

## Optimization of Regional Cooperation In Order To Realize Community Welfare

Desputra Adami<sup>1</sup>, Suwardi<sup>2</sup>, M. Ruhly Kesuma Dinata<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1,2,3</sup>University of Muhammadiyah, Kotabumi, Indonesia

Corresponding author: M. Ruhli Kesuma Dinata

**ABSTRACT:** This research is to examine the optimization of regional cooperation in order to realize community welfare. Granting the widest possible autonomy to regions in the implementation of regional government is directed to accelerate the realization of regional community welfare. Regional autonomy gives regional authority in managing their regions, one of which is regional cooperation to meet the needs of their regions. The problem that will be in this study is how to optimize regional cooperation in order to realize community welfare. The research method used is a normative research method using a statute approach and analyzed using content analysis.

**KEYWORDS :** *Optimization, Regional Cooperation, Community Welfare*

### I. INTRODUCTION

The implementation of local government is basically carried out to optimize regional potential. Each by providing innovative alternative solutions. [1] However, there are also negative impacts felt by local governments in articulating their interests, among others, local governments are too focused on efforts to organize and accelerate development in their respective regions. [2] In fact, it is undeniable that the back and forth of one region also depends on other regions, even on other parties such as private and foreign, both the government and non-government parties. [3] Cooperation between regions can be a factor of change if it is based on the awareness that the regions need each other to achieve one goal. [4] This common goal can be used as a basis in bringing together regions that will be partners. [5] Although it must be admitted that encouraging regions for cooperation is not easy, various obstacles stand in the way such as strong ethnic identity politics, where differences are the source or trigger of disputes. Other obstacles can also be from geographical conditions, such as distance, terrain and infrastructure, as well as public funding and demand or demand and support from the community. [6]

Law Number 23 of 2014 concerning Regional Government has affirmed that Regional Cooperation is implemented to improve the welfare of the people. [7] Regions can establish cooperation based on considerations of efficiency and effectiveness of public services and mutual benefits. Regional Cooperation can be carried out with other regions, third parties, and local governments or institution abroad. [8] The implementation of Regional Cooperation is also intended as a means to further strengthen regional relations and attachments with one region within the framework of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia, harmonize regional development, synergize the potential between regions, regions with third parties, and regions with local governments or institutions abroad and increase the exchange of knowledge, technology, and regional fiscal capacity. [9] Regional cooperation with local governments or institutions abroad is an international cooperation and is carried out after obtaining approval from the Central Government and guided by the provisions of existing laws and regulations. [10] In addition, through Regional Cooperation, it is expected to reduce gaps between regions in the provision of public services, especially those in remote areas, bordering areas, and disadvantaged areas. [11]

The driving reasons for the implementation of cooperation between regions, among others, are interdependence between one region and another. Another reason in the context of public services is the serving of the rights of citizens wherever they are in the territory of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia. Related to regional cooperation in Law No. 23 of 2014, Government Regulation No. 28 of 2018 concerning Regional Cooperation has been promulgated. Furthermore, to implement the provisions of Government Regulation No. 28 of 2018, then the Minister of Home Affairs Regulation Number 22 of 2020 concerning Procedures for Regional Cooperation with Other Regions and Regional Cooperation with Third Parties, while related to foreign cooperation, Minister of Home Affairs Regulation Number 25 of 2020 concerning Procedures for Regional Cooperation with Regional Governments Abroad and Regional Cooperation with Institutions Outside Country.

Optimization of regional cooperation that has been regulated in laws and regulations, especially in Articles 363 to 370 of Law 23 of 2014 concerning Local Government which should be utilized properly by local governments oriented to community welfare. Cooperation between local governments is a form of cooperation arrangement carried out between regional governments in agreed fields to achieve better efficiency and service quality values. Based on the background description of the problem above, the problem in this paper is What is the urgency of regional cooperation in realizing community welfare?

## II. RESEARCH METHODS

The research method used is a normative research method,[12] using a statute approach related to optimizing regional cooperation in order to realize community welfare. [13] The statute approach examines matters concerning legal principles, legal views and doctrines, and regional cooperation laws and regulations in the context of community welfare. [14] In addition, an in-depth examination of the legal facts was also carried out to then seek solutions to the problems that arise in the symptoms concerned. [15]

## III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### A. General Concepts Related to Regional Cooperation

The meaning of cooperation in this case is cooperation in the context of the organization, namely work between members of the organization to achieve organizational goals (all members). [16] According to Pamudji, cooperation essentially indicates that two or more parties interact dynamically to achieve a common goal. In that sense, there are three main elements inherent in a framework of cooperation, namely the element of two or more parties, the element of interaction and the element of common goals. If one element is not contained in an object under study, it can be considered that there is no cooperation in that object. [17]

Based on Article 1 letter a of Government regulations No. 28 of 2018 concerning Regional Cooperation that Regional Cooperation is a joint effort between regions and other regions, between regions and third parties, and / or between regions and institutions or local governments abroad based on considerations of efficiency and effectiveness of public services and mutual benefits. The object of cooperation is government affairs that become regional authorities for public welfare and acceleration of public service fulfillment. In order to improve the welfare of the people, cooperation between local governments can be held as stipulated in Articles 363 to 370 of the Local Government Law. Regional Cooperation is regulated as follows:

- 1) In order to improve the welfare of the people, the Regions can establish cooperation based on considerations of efficiency and effectiveness of public services and mutual benefits.
- 2) Cooperation can be carried out by the Regions by:
  - a) Other areas;
  - b) third parties; and/or
  - c) institutions or local governments abroad in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations
- 3) Cooperation with other regions is categorized into compulsory cooperation and voluntary cooperation.

The provisions regarding compulsory cooperation are as follows:

- a) Cooperation is cooperation between adjacent regions for the implementation of Government Affairs: a. which has cross-regional externalities; and b. the provision of more efficient public services if managed together;
  - (1) cooperation between provincial regions;
  - (2) cooperation between provincial regions and districts / cities within their territory;
  - (3) cooperation between provincial regions and districts/cities of different provinces;
  - (4) cooperation between districts/cities from different provinces; and
  - (5) cooperation between districts/cities in one provincial region.

Voluntary cooperation is carried out by bordering or non-bordering regions for the implementation of Government Affairs which are the authority of the Regions but are considered more effective and efficient if carried out in cooperation.

- b) Regional cooperation with third parties as follows:
  - (1) cooperation in the provision of public services;
  - (2) cooperation in asset management to increase added value that provides income for the Region;
  - (3) investment cooperation; and
  - (4) other cooperation that does not conflict with the provisions of laws and regulations.
- c) Regional cooperation with institutions and/or local governments abroad shall be carried out after obtaining approval from the Central Government. Regional cooperation with institutions and/or local governments abroad is guided by the provisions of laws and regulations.

### 1. Form of Cooperation

The form of cooperation according to Rosen in Keban can be done with various forms of agreements and arrangements, which are distinguished on the basis of handshake agreements, namely work arrangements that are not based on written agreements, and written agreements, namely cooperation arrangements based on written agreements. Meanwhile, the Cooperation arrangement consists of seven forms, namely:[18]

- a) consortia, which is a cooperation arrangement in sharing resources, because it is more expensive if borne individually.
- b) Joint Purchasing, which is a cooperation arrangement in purchasing goods in order to reduce costs due to a larger scale of purchase.
- c) equipment sharing, which is a cooperation arrangement in sharing equipment that is expensive, or that is not used every day.
- d) Cooperative Construction, which is a cooperation arrangement in erecting buildings.
- e) Joint Services, namely cooperation arrangements in providing public services.
- f) Contract services, which is a cooperation arrangement for one party to contract another party to provide certain services.
- g) other arrangements; that is, other cooperation arrangements can be made as long as they can reduce costs, for example making regional cooperation education and training centers can only be formed and run if they are based on the awareness that these regions need each other to achieve one goal. Therefore, the initiation of Regional Cooperation can only run effectively if there have been found common issues, common needs or common problems. This similarity is used as the basis for bringing together regions that will be used as partners.

### 2. Principles of Cooperation

The implementation of cooperation must achieve mutual benefits, which can only be achieved if in the implementation of cooperation each party who agrees to work together obtains mutual benefits for all parties involved in. The meaning of the requirement for benefits for parties who are working together is that Cooperation will never occur or the Cooperation is not fulfilled, if one party is disadvantaged in the process of Cooperation, then Cooperation will no longer be fulfilled. In order to successfully carry out cooperation, general principles are needed as explained by Edralin and Whitaker, these general principles are contained in the principles of good governance, including:

- a) Transparency
- b) Accountability
- c) Participatory
- d) Efficiency
- e) Effectiveness
- f) Consensus
- g) mutual benefit and advancement

### B. The Urgency of Regional Cooperation in Realizing Community Welfare

The urgency of regional cooperation is to cover each other or meet the shortcomings of other regions. The advantages of one region will be able to be utilized by other regions, while the shortcomings can be helped by other regions. Thus, the utilization of available resources will be better and more efficient so that economic growth and development in each region will also be increased. For the progress of the development of a region whose end is for the welfare of the people, regional cooperation is needed, because regional cooperation is a joint effort between regions and other regions, between regions and third parties, and / or between regions and institutions or local governments abroad based on considerations of efficiency and effectiveness of public services and mutual benefits. The subjects of Regional Cooperation are Governors, Regents and mayors with the object of cooperation in government affairs which become regional authorities for the realization of community welfare, regional development and acceleration of public service fulfillment.

For example, the Lampung Provincial Government with the ranks of the Bangka Belitung Islands Government, discusses the potential for regional cooperation between Lampung Province and Bangka Belitung Islands Province in the fields of trade, tourism, and services. We build this cooperation based on existing economic potential. What are the potentials in Lampung that can be utilized by Bangka Belitung, no matter how the opposite is. This means that after we know the potential of each, then we will sling complement. This is the essence of cooperation, both want to provide benefits. We also have to think about regulations, we must strengthen regulatory synergies so that later business actors have enough space for them to take opportunities. Based on the analysis of Needs and Surpluses between Lampung and Bangka Belitung, there is great potential surplus of a number of agricultural commodities in Lampung to meet strategic food needs in the Bangka Belitung Islands Province. These agricultural commodities include: Rice, Corn, Garlic, Beef, Chicken Meat, Eggs, Sugar and Cooking Oil. Optimization of regional cooperation can ideally be utilized optimally by the government in

meeting the needs of the public community, especially in inter-regional cooperation. Indonesia is an agricultural country that has natural resources, especially in the vast field of rice fields, but the problem is that throughout 2022, referring to data from the Central Statistics Agency, Indonesia has imported 326,450 tons of rice

Regional cooperation which is a tool in supporting the improvement of regional welfare by utilizing the potential and resources owned by the region. This identification looks at the ability and implementation of regional cooperation, by looking at the human resources owned by the local government so that the objectives of the regional cooperation are met. Regional cooperation is a means of strengthening relations and attachments between regions within the framework of the Republic of Indonesia, harmonizing regional development, synergizing potential between regions and/or with third parties, and increasing the exchange of knowledge, technology and regional fiscal capacity. Regional cooperation is an effort / activity carried out by local governments in supporting service improvement and improving regional development.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

Based on the description above, it can be concluded that the implementation of cooperation carried out by local governments aims to create synergy in development in an area / region so that it can provide mutual benefits for the regions that carry out cooperation, and reduce the need for development financing in the regions. Cooperation between regions in order to improve community welfare is carried out effectively and efficiently where the effectiveness pays attention to regional tensions and the capabilities of the regions so that they can help and encourage development, of course, regional cooperation is an activity carried out by certain parties in seeking benefits and benefits so that it is very likely to face obstacles, challenges, and problems related to regional cooperation especially for Indonesia where every region has abundant natural resources. If cooperation, especially between regions, can be implemented optimally, then any shortcomings that exist in various regions can be fulfilled from other regions to realize community welfare.

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