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## DECENTRALIZATION AND PUBLIC EMPOWERMENT IN INDONESIA: A PRELIMINARY EVIDENCE FROM GORONTALO

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### Abstract

This article elaborates on and examines how decentralization triggers Indonesia's development and public policy. Gorontalo has functioned as a decentralized region located in the northernmost part of the island of Sulawesi. The region exhibits an emerging economy and harbors an array of small enterprises, a phenomenon that is not unexpected given its populace exceeding one million. Establishing a decentralized system in the region has facilitated the development of a more self-governing and self-reliant administration, which has demonstrated an enhanced ability to devise policies, cater to the needs of its populace, and elevate the caliber of its service provision. The objective of this scholarly article is to examine the effects of decentralization on the economic development of the region, as well as to explore the potential for investment opportunities that are oriented towards public participation and empowerment. This article specifically examines the policies that regulate the developmental matters on public empowerment in the province of Gorontalo. The research findings demonstrate that implementing decentralization policies has provided significant opportunities for enhancing public empowerment and fostering a more robust local economy in Gorontalo.

**Keywords:** decentralization; Gorontalo; development; public policy; public empowerment

### Abstrak

Artikel ini menguraikan dan mengkaji bagaimana desentralisasi memicu pembangunan dan kebijakan publik di Indonesia. Gorontalo telah berfungsi sebagai daerah desentralisasi yang terletak di bagian paling utara pulau Sulawesi. Wilayah ini menunjukkan ekonomi yang sedang berkembang dan memiliki beragam usaha kecil, sebuah fenomena yang tidak terduga mengingat jumlah penduduknya yang melebihi satu juta jiwa. Pembentukan sistem desentralisasi di wilayah ini telah memfasilitasi pengembangan pemerintahan yang lebih mandiri dan mandiri, yang telah menunjukkan kemampuan yang lebih baik dalam menyusun kebijakan, memenuhi kebutuhan masyarakat, dan meningkatkan kualitas pelayanannya. Tujuan dari artikel ilmiah ini adalah untuk melihat dampak desentralisasi terhadap pembangunan ekonomi daerah, serta menggali potensi peluang investasi yang berorientasi pada partisipasi dan pemberdayaan masyarakat. Artikel ini secara khusus mengkaji kebijakan-kebijakan yang mengatur hal-hal yang berkaitan dengan pemberdayaan masyarakat di Provinsi Gorontalo. Temuan penelitian menunjukkan bahwa implementasi kebijakan desentralisasi telah memberikan peluang yang signifikan untuk meningkatkan pemberdayaan masyarakat dan menumbuhkan ekonomi lokal yang lebih kuat di Gorontalo.

**Kata Kunci:** desentralisasi; Gorontalo; pembangunan; kebijakan public; penguatan public

## Introduction

Indonesia's Gorontalo province is found in the northernmost part of the island of Sulawesi in the country's Sulawesi region. Given that the region has a population of more than one million people<sup>1</sup>, it should come as no surprise that the local economy is thriving and is home to many small enterprises. The decentralization of the region has made it possible for it to build a more independent and autonomous government with an improved capacity to respond to the needs of its citizens, formulate policies, and improve the overall quality of the services it provides.<sup>2</sup> In addition, decentralization has made it possible for Gorontalo to build an economy that is both more resilient and more resistant to shocks, as well as a better public capable of advocating for itself. It has allowed Gorontalo to produce a better public to advocate for itself. This article will study the impact that decentralization has had on the province's growth, as well as the prospects for more public-driven and empowering investments.<sup>3</sup> This article aims to investigate the influence that decentralization has had on the growth of the province.

Since the early 2000s, Gorontalo, in conjunction with West Sulawesi, has undergone a decentralization process.<sup>4</sup> The region exhibits a burgeoning economy and harbors many small-scale enterprises, a trend that is not unexpected considering its populace exceeds one million population.<sup>5</sup> Establishing a decentralized system in the region has facilitated the development of a more self-reliant and self-governing administration, bolstering its ability to

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<sup>1</sup> BPS Provinsi Gorontalo, 'Gorontalo Province in figures 2023', Gorontalo, 2023.

<sup>2</sup> Mukrimin, 'Integrated or fragmented governance? Indonesia's decentralization', *International Journal of Kybernetology*, vol. 1, no. 1, pp. 84–90, 2013.

<sup>3</sup> Mukrimin, *Power Sharing: Local Autonomy and Ethnic Politics in Sulawesi Indonesia*, First. Malang: Pustaka Learning Centre, 2021.

<sup>4</sup> A. Tyson, 'The challenges of autonomy and blossoming of decentralization', *The Jakarta Post*, Sep. 09, 2005. [Online]. Available: <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2005/09/12/challenges-autonomy-and-blossoming-decentralization.html>

<sup>5</sup> Mukrimin, L. Lahaji, and A. Akifah, 'Democratisation, Decentralization and Islam: a reflection of two decades of Indonesia's local autonomy', *Al-Ulum*, vol. 18, no. 1, pp. 41–63, 2018, Doi: 10.30603/au.v18i1.283.

devise policies, cater to the needs of its populace, and augment the caliber of its service provisions.<sup>6</sup>

*Figure 1: Governor Office of Gorontalo*



*Source: The author, 2023.*

In the past, the local elites and people did not make a concerted effort to oppose the secession, potentially due to their perception of Gorontalo's secession as a chance to establish a separate province with a unique ethnic identity. It is conceivable that the exit of Gorontalo was perceived as a welcome relief by certain individuals, particularly those who endorsed a resurgence of the people of the North Sulawesi movement (particularly the Minahasa), which was widely favored during that period.<sup>7</sup> From a historical perspective, the formation of

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<sup>6</sup> M. Mukrimin and E. P. B. Santoso, *Sistem Politik Indonesia Kontemporer*. Banyumas: Wawasan Ilmu, 2023.

<sup>7</sup> A. Tyson, *Decentralization and Adat Revivalism in Indonesia: The politics of becoming indigenous*. 2010. Doi: 10.4324/9780203849903.

Gorontalo as a new province in Indonesia was a relatively uncomplicated process.<sup>8</sup> The provincial division between Gorontalo and North Sulawesi province illustrates how historical marginalization can culminate in pervasive animosity, which economic and political transformations can then incite.<sup>9</sup> The attainment of decentralization in Gorontalo province necessitated the formation of multilevel coalitions with various administrative groups, from the local to the provincial to the national levels. The initiation of the movement for a new province was predominantly grassroots-driven, in contrast to the occurrences observed in some other regions.<sup>10</sup>

This article mainly aims to study the influence of decentralization on the development of the Province of Gorontalo, in addition to the prospects for more public-driven and empowering investments. This article is limited to discussing the regulations the Gorontalo province government has implemented for the agriculture sector. According to the findings of this study, decentralization has provided Gorontalo with a significant opportunity to improve the quality of life for its residents, as well as to build a local economy that is stronger and more stable. The discovery demonstrated the possibility that this has already taken place.

### **The Benefits of Decentralization**

The Gorontalo province stands to gain various advantages from the implementation of decentralization. Initially, it facilitates enhanced and streamlined governance by virtue of increased independence and policymaking capabilities. Implementing this initiative has facilitated the region's capacity to be more receptive to the demands of its populace and allocate resources toward the development of infrastructure, education, healthcare, and other

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<sup>8</sup> E. Kimura, 'Proliferating Provinces: Territorial Politics in Post-Suharto Indonesia', *South East Asia Res*, vol. 18, no. 3, pp. 415–449, 2010, Doi: 10.5367/sear.2010.0005.

<sup>9</sup> Mukrimin, *Power Sharing: Local Autonomy and Ethnic Politics in Sulawesi Indonesia*, First. Malang: Pustaka Learning Centre, 2021.

<sup>10</sup> A. Tyson, 'The Politics Of Decentralisation and Indigenous Revivalism in Sulawesi, Indonesia', Ph.D., The University of Leeds, Leeds, 2008.

public amenities.<sup>11</sup> Furthermore, the implementation of decentralization has enabled the region to strive for a more even-handed distribution of economic growth, as the negative consequences of income disparity can be avoided through the process of decentralized decision-making.<sup>12</sup> Furthermore, the implementation of decentralization has contributed to the development of a robust and durable regional economy.<sup>13</sup> As mentioned earlier in Gorontalo, the outcomes are attributed to the implementation of decentralization, which has facilitated greater citizen participation in the economy, resulting in heightened entrepreneurial activity, decreased poverty rates, and the generation of employment opportunities.<sup>14</sup> The region has been able to leverage its resources and pursue growth and development opportunities as a result of this development.<sup>15</sup>

The implementation of decentralization policies has led to enhanced governance of a locality's ecological assets. Through the implementation of measures aimed at preserving the well-being of indigenous ecosystems and promoting ecotourism, the government has been able to redirect its focus toward the cultivation of sustainability and conservation efforts.<sup>16</sup> The implementation of decentralization has yielded positive outcomes, including preserving the region's natural landscapes and creating opportunities for economic development.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> World Bank, 'Decentralization and Local Democracy', Washington, DC, 2020. Accessed: Dec. 21, 2023. [Online]. Available: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/decentralization/overview>

<sup>12</sup> P. Bardhan, 'Decentralisation & Development', in *Handbook of Fiscal Federalism*, E. Ahmad and G. Brosio, Eds., Cheltenham & Northampton: Edward Elgard, 2006, pp. 201–223.

<sup>13</sup> Bappenas & UNDP, 'Studi Evaluasi Pemekaran Daerah', Jakarta, 2007.

<sup>14</sup> B. Hofman and K. Kaiser, 'The making of the "Big Bang" And Its Aftermath: A Political Economy Perspective', *Reforming Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations and the Rebuilding of Indonesia: The 'Big Bang' Program and its Economic Consequences*, no. 2001, pp. 15–46, 2004, Doi: 10.4337/9781845421656.00007.

<sup>15</sup> A. Channa and J. P. Faguet, 'Decentralization of Health and Education in Developing Countries: A Quality-Adjusted Review of The Empirical Literature', *World Bank Research Observer*, vol. 31, no. 2, pp. 199–241, 2016, Doi: 10.1093/wbro/lkw001.

<sup>16</sup> R. K. Goel, U. Mazhar, M. A. Nelson, and R. Ram, 'Different forms of decentralization and their impact on government performance: Micro-level evidence from 113 countries', *Econ Model*, vol. 62, no. August 2016, pp. 171–183, 2017, Doi: 10.1016/j.econmod.2016.12.010.

<sup>17</sup> B. Hofman and K. Kaiser, 'The Making of the "Big Bang" and its Aftermath: A Political Economy Perspective', *Reforming Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations and the Rebuilding of Indonesia: The 'Big*

Specifically, the emergence of tourism as a significant source of revenue has provided benefits for the local inhabitants of Gorontalo.<sup>18</sup>

Additionally, decentralization has helped to promote decentralized and equal access to services and resources, which has been a positive effect of decentralization.<sup>19</sup> It is because, as a result of decentralization, the needs of individual communities have been more accurately identified and handled. Because of this, the region has developed more reliable local networks and provided better public services, such as improved medical care and clean drinking water.<sup>20</sup>

*Figure 2: Municipality Office of Gorontalo*



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*Bang' Program and its Economic Consequences*, no. 2001, pp. 15–46, 2004, Doi: 10.4337/9781845421656.00007.

<sup>18</sup> Mukrimin, 'Decentralisation and Ethnic Politics: A Reflection of Two Decades of Indonesia's Decentralization', *Komunitas: International Journal of Indonesian Society and Culture*, vol. 10, no. 2, pp. 233–245, 2018, Doi: 10.15294/komunitas.v10i2.12752.

<sup>19</sup> R. K. Goel, U. Mazhar, M. A. Nelson, and R. Ram, 'Different Forms of Decentralization and Their Impact on Government Performance: Micro-Level Evidence from 113 Countries', *Econ Model*, vol. 62, no. August 2016, pp. 171–183, 2017, Doi: 10.1016/j.econmod.2016.12.010.

<sup>20</sup> J. F. Pardosi, N. Parr, and S. Muhidin, 'Local Government and Community Leaders' Perspectives on Child Health and Mortality and Inequity Issues in Rural Eastern Indonesia', *J Biosoc Sci*, vol. 49, no. 1, pp. 123–146, 2017, Doi: 10.1017/S0021932016000134.



*Source: The author, 2023*

It is essential to emphasize that decentralization has brought forth a political climate that is simultaneously more cohesive and more vibrant.<sup>21</sup> Since the city of Gorontalo was decentralized, its residents have had a more significant opportunity to engage more directly in forming public policies and convey their requirements and preferences through various channels.<sup>22</sup> Decentralization has resulted in a significant increase in the number of opportunities available to them. Gorontalo now has a more democratic and transparent administration that can provide better services to its population due to decentralization, which helped close the trust gap between the government and its people.<sup>23</sup>

The Gorontalo region has experienced various benefits due to decentralization, including improved governance, increased economic growth, and enhanced environmental sustainability. The benefits of decentralization will become increasingly significant as the region continues to expand and grow; this is to ensure that the region's development is equal and well-managed.

### *Decentralized Governance*

The ways in which Gorontalo is governed have been significantly altered by the implementation of decentralization. As a result of the decentralization rules, the area now possesses its local administration and a legislative body, and it is in charge of its own levying taxes on the system.<sup>24</sup> It has made it possible for the region to draft its laws and respond promptly to the requirements of its residents. In addition, the area is afforded a greater degree

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<sup>21</sup> J. H. Pierskalla, 'Splitting the Difference? The Politics of District Creation in Indonesia', *Comp Polit*, vol. 48, no. 2, pp. 249–268, 2016, Doi: 10.5129/001041516817037754.

<sup>22</sup> World Bank, 'Decentralization and Local Democracy', Washington, DC, 2020. Accessed: Dec. 21, 2023. [Online]. Available: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/decentralization/overview>

<sup>23</sup> Mukrimin, 'Investigating the Role of Islam in Shaping Political Identity in Gorontalo', *Jurnal Ilmiah AL-Jauhari: Jurnal Studi Islam Dan Interdisipliner*, vol. 8, no. 1, pp. 65–81, 2023, Doi: <https://doi.org/10.30603/jiaj.v8i1.3413>

<sup>24</sup> Mukrimin, *Power Sharing: Local Autonomy and Ethnic Politics in Sulawesi Indonesia*, First. Malang: Pustaka Learning Centre, 2021.

of autonomy in formulating public policy and thus has access to an increased quantity of resources.

#### *Public Empowerment and Local Economy*

Additionally, residents now have access to a more significant number of options for economic and social empowerment as a result of decentralization. The government has enacted laws that assist small businesses and stimulate entrepreneurship. One of these policies is the introduction of micro-enterprises, which offer start-up capital to individuals with minimal resources and company ideas.<sup>25</sup> On the other hand, decentralization has increased the demand for local goods and services and made citizens more economically independent and active.

#### *Political Participation*

The decentralization process in Gorontalo has led to increased political engagement.<sup>26</sup> With the increased involvement of citizens in the decision-making process, their participation in the development of their region has been enhanced.<sup>27</sup> The implementation of decentralization has led to heightened civic engagement and increased governmental responsiveness.<sup>28</sup> The laws about decentralization facilitate enhanced accessibility for citizens to their representatives and enable them to voice their opinions on policy decisions with greater ease.<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> D. A. Rondinelli, 'Implementing decentralization programs in Asia: A comparative analysis', *Public Administration and Development*, vol. 3, no. 3, pp. 181–207, 1983, Doi: 10.1002/pad.4230030302.

<sup>26</sup> Mukrimin, 'Decentralisation and ethnic politics: a reflection of two decades of Indonesia's decentralization', *Komunitas: International Journal of Indonesian Society and Culture*, vol. 10, no. 2, pp. 233–245, 2018, Doi: 10.15294/komunitas.v10i2.12752.

<sup>27</sup> M. Mukrimin and E. P. B. Santoso, *Sistem Politik Indonesia Kontemporer*. Banyumas: Wawasan Ilmu, 2023.

<sup>28</sup> World Bank, 'Decentralizing Indonesia: a regional public expenditure review', 2003. Doi: 10.1007/s13398-014-0173-7.2.

<sup>29</sup> S. Asmorowati, V. Schubert, and A. P. Ningrum, 'Policy capacity, local autonomy, and human agency: tensions in the intergovernmental coordination in Indonesia's social welfare response amid the COVID-19 pandemic', *J Asian Public Policy*, vol. 15, no. 2, pp. 213–227, 2022, doi: 10.1080/17516234.2020.1869142.



### *Education*

Empirically, decentralization has had an impact on the educational sector in Gorontalo. The government has allocated funds towards initiatives to facilitate access to resources and provide educational support to underprivileged communities.<sup>30</sup> Furthermore, implementing decentralization laws has facilitated augmented funding to local schools and educators. The implementation of this initiative has facilitated the enhancement of the general quality of education and its accessibility to the entire populace through the empowerment of nearby educational institutions and educators.<sup>31</sup>

### *Health*

Implementing decentralization has yielded favorable outcomes for providing healthcare services in Gorontalo. The locality has secured supplementary financial resources to enhance healthcare provisions and furnish indigenous establishments with state-of-the-art medical apparatus.<sup>32</sup> The implementation of decentralization policies has resulted in a reduction in infant mortality rates and a general enhancement of the health status of the populace in Gorontalo. Furthermore, the implementation of decentralization has facilitated governmental policy modifications that have yielded advantageous outcomes for individuals residing in marginalized communities, specifically by enhancing their accessibility to healthcare services.

### *Infrastructure*

The decentralization of Gorontalo has had a favorable effect on its infrastructure. Due to increased regional autonomy, the government has allocated additional funds to enhance

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<sup>30</sup> S. Kristiansen and Pratikno, 'Decentralising education in Indonesia', *Int J Educ Dev*, vol. 26, no. 5, pp. 513–531, 2006, doi: 10.1016/j.ijedudev.2005.12.003.

<sup>31</sup> D. Nordholm, W. Wermke, and M. Jarl, 'In the eye of the storm? Mapping out a Story of Principals' Decision-Making in an Era of Decentralization and Re-centralization', *J Educ Adm Hist*, 2022, Doi: 10.1080/00220620.2022.2104823.

<sup>32</sup> P. Bardhan, 'Decentralisation & Development', in *Handbook of Fiscal Federalism*, E. Ahmad and G. Brosio, Eds., Cheltenham & Northampton: Edward Elgard, 2006, pp. 201–223.

infrastructure projects such as roads and bridges.<sup>33</sup> The programs mentioned above have enhanced the population's standard of living and fostered economic expansion. Evidently, the decentralization policy has exerted a noteworthy influence on the progress of Gorontalo. The phenomenon has facilitated the empowerment of communities and expanded the range of economic opportunities available to citizens. Furthermore, it has facilitated the government in enhancing its services and responsiveness. Furthermore, the implementation of decentralization has led to improvements in infrastructure and education and increased accessibility to healthcare services for the entire populace. In general, the decentralization process in Gorontalo has yielded a more efficacious development paradigm and opened avenues for additional expansion and investment in the area.

### **A Route to Increased Public Empowerment**

The decentralization process in Gorontalo has created prospects for the region to enhance its public empowerment. Implementing specific measures, such as the enhancement of infrastructure and the provision of public services, can facilitate the achievement of this objective. The allocation of resources towards infrastructure and public services is expected to enhance the region's capacity to facilitate the growth of indigenous enterprises and generate employment opportunities. Facilitating the process of initiating new enterprises for the populace would enhance their ability to participate in the locality's economic growth.

*Figure 3: Regency Office of Gorontalo*

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<sup>33</sup> UNDP, 'Decentralised Governance for Development: A Combined Practice Note on Decentralization, Local Governance and Urban/Rural Development', 2004.



Source: The author, 2023

Evidently, the concept of decentralization has the potential to facilitate community empowerment and expand channels for citizens to obtain the necessary resources and services to foster economic and social progress.<sup>34</sup> As mentioned earlier, the practice was implemented as a component of broader strategic measures aimed at facilitating regional progress in the context of Gorontalo.<sup>35</sup> The Gorontalo government has facilitated an increase in public empowerment within the region through the allocation of resources towards public services and infrastructure and the implementation of decentralized governance.<sup>36</sup> Hence, allocating resources toward infrastructure development plays a crucial role in bolstering the expansion of regional economies. The scope of infrastructure can encompass the advancement of transportation networks, such as constructing roads and railways, contemporary energy systems, and providing secure access to potable water. The implementation of these infrastructure components facilitates the enhanced connectivity of

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<sup>34</sup> P. Bardhan, 'Decentralisation & Development', in *Handbook of Fiscal Federalism*, E. Ahmad and G. Brosio, Eds., Cheltenham & Northampton: Edward Elgard, 2006, pp. 201–223.

<sup>35</sup> Mukrimin, *Power Sharing: Local Autonomy and Ethnic Politics in Sulawesi Indonesia*, First. Malang: Pustaka Learning Centre, 2021.

<sup>36</sup> Mukrimin, 'Integrated or fragmented governance? Indonesia's decentralization', *International Journal of Kybernetology*, vol. 1, no. 1, pp. 84–90, 2013.

the inhabitants of the locality with the essential resources and services that are imperative for the promotion of economic development. The availability of contemporary energy systems can facilitate the development of a business environment that is reliant on interconnected networks, thereby streamlining the process of establishing new enterprises.

Enhancing public empowerment can be achieved by providing access to public services. The concept of decentralization can encompass a variety of services, contingent upon the specific context in which it is applied. These services may include but are not limited to education, healthcare, social protection, and facilitating access to potable water.<sup>37</sup> Implementing this approach is particularly advantageous in education and healthcare, as it can enhance citizens' abilities and the competitiveness of their enterprises. In addition, providing social protection can furnish necessary monetary and emotional assistance when individuals or households face significant social risk circumstances.<sup>38</sup> In addition, facilitating the availability of financial resources and services is crucial in advancing public empowerment. The implementation of decentralization has the potential to facilitate access to credit and venture capital for businesses, particularly those classified as small and medium enterprises.<sup>39</sup> The provision of secure credit, accompanied by sufficient regulatory measures, has the potential to foster a fresh cohort of entrepreneurs and facilitate novel avenues for development.<sup>40</sup> In addition, venture capital is a crucial source of financial backing that can furnish a necessary infusion for extant enterprises to incite novelty and facilitate their expansion.

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<sup>37</sup> J. P. Faguet, 'Decentralization and Governance', *World Dev*, vol. 53, pp. 2–13, 2014, Doi: 10.1016/j.worlddev.2013.01.002.

<sup>38</sup> R. K. Goel, U. Mazhar, M. A. Nelson, and R. Ram, 'Different forms of decentralization and their impact on government performance: Micro-level evidence from 113 countries', *Econ Model*, vol. 62, no. August 2016, pp. 171–183, 2017, Doi: 10.1016/j.econmod.2016.12.010.

<sup>39</sup> A. Channa and J. P. Faguet, 'Decentralization of health and education in developing countries: A quality-adjusted review of the empirical literature', *World Bank Research Observer*, vol. 31, no. 2, pp. 199–241, 2016, Doi: 10.1093/wbro/lkw001.

<sup>40</sup> World Bank, 'Decentralization and Local Democracy', Washington, DC, 2020. Accessed: Dec. 21, 2023. [Online]. Available: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/decentralization/overview>

Facilitating public collaboration is an essential component in advancing public empowerment. The attainment of decentralization can be facilitated by establishing collaborations between regional enterprises and governmental entities, thereby promoting the expansion of economic ventures and enhancing the availability of services.<sup>41</sup> Furthermore, initiatives propelled by citizens, such as their active participation in public works, meetings, or even essential dialogues, can promote public unity and cooperation, therefore improving comprehension of the requirements of the populace.<sup>42</sup>

Equally important is that investing in education is vital to equip persons with the knowledge and abilities they need to comprehend better the environments in which they live and hasten economic growth. Decentralization encompasses all aspects of education, from the most fundamental primary education to the advanced tertiary technical capacities that allow for the growth of contemporary firms and boost their ability to compete. As a result, decentralization can open the door to further chances for the public's empowerment. It can be accomplished through making investments in physical infrastructure, public services, and access to resources (including credit, funding, and education), as well as by developing collaboration between local enterprises and governing bodies at the municipal level. When these measures are considered, the Gorontalo region has the potential to become more enabled, open to economic development, and expand the opportunities available to its residents.

## **Conclusion**

To sum up this article, the process of decentralization in Gorontalo has presented various prospects for the province to enhance its public empowerment. The implementation of

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<sup>41</sup> J. H. Pierskalla, 'Splitting the difference? The politics of district creation in Indonesia', *Comp Polit*, vol. 48, no. 2, pp. 249–268, 2016, Doi: 10.5129/001041516817037754.

<sup>42</sup> B. Hofman and K. Kaiser, 'The making of the "big bang" and its aftermath: a political economy perspective', *Reforming Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations and the Rebuilding of Indonesia: The 'Big Bang' Program and its Economic Consequences*, no. 2001, pp. 15–46, 2004, Doi: 10.4337/9781845421656.00007.

decentralization has facilitated the region's capacity to be more receptive to the demands of its populace and allocate resources toward the development of infrastructure, education, healthcare, and other public amenities. Furthermore, implementing decentralization has facilitated the region in fostering a fairer distribution of economic growth and leveraging its resources during its developmental process. In order to maximize the potential benefits of decentralization, it is recommended that the region prioritize investments that promote self-sustaining economic development and cultivate a culture of entrepreneurship. By doing so, the locality can foster a more substantial and more sustainable economic system.

There is a need for improvement in the current decentralization paradigm in Gorontalo. Therefore it can become more inclusive and equitable. It is feasible to construct a framework for decentralization that is more inclusive and helps support economic growth and improved governance if particular suggestions are implemented. This study suggests the creation of a Ministry of Decentralization, the establishment of local and regional development councils, and an increase in regional resource allocations. To commence with, it is recommended that a Decentralization Ministry be instituted in Gorontalo to oversee and administer the process of decentralization. The Ministry is responsible for offering technical expertise, overseeing resource allocation, and conducting ongoing monitoring of the advancement and execution of decentralization initiatives. Moreover, it guarantees that local and regional authorities can acquire the essential information, resources, and proficiency to administer decentralization endeavors proficiently.

The establishment of local and regional development councils would promote the equitable distribution of decentralization efforts. The councils, as mentioned earlier, would assume the responsibility of identifying the needs of their respective regions, distributing resources accordingly, and advocating for the concerns of local and regional stakeholders. They would additionally guarantee the efficient implementation and monitoring of regional developments. Thirdly, it is imperative to augment regional resource allocations to guarantee fair and impartial distribution of resources. The concept of decentralization encompasses various measures, such as facilitating the establishment regional operations for businesses,

creating regional service centers, and providing financial support for targeted initiatives such as infrastructure and education.

Comprehensive information regarding decentralization projects and initiatives must be disseminated to all relevant stakeholders to ensure such endeavors' efficacy. Potential strategies may involve publishing progress reports, providing training and seminars for local and regional governments, and disseminating information regarding services and projects through public campaigns and promotional efforts. The implementation of these measures would guarantee that decentralization endeavors are characterized by transparency and accessibility for all stakeholders.

Ultimately, various strategies could be implemented to enhance the decentralization framework in Gorontalo. Establishing a Decentralization Ministry, coupled with the creation of local and regional development councils and an increase in regional resource allocations, can foster a more comprehensive and fair decentralization process. By implementing these measures, Gorontalo has the potential to serve as a model for demonstrating the efficacy of decentralization in promoting economic development and enhancing good governance.

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