
Bureaucratic Dynamics and Their Impact on the Local Business Environment: Local Government Strategies in Promoting Economic Growth

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Abstract

In the context of globalization and rapid economic change, the role of local governments in managing bureaucratic dynamics and developing strategies to encourage local economic growth has become increasingly crucial. Local businesses are the backbone of a region's economy, and the performance of local government bureaucracy and policies can have a significant impact on community welfare and potential economic growth. This research aims to analyze bureaucratic dynamics in the local business environment and local government strategies for encouraging economic growth. This research uses a qualitative descriptive method, which makes it possible to analyze bureaucratic dynamics and regional government strategies comprehensively. Research data was obtained through a literature review of research results and previous studies that are relevant to this research topic. The research results reveal that strong political support, availability of adequate resources, and cooperation between government institutions are essential supporting factors for local government strategies in encouraging local economic growth. On the other hand, obstacles such as conflicting policies, budget constraints, and economic uncertainty are challenges that need to be overcome. These conclusions provide an in-depth understanding of the complexity of the role of local government in creating a business environment that supports local economic growth and provides valuable insights for public policy and decision-making at the local government level.

Keywords: *Bureaucratic dynamics, Local Business, Regional Government Strategy, Economic Growth.*

Introduction

Global economic changes have resulted in significant business dynamics in various regions throughout the world. The local business environment, which was previously more isolated, is now increasingly connected to international markets through a variety of factors, such as technology, international trade, and the increasingly rapid flow of information. This dynamic has placed local governments in an increasingly important role in facilitating and supporting economic growth at the local level (Ahlstrom et al., 2020). Bureaucracy, as one of the main elements in government, has a vital role in regulating and supervising various aspects of business activities. Local bureaucracies have the responsibility to develop regulations and policies, grant business permits, and ensure compliance with applicable regulations. Local bureaucratic dynamics, involving processes such as licensing, administrative bureaucracy, and business regulations, have the potential to significantly influence the sustainability, growth, and competitiveness of businesses at the local level (Dutta & Fischer, 2021).

As local business environments have become increasingly complex, local governments around the world have sought to develop strategies that can accelerate economic growth and increase the competitiveness of their regions. These strategies cover various aspects, such as reducing unnecessary bureaucracy, cutting regulations, providing incentives, and promoting investment. However, there is no consensus regarding the extent to which these strategies are effective in achieving the desired economic growth goals (McGuirk et al., 2021).

Additionally, global phenomena such as the COVID-19 pandemic have placed additional pressure on the local business environment. The pandemic has changed the business game significantly, presenting new challenges that local governments and local businesses must face. An efficient and responsive bureaucracy is very important in dealing with ever-changing situations, including in terms of supporting businesses affected by the pandemic and overcoming public health challenges. Therefore, this research will also explore how local bureaucratic dynamics have influenced local government responses to the pandemic and its impact on local economic growth (Carroll, 2021). It should also be recognized that in some regions, local bureaucracies may have different characteristics, depending on the geographic, cultural, and historical context. Therefore, this research will consider differences in the characteristics of local bureaucracies across regions as an important part of understanding their impact on the local business environment. The introduction of these local factors in research will provide deeper insight into how local bureaucracies and local government strategies can be adapted to suit the unique needs of each region (Nizam & Tatari, 2022).

In this context, this research aims to explore the dynamics of bureaucracy and its impact on the local business environment, as well as analyze local government strategies for encouraging economic growth.

Literature Review

Dynamics in Social Theory

Dynamics is part of the science of physics about moving objects and the forces that move them. Dynamics comes from the term dynamic, which means the nature or behavior of being energetic or capable, and always moving and changing. Meanwhile, according to Slamet Santoso, dynamics means that the behavior of one citizen directly reciprocally influences other citizens, so dynamics means that there is interaction and interdependence between members of one group and members of another group in a reciprocal manner and between members and the group as a whole (Fuchs et al., 2021). According to Munir, dynamics is a system of interconnected ties and mutual influence between these elements. If one element of the system experiences a change, it will also bring changes to the other elements (Mastoi et al., 2023).

Johnson characterizes group dynamics as a domain of social expertise that focuses on understanding the characteristics of collective existence. Group dynamics entails the scientific examination of group behavior with the aim of gaining insights into group essence, the progression of groups, the associations between groups and their constituents, and connections with other groups or larger collectives. Wildan Zulkarnain himself has remarked that dynamics represents strength, a perpetual state of motion, growth, and the capacity to adjust effectively to varying situations (Marmarosh et al., 2020). Furthermore, dynamics also implies the presence of interaction and mutual reliance among groups and the entire group itself. This condition arises because as long as a group exists, the collective spirit persists within it. Consequently, the group remains dynamic, signifying that it has the potential to evolve at any given moment. Simultaneously, the concept of a group is inseparable from the aspect of two or more individuals engaging in interactions to attain a shared objective (Petersén & Carlsson, 2021).

Therefore, dynamics may be described as the energy or influence held by a societal group, capable of instigating transformations in the lifestyle of the relevant community. In instances of conflict, individuals endeavor to alter established patterns to preserve their existence and evade the risk of both material and non-material obsolescence. Such challenges

in life necessitate collective action and the empowerment of resources through unity among individuals to formulate viable solutions (Rose & Kalathil, 2019).

Local Featured Products

Local Highlighted Products (LHP) refer to commodities or services under the authority and management of a specific locality, exhibiting substantial economic worth and competitiveness, and generating substantial employment opportunities. These are created taking into account factors such as technological feasibility (comprising raw materials and market aspects), the community's and institutions' expertise (proficiency in technology, human resource capabilities, infrastructure backing, and local socio-cultural circumstances) that are cultivated in particular geographic areas (Patmore et al., 2021). Local economic development involves establishing collaborative partnerships between various stakeholders, such as local government, entrepreneurs, and community organizations, with the core focus on enhancing the appeal, resilience, and competitiveness of the regional economy. The central objective is to foster robust, sustainable growth that benefits all constituents within the area, thereby fostering overall improvement (Kundurpi et al., 2021).

The creation of fresh employment prospects can have a substantial impact, leading to a noteworthy reduction in poverty rates. In the context of regional economic development initiatives, it's imperative to conduct a comprehensive assessment of local and community assets. This evaluation aids in shaping development strategies, both within specific sectors and across various sectors. A vital component of this asset inventory is the identification of potential, core, and superior products within each sub-sector of the region (Surya et al., 2021). Local superior products signify the region's capacity to manufacture goods, add value to resources, generate tangible benefits for the community and government, and offer opportunities for employment, income generation, increased productivity, and potential investment. A product is considered superior when it possesses the competitiveness to not only hold its ground against rival products in the domestic market but also to potentially enter and thrive in the international export market (Sukmawati & Maryanti, 2022).

According to Unkris Satya Wacana Salatiga, the criteria for a superior product include its ability to meet the following conditions: suitability for local resources, strong connections within the commodity network, a competitive standing in the market, and the potential for competitiveness (Ho et al., 2022). From these criteria, the following commodity groupings emerge:

1. Potential commodities are those regional products with the capacity for growth owing to their comparative advantages. Comparative advantage arises from factors like the abundant availability of local resources, including indigenous raw materials, local resource expertise, regional production techniques, and other local amenities and infrastructure (Ilinova et al., 2021).
2. Core commodities are those potential products that are deemed to be on par with similar goods in other regions. This is not only because they possess comparative advantages but also due to their high business efficiency. Business efficiency is evident in aspects like production effectiveness, worker output, profitability, and related factors (Simanjourang et al., 2020).
3. Superior commodities are those that hold a competitive edge because they have outperformed competing products in other regions. This competitive advantage can arise from their remarkable production efficiency, their strong bargaining position with

both suppliers and buyers, and their high competitiveness in the face of competitors, new entrants, and substitute products (Annarelli et al., 2020).

Economic Growth

Economic growth serves as a gauge of a thriving economy. The development of an economy hinges on the degree of growth as reflected in alterations in national output. The observation of short-term fluctuations in economic output characterizes this analysis. Broadly, economic growth theories can be categorized into two main groups: classical economic growth theory and modern economic growth theory. The classical economic growth theory is underpinned by trust in and the effectiveness of free-market mechanisms. This theory was originally put forth by classical economists such as Adam Smith and David Ricardo (Li & Wang, 2022).

An additional theory that elucidates economic growth is the modern economic theory. The Harrod-Domar growth theory is among the theories within modern economic growth, with a primary emphasis on the significance of investment in fostering economic growth. According to this theory, a higher level of investment contributes to an improved economy. Investment not only affects aggregate demand but also has a direct impact on aggregate supply by enhancing production capacity. Over the long term, investments lead to an increase in the capital stock (Pasara & Garidzirai, 2020).

Economic growth represents a concerted endeavor to augment production capabilities with the goal of generating additional output, typically measured through indicators such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) within a specific region. This process primarily seeks to elevate per capita output over the long haul. The emphasis is placed on three key aspects: the process of growth, per capita output levels, and the extended timeframe. Economic growth is characterized as a dynamic process, not merely a snapshot of an economy at a single point in time. This perspective centers on the evolving nature of an economy, focusing on how it advances and changes over time, highlighting the transformative and developmental aspects (Darma, 2020).

In the view of Professor Simon Kuznets, economic growth is best described as the enhancement of a nation's enduring ability to deliver a variety of economic goods to its populace. This augmentation in capacity is facilitated by advancements or adaptations in technology, institutions, and ideologies, as well as adjustments to various prevailing conditions (Chen et al., 2021). Economic development encompasses a more comprehensive scope, extending to alterations in the overall economic framework of a society. In general terms, economic development is characterized as a process that leads to a sustained growth in the real income per capita of a nation's population over the long run, along with enhancements in the institutional system (Li et al., 2021).

Economic development is an ongoing process marked by continuous changes. It entails sustained endeavors to elevate per capita income over the long haul, and ultimately, it involves enhancements to institutional systems across various domains, encompassing economic, political, legal, social, and cultural facets. This system can be analyzed from two vantage points: the enhancement of the organizational (institutional) sector and improvements in the regulatory sector, which encompass both formal and informal elements (Fan & Hao, 2020). In this context, economic development signifies an ongoing and deliberate undertaking that a nation must engage in to boost per capita income. Consequently, active involvement from the community, government, and all constituents within the country is indispensable for actively participating in the development process (Tenaw & Beyene, 2021).

Method

The research method used in this research is qualitative descriptive research. A qualitative approach was chosen because this research aims to understand the dynamics of bureaucracy in the local business environment, as well as the factors that support or hinder local government strategies in encouraging economic growth. This approach allows researchers to dig deep insights, see cause-and-effect relationships, and understand the context surrounding the phenomenon. Research data was obtained from various sources, including research results and previous studies that are relevant to this research topic. The data collected through this research will be processed and analyzed qualitatively. Data analysis will involve the process of grouping, classifying, and interpreting the information found. The results of the data analysis will be used to discuss bureaucratic dynamics, local government strategies, supporting factors, and obstacles in encouraging local economic growth. Through a qualitative descriptive approach, this research aims to provide an in-depth and comprehensive understanding of the issues that arise in this context, as well as provide valuable insights for public policy and decision-making at the local government level (Agustianti et al., 2022).

Result and Discussion

Bureaucratic Development in the Local Business Environment

The development of bureaucracy in the local business environment is an important aspect that influences economic performance at the regional level. In recent years, we have witnessed structural changes in local bureaucracies. Several local governments have merged previously separate departments or restructured local government governance. These steps aim to reduce excessive bureaucracy and speed up the business licensing process. The separation and merger of departments within a local bureaucracy can have a significant impact on the way the bureaucracy operates. This can reduce overlapping responsibilities and improve coordination between departments, which can ultimately increase bureaucratic efficiency. Reducing administrative bureaucracy and eliminating other structural obstacles can help reduce the burden of bureaucracy on local business actors, which has been an obstacle in establishing and developing businesses.

Apart from structural changes, modernizing processes within the local bureaucracy is also an important focus. Local governments have invested in information technology and digitalization processes to facilitate interaction between business people and the bureaucracy. The adoption of an online licensing system and digital communication platform allows licensing applicants to submit applications online, monitor application status in real-time, and communicate with authorities without the need for physical meetings. This not only speeds up the licensing process but also increases transparency and accountability in the local bureaucracy. However, process modernization also presents challenges in terms of bureaucratic staff training, technological infrastructure, and data security.

The development of this local bureaucracy plays a key role in supporting local economic growth. Improved efficiency can enable business people to more quickly start and grow their businesses. This also helps in creating a more attractive business environment for investors. Although these changes bring significant benefits, it is important to remember that any bureaucratic changes must also be balanced with policies that ensure transparency, accountability, and protection of citizens' rights. Overall, an in-depth understanding of the development of local bureaucracy in the local business environment is an important element in designing effective strategies to support economic growth and increase regional competitiveness.

In addition, structural changes and modernization of processes within local bureaucracies also enable local governments to be more responsive to rapid business developments. When bureaucratic structures are more flexible, local governments can more quickly adapt policies and regulations to local business demands. This is very important, especially in facing global challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic. In crisis situations like this, a modern and responsive bureaucracy can provide better support to local businesses and help maintain regional economic sustainability.

However, it is also important to monitor bureaucratic developments closely. Structural changes that are too drastic or insufficient modernization can give rise to new problems. Therefore, careful assessment and regular evaluation are needed to ensure that these changes truly support local economic growth without sacrificing aspects such as transparency, accountability, and protection of citizens' rights. With a deep understanding of these dynamics, local governments can maximize the contribution of their local bureaucracy in supporting a sustainable and innovative economy in their region.

Challenges Faced by Bureaucracy in the Local Business Environment

The challenges faced by bureaucracy in the local business environment are an important factor that needs to be understood to achieve sustainable economic growth. One of the main challenges is the issue of corruption and lack of transparency in the local bureaucracy. Corruption can undermine public trust in government and disrupt business by giving rise to illegal practices, such as bribery or nepotism. Non-transparency in decision-making and implementation of business licensing can obscure processes that should be open and fair, provide space for unethical practices, and make business people feel unsafe in investing.

In addition to corruption, the complexity of licensing and local business regulations also poses a significant challenge. Factors that cause this complexity include overlapping regulations from various levels of government, both national and regional, as well as policies that often conflict. This often results in layers of confusing regulations and slows down the business licensing process. For businesses, this means complicated bureaucracy and time required to understand and fulfill all licensing requirements, which can ultimately hinder the growth of local businesses.

When the bureaucracy faces these challenges, there needs to be a real effort to overcome them. This includes improvements in anti-corruption practices, transparency, and accountability in bureaucratic services. In addition, efforts to simplify licensing and reduce regulatory overlap need to be made. In this way, local bureaucracies can become more efficient and supportive partners for local businesses, which will ultimately increase economic growth in the region. A deeper understanding of these challenges is an important first step in creating a friendlier and more competitive business environment at the local level.

Apart from corruption and licensing complexity, another challenge faced by bureaucracy in the local business environment is the lack of innovation in the delivery of bureaucratic services. Sometimes, local bureaucracies may still use outdated manual procedures, which not only slows down the business licensing process but also creates the potential for human error. When bureaucracies are unable to keep up with technological developments and best practices, businesses and citizens can feel frustrated and hampered by outdated procedures.

The inability to accommodate the increasingly diverse needs of businesses and society can also be another challenge. Bureaucracy that is unresponsive to the diverse needs of local businesses, both in terms of size and type of business, can hinder innovation and growth. In

overcoming these challenges, technological modernization and training of bureaucratic staff in efficient procedures, as well as efforts to get closer to local business needs, are important steps. In this way, local bureaucracies can become more responsive and can help create a more dynamic and inclusive business environment.

The Impact of Bureaucratic Dynamics on the Local Business Environment

Bureaucratic dynamics in the local business environment have a significant impact on business efficiency in the area. Business efficiency refers to a business's ability to operate its business smoothly and at low costs. When local bureaucracy runs efficiently, businesses will obtain permits and business permits quickly, reducing administrative costs, and minimizing obstacles that disrupt operations. On the other hand, slow, complex, and unresponsive bureaucracy can hamper the efficiency of local businesses. This can result in additional costs in the form of time, resources, and operational costs that can harm the competitiveness of businesses in the region. In other words, less efficient bureaucratic dynamics can dampen local business growth and hamper regional economic potential.

Apart from business efficiency, the impact of bureaucratic dynamics can also be seen in the context of innovation and investment. High operational costs and complicated bureaucratic obstacles can be a barrier for local businesses to invest in product, service, or business process innovation. This can hinder the development of innovation and sustainable business growth. On the other hand, an efficient and business-friendly bureaucracy can facilitate investment and innovation by cutting administrative red tape, providing incentives for innovation, and creating a climate that supports the development of new ideas. Thus, bureaucratic dynamics play a role in shaping a local business environment that supports innovation and long-term growth.

In dealing with the impact of bureaucratic dynamics on local businesses, local governments, and related stakeholders need to work together to create a bureaucracy that is efficient, responsive, and supports innovation. Efforts to simplify the licensing process, increase transparency, and reduce unnecessary bureaucracy can help in creating a business environment that is more conducive to economic growth and innovation. Additionally, a proactive approach to understanding local business needs and responding to them can help accelerate business growth, create jobs, and advance the regional economy.

Local bureaucratic dynamics also play a role in shaping the relationship between the private sector and government. When the bureaucracy responds well to business needs, this can strengthen cooperation between local business actors and local governments. This strong collaboration can create synergies that support economic growth, such as building necessary infrastructure, training the workforce, and promoting investment. Conversely, when bureaucracy is too complicated or unresponsive, it can damage trust between the private sector and government, discourage investment, and impede economic progress.

In addition to the direct impact on local businesses, bureaucratic dynamics also play an important role in the region's attractiveness to external investors. Foreign investment can be a source of significant economic growth for regions, but investors will be more likely to invest their capital in regions that have an efficient, transparent, and business-friendly bureaucracy. Therefore, understanding the impact of bureaucratic dynamics in the context of foreign investment and business cooperation is key to increasing the region's attractiveness in an increasingly competitive global market. In this case, local governments need to work to create an environment that supports investment, such as tax incentives, access to markets, and strong legal protection, which can arouse investor interest in contributing to local economic growth.

Regional Government Strategy for Encouraging Economic Growth

Regional government strategies for encouraging economic growth are very important in creating a competitive and sustainable business environment. One strategy that is often implemented is cutting excessive regulations. Regulatory cuts aim to reduce bureaucratic obstacles that can slow down the licensing process and impact business efficiency. Local governments that successfully identify regulations that are no longer relevant, simplify licensing procedures, and eliminate unnecessary bureaucracy, often create a more efficient business environment. This can help business people start businesses more quickly, reduce operational costs, and allow them to focus on economic growth.

Apart from regulatory cuts, providing incentives is a commonly used strategy. Providing incentives can take the form of tax cuts, subsidies, or other financial support to local businesses. This incentive policy is intended to stimulate investment, innovation, and local economic growth. By providing incentives to businesses, local governments create a positive incentive for the private sector to contribute to the region's economic development. However, it is important to note that the provision of incentives needs to be balanced with careful monitoring and accountability to ensure that they are having the intended impact and that public resources are being used wisely.

In developing these strategies, local governments need to consider the characteristics of local businesses and the challenges they face. Each region has unique needs, and strategies that are effective in one place may not always be appropriate in another. In addition, transparency in the regulatory process and providing incentives are very important so that there are no corrupt practices or misuse of policies that could damage the integrity of the business environment. By focusing on smart regulatory cuts and thoughtful incentives, local governments can play a key role in driving sustainable local economic growth.

Apart from cutting regulations and providing incentives, local governments can also promote economic growth by investing in supporting infrastructure. Good infrastructure, such as reliable roads, ports, and energy resources, creates a more attractive environment for local businesses and potential investors. Investments in infrastructure can also improve regional connectivity, expand market access, and enable local businesses to compete at national and international levels. Therefore, local governments that focus on infrastructure development play an important role in facilitating strong and sustainable economic growth.

Apart from that, collaboration with local educational institutions and industry can also be an effective strategy. The involvement of educational institutions in producing a workforce that is qualified and relevant to industry needs can meet local workforce needs, as well as help businesses to grow and develop. On the other hand, the active involvement of industry in formulating policies and training programs can ensure that the available human resources match the demands of the local labor market. Through this collaboration, local governments can create a sustainable business ecosystem, where investment, innovation, and economic growth support each other.

Supporting and Inhibiting Factors of Regional Government Strategies in Encouraging Economic Growth

Supporting factors for local government strategies in encouraging local economic growth are key to achieving success in this effort. Strong political support is a key factor. When regional leaders, legislators, and other stakeholders have a strong commitment to supporting local economic growth, regional government strategies will be more effective. It creates a framework that enables the formulation and implementation of policies that support business

and investment. Apart from that, the availability of resources also plays an important role in supporting local government strategies. Adequate financial resources, infrastructure, and human resources are needed to realize economic growth strategies. Local governments that have access to sufficient budgets and supporting infrastructure, such as ports and good transport links, have an advantage in supporting local businesses and attracting investment. Moreover, trained and educated human resources are a valuable asset in driving economic growth. With a quality workforce, local businesses can develop and compete in an increasingly global market.

However, in efforts to encourage economic growth, there are also inhibiting factors that need to be considered. One of the main obstacles is conflicting policies between different government agencies. Complicated bureaucracy and lack of coordination between government agencies can result in confusion and obstacles for business people. This can undermine local government efforts to create a friendly business environment. Apart from that, budget constraints are another inhibiting factor. Especially in difficult economic situations, local governments may have limitations in budget allocations for economic growth programs. This may limit the ability of local governments to provide incentives or invest in needed infrastructure.

Economic uncertainty can also hamper local government strategies. When the economy experiences fluctuations or uncertainty, businesses and investors may become more cautious about taking risks and making investments. Therefore, local governments need to have flexible strategies to overcome economic uncertainty. In dealing with supporting and inhibiting factors, local governments need to formulate strategies that focus on optimizing available resources and mitigating obstacles that may arise. This includes efforts to achieve political consensus, coordinate policies, allocate budgets wisely, and formulate policies that are responsive to economic changes. In this way, local governments can create an environment that supports sustainable local economic growth.

Conclusion

In carrying out their strategic role in encouraging local economic growth, local governments must pay attention to various factors that influence the effectiveness of their strategies. An effective strategy requires strong political support, availability of resources, and cooperation between government agencies. Strong political support creates a solid foundation for the formulation and implementation of pro-growth policies. Effective cooperation between various parties in local government, such as the executive and legislature, can avoid conflicting policies and provide consistency in efforts to support local businesses. Availability of resources, whether in the form of budget, infrastructure, or quality human resources, is also very important. These resources form the basis for local governments in creating a competitive business environment. However, resources must be managed wisely and efficiently to maximize their impact. In the face of inhibiting factors such as conflicting policies, budget constraints, and economic uncertainty, local governments need to adopt a flexible and responsive approach to ensure that economic growth strategies can adapt to changing conditions. Local governments have a central role in creating a business environment that supports local economic growth. Through wise strategies and pro-growth policies, they can facilitate investment, innovation, and business efficiency, which will ultimately create job opportunities, improve community welfare, and advance their regions toward sustainable economic growth.

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