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Strengthening the Local Government in Promoting Regional Development (a Case of Reducing Corruption in Decentralizing Era)

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Abstract

Corruption ranks together with effective democratic representation as the most important problems facing local governments. By virtue of being close to the people, local government has a better chance of providing services to civil society with transparency, fiscal discipline and openness, in order to control corruption.

This paper will describe how clean government can be realized through reducing corruption. The expected result of the study is to obtain the kind of corruption occurred during the decentralization policy, especially in the local government level and a clear suggestion will be provided how local government can increase their service delivery to the public.

In depth interviews were selected to get information from some kind of sources such as businessmen, public officials, households, journalists and corruption watch organizations. Due to time and other limitations, the number of each sample is considered 2 businessmen, 2 households, 2 journalists and 2 corruption watch organizations.

From the lessons above, we can say that corruption is just not an economic problem. It is also intertwined with politics. The phenomena happen in Indonesia too, although it has in different levels. In reality, corruption has certain pattern. Therefore, we should design a specific strategy for reducing and combating corruption. World Bank has introduced a multi-pronged strategy for combating corruption. This strategy is developed through empirical research findings in some Central and Eastern European countries. To implement this strategy in Indonesia, it still needs some changes, since corruption has a close relation with culture and norm.

The strategy has five important factors that should be reformed and developed in the country. These five factors are described following: Political accountability; Institutional restraint; Civil society participation; Competitive private sector; Public sector management.

Though the methods may differ across countries, the goals are the same: enhancing state capacity and public sector management, strengthening political accountability, enabling civil society and increasing economic competition.

Keywords: Corruption, no single model, reform local institution, same goals