JUSTICE MODERNIZATION IN THE DIGITAL DIVIDE OF
INDONESIAN SOCIETY: A CHALLENGE

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Abstract

As a developing country, Indonesia must keep abreast of and adapt to the dynamics that occur in the digital era. The government must make every effort to utilize information technology in implementing existing public policies. The Supreme Court of the Republic of Indonesia as a judicial institution that has direct contact with justice seekers has required technology-based legal services using e-court applications. The digital divide in Indonesia will greatly affect the ability of the people themselves to obtain their rights at the Indonesian judiciary. This study aims to examine whether the issuance of a judicial modernization legal policy is an appropriate law in the digital divide of Indonesian society. The method of this research uses qualitative methods based on in-depth observations of legal norms. Modernizing justice through the use of electronic applications this Indonesian society is a challenge for the government as a policymaker. This is because certain people still need assistance within their limitations in the digital world to face modern justice.

Keywords: modernization; judicial; e-courts; digital divide

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INTRODUCTION

The live of the world's people have entered the digital era, an era in which all life support activities can be facilitated by the presence of all-sophisticated technology. The development of knowledge and innovation in technology will always produce products that will replace past technology so that it is more modern and practical in its use for all levels of society.

Alvin Toffler in his writings on “The Third Wave”, which among other things stated “Third Wave civilization will rely on a far more diversified technological base ... With information becoming more important than ever before, the new civilization will restructure education, redefine scientific research and , above all, recognize the media of communication”. Based on Toffler's opinion, it can be seen that world civilization in the future will depend on a much more diverse technological base.

Indonesia, as a developing country, must keep abreast of and adapt to the dynamics that occur in the digital era. The government must make every effort to utilize information technology in implementing existing public policies. Various kinds of institutions have taken steps to utilize information technology in their services, from executive institutions as executors of laws, to judicial institutions as institutions that oversee the implementation of the laws themselves.

The Supreme Court of the Republic of Indonesia is the perpetrator of judicial power as referred to in the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia. This judicial state institution that has direct contact with the justice-seeking community has declared itself a digitally transformed institution. Since 2018, the work programs and policies of the Supreme Court have been mostly directed at the use of technology, especially information technology in carrying out judicial tasks. The main task of the judiciary is none other than to examine, decide and resolve cases that exist in the community, which is an important highlight in the position of the community itself as an object of service from the Supreme Court of the Republic of Indonesia.

Individuals or groups of Indonesian people who in their lives are bound to come into contact with other individuals and communities will always raise disputes which often turn into legal problems. Any person or legal entity intending to file a lawsuit against another party in order to obtain protection of rights and to prevent another party filing a claim from committing acts of vigilantism may submit their claim through the judicial process. Judiciary in this case is general justice in the civil domain at the District Court which requires that everyone who files a lawsuit will always be asked for approval to conduct trials electronically. At least, in 2022, a total of 52,728 lawsuits and 60,277 civil requests will become the burden of cases that must be resolved by the Supreme Court to fulfill justice for justice seekers through the District Courts. In fact, several District Courts in Indonesia require the use of *e-court applications* in civil case registration, which is part of electronic case administration. This requires that all Indonesians, as as legal subjects, have sufficient digital literacy skills to protect and fight for their rights in the District Court.

The digital literacy ability of the Indonesian people has not yet reached a high index. Based on the IMD World Digital Competitiveness Ranking 2022, Indonesia ranks 12th in Asia-Pacific countries in digital competition. In line with this, the status of digital literacy in Indonesia in 2022 released by Kominfo shows an index of 3.54 on a scale of 5, which means that the digital literacy skills of the Indonesian people are still in the medium category. Based on the doubts about the digital divide both in infrastructure and in the digital literacy capabilities of the people mentioned above, then a big question arises whether it is appropriate to implement a public policy by the Supreme Court with electronic trials or better known as e-courts.

RESEARCH METHODS

In this research, the researcher will use a normative juridical research type, in which the researcher uses a qualitative method with a focus on in-depth observation of legal norms in legislation and also norms or values that develop in society. Furthermore, in this study using literature studies in data collection;

By using a progressive legal analysis knife by Prof. Dr. Satjipto Raharjo, SH, the law should not be used as a technology that is not conscientious, but should create moral institutions. In conducting this research, the researcher collected information from previous research using secondary data in the form of laws and regulations, books and research journals, as well as Supreme Court Regulations relating to the modernization of the judiciary in Indonesia, as well as data analysis methods with a qualitative approach to primary and secondary data that are descriptive analytical.
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
The Form of Indonesian Judicial Modernization

The era of globalization is closely related to modernization. The origin of the words modernization are "modo" and "ernus" which are derived from Latin which means "present". Literally, modernization is a process towards the present or in other words a process towards a modern society or a process towards the present era.

The modern term is used to describe openness to changes and being able to adapt to new values that have a more positive impact on the lives of both individuals and society. The speed of the development of science and technology, especially information technology, influences the dynamics of social interaction. According to Talcott Parsons, society is an open system, that is involved in every process of social and environmental change, resulting in exchanges with subsystems within a large system.

This is what then triggers a movement in Indonesia to keep up with the development of the modern era by starting the modernization of every public service carried out by the government of the Republic of Indonesia. The state views that in order to realize clean, effective, transparent and accountable governance as well as quality and reliable public services, an electronic-based government system is needed, which is a preamble to Presidential Regulation of the Republic of Indonesia Number 95 of 2018 concerning Electronic-based Government Systems;

The forerunner to the existence of e-Government services in Indonesia began because of changes and developments in government services which were initially carried out manually, then changed to electronic or system-based services. In the history of executive government modernization in Indonesia, the term e-government was officially introduced through Presidential Instruction No. 3 of 2003 relating to the National Policy and Strategy for the Development of e-Government which is also the gateway for the development of E-Government in Indonesia. In its implementation, electronic-based governance will be related to technical factors in various fields that are more operational, for example financial management as stated in Government Regulation Number 56 of 2005, Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 23 of 2006 relating to Administration Population, which includes Electronic KTP, as well as other public policy dimensions.

Not only is the President of the Republic of Indonesia the holder of government power according to the Constitution, the law enforcement agencies in the world of justice in Indonesia through the Supreme Court have also carried out a major transformation in the administration of justice on the basis of information technology. The judiciary according to the term (terminology) is defined as everything regarding court cases. This transformation received extraordinary appreciation from various groups, including from the Head of State of the Republic of Indonesia. During the 2020 Special Session of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Indonesia Annual Report which was held on Wednesday, February 17, 2021, the President of the Republic of Indonesia, Joko Widodo, hurled “god-level” praise to the Supreme Court for successfully utilizing technology to realize the modernization of judicial administration.

The Indonesian Judicial Reform is not without cause, the Supreme Court has a serious commitment in terms of judicial reform. Due to the very dynamic development of the times and the enormous globalization movement, it forces the Supreme Court and the Judicial Institutions under it to continuously strive to innovate and carry out constructive reforms in line with the times itself. The second Supreme Court Blue Print 2010-2035 contains the vision of the Supreme Court, namely “The Realization of the Supreme Indonesian Judicial Body”. This vision can ideally be realized through the efforts outlined in the MA 2010-2035 blue print itself, namely creating a modern judiciary based on integrated information technology (IT).

Coinciding with the 74th anniversary of the Supreme Court, it is the starting point for the start of a big leap in the implementation of the modernization of judicial institutions in Indonesia, namely by launching an electronic justice system (e-litigation). The launch of the policy was carried out at an event titled Great Harmony for Indonesia on August, 19, 2019 at the Supreme Court Hall. This electronic trial is legally formally regulated in Supreme Court Regulation Number 1 of 2019 concerning Electronic Administration of Cases and Trials in Courts, which revokes the previous regulation, namely RI Supreme Court Regulation Number 3 of 2018 concerning Electronic Administration of Cases in Courts.

In its development, regulatory changes related to electronic trials have occurred because there are so many things that are affected by the process of transforming conventional trial legal services into electronic-based trials. The last amendment was found through Perma Number 7 of 2022 concerning changes to Supreme Court Regulation Number 1 of 2019 concerning Electronic Administration of Cases and Trials in Courts and their derivatives in the Decree of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the...

Broadly speaking, online case trial services at the Supreme Court in the civil realm at the District Court (e-litigation) at the first level are better known as E-Court. E-Court is an online case registration service (e-Filing), obtaining an estimate of down-payment of case fees online, paying court fees online (e-Payment), summons made via electronic channels (e-Summons), and trials conducted electronically (e-Litigation);

Online Case Registration in the e-Court application is used for lawsuits, objections, simple lawsuits, and requests. This case registration is a type of case registered at the General Court, which in its registration requires more effort, and this is the reason for creating an e-Court, one of which is the ease of doing business.

Before registering, a mandatory requirement that must be fulfilled is that you must have an account on the e-Court application. To register via e-Court, the first thing to do is open the Supreme Court e-Court website at https://eCourt.mahkamahagung.go.id and press the Register Registered User button. In this registration, all justice seekers who must become Registered Users must have a valid email address because account activation will be sent via registered email which will later become the registered user's electronic domicile address. If the registration is successful the registered user will get the user email and password that he has created and can be used to log in to the e-Court application.

In this electronic case registration mechanism, justice seekers as objects of public service from the Supreme Court are required to complete a Claim Document which must be uploaded at the File Upload stage. The lawsuit file and the approval of the community as the Principal are uploaded in the Upload Lawsuit Files stage

In its objective, case registration will provide benefits in the form of: 1. Save time and money in the case registration process; 2. Payment of Down Payment Fees which can be made in multi-channel channels or from various payment methods and banks; 3. Documents are well archived and can be accessed from various locations and media; and 4. A Faster Data Retrieval Process.

In case registration, registered users will immediately receive a SKUM (Power of Attorney to Pay) which is generated electronically by the e-Court application. In the generate process, it will already be calculated based on what cost components have been determined and configured by the Court, and the radius fee is also determined by the Chief Justice so that the calculation of the estimated down payment has been calculated in such a way and produces an electronic SKUM or e-SKUM.

Registered Users after obtaining an Estimated Down Payment or e-SKUM will receive a Payment Number (Virtual Account) as a virtual account for payment of Down Payment Fees which can be paid through available electronic channels (Multi Channel). After the automatic payment is made the status of the registration will change. For the case registration stage that has been completed, the next registered user is waiting for verification and validation carried out by the Court to obtain a case number.

After the user makes a payment and gets the case number from the one that has been registered, the community using the service will receive a summons sent by the court where the case was registered. In accordance with Perma Number 3 of 2018 that summons whose registration is carried out using e-Court, summons to Registered Users are carried out electronically which are sent to the registered user's electronic domicile address. However, for the defendant for the first summons to be carried out manually and when the defendant is present at the first hearing, approval will be asked to be summoned electronically in accordance with the electronic domicile provided.

In terms of procedural proceedings, trial documents such as replicas, duplicates, letter evidence, answers and conclusions are sent electronically. Even to obtain decision information, namely the date of the decision, the order of the decision, the due date and a copy of the electronic decision, this application can be downloaded.

In terms of civil procedural law, Indonesia has long adhered to the product of the Dutch East Indies Government which is currently in effect with a dualistic nature or contains a dualism of procedural law that applies to courts in Java-Madura. Of course, this is very inconsistent with the current conditions, where there is no longer the division of the Java-Madura area outside of Java and Madura. The consequence of renewing the implementation of the judicial process will have an impact on the conflicting arrangements that have been regulated in a limited manner in the previous law with innovations carried out related to the development of information technology.

Responding to the modernization of the judiciary in Indonesia, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court in his statement said that currently the Supreme Court is faced with two choices, namely continuing to maintain the obsolete procedural law, with consequences that will complicate and harm the interests of justice seekers, or take the initiative to make new breakthroughs, which can provide convenience and lower costs for the litigants. Of course, the Supreme Court cannot remain silent with
the current conditions, because it is the justice seekers who will bear all the losses, therefore breakthroughs and innovations must continue to be made, to provide better services for justice seekers. Based on the visualization above, the researcher believes that the Supreme Court of the Republic of Indonesia views that modernization of the judiciary must be carried out because prime public services will be more perfectly implemented with innovations or new breakthroughs made by utilizing information technology.

Not only Indonesia, many other courts are increasingly adopting new technologies to improve and streamline the administration of justice. Judicial modernization through the use of information technology is also used by other countries such as Singapore. The judiciary in Singapore has also started The Integrated Electronic Litigation System (eLitigation) in 2013. This electronic judiciary was born in a new era as the evolution of electronic case management. E-litigation in Singapore is designed with 4 (four) core principles: (i) smarter information; (ii) holistic/integral case management system; (iii) consolidating different systems to streamline case management; and (iv) increasing accessibility for justice seekers.

Singapore has required all parties to submit their cases online through the EFS electronic filing system. The policy of requiring online case registration through EFS in Singapore has succeeded in changing the mindset of the public towards the use of technology in court proceedings. Singapore's high legal culture is a key factor in the smooth transition from manual to electronic litigation. Returning to Indonesia, the modernization of justice for society has led to the same thing as Singapore as a developed country. There is no loophole for every justice seeker to submit his personal interests in order to claim his rights in the District Court using conventional methods.

The District Court, which is part of the general court of first instance in Indonesia, currently has 382 work units spread throughout the archipelago with active e-litigation status. This indicates that all District Courts in Indonesia are ready to fully organize e-court or e-litigation. As the previous visualization was based on the Circular Letter of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Indonesia Number 4 of 2019 Concerning the Obligation to Register Civil Cases Through E-Court, all Class IA Special District Courts, Class IA, and all District Courts in the Banten High Court, Jakarta High Court, Bandung High Court, Semarang High Court, Yogyakarta High Court, and Surabaya High Court are required to use e-courts in registering cases in accordance with PERMA provisions No. 3 of 2018 concerning Case Administration in Electronic Courts.

Furthermore, in addition to the Circular Letter, several District Courts outside Java also require the same thing. One of them is the Sibolga District Court on the island of Sumatra, which issued a Decree of the Head of the Sibolga District Court Number 40/KPN/SK/1/2023 concerning the Obligation to Register Cases Through E-Court. And not only that, although it does not explicitly state that it is obligatory, Supreme Court Regulation Number 1 of 2019 Concerning Electronic Administration of Cases and Trials in Courts in article 20 paragraph (1) states that "Cases registered electronically are tried electronically".

It is clear that thus, the projection is that all legal subjects in Indonesia are required to file civil cases in court electronically through the e-court application, as well as participate in the e-litigation electronic trial process. This has consequences for users of court services, who are all levels of society in Indonesia, must understand concepts and digital understanding that is qualified in their application.

The Feasibility of Judicial Modernization in Communities with Minimal Digital Literacy

The presence of a dispute resolution institution is certainly expected to be able to resolve every problem and dispute effectively and efficiently. This is due to the fact that the existence of the judiciary as the last bastion to seek justice in order to resolve any problems that occur as the principle of a fast, simple and low-cost trial is felt to be far from the expected reality.

It is undeniable that technology promises more accessibility to justice and has less complexity, as courts face many problems. Especially in the past few years due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it has also encouraged courts to use technology.

Big questions then arise on the surface, when the modernization of information technology-based justice is confronted with the condition of the Indonesian people in terms of their digital literacy capabilities. It is necessary to pay close attention to the ability of every layer of Indonesian society to understand and use technological innovations such as the use of electronic mail via e-mail, electronic payment of money using the virtual account feature, downloading and uploading documents in a computer system, and other matters related to trials. Electronic administration and trials contain great benefits for justice seekers to obtain simple, fast and inexpensive justice, but according to the author, there are problems and challenges that will be faced. Especially related to the transformation of procedural law from manual to electronic,
completeness of infrastructure and technology, facilities that support data connectivity with all relevant stakeholders and agencies, and most importantly the enthusiasm of the community or justice seekers in the limited human resources that use services electronically.

Electronic judicial services are then transformed into a legal technology that is faced by all elements of Indonesian society. It is very important to explore people's attitudes towards legal technology prior to its implementation. In particular, both court clients and lawyers are probably the most dissatisfied with the most advanced technology.

The digital divide is a problem of differences in opportunities for access to information and technology that creates access gaps between individuals, businesses, and even geographic areas at different socioeconomic levels. Digital literacy is the provision of the ability that a person has to access, understand, analyze, and utilize digital space for his daily life. Digital literacy as a kind of ability enables people to participate in the digital space safely, comfortably and productively in an information-rich society.

According to researchers, the digital divide itself is caused by 2 (two) major supporting factors that cumulatively influence each other, namely digital infrastructure, as well as the digital literacy of the community itself.

In the current era of information technology, the availability of the internet plays a major role in strengthening literacy and numeracy. The rapid development of information and communication technology (ICT) does not guarantee equal access for all levels of society, including in countries in Southeast Asia, including Indonesia. In the midst of hopes for the realization of a fully connected ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) community in an integrated region, the digital divide in Southeast Asia actually appears to be an imbalance between one country and another or even within a country.

In terms of facilities, internet penetration and infrastructure development are not completely evenly distributed in Indonesia. In fact, there are still many blankspot internet areas. Blank spot area is an area that does not receive a signal from telecommunication towers which limits cellular service users from communicating and getting internet access. So that the application of things that smell digital and the internet is still difficult to do.

The vast archipelago of Indonesia means that many students and teachers in rural and remote areas are constrained by a lack of infrastructure and poor internet connectivity. Four out of five internet users in Indonesia live in Java and Sumatra. Based on data from the Association of Indonesian Internet Service Providers (APJII), the number of internet users in Indonesia is 143.26 million or approximately 55% of the population. This means that there is still the remaining 45%, namely approximately 117 million people who are still not connected to the internet. In fact, it's not only the 3T areas (left behind, frontier, outermost) that have internet blank spots. There are still many areas that are not included in the 3T category but are not touched by signals.

In terms of digital literacy, although various educational initiatives have been launched by the government and the private sector to improve the digital skills of students and teachers, digital literacy in Indonesia still lags behind other countries in Southeast Asia. The Government of the Republic of Indonesia through the Digital Cakap Movement has identified the gaps in digital literacy of the Indonesian people and grouped them into digitally vulnerable groups including: children, women, the elderly, residents in the 3T area, minority groups and persons with disabilities.

As is well known to date, the digital literacy skills of the Indonesian people have not yet reached a high index. Based on the IMD World Digital Competitiveness Ranking 2022, Indonesia ranks 12th in Asia-Pacific countries in digital competition. In line with this, the status of digital literacy in Indonesia in 2022 released by Kominfo shows an index of 3.54 out of a scale of 5, which means that the digital literacy skills of the Indonesian people are still in the medium category.

In relation to the modernization of the judiciary itself, the knowledge factor is very vital in the field of law, especially in the context of courts, because not all levels of society have legal knowledge in terms of processing cases in courts which are currently based on information technology which has transformed into legal technology. Not many universities teach technology in law. This is very important, because knowledge of legal technology affects trust in this technology. In particular, knowledge of existing legal technology will increase confidence in the legal technology itself.

On the other hand, for people who have no experience with justice in Indonesia, the perception of the ease of use of e-court technology is not that great. Legal experience in court proceedings will automatically affect the ease of implementing electronic judicial transformation. Moreover, both age and gender can be other factors in the acceptance of justice modernization through the implementation of electronic trials. For millennials, the application of judicial modernization will be more beneficial, but not for people who are old. In essence, modernizing the judiciary in the form of an application that has been published by the Supreme Court will make more sense for the younger generation than the older
The conflict with the digital society gap in Indonesia which is confronted with the modernization of the judiciary through the implementation of e-court itself raises doubts about the implementation of this public policy. In the study of legal sociology, it can be observed whether public policy by implementing legal service rules through the world of information technology-based justice is an appropriate law (richtigen recht) as a law that is good and fair for a certain nation at a certain time and a certain place as long as it is true. -really understood human needs in a given society. This is in line with what was said by a philosopher named Rudolph Stammler who revealed that the ideal of law is a construction of thought which is a must to direct law to the ideals desired by society.

In the progressive legal theory put forward by Satjipto Rahardjo, Progressivism teaches that law is not a king, but a tool to describe the basis of humanity which functions to give grace to the world and humans. Progressivism does not want to make law a technology that is devoid of conscience, but rather an institution that is morally human.

Help for Users of Modern Justice Services

The Supreme Court of the Republic of Indonesia also does not turn a blind eye to the problem of the digital divide that exists in Indonesia. Through the revision of regulations issued regarding the implementation of e-court, through the Decree of the Director General of the General Court of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Indonesia Number 3239/DJU/ SK/HM02.3/11/2019 concerning Amendments to the Decree of the Director General of the General Court of the Supreme Court Republic of Indonesia Number 77/DJU/ SK/HM02.3/2/2018 Concerning Standard Guidelines for One Stop Integrated Service (PTSP) at the High Court and District Court requires that One Stop Integrated Service (PTSP) at the High Court and District Court provide corner e-court / e-court table and e-court supporting facilities which are an integral part of PTSP services.

This e-court table is presented with the enthusiasm to expedite the process of transforming trials from conventional to electronic ones. Every justice seeker can use the e-court table itself with the help of officers appointed by the work unit of the respective District Courts to provide information and direct assistance in using these electronic services. This is certainly considered positive even though it later eliminates one of the main objectives of holding the e-court service itself, namely saving time and costs in the registration process and can be accessed from various locations and media because people have to come to the District Court building to find the service desk.

Apart from the availability of e-court tables, guarantees for legal assistance for economically disadvantaged people will certainly improve the use of the e-court application itself. Legal service waiver of court fees (prodeo) is one of the legal services for underprivileged communities as stipulated in the Supreme Court Regulation of the Republic of Indonesia Number 01 of 2014, namely that the State bears the costs of litigation in the District Court, High Court and Supreme Court, so that each person or group of people those who are not economically able to litigate for free. With assistance from legal aid agencies in assisting the use of e-court applications free of charge, underprivileged people who generally have a high digital divide can get fair legal services.

Not without challenges, legal aid has not touched many underprivileged people or groups of people because legal aid recipients are increasing every year and the number of legal aid providers is limited, making it difficult for legal aid recipients to obtain their constitutional rights regarding legal aid. Looking at the demographic conditions of Indonesia, which is an archipelagic country, the protection of the rights of communities in coastal areas must be pursued in several areas of state life, because the people in the frontier and outermost disadvantaged areas are also legal subjects whose fulfillment of their rights must be considered in the implementation of public policies made. by the government and society.

In the end, the researcher argues that in the modern justice system, law enforcement like it or not, like it or not, must respond to the development of information technology. Because as a paradigm shift phenomenon, wherever countries in the world, especially modern legal states, both developed and developing, the justice system directly or indirectly responds to the social interaction of justice seekers with more effective and efficient law enforcement than with the previous situation. A similar opinion was also conveyed by Setryo Utomo in his research entitled "Challenges to Modern Law in the Digital Era" which stated that Indonesia needed a modern legal breakthrough and a comprehensive approach in addressing the powerlessness of legal metanarratives in facing cyberspace challenges.

The existence of technology-scented public policies is undeniable. Every community must be forced to be able to follow and use existing public service innovations. Modernization of the Judiciary in filing private legal interests in the District Court has been running in the midst of a society that is not
fully literate in technology. The digital divide in Indonesia must be eradicated with concrete efforts in public policies that support Indonesia's competitiveness in facing the era of globalization. As in the judicial institution of the Supreme Court, changing public services for justice seekers from conventional methods to modern technology in the justice system in Indonesia is a real challenge.

CONCLUSION

Judicial modernization is realized by government policies through the Supreme Court institution by implementing legal services that can be accessed with information technology systems. The spirit of modernization is based on the demands of the times in the era of globalization which forces the world of justice to make constructive breakthroughs in accordance with the times itself. The launch of the e-court application as a form of modernization of the judiciary requires all justice seekers to use information technology to obtain their rights in district courts.

The consequences of the modernization of information technology-based justice are not fully understood and there are potential obstacles in its application. The digital gap in Indonesian society is an important highlight in the implementation of this public policy. Not all areas of Indonesia are accessible with good internet, and the digital literacy of the Indonesian people has not yet been categorized as high. This indicates that the existence of a law that should be enforced in accordance with the needs and capabilities of the community, becomes a law that does not have a conscience for certain communities in their digital divide.

In order to help justice seekers with limited access and digital literacy, the existence of an e-court desk at each district court and court fee waiver services for the poor are expected to be of assistance to justice seekers as legal subjects whose rights are protected. Like it or not, like it or not, modernization of the judiciary must be carried out for the sake of the times, and its implementation within the digital divide of Indonesian society is a challenge.

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