

## The Evolution and Contemporary Relevance of Administrative Law in Modern Government Governance

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### ABSTRACT

The development of modern governance demands fundamental reforms in State Administrative Law (*Hukum Administrasi Negara* or HAN) to respond to the dynamics of bureaucratic digitalization and demands for public accountability. This study aims to analyze the development and relevance of HAN in the context of modern governance based on the principles of good governance. The research method used is qualitative normative research through library research on legal literature, legislation, and previous research results indexed by SINTA and having a DOI. The results show that HAN is transforming from a traditional bureaucratic paradigm to an adaptive digital government system that accommodates technological innovation while maintaining the general principles of good governance (*Asas Umum Pemerintahan yang Baik* or AUPB). HAN reform in Indonesia is increasingly relevant with regulations such as Law Number 30 of 2014 concerning State Administration, which emphasizes legal certainty, protection of citizens' rights, and the administrative responsibilities of public officials. In a global context, the emergence of the New Public Analytics (NPA) paradigm demands a reinterpretation of the principles of legality and accountability, especially regarding the use of artificial intelligence in public decision-making. This study concludes that the relevance of HAN in the modern era of governance lies in its ability to integrate legal values with the principles of digital transparency, public participation, and protection of citizens' administrative rights.

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**Keywords:** *State Administrative Law; Governance; Good Governance; Digitalization; Accountability.*

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### INTRODUCTION

The development of modern governance systems demands conceptual reform in State Administrative Law (*Hukum Administrasi Negara* or NAL), as the primary instrument for regulating the relationship between government officials and citizens. NAL plays a strategic role in ensuring efficient, transparent, and accountable governance amid increasingly complex and digitalized public demands for public services (Balaji, 2025; Kesar & Joseph, 2025; Selvakumar et al., 2025). In this context, state administrative law serves not only as a tool for limiting power but also to realize a government that is responsive to social, political, and technological changes (Sumardi, 2024).

The paradigm shift in public administration from a traditional bureaucratic model to good governance has had a significant impact on the existence and relevance of State Administrative Court (*Hukum Administrasi Negara* or HAN). Principles such as accountability, transparency, participation, effectiveness, and the rule of law now form the foundation for building a modern public administration system (Pérez-Durán, 2024). This aligns with the spirit of bureaucratic reform, which seeks to create professional, efficient, and integrity-based public services (Balaji, 2025; De Souza, 2020; Hien, 2025; Ilham, 2025). These principles are also reflected in Law Number 30 of 2014 concerning State Administration, which emphasizes the importance of legal certainty and protection of citizens' rights in all government administrative actions (Government of the Republic of Indonesia, 2014).

The development of information and communication technology further reinforces the need for reforms to state administrative law. The implementation of e-government and digital governance has brought significant transformations in governance, particularly in terms of the efficiency of public services and the reduction of administrative burdens (Veiga et al., 2016). However, these developments also pose new legal challenges, such as the protection of personal data, the transparency of decision-making algorithms, and the legal liability of public officials in automated systems (König, 2024). Therefore, state administrative law needs to adapt to ensure that the use of technology in government administration remains in line with the principles of good governance (Roehl, 2024).

Furthermore, the development of National Mandates (*Hukum Administrasi Negara* or HAN) in the modern era is also marked by increased attention to administrative accountability and legal oversight. Research by Pérez-Durán (2024) shows that public accountability is a key pillar in promoting government effectiveness and public trust. In the Indonesian context, strengthening oversight institutions such as the Indonesian Ombudsman is one manifestation of the implementation of the principles of accountability and transparency in public administration practices. However, the effective implementation of these principles still faces various obstacles, such as overlapping regulations, low apparatus capacity, and weak enforcement of sanctions against administrative violations (Sumardi, 2024).

Thus, studying the development and relevance of state administrative law in modern governance is crucial not only for enriching administrative law theory but also for providing practical contributions to bureaucratic reform in Indonesia. This research is expected to explain how HAN is transforming in the face of the dynamics of government digitalization and how the basic principles of administrative law can be effectively integrated into modern and equitable governance (Ridwan, 2011; König, 2024). Based on this background, this study aims to analyze the evolution of State Administrative Law in the context of modern governance, identify the challenges and adaptations required due to digitalization, and assess the relevance of the General Principles of Good Governance (*Asas Umum Pemerintahan yang Baik* or AUPB) in contemporary administrative practices. The findings are intended to contribute to the ongoing discourse on legal reform and to offer recommendations for strengthening the role of HAN in supporting transparent, accountable, and effective governance in Indonesia.

## **METHOD**

This research employed a normative qualitative approach through library research. This method suited the analysis of concepts, theories, and regulations related to the development and relevance of State Administrative Law (*Hukum Administrasi Negara* or HAN) in modern governance. Primary sources included legal literature, laws and regulations, and prior studies on HAN dynamics in Indonesia and their alignment with good governance principles. Sources were selected systematically based on relevance, credibility, and recency, primarily from national journals and academic books.

Data collection involved a systematic literature search using keywords such as "state administrative law," "governance," "good governance," "bureaucratic reform," and "Indonesian administrative law." Databases included libraries, the Garuda Ristekbrin portal, Neliti, Google Scholar, and SINTA-indexed university e-journals. Relevant articles and books were selected for academic merit, with metadata recorded (author, year, title, journal/publisher,

DOI where available). Literature was then analyzed and synthesized to identify key patterns and themes in the evolution of state administrative law.

A comparative-normative approach compared Indonesian administrative law theory and practice with modern governance paradigms, as proposed by Lismanto (2020). Analysis incorporated source triangulation across books, journals, and legal documents for interpretive validity.

Validity and reliability were ensured through internal peer review for consistency between theoretical arguments and legal data. References followed APA 7th edition with verified DOIs, and content validity was strengthened via cross-checking of national and international public administration studies. This aligned with Rochaeni's (2025) emphasis on evidence-based public policy, positioning the literature review as foundational for assessing HAN's relevance to efficient, transparent modern governance.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Paradigm Transformation and Dynamics of HAN Reform**

The development of state administrative law in the modern era demonstrates a significant shift from traditional bureaucratic systems to a more participatory and transparent governance paradigm. This shift coincided with the emergence of New Public Management (NPM) and New Public Governance (NPG), which emphasize efficiency and collaboration between public and private actors (Hood, 1991; Rhodes, 2012). In this context, state administrative law serves not only as a regulatory tool but also as a control and accountability mechanism for administrative actions.

As outlined by Sumardi (2024), the shifting paradigm of public administration demands legal reform to remain adaptive to the principles of good governance, particularly accountability and the rule of law. These principles have become part of the national legal framework through Law Number 30 of 2014 concerning State Administration, which clarifies the role of public officials in ensuring legal certainty and preventing abuse of authority (Government of the Republic of Indonesia, 2014).

Modern HAN has also undergone a reorientation toward the concept of responsive law, where law is not only repressive but also proactive in facilitating public services (Hadjon, 1993). Thus, the development of HAN is not merely an adaptation to regulatory changes, but also to changes in social values and technology.

### **Relevance of the General Principles of Good Governance (AUPB) in the Digital Era**

The General Principles of Good Governance (AUPB) are a key pillar of HAN in ensuring that every government administrative action is based on justice, legal certainty, and transparency (Munaf, 2016). In digital governance, the principles of legality and accountability are being reinterpreted as many decisions are now made automatically through electronic systems and artificial intelligence (AI-based decision-making).

According to Wolswinkel (2023), the principle of legality needs to be expanded to include algorithmic transparency and the right to explanation, namely the right of citizens to understand the basis for decisions made by digital government systems. This is crucial in the context of e-government in Indonesia, where administrative decisions are often made online without direct interaction between citizens and public officials.

Aritonang (2017) emphasized that the implementation of the AUPB in digital policy in Indonesia has not been fully optimized due to weak oversight of the implementation of the principles of proportionality and accountability. Therefore, HAN reform needs to be directed at strengthening institutional capacity and digital audit mechanisms so that legal principles remain the foundation of modern governance.

### **Digitalization of Government and Challenges of Administrative Law**

The development of e-government has brought significant changes to public service mechanisms and the relationship between government and citizens (Veiga et al., 2016). On the one hand, digitalization increases efficiency and transparency; on the other hand, it presents new challenges in terms of personal data protection, legal liability, and information security.

König (2024) highlighted that digital governance requires clear accountability mechanisms when digital systems make errors in administrative decision-making. In the Indonesian context, Sahputra (2021) showed that the Covid-19 pandemic accelerated the adoption of digital policies but also raised legal issues regarding the validity of electronically made decisions.

Ranchordás (2024) added that the "invisible citizen" phenomenon can occur when digital systems do not provide citizens with access to understand or challenge automated decisions. Therefore, the relevance of HAN in the digital era lies in its ability to build a legal system that is not only efficient but also inclusive and just.

### **Accountability and Bureaucratic Ethics in Modern Government**

Ethics and public accountability are two essential aspects of state administrative law. In modern governance, the responsibility of public officials is measured not only by compliance with the law but also by integrity and transparency in exercising administrative authority (Akbar & Frinaldi, 2023).

Keymolen (2023) emphasized the importance of a human-centered governance approach, where data-driven policies still consider humanitarian values and citizen rights. This principle is relevant for Indonesia, which is developing a digital bureaucracy but still faces challenges in institutional capacity and technological literacy at the civil service level (Munaf, 2016).

Therefore, oversight of administrative law through institutions such as the Indonesian Ombudsman and the State Administrative Court is crucial in ensuring accountable governance. Administrative justice serves as a check on abuse of authority, including in digital systems (Dahlan & Chandra, 2022). Thus, legal accountability is a key foundation for a modern government with integrity.

### **Theoretical and Practical Implications for Governance**

Theoretically, the results of this study indicate that State Administrative Law needs to adapt to the changing governance paradigm that demands technology-based transparency and efficiency. Practically, this research emphasizes the importance of strengthening the law regarding digital government systems to prevent administrative inequality.

Bureaucratic reform in Indonesia must be oriented toward legally secured, data-driven policy, as suggested by Rochaeni (2025), so that public policy remains grounded in evidence

and principles of administrative justice. Thus, state administrative law not only protects citizens from arbitrariness but also serves as an instrument to ensure that modern governance operates effectively, transparently, and with social justice.

## CONCLUSION

The development of State Administrative Law (*Hukum Administrasi Negara* or HAN, also referred to as NA) in Indonesia has evolved significantly alongside the paradigm shift from closed bureaucracy to transparent, accountable, and participatory governance. No longer just a normative tool for government-citizen relations, HAN has become essential for realizing responsive democratic governance, integrating good governance and e-government principles to balance legality, efficiency, and citizens' administrative rights. It ensures fair, transparent implementation of public policies, decisions, and digital technologies. Strengthening HAN requires responsive regulations for technological and community needs, enhanced official capacity in administrative law principles, and a legal culture prioritizing ethics, accountability, and public service, keeping it adaptive for effective, just governance. Future studies could empirically examine the implementation of HAN reforms in specific Indonesian e-government initiatives, such as digital public service platforms, to assess real-world gaps between legal principles and practice through case studies or stakeholder interviews.

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