results. Among other limitations, such researchers cannot directly spread questionnaires, and the minister said there were many good people here. The chairman of the BPK will take quite a while to satisfy the bureaucracy and requirements requested by

BPK. The difficulties in reaching the respondents are caused by the choices Covid-19 and restrictions on visits or distribution of questionnaires or interviews.

Based on the research results, we recommend that future research increase the intensity of application in maintaining competence. An indicator still not implemented in the application of competence is that there are still many auditors who have not received CSFA/CFE certification, and there are still many auditors who have not carried out investigative audits. Further research is advised to conduct research that includes more respondents, for example, the Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia as a whole (all of Indonesia).

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