



LEGAL ANALYSIS OF IMMIGRATION MEASURES FOR FALSE INFORMATION AT CITRA TRITUNAS PORT

Tomi Farta Wijaya^{1*}, Erniyanti², Soerya Respationo³, Ramlan⁴, Siti Nurkhotijah⁵
^{1,2,3,4,5}Universitas Batam, Batam, Indonesia

E-mail: tfartawijaya@gmail.com*; erniyanti@univbatam.ac.id; 1012095902@univbatam.ac.id;
Ramlanrauf16@gmail.com; Sitinurkhotijah@univbatam.ac.id

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Abstract

The increasing number of Indonesian citizens (WNI) departing the country by providing false information (misrepresentation) has become a challenge in the implementation of immigration supervision, particularly in preventing trafficking in persons (TIP) and the non-procedural placement of Indonesian migrant workers (PMI). This study analyzes the legal regulation of immigration measures against Indonesian citizens who provide false statements, the implementation of optimized immigration measures at Citra Tritunas International Port, Batam, and the obstacles and solutions encountered. The study employs empirical legal research using statutory, conceptual, case, and sociological approaches. Data were obtained through literature review, documentation, observation, and semi-structured interviews with officials and immigration inspection officers at the Batam Class I Special TPI Immigration Office and were analyzed qualitatively. The findings show that the legal framework is based on Law No. 6 of 2011 on Immigration as amended by Law No. 63 of 2024, but does not specifically regulate misrepresentation by Indonesian citizens at the departure stage. Implementation has been optimized through risk profiling, behavioral analysis, secondary inspection, the Immigration Management Information System (SIMKIM), and inter-agency coordination. Key obstacles include limited operational regulation, human resources, inspection facilities, and increasingly adaptive transnational crime. The proposed solutions are stronger technical regulations, improved officer competence, modernized inspection technology, and integrated inter-agency data.

Keywords: Citra Tritunas Port; Immigration Action; Immigration Inspection; Indonesian Citizens; Misrepresentation

INTRODUCTION

In the dynamics of globalization and increasing cross-border mobility, immigration plays a strategic role in safeguarding state sovereignty while providing protection to Indonesian citizens (WNI). One of the emerging problems is the practice of providing false information, or misrepresentation, by Indonesian citizens during departure procedures. This practice is not only an immigration-administrative violation but may also be associated with trafficking in persons (TIP) and the illegal or non-procedural placement of Indonesian migrant workers. Immigration officers at a Place of Immigration Examination (TPI) therefore occupy a critical position because the departure inspection may become the last preventive point before a person leaves Indonesian territory (Mayang et al., 2021; Hendrawan et al., 2022).

The problem is particularly relevant in Batam. Citra Tritunas International Port is an international departure point under the working area of the Batam Class I Special TPI Immigration Office and has high passenger mobility to neighboring countries, especially Malaysia. The high intensity of international traffic and the geographical position of Batam create vulnerabilities that may be exploited for non-procedural migrant-worker departures. Earlier studies have discussed immigration supervision for trafficking prevention, administrative immigration violations, the role of immigration officers, and the prevention of illegal migrant workers, but these studies have generally addressed the issues in broad terms rather than focusing specifically on misrepresentation by Indonesian citizens at the departure stage.

Empirical developments in Batam reinforce the urgency of the issue. The thesis source records that in April 2026, BP3MI of the Riau Islands and Polresta Bareleng stopped 78 prospective non-procedural Indonesian migrant workers who were scheduled to depart for Malaysia. The same source reports that 43 prospective migrant workers were subsequently rescued through an international ferry departure route. In June 2026, Batam immigration officers also stopped 31 Indonesian citizens suspected of attempting to perform the Hajj through a non-procedural route after discrepancies were found between travel documents and the stated purpose of departure. In May 2026, the Batam Immigration Office reported 392 departures of prospective non-procedural migrant workers being delayed as a preventive measure against trafficking and labor exploitation. These events indicate that misrepresentation can form part of a broader pattern of non-procedural migration and transnational crime.

The legal problem is not simply the existence of immigration authority. The research identifies a gap between general legal norms and operational requirements. The immigration framework provides authority for inspection, supervision, and administrative measures, but it does not explicitly define misrepresentation by Indonesian citizens at the departure stage, nor does it establish detailed indicators, evidentiary parameters, or a uniform operational mechanism. As a consequence, officers often rely on professional judgment, interviews, behavioral analysis, risk profiling, and administrative discretion when determining whether a departure should be delayed.

This study therefore focuses on three questions: (1) how immigration measures against Indonesian citizens who provide false information during departure are legally regulated; (2) how optimized immigration measures are implemented at Citra Tritunas International Port; and (3) what legal and technical obstacles arise and what solutions are used to optimize implementation. The study is intended to contribute to the development of immigration law by connecting normative rules with field practice and by formulating an optimization approach that integrates regulation, institutional capacity, technology, and preventive protection of Indonesian citizens.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Justice Theory as Grand Theory

John Rawls conceptualizes justice as fairness through two main principles: equal basic liberties and the difference principle, under which social and economic inequalities should be arranged to benefit those who are least advantaged (Faiz, 2019). In legal settings, this framework emphasizes that government action should be lawful, non-discriminatory, and directed toward substantive justice rather than formal equality alone.

The relevance of justice theory to this research lies in the need to balance the constitutional freedom of Indonesian citizens to travel with the state obligation to protect citizens from trafficking, exploitation, and other transnational crimes. Administrative measures such as secondary inspection and delay of departure should therefore be based on clear reasons, adequate factual support, proportionality, and accountable procedures. The theory provides a normative lens for examining whether immigration action protects both individual rights and national interests (Rasjidi & Rasjidi, 2020; Rahardjo, 2020).

Legal System Theory as Middle Theory

Lawrence M. Friedman explains law as a system consisting of legal structure, legal substance, and legal culture (Warassih, 2021). Legal structure refers to institutions and officials that operate the law; legal substance refers to rules and regulations; and legal culture refers to social attitudes, values, and perceptions toward law. The effectiveness of law depends on the interaction of the three components rather than on written rules alone.

In this research, legal structure includes the Directorate General of Immigration, immigration offices, and officers at the TPI. Legal substance includes the Immigration Law and implementing regulations, while legal culture is reflected in the tendency of some Indonesian citizens to provide false information in order to pursue overseas work outside official procedures. Friedman's framework therefore helps connect the normative gap in regulation with institutional implementation and public behavior (Zainuddin Ali, 2022; Marzuki, 2021).

Progressive Law Theory as Applied Theory

Satjipto Rahardjo's progressive law theory emphasizes that law must remain responsive to social change and must be oriented toward humans and substantive justice rather than rigidly following text without regard to its purpose (Rahardjo, 2020; Rahardjo, 2021). Legal officers are expected to interpret and implement law in ways that preserve legality while responding to real social problems.

The theory is relevant because immigration officers may encounter situations in which operational circumstances develop faster than detailed regulation. The use of administrative discretion in secondary inspection or delay of departure can therefore be understood as a practical response to protect Indonesian citizens, provided that such

discretion remains within legality, proportionality, caution, and accountability. The theory supports an adaptive immigration control model that combines regulation, professional judgment, technology, and prevention.

Previous Studies and Research Gap

Previous research provides a foundation for understanding immigration supervision, administrative violations, officer roles, and the prevention of illegal migrant-worker departures. However, the thesis identifies a specific gap: the need to examine misrepresentation by Indonesian citizens at the departure stage as an operational risk indicator and to assess how legal authority is translated into layered inspection at Citra Tritunas International Port. The comparison below is retained from the thesis and translated into English without changing its substance.

Table 1. Previous Studies Related to Immigration Supervision and Misrepresentation

No.	Author	Year	Title	Research Findings
1.	Rina Oktaviani (Universitas Indonesia)	2021	Analysis of Immigration Supervision of Indonesian Citizens in Preventing Trafficking in Persons	The study shows that immigration supervision plays an important role in preventing trafficking in persons, particularly through increased vigilance by officers at Places of Immigration Examination. However, supervision effectiveness remains constrained by limited data and inter-agency coordination. Difference from the present study: the earlier study focuses on trafficking prevention generally, whereas this study specifically examines the optimization of immigration measures against Indonesian citizens who provide false information (misrepresentation) during departure and directly assesses implementation at the Batam TPI.
2.	Ahmad Fauzi (Universitas Airlangga)	2020	Immigration Law Enforcement against Administrative Violations by Indonesian Citizens	The study concludes that enforcement against administrative immigration violations is normatively regulated, but implementation remains less than optimal because of weak supervision and limited legal awareness. Difference from the present study: the earlier study addresses administrative violations in general, while this study focuses on the specific misrepresentation phenomenon at departure and integrates juridical and empirical approaches in the field.
3.	Dwi Lestari (Universitas Gadjah Mada)	2020	The Role of Immigration Officers in Supervising the Movement of Persons at Places of Immigration Examination	The study finds that immigration officers have a strategic role in safeguarding national security through document inspection and interviews, but face constraints in human resources and supporting technology. Difference from the present study: the earlier study emphasizes the general role of officers, whereas this study examines concrete measures—delay, further examination, and prevention—against Indonesian citizens who provide false information.
4.	Muhammad Rizky (Universitas Hasanuddin)	2023	Juridical Analysis of Preventing Illegal Migrant Workers through Immigration Policy	The study finds that immigration policy has a significant role in reducing illegal migrant workers, but field implementation still faces cross-sector coordination problems and weak integrated supervision. Difference from the present study: the earlier study examines illegal migrant workers generally, whereas this study focuses on false statements by Indonesian citizens as an entry point to violations and examines optimization at the Batam TPI.

The comparison indicates a novelty centered on three points: the specific focus on misrepresentation by Indonesian citizens during international departure, the use of a juridical-empirical approach that connects legal norms with direct field implementation, and the comprehensive optimization of immigration measures at a strategically

located Batam TPI. The study thus addresses the gap between general immigration authority and the operational standards needed to identify false statements without undermining the constitutional rights of Indonesian citizens.

METHOD

This study uses empirical legal research (sociological legal research), examining how legal rules operate in society and how legal norms are implemented in actual practice. The empirical orientation is combined with normative analysis so that the study can compare field implementation with applicable legal provisions.

Four approaches are used. The statutory approach examines Law No. 6 of 2011 on Immigration and its implementing regulations. The conceptual approach examines the concepts of immigration measures, supervision, and misrepresentation as well as relevant legal doctrines. The case approach examines concrete cases associated with false statements and non-procedural departures in Batam. The sociological approach examines the behavior of officers and members of the public through direct field data.

The research was conducted at the Batam Class I Special TPI Immigration Office and the Place of Immigration Examination at Citra Tritunas International Port, Batam. The location was selected because Batam has high cross-border mobility and is strategically situated in relation to Malaysia and Singapore. Primary data were obtained through semi-structured interviews with immigration officials and officers with authority to conduct immigration measures. Secondary data consisted of primary legal materials, such as Law No. 6 of 2011 and relevant ministerial regulations; secondary legal materials, such as books, scientific journals, and previous studies; and tertiary materials, such as legal dictionaries, encyclopedias, and indexes.

Data collection combined semi-structured interviews, field observation, documentation studies, and literature review. Interviews were conducted using prepared questions while allowing follow-up questions. Observation focused on immigration inspection practices, officer-passenger interaction, and operational conditions. Documentation covered relevant reports, standard operating procedures, and administrative data. Literature review was used to establish normative and theoretical foundations.

Data were analyzed qualitatively through data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing. Relevant field information was selected and organized, presented descriptively to identify patterns and relationships, and then interpreted to answer the research questions. Conclusions were verified against the available data so that the results remained consistent with the empirical and normative evidence in the study.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Legal Regulation of Immigration Measures against Indonesian Citizens Providing False Information

Immigration is an important state instrument for maintaining sovereignty, security, public order, and citizen protection. In a rule-of-law state, government measures must have a clear legal basis as an expression of the principle of legality. Law No. 6 of 2011 on Immigration, as last amended by Law No. 63 of 2024, defines immigration as matters concerning the movement of persons into or out of Indonesian territory and the supervision thereof in order to uphold state sovereignty. The framework therefore extends beyond document verification and includes supervision and administrative action.

The Immigration Law places immigration functions in four related areas: immigration services, law enforcement, state security, and facilitation of community welfare. In the context of this study, law enforcement and state security are especially relevant because they support examination, further inquiry, and delay of departure when a person is suspected of providing inaccurate information regarding the purpose of travel. The selective policy principle also supports risk-oriented examination in the national interest.

The study finds, however, that the term misrepresentation is not expressly and operationally defined for Indonesian citizens at the departure stage. The concept can be understood systematically through obligations to provide accurate information and through regulations concerning the protection and placement of Indonesian migrant workers. When a person states that the purpose of travel is tourism or a family visit but the factual purpose is non-procedural employment, the discrepancy can become a basis for further immigration examination. Law No. 18 of 2017 on the Protection of Indonesian Migrant Workers and Law No. 21 of 2007 on the Eradication of the Criminal Act of Trafficking in Persons provide an important broader legal context.

Interviews with structural officials at the Batam Class I Special TPI Immigration Office show that officers regard misrepresentation as a preventive administrative risk indicator rather than simply an ordinary administrative violation. The authority to conduct further inspection and delay of departure is considered legally available, yet respondents emphasized the need for more detailed operational indicators so that officers apply more uniform

standards across TPIs. The main legal gap therefore lies not in the absence of immigration authority but in the lack of explicit operational parameters for identifying and proving misrepresentation at departure.

From Friedman's legal system perspective, the principal weakness is located in legal substance: the general authority exists, but operational standards are incomplete. From Rawls's justice perspective, clearer standards are needed so that delay decisions are objective, proportional, and non-discriminatory. From progressive law theory, administrative discretion may remain necessary to protect citizens in situations where transnational crime evolves faster than detailed regulation, provided that the discretion is exercised in good faith, cautiously, and within legal boundaries. The study consequently identifies the need for a national technical guideline covering definitions, indicators, examination procedures, and standards for administrative discretion.

From the perspective of justice theory, this practice represents an attempt to balance the freedom to travel with the state's duty to prevent citizens from becoming victims of exploitation and trafficking. From the legal system perspective, the substantive legal framework gives the authority, the institutional structure performs the inspection, and legal culture influences recurring misrepresentation. From progressive law theory, the use of carefully controlled administrative discretion allows officials to respond to real risks even when technical rules are not yet sufficiently detailed. The empirical implication is that more explicit national guidance remains necessary so that similar cases are assessed through consistent indicators.

The findings further show that officers evaluate the entire travel profile rather than a single response. They consider the logic of the stated purpose, knowledge of the destination, return ticket, hotel reservation, available funds, sponsor identity, and previous international travel. When relevant inconsistencies are found, the traveler is referred to secondary inspection so that the purpose of travel can be assessed more carefully.

The interviews also reveal a shift in the status of the traveler during examination. A traveler who initially appears as an ordinary immigration service user can become the object of administrative supervision when significant inconsistencies emerge. This change is not regarded as punitive action but as a consequence of an indication that the duty to provide accurate information may have been breached. Any delay of departure must nevertheless remain subject to the principles of legality, due care, proportionality, legal certainty, transparency, and prohibition of abuse of authority.

The empirical findings show that structural officials at the Batam Class I Special TPI Immigration Office do not treat a misleading statement as an isolated interview error. They view misrepresentation as a potential indicator of involvement in non-procedural migrant-worker departure or trafficking in persons. Baginda Raja Harahap, as Head of Examination, explained that inconsistencies should be analyzed together with the traveler profile, travel history, supporting documents, and other factual circumstances before an administrative decision is made.

At the TPI, the legal relationship between Indonesian citizens and immigration officers is a public-law relationship. Officers exercise statutory authority, while travelers are required to satisfy the applicable administrative requirements and provide truthful information. The information supplied during examination is material because it forms part of the factual basis used by officers in deciding whether a departure can proceed or requires further assessment.

Article 28E paragraph (1) of the 1945 Constitution recognizes the right of every person to leave the country and return to it. The thesis also relates this principle to Article 12 paragraph (2) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, as ratified by Law No. 12 of 2005, while emphasizing that restrictions may be imposed by law for legitimate public purposes. In the immigration context, inspection is therefore understood as a preventive and protective mechanism rather than merely an administrative barrier.

Indonesian citizens are permanent legal subjects of the Republic of Indonesia. Citizenship creates rights protected by the Constitution as well as obligations to comply with applicable law, including when traveling abroad. The right to leave Indonesian territory is constitutionally recognized, but the research treats that right as subject to lawful limitations intended to protect public interests, national security, and the rights and safety of other persons.

Legal Position of Indonesian Citizens and Officials' Understanding of Misrepresentation

2. Implementation of Immigration Measures at Citra Tritunas International Port

The field findings show that immigration inspection at Citra Tritunas is implemented through a layered process. Officers begin with travel-document verification and information checking through SIMKIM, followed by an initial interview concerning travel purpose, length of stay, accommodation, sponsor or contact person, and other supporting information. Where inconsistencies appear, officers can direct the passenger to secondary inspection for more comprehensive assessment.

The implementation has shifted from document-based inspection toward risk-based immigration control. Risk profiling and behavioral analysis are used together with interviews to assess the consistency between answers, travel patterns, supporting documents, and the stated purpose of travel. Officers do not rely on a single answer. They assess the overall travel profile, including knowledge of the destination, return ticket, hotel reservation, available funds, sponsor identity, and previous travel history.

Secondary inspection is not automatic punishment. When initial inconsistencies appear, the passenger is given an opportunity to explain them before a decision is made. Further inspection may examine travel purpose, sponsor, financial circumstances, international travel history, and relationships with persons in the destination country. The findings indicate that this layered model is intended to balance the constitutional right of Indonesian citizens to travel with the state's preventive duty to stop potentially non-procedural departures and protect citizens from trafficking and exploitation.

SIMKIM supports this process by providing information including international travel history, passport issuance history, prevention and deterrence lists, and other passenger-related records. Respondents nonetheless indicated that the system would be more effective if it were integrated in real time with databases held by BP3MI, the police, the Directorate General of Population and Civil Registration, and other relevant institutions. Such integration would improve the verification of employment and migrant-worker status while speeding up administrative decision-making.

Overall, respondents assessed the implementation as sufficiently effective for preventive purposes, particularly in identifying inconsistent information and delaying potentially non-procedural departures. The effectiveness is supported by the combination of human judgment, layered inspection, technology, and institutional coordination rather than by document verification alone.

Overall, the implementation represents a movement from administrative document control toward integrated risk-based immigration control. The combination of document verification, interviewing, behavioral analysis, risk profiling, secondary inspection, SIMKIM, and institutional coordination expands the capacity of officers to detect misrepresentation before the traveler leaves Indonesian territory. The remaining task is to standardize the indicators and strengthen the technological and institutional infrastructure supporting the process.

The findings also show that inter-agency coordination is already carried out with BP3MI, the police, KSOP, and other relevant institutions through operational communication and coordination forums. However, data exchange is not yet fully real-time. As a result, some verification processes still require confirmation from another institution, which can affect the speed of decision-making in the limited time available at an international port.

The research indicates that delay of departure is not automatically imposed whenever an inconsistency is identified. Rather, delay follows a sequence of examination and clarification designed to establish sufficient administrative confidence. This reflects the effort to balance service efficiency with careful protection of the traveler's rights and prevention of potentially unlawful departure.

Secondary inspection is then used as a layered mechanism. Officers verify documents again and review supporting evidence such as hotel reservations, return tickets, sponsorship information, and other relevant materials. The traveler is asked to clarify the discrepancies identified at the first counter. This stage is important because it provides an additional factual basis for deciding whether the departure may proceed or should be delayed.

The study identifies several indicators consistently used for preliminary risk identification: an illogical travel purpose, weak knowledge of the destination, inconsistencies between answers and supporting documents, uncertainty concerning the person to be visited or the sponsor, unclear financial arrangements, and travel patterns that do not fit the declared purpose. No single indicator automatically leads to a delay; the indicators are assessed in combination and in the context of the traveler's overall profile.

According to the interview evidence, the initial interview is carried out together with passport examination. The objective is not simply to collect a verbal answer but to observe whether the traveler can explain the trip coherently and consistently. A passenger whose explanation is incomplete, illogical, or inconsistent with supporting documents may be subject to deeper examination. This makes the interview a key component of risk identification even when the travel document itself appears formally valid.

The implementation findings indicate that inspection at Citra Tritunas follows a systematic sequence. The initial stage involves passport and supporting-document verification and information checking through SIMKIM. Officers then conduct a short interview at the examination counter. The interview may address the purpose and duration of travel, accommodation, the identity of the person or sponsor in the destination country, and other information needed to assess the consistency of the declared journey.

Implementation Stages and Indicators of Risk

3. Obstacles: Juridical, Technical, and Evolving Modus Operandi

The principal juridical obstacle is the absence of detailed operational regulation concerning misrepresentation by Indonesian citizens at the departure stage. The general immigration framework gives officials authority, but it does not provide sufficiently standardized indicators, proof parameters, or detailed rules for the exercise of discretion. As a result, decisions depend substantially on interviews, document analysis, officer experience, and risk profiling. This may produce differences in assessment between officers or inspection points.

Another juridical obstacle is the incomplete harmonization of inter-agency regulations and data exchange. Immigration, BP3MI, police, KSOP, and other agencies have their own mandates and systems, but the mechanisms for real-time data sharing and status verification are not yet fully integrated. For an international port, where decisions must be timely, sectoral arrangements can slow confirmation of information.

Technical obstacles are closely related to the operating conditions of an international port. High passenger volume at vessel departure times limits the time available for each interview and behavioral assessment. The number of officers may also be disproportionate to the number of passengers during peak periods, increasing workload and making detailed risk profiling more difficult. Inspection facilities are available, including counters, secondary inspection rooms, and SIMKIM, but respondents noted the need for more modern document readers and fraud-detection equipment.

The most complex obstacle is the adaptive modus operandi of transnational crime. The thesis findings show a shift from easily detectable forged documents to genuine travel documents combined with misleading explanations of the purpose of travel. Prospective non-procedural migrant workers may carry valid passports, tourist tickets, hotel reservations, and sufficient cash, and may receive briefing from syndicates on what to say during immigration interviews. The main challenge therefore shifts from document authenticity to intent verification.

The adaptive character of organized transnational crime requires immigration inspection to remain dynamic. Every improvement in inspection can be followed by adjustments in offender strategies. This finding reinforces the need for intelligence-led border control that combines document checks, investigative interviews, behavioral analysis, risk profiling, information technology, and immigration intelligence. The legal system must therefore evolve across its structure, substance, and culture to remain responsive to changing risks.

Progressive law provides the applied dimension. The law must respond to adaptive transnational crime while remaining oriented toward human protection. In this context, technology and professional analysis do not replace legal safeguards; they support better-informed decisions. The study's optimization model is consequently preventive, adaptive, and institutionally integrated rather than solely punitive.

Rawlsian justice also requires that the preventive function be exercised consistently. When the legal parameters for misrepresentation are too general, two risks arise at once: an unlawful or disproportionate restriction of travel on the one hand, and insufficient protection of a potential victim on the other. The research therefore places objective indicators, proportionality, and accountability at the center of the optimization process.

The juridical and technical obstacles identified in the research are interconnected rather than separate problems. In Friedman's model, incomplete operational rules concern legal substance, staffing and equipment concern legal structure, while repeated willingness to provide false information reflects legal culture. The effectiveness of immigration measures therefore depends on improving all three components simultaneously.

Synthesis of Obstacles in Relation to the Three Legal Theories

The findings also support a broader interpretation of preventive immigration control. Prevention is not limited to stopping a person from boarding a vessel. It includes identifying risk early, providing an opportunity for clarification, coordinating with relevant institutions, and taking proportionate administrative action where necessary. This preventive sequence is consistent with the research objective of protecting citizens while maintaining the integrity of the international departure process.

In this context, the most important operational shift identified by the research is the movement from document authenticity toward intent verification. A valid passport and apparently lawful travel documents do not necessarily reveal the true purpose of travel. Immigration inspection must therefore combine formal document checks with substantive assessment of travel intent. This does not eliminate the need for objective standards; rather, it increases the importance of developing measurable and accountable indicators for intent-related risk.

The study therefore positions Citra Tritunas as an example of a departure environment in which legal protection, public service, and border security intersect. The required model is neither purely restrictive nor purely administrative. It is a layered form of control that aims to verify information, identify risk, prevent exploitation, and

preserve lawful mobility. Such a model requires clear legal guidance together with professional judgment and institutional support.

The adaptive nature of transnational crime further means that the control system cannot remain static. When document forgery becomes easier to detect, networks may shift toward the use of genuine documents and coached explanations. When interview techniques improve, travel narratives may be made more sophisticated. The empirical implication is that risk indicators, officer training, information systems, and operational procedures must be reviewed continuously so that the inspection model remains responsive.

Legal culture also matters. The thesis identifies a continuing tendency among some travelers to regard inaccurate statements as a means of obtaining access to overseas employment. When false information becomes normalized as a strategy for overcoming administrative requirements, the problem cannot be addressed by enforcement alone. Public legal awareness and understanding of lawful migration procedures are also relevant to long-term prevention.

From the perspective of the legal system, these findings reinforce the connection between legal substance and legal structure. General statutory authority is meaningful only when supported by institutions capable of implementing it under actual operational conditions. The availability of competent officers, sufficient personnel during peak periods, modern inspection equipment, and interoperable information systems therefore forms part of the practical effectiveness of the legal framework.

Inter-agency coordination is particularly important because the prevention of non-procedural migrant-worker departure is not exclusively an immigration matter. Immigration officers may identify a risk, while other institutions hold information relating to migrant-worker status, recruitment, law enforcement, transportation, or population administration. The research shows that cooperation already occurs, but the absence of fully integrated information exchange can require manual confirmation and may reduce the speed with which a case is resolved.

The role of SIMKIM is also significant in strengthening the factual basis for decisions. The system assists officers by providing immigration records and travel-related information, allowing them to compare current statements with previous records. However, the interviews indicate that the usefulness of the system remains constrained when information held by other institutions cannot be accessed quickly. Real-time interoperability is therefore closely linked to both service speed and the quality of administrative decision-making.

The findings reveal that behavioral analysis complements this process. Officers observe hesitation, inconsistency, unusual changes in answers, and other behavioral indications during the interaction. Such observations are not treated as independent proof; they become part of a broader assessment of the traveler profile. This approach is consistent with the thesis finding that no single indicator should automatically determine the outcome of an immigration inspection.

This condition explains why interview quality becomes a central element of the implementation model. The officers' questions are not intended merely to obtain an answer but to test whether the traveler understands the trip, can identify the destination, explain accommodation and sponsorship arrangements, and describe the return plan. The answers are then compared with documents and other information. Inconsistent explanations become stronger when they coincide with other risk indicators.

The study also finds that the protective function of immigration measures becomes particularly significant when prospective non-procedural migrant workers have been prepared by intermediaries or syndicates. In such situations, a traveler may appear administratively compliant while having been instructed to provide a predetermined narrative during inspection. The officer must therefore distinguish between formal compliance with travel-document requirements and substantive consistency between the stated purpose and the factual circumstances of travel.

The interviews further show that administrative discretion is important because examination conditions at an international port require decisions within a limited period. Officers may encounter incomplete information, rapidly changing passenger circumstances, or suspected links to non-procedural employment that cannot be fully established through a single document check. Discretion consequently operates as a practical mechanism for applying general legal authority to concrete circumstances, while remaining bounded by legality, due care, proportionality, and accountability.

The research shows that a delay decision follows an examination sequence rather than an automatic response to every inconsistency. Initial findings are followed by document verification, interview clarification, and, where necessary, secondary inspection. This sequence is important because the departure right of Indonesian citizens has constitutional significance. The administrative measure must therefore be supported by relevant facts and applied proportionally so that prevention does not become an arbitrary restriction.

The field findings indicate that the effectiveness of immigration measures cannot be assessed solely from the number of delayed departures. Effectiveness is also reflected in the ability of officers to identify risk before a person

leaves Indonesian territory, clarify inconsistencies, and prevent a possible victim from entering a situation of exploitation. In this sense, delay of departure functions as a preventive administrative instrument within a broader protection strategy.

Effectiveness, Administrative Discretion, and Protection of Indonesian Citizens

4. Optimization Solutions for Immigration Measures

Risk profiling and behavioral analysis are the first optimization measures identified in the study. Officers are encouraged to move beyond purely administrative document checking and assess the consistency of answers, behavior, travel patterns, supporting documents, and the stated purpose of departure. This approach treats misrepresentation as an early-warning indicator and seeks to identify risk before the person leaves Indonesian territory.

Secondary inspection is the second measure. Where an inconsistency appears, the passenger is transferred to a more detailed examination rather than being immediately denied or delayed without clarification. This layered mechanism creates additional space for officers to verify information and for passengers to explain discrepancies. It is therefore designed to combine administrative certainty, proportionality, and preventive protection.

The third measure is stronger use and integration of SIMKIM. The system already assists officers by providing immigration records, but the study recommends movement toward real-time information exchange with other agencies. Integrated data would strengthen verification of migrant-worker status and relevant risk information while reducing delays caused by manual confirmation.

The fourth measure is improvement of officer competence and professionalism. Respondents emphasized the continuing need for training in investigative interviewing, behavioral analysis, recognition of trafficking patterns, risk profiling, and updated methods used by transnational crime networks. Experience remains valuable, but continuous training is needed to reduce differences in individual assessment and ensure that new operational patterns are recognized.

The fifth measure is stronger inter-agency coordination and information exchange. Coordination with BP3MI, police, KSOP, and related institutions is already carried out through operational communication and coordination forums, but respondents recommended faster data exchange, joint handling standards, and sustained integrated operations. The intended model is integrated border governance, in which institutional authority, information, and operational measures support one another.

Taken together, these solutions indicate that optimization cannot depend on regulatory revision alone. It requires integrated development across legal substance, legal structure, and legal culture. The operational innovations identified in the study—risk profiling, behavioral analysis, secondary inspection, SIMKIM utilization, competence development, and inter-agency coordination—represent a shift from administrative control toward intelligence-informed and preventive immigration control.

CONCLUSION

The legal regulation of immigration measures against Indonesian citizens who provide false information during international departure is grounded in Law No. 6 of 2011 on Immigration as amended by Law No. 63 of 2024 and related implementing regulations. Nevertheless, the framework does not yet explicitly regulate the concept, indicators, and operational mechanism for misrepresentation by Indonesian citizens at the departure stage. Consequently, implementation continues to rely on administrative authority and professional discretion informed by travel-purpose assessment and risk profiling.

At Citra Tritunas International Port, optimization has been implemented through layered examination integrating travel-document verification, risk profiling, behavioral analysis, secondary inspection, SIMKIM, and coordination with BP3MI, police, and other institutions. The findings show that these measures function as preventive mechanisms for stopping departures that may be connected to non-procedural migrant work and trafficking in persons.

The main obstacles are juridical limitations in operational regulation, technical limitations involving inspection time, human resources, and facilities, and increasingly complex and adaptive transnational-crime methods. The study therefore supports continued strengthening of technical rules, officer competence, inspection technology, SIMKIM integration, and inter-agency data exchange so that immigration control can remain preventive, adaptive, proportionate, and protective of Indonesian citizens.

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