

The Effect of Financial Distress, Audit Opinion, and KAP Reputation on Auditor Switching

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Article Info	Abstract
Received May 12, 2024 Revised June 14, 2024 Published June 20, 2024	<i>This research aims to determine the influence of financial distress, audit opinion, and KAP reputation on auditor switching. This research uses a sample of infrastructure sector companies for the 2018-2022 periods. The number of companies used as a sample for this research is 34 companies with observations for 5 years. The method used in selecting samples was purposive sampling, the total sample for this research was 170 annual reports. The data collection method used is secondary data, namely data obtained by researchers indirectly through intermediary media and literature study. This research data was obtained from the official website of the Indonesian Stock Exchange, namely www.idx.co.id and several company websites. The results of this research show that KAP reputation has a negative and significant effect on auditor switching, while financial distress and audit opinion do not have a significant effect on auditor switching. Simultaneously and together, financial distress, audit opinion and KAP reputation have effect on Auditor Switching.</i>
Keywords : <i>Financial Distress, Audit Opinion, KAP Reputation, Auditor Switching</i>	

INTRODUCTION

Financial reports from companies that have gone public or have been registered on the Indonesia Stock Exchange (BEI) must have been audited and prepared Following Financial Accounting Standards (SAK) by public accountants registered with the Financial Services Authority (OJK). The independent role of a public accountant according to agency theory is as a mediator between the two parties between the agent (management) and the principal (external party) with different interests in providing assessments and expressing opinions about the fairness of all material matters according to the audit evidence that has been carried out by the auditor.

Maintaining the level of auditor independence, the government issues regulations regarding auditor rotation. Auditor switching itself has a meaning in Indonesian which means changing auditors in a company. The change of auditor itself is divided into 2 basic characteristics, namely the first is mandatory (compulsory) and the second is voluntary (voluntary). The mandatory nature itself usually occurs because of existing rules or regulations. (Widya Pratama & Sudiyatno, 2022)

Financial report audit procedures are carried out by the Public Accounting Firm (KAP) through an independent auditor. An auditor must have a high independent attitude that is impartial, neutral, and objective, so that the auditor cannot be controlled and is free from certain parties. If the relationship between the auditor and the client is too long, this can affect the auditor's independence which can reduce the quality of the audit report issued by the auditor. Efforts made to avoid this are applied to each company to replace the KAP by the company or what is known as auditing switching. (Diah Widajantie & Paramitha Dewi, 2020)

Considering that there are many parties who have an interest in financial reports, the information in financial reports must be disclosed in a relevant and reliable manner, so that the interests of various parties can be met. Each party tries to maximize personal desires, the principals want the final result of the decision to produce the maximum profit or additional investment value in the company, the agent also definitely has personal needs that he wants to achieve, namely receiving appropriate compensation for the performance carried out. Both parties also want to avoid unwanted risks. This characteristic requires an independent auditor as a mediator between the principal and agent relationship. Indonesia is one of the countries that requires auditor switching. On April 6 2015, the government issued Government Regulation (PP) No. 20 of 2015 concerning Public Accounting Practices (PP 20/2015) which is a continuation of Law No. 5 of 2011 concerning Public Accountants. (Fauziyyah et al., 2019)

PT. Wijaya Karya and PT. Waskita Karya changed auditors, PT Wijaya Karya changed auditors 3 times in 2020, 2021, and 2022. In 2020 Rudi Hartono Purba was replaced by Benny Andria, in 2021 Benny Andria was replaced by Rudi Hartono Purba, and in 2022 Rudi Hartono Purba was replaced by Chairul

Wismoyo. PT Waskita Karya changed auditors in 2021, previously auditor Rusli was replaced by Henri Arifian. The opinion given by the auditors to both companies, both the auditors in the previous year and after the change of auditors, was a fair opinion without modification. The results of the financial reports raised suspicions of manipulation of the companies' financial statements. In June 2023, Deputy Minister of BUMN II Kartika Wirjoatmodjo said that there were oddities in the financial reports of the work sector issuers. The man who is familiarly called Tiko explained that Waskita recorded a profit in 2017-2018 of up to IDR 4.2-4.6 trillion, which was the highest achievement in history. However, when the pandemic occurred, namely in 2020, Waskita Financial recorded a loss or negative IDR 9.3 trillion. "So this is indeed significant now from a profit of IDR 4.2-4.6 (trillion) after Covid fell to minus IDR 9.8 (trillion), then IDR 1.8, (trillion) then IDR 1.7 (trillion)," he said at the CNBC Indonesia power lunch event, Monday (19/6). Tiko admitted that although in 2017-2018 Waskita was able to make large profits, the margins or profits were very thin. This is often a problem for companies in the work sector, "This raises the question of why there are such large profits, while cash flow is negative. In fact, at that time we saw that the public was issuing many bond issues, issuing various financial instruments and of course the public was looking at the conditions "The financial reports at that time did show good numbers," he explained. This case is still under investigation. (cnbcindonesia.com, 2021)

One of the auditor switching cases that occurred in Indonesia was PT. Sunprima Nusantara Pembinaan (SNP Finance), a subsidiary of the Columbia business group. This company had a case of failure to pay Medium Term Note (MTN) interest in 2018. SNP Finance created fictitious receivables through fictitious sales as an excuse that later when the receivables were collected the money would be paid to the creditor. This action was supported by providing a fictitious document containing a list of Columbia customers. It is very unfortunate that KAP Satrio Bing Eny & Partners (SBE), which is one of the Deloitte entities as the auditor, failed to detect any fraud committed in SNP Finance's financial reports. Deloitte provides an unqualified opinion that Deloitte should provide a going concern opinion when there is an increase in debt and debt that becomes a non-performing loan. Based on the results of the examination carried out by the

Financial Professional Development Center (PPPK), there were violations in the audit carried out by (AP) Marlinna and (AP) Merliyana Syamsul on the financial reports of SNP Finance for the 2012-2016 financial year. Minister of Finance Sri Mulyani gave administrative sanctions to Public Accountants (AP) and Public Accounting Firms (KAP) who audited reports that audited SNP Finance's financial reports. (cnbcindonesia.com, 2018)

Based on the incident at PT SNP Finance, if a company does not replace its public accountant for 5 consecutive financial years from 2012-2016, it can lead to a reduction in the independence of an auditor due to a long relationship with management, thereby reducing the quality of services provided by the auditor, this becomes loopholes in the 2015 government regulations, where the 2015 government regulations allow public accountants to audit a company's financial statements for 5 consecutive financial years. This incident also had an impact on the reputation of the KAP at that time, even though the KAP, which was one of the big 4 in Indonesia, did not guarantee that their public accountants' independence could be carried out in accordance with applicable procedures and regulations when auditing company financial reports over a long period.

According to Darsono and Hari (2005) financial distress is the inability of a company to pay its obligations when they are due which causes bankruptcy. Financial difficulties can be caused by several factors such as high expenses, too many illiquid assets, incorrect financial planning, misuse of assets and soaring raw material prices. (Mahdatila et al., 2022)

Audit opinion in Putra (2014) Audit opinion itself is a statement or opinion given by an auditor, and the statement or opinion is given so that the company knows about the fairness of its financial statements. An audit opinion can trigger a client to change its auditor when the client does not agree with the audit opinion given by the auditor in the previous year because the client feels that the audit opinion given is unreasonable. (Marin Sambo et al., 2022)

KAP's reputation is that the better the reputation of a Public Accounting Firm (KAP), the more companies will choose that accounting firm to provide audit services for their financial reports. It will be increasingly difficult for auditors to let go of their clients and continue to build long-term relationships if they have clients with large company sizes, because the larger the company to be

audited, the more complex the operational activities within it, and the larger the fee the client must pay to the auditor. In this case, KAP reputation is divided into KAPs that are members of The Big Four and those that are not members of The Big Four. (Fauziyyah et al., 2019)

From the description background, the researcher formulates the research hypothesis as follows:

H₁ : It is suspected that financial distress have a effect on auditor switching.

H₂ : It is suspected that audit opinion have a effect on auditor switching.

H₃ : It is suspect that KAP reputation have a effect on auditor switching.

H₄ : It is suspect that financial distress, audit opinion, and KAP reputation simultaneously and together have a effect on auditor switching

METHODS

The type of research used by researchers is quantitative research with a descriptive approach. Quantitative research methods are a type of research whose specifications are systematic, planned and clearly structured from the start until the creation of the research design. This study research processed using E-views 12. The definition about operational variable are follo:

1. Agency Theory

According to Jensen & Meckling (1976) in Sri Rahayu (2015), it is an organization which explains the relationship or agreement between the principals. and agents. This relationship arises because of an agreed collaboration between the principal and the agent, where the agent is the party to carry out tasks that are in the interests of the principal. Company management is separated from the company owner with the aim of ensuring that the company owner gets the maximum possible profit with the smallest possible costs with the presence of an agent. (Pratama & Kurnia Shanti, 2021)

According Sinawarti (2010) Replacement management generally applies a new accounting method so that the new management hopes to be more able to cooperate with the substitute KAP and hopes to get an opinion in accordance with the wishes of management so as to encourage management in the GMS to replace

the KAP. (Natalia & Ike Purnomo, 2020)

The relationship between agency theory and auditor switching in Juriati et al., (2019) is the task of the auditor as an independent third party who is employed to resolve conflicts between the agent and the principal and provide an opinion on the fairness of the financial statements. Apart from that, auditors also play a role in reducing agency costs arising from the agent's self-interested attitude. (Azlin & Taqwa, 2023)

2. Auditor Switching

According to Sima & Badera (2018) Auditor Switching is defined as a change of auditor or Public Accounting Firm (KAP) carried out by a company. Auditor switching is a change of public accountant or public accounting firm carried out by the client company in accordance with the decision of the company management to select a new auditor who will audit the client company's financial statements. The auditor is a third party who guarantees the client company's financial reports to financial report users, that the company's financial reports are relevant and reliable. Thus, auditors are expected to have good independence in thought and appearance in order to provide confidence to users of financial reports by encouraging changes in auditors. There are 2 (two) types of auditor changes, namely mandatory and voluntary. Mandatory changes in auditors occur due to government regulations that limit the period of engagement between auditors and clients. (Ari & Prasetyo, 2020)

Auditor switching is a change of auditor or Public Accounting Firm carried out by the client company. This change can be caused by several factors, namely client factors and auditor factors. The provisions regarding auditor switching in Indonesia have been explained in the Decree of the Minister of Finance of the Republic of Indonesia Number 17/PMK.01/2008 article 3 and the Decree of the Minister of Finance of the Republic of Indonesia Number 359/KMK.06/2003 article 2. The measurement of the dependent variable auditor switching uses a dummy variable. A value of 1 is given if the company changes its auditor and KAP voluntarily. Meanwhile, a value of 0 is given if the company does not change its auditor and KAP voluntarily. (Widya Pratama & Sudiyatno, 2022).

3. Financial Distress

$$DER = \frac{Debt}{Equity} \times 100\%$$

Companies experiencing financial distress have a strong incentive to change auditors. This could be because the condition of a client company that is threatened with bankruptcy tends to increase the auditor's evaluation of subjectivity and caution so that in this condition the company will tend to carry out auditor switching. Research conducted by Hapsa Kuzaemah et al. (2023) stated that financial distress is measured by the solvency ratio. The solvency ratio is represented by DER (Debt to Equity Ratio), if the company has a DER ratio > 100%, then it is given a value of 1. Meanwhile, if the client company has a DER ratio ≤ 100% then it is given a value of 0. (Kuzaemah et al., 2023)

4. Audit Opinion

Audit opinion is the result or opinion given by an auditor on audited financial reports. If the company receives an unqualified opinion, it is given a value of 1. Meanwhile, if the company receives an opinion other than an unqualified opinion, it is given a value of 0. (Holdi & Tarmizi, 2022)

5. KAP Reputation

KAP reputation according to Subroto (2014) is a KAP that has quality in auditing financial reports which can influence share prices, both at the time of Initial Public Offerings (IPO) and after the company is listed on the stock exchange. KAP reputation is measured using a dummy variable, namely by giving a value of 1 if the sample company is affiliated with a Big Four KAP, and given a value of 0 if it is not affiliated with a non-Big Four KAP. (Kuzaemah et al., 2023)

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results

Logistic regression analysis is used to determine whether the variables financial distress, audit opinion, and KAP reputation have an effect on auditor switching.

Dependent Variable: AS
 Method: ML - Binary Logit (Newton-Raphson / Marquardt steps)
 Date: 04/05/24 Time: 21:20
 Sample: 1 170
 Included observations: 170
 Convergence achieved after 9 iterations
 Coefficient covariance computed using observed Hessian

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	z-Statistic	Prob.
C	-0.913678	1.266799	-0.721249	0.4708
FD	-0.031967	0.082100	-0.389372	0.6970
OA	-0.678909	1.338458	-0.507232	0.6120
RKAP	-2.157984	1.076773	-2.004121	0.0451
McFadden R-squared	0.062787	Mean dependent var	0.129412	
S.D. dependent var	0.336647	S.E. of regression	0.333102	
Akaike info criterion	0.769213	Sum squared resid	18.41883	
Schwarz criterion	0.842997	Log likelihood	-61.38314	
Hannan-Quinn criter.	0.799154	Deviance	122.7663	
Restr. deviance	130.9908	Restr. log likelihood	-65.49538	
LR statistic	8.224494	Avg. log likelihood	-0.361077	
Prob(LR statistic)	0.041593			

Table 1. Result of Logistic Regression Analysis

Source: Ouput E-views 12

Based on the table above, the results of the logistic regression analysis test are an analysis of the influence of the independent variable on the dependent dependent variable. Here are the results:

- The Financial Distress (FD) variable has a z-statistic value of -0.389372 with a probability value of $0.6970 > 0.05$, so it can be concluded that the Financial Distress variable has no significant effect on the Auditor Switching variable.
- The Audit Opinion (OA) variable has a z-statistic value of -0.507232 with a probability value of $0.6120 > 0.05$, meaning that the Audit Opinion variable has no significant effect on the Auditor Switching variable.
- The KAP Reputation variable (RKAP) has a z-statistic value of -2.004121 with a probability value of $0.0451 < 0.05$, meaning that the KAP Reputation variable has a negative and significant effect on the Auditor Switching variable.
- The prob value (LR statistic) is $0.041593 < 0.05$, so it can be concluded that the variables Financial Distress, Audit Opinion, and KAP Reputation together have a significant and simultaneous effect on the Auditor Switching variable.

The logistics equation is as follows:

$$\ln \frac{Y}{1-Y} = -0,913678 - 0,031967FD - 0,678909OA - 2,157984 RKAP$$

Analysis of the logistic regression equation above, it can be analyzed the influence of the independent variable on the dependent variable, namely:

1. The constant value obtained is -0.913678 which means that if all the independent variables (financial distress, audit opinion, and KAP reputation) are 0 then the Auditor Switching value is -0.913678.
2. The results of the financial distress (FD) variable, obtained a coefficient value of -0.031967 which can be interpreted as if every increase in financial distress is 1 and the other variables are constant, it can be predicted that the chance of auditor switching will decrease by 0.03.
3. From the results of the audit opinion (OA) variable, the coefficient value obtained is -0.678909 which means that for every increase in audit opinion of 1 and the other variables are constant, it can be predicted that there will be a decrease in the chance of auditor switching by 0.67.
4. From the results of the KAP reputation variable (RKAP), the coefficient value obtained is -2.157984 which means that for every increase in KAP reputation by 1 and the other variables are constant, it can be predicted that there will be an increased chance of auditor switching by 2.15.

Discussion

The Effect of Financial Distress on Auditor Switching

Based on the results of this research conducted using e-views 12, it shows that the financial distress variable has a coefficient value of -0.031967 and a probability value of 0.6970 > 0.05, which means that financial distress does not have a significant effect on auditor switching, thus stating that the H₁ hypothesis is rejected and H₀ accepted. Companies that are in monetary difficulty can be described as facing monetary difficulties. An entity should be making a loss, assuming it is reflected by a high expansion in the association's liabilities, which in this study uses DER calculations. This study shows the results that financial difficulties have no impact on auditor exchange. Entities that are in financial difficulty are less likely to settle on bad terms. And this is certainly risky considering that the new auditor needs time and some adjustments in

understanding the entity, which of course this factor will increase the costs that must be borne by the entity. (Holdi & Tarmizi, 2022)

When companies experience financial difficulties or financial distress, they prefer not to change auditors because management tends to focus on taking economic actions to increase the value of the company in order to be able to make the company better and avoid financial difficulties experienced by the company.

The results of this research are in line with research conducted by Wanda Fauziyyah et al. (2019), Desi Natalia & Listiya Ike Purnomo (2020), Nurul M et al. (2021), Ismayatun Mahdatila et al. (2022), and Eva Marin Sambo (2022) whose research results show that financial distress does not have a significant effect on auditor switching. These results are in contrast to research conducted by Hapsa Kuzaemah et al. (2023) and Duma Megaria (2021) which states that financial distress has a significant influence on auditor switching.

The Effect of Audit Opinion on Auditor Switching

Based on the results of research conducted on Eviews 12, it shows that the audit opinion variable has a coefficient value of -0.678909 and a probability value of 0.6120 , namely > 0.05 , which means that audit opinion has no significant effect on the existence of auditor switching. These results state that the hypothesis H_2 is rejected and H_0 is accepted. Companies look at auditors not only by their opinions but by their performance and independence. The company will not be affected by the audit opinion given by the auditor because the auditor's opinion is an evaluation of the company to evaluate the company for the following year, it does not rule out the possibility of an auditor's opinion providing an unqualified opinion without exception, perhaps auditor switching will not occur because the trust and performance of the auditor are trusted principal. (Widya Pratama & Sudiyatno, 2022)

Audit opinions do have an influence on company value both internally and externally, but parties who use company financial reports do not only focus on the audit opinion given by the company but also look at other things that can judge whether the company will experience improvement or not. Management also assesses this so that if the results of the opinion given by the auditor do not match expectations, management does not immediately carry out auditor switching. The company's internal parties assess that the results of the opinion provided by the external auditor do not meet expectations as an evaluation material for the

company to take action either to prevent or as an action to improve the company's performance based on findings and evidence that could be detrimental to the company in the results of the company's financial statements audited by the auditor. external.

The results of this research are in line with research conducted by Ni Luh Eka Desy & Ketut Muliarta (2018), Ardi Widya Pratama & Bambang Sudiyatno (2022), Eva (2022), Wahyu R et al. (2022) which states that audit opinion does not have a significant effect on auditor switching. These results are in contrast to research conducted by Wanda Fauziyyah et al. (2019), Desi Natalia & Listiya Ike Purnomo (2020), Duma Megaria (2020), Fio Prananda & Holdi Tarmizi (2022) state that audit opinion has a significant influence on auditor switching.

The Effect of KAP Reputation on Auditor Switching

Based on the results of research conducted on EViews 12, it shows that the KAP reputation variable has a coefficient value of -2.157984 and a probability value of 0.0451 , namely <0.05 , which means that KAP reputation has a negative and significant effect on auditor switching. These results state that the hypothesis H_3 is accepted and H_0 is rejected. The existence of these significant results indicates that KAP reputation can be used as a basis for companies to carry out auditor switching from non-big 4 KAP to big 4 KAP in accordance with the relationship between agency theory and KAP reputation, namely that KAP reputation is one of the determining factors for the quality of an auditor. This is caused by the perception that investors/directors are more able to trust the audit results of big 4 KAPs. To prevent unwanted conflicts of interest and information asymmetry, the right solution is to have a target to complete the audit process as soon as possible in a timely manner. (Sari & Rahmi, 2021)

The reputation of a public accounting firm is one of the considerations for company management to use the services of a public accounting firm in auditing the company's financial reports. Public accounting firms that are included in the Big 4 in Indonesia are the choice of companies because their good reputation is considered to have high integrity, good independence, and good quality financial report results, so that this makes companies tend to replace auditors from big 4 KAPs compared to non big 4 with the hope of being more independent and the results are real so that they can be used by companies in evaluating company performance.

The results of this research are in line with research conducted by Zikra (2019) and Ardi Widya & Bambang Sudiyatno (2022) which states that KAP reputation has a significant effect on auditor switching. These results are in contrast to research conducted by Wanda Fauziyyah et al. (2019) Hapsa Kuzaemah et al. (2023) stated that KAP reputation does not have a significant influence on auditor switching.

The Effect of Financial Distress, Audit Opinion, and KAP Reputation on Auditor Switching

Based on the results of research conducted at eviews 12, it shows that the probability value (LR-statistic) is $0.041593 < 0.05$ so that financial distress, audit opinion and KAP reputation have a positive and significant effect simultaneously and simultaneously on auditor switching, this is states that the hypothesis H_4 is accepted and H_0 is rejected, where financial distress, audit opinion, and KAP reputation have a simultaneous effect on auditor switching. Reports on the company's financial condition, the audit opinion given by the auditor, and the KAP's reputation can be of value to management and investors in considering whether or not a change of auditor is necessary, because this affects the value of the company both in the eyes of the public and in the eyes of potential investors.

The results of this research are in line with Fenny et al., (2020) which states that financial distress and other variables have a simultaneous effect on auditor switching, and are in line with research by Hayati et al., (2021) which states that KAP reputation and other variables do not have a simultaneous effect on auditor switching. switching auditors.

CONCLUSION

Based on the result and discussion above, the following conclusion:

1. Financial distress have no effect on auditor switching.
2. Audit opinion have no effect on auditor switching.
3. KAP reputation has an effect on auditor switching
4. Financial distress, audit opinion, and KAP reputation silmutaniously and together has an effect on auditor switching.

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