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Fiscal Dependence in a Special Autonomy Region: **<sup>3</sup> EVIDENCE FROM A  
LOCAL**

government in Eastern Indonesia

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Abstract. The research aims to analyse the degree of fiscal dependence of local government upon the central

government in the regency of Mimika, one of Indonesia's eastern regencies. **<sup>3</sup>**

**THE RATIO OF FISCAL DECENTRALIZATION**

is used to calculate the local government's ability to increase its regional revenue in order to support

development initiatives in all sectors (Malmudi, 2010) Secondary data of locally generated revenue and total

revenue from the period 2010-2015 are used to measure the degree of fiscal decentralization. The results

show that the degree of fiscal decentralization in the regency remained at a low level, reflected from the

average value at 12.92 percent with the highest degree at 25.09 percent in 2012. An analysis of fiscal

decentralization in the regency of Mimika in the period 2010 – 2015, indicates that the regency lacked

sufficient fiscal capacity, showing heavy dependence upon financing from the central government. The local

government is expected to develop Mimika's potentiality through creative efforts from their apparatus to

increase local revenues. The funds transferred from the central government are intended to be spent on the

consumption of goods and services to support economic activities in the region.

Keywords: fiscal capacity, decentralization, revenue, economy growth, regional development

JEL Codes: O1, O18, O23

1. Introduction

The principles of decentralization in Indonesia constitute real and responsible autonomy, and regional

autonomy is thus based on these principles. This requires that its local government perform all aspects of the

government of the region autonomously. In fact, this autonomy confers full authority and responsibility on

the local government, at the levels of both regency and city, in the enacting of policies, planning,

implementation, monitoring, control and evaluation. The development of a regional autonomy policy that

regulates the relationship between central and local government replaces the unjust centralistic system in

the implementation of development. Regional autonomy can enable central government to allow local

government to regulate its own development initiatives and their implementation in accordance with the

prevailing laws and regulations. This policy can also provide space for local governments to develop their

regions independently.

Barzelay (1991) argued that the provision of regional autonomy comprises three main missions, namely

1) creating efficiency and effectiveness of local resource management; 2) improving the quality of public

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services and community welfare and; 3) Empowering and creating space for the community to participate in

the development process. To pursue these objectives, the decentralization, including fiscal decentralization,

is granted to local governments throughout Indonesia to develop their own regions based on the voices and

aspirations of the indigenous people. The central government in Indonesia imposed Law No. 22 of 1999 on

the Local Government and Law No. 25 of 1999 on Financial Balance between Central and Local Government.

The latter was revised by Law No. 32 of 2004, imposed on Regional Government and Law No. 33 of 2004,

imposed on the Financial Balance between Central and Local Government. The granting of this authority and

responsibility, therefore, must be balanced against the distribution of sources of income sufficient to support

this given authority and responsibility. Similarly, the implementation of Law No. 33 of 2004 upon the Financial

Balance between Central and Local Government, especially concerning the equalization of funds, is expected

to support the implementation of Law No. 32 of 2004.

In today's era of autonomy, any efforts that rely on donations and support from the Central Government

or the higher levels of government are untenable. Autonomous regions are required to be self-reliant in

funding the implementation of their local development. Therefore, in order to decrease their dependence

upon central government, the regions are forced to increase their local revenues.

In order to enable a regional government to manage its own household, its financial capability must be

increased. In other words, finance is an essential factor in assessing a regional government's ability to

implement regional autonomy. The financial ability of a regional government indicates the extent to which

that regional government can maximize its own financial resources to fund its needs, without always having

to rely on the central government's grants and subsidies. Locally generated revenue can be seen as one of

several indicators in measuring the dependence of a region upon the central government. In principle, the

greater the contribution of locally generated revenue to the local budget of income and expenditure indicates

a region's lesser dependence upon the Central Government. One of the important factors, which a local

government must develop in its implementation of Law No. 32 and 33 in 2004, is its financial capacity. One

of several indicators used to measure the fiscal capacity of a region is the ratio of locally generated revenue

to the total revenue (Kuncoro, 2004).

A question arises whether the delegation of given authority can contribute to economic growth in the

region. The application of fiscal decentralization in Indonesia contains significant challenges. Fiscal inequality

has existed with the central government and among local governments. The proportion of regional

expenditures to fund development programs or to develop local economies is mostly sourced from the

4 **CENTRAL GOVERNMENT THROUGH ITS TRANSFER FUNDS.** In minimizing this dependency, each local government in

Indonesia is required to optimize its ability to explore its income potential through local taxes, retribution,

locally owned business profits and other legitimate income.

The development of locally generated revenue in the regency of Mimika from 2011 to 2015 has continued

to increase, therefore it is necessary to analyse the overall revenue and expenditure in this region in order

to reveal the level of fiscal decentralization in the effort of the local government to enhance independence.

The main interest of this research is to identify and analyse the degree of fiscal decentralization in the regency

of Mimika. It is aimed at knowing the delegation of the central government's authority to local government

in providing good public services to the community. It is also aimed to show how much the delegation of



authority from the central government can run in accordance with the goal; namely to increase economic

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growth through local spending allocation in the region and to know the roles of central government in helping

economic growth in the region, reflected from its transfer funds.

2. Literature review

2.1. <sup>5</sup> **THE FISCAL DECENTRALIZATION IN INDONESIA**

Decentralization in general can be interpreted as delegation of authority from the central government to

autonomous governments at a lower level. Khusaini and Yustika (2006) stated that decentralization could be

defined as a delegation of authority from the central government to lower levels of government.

Theoretically, several types of decentralization are; political decentralization; administrative decentralization

<sup>3</sup> **AND FISCAL DECENTRALIZATION.** According to Law No. 32 of 2004, section 7, decentralization in Indonesia is the

transfer of governmental power from the Central Government to autonomous regions within the framework

of the Unitary Republic of Indonesia. Fiscal decentralization is defined as a delegation of authority in the field

of budget revenue or finance which was previously centralized, both in its administration and utilization, and

organized by the Central Government (Khusaini & Yustika, 2006). The definition above implies that

decentralization provides more space for local governments to improvise in their utilization of their resources

and local potentiality, as well as their ability to improvise policies oriented to the needs of the region. These

can constitute the implementation of routine tasks, public services and productive investment (capital

investment) in the region. Halim and Abdullah (2010); Khusaini and Yustika (2006) stated that the degree of

decentralization indicates the degree of the contribution of locally generated revenue to total revenue. A

higher contribution of locally generated revenue increases the ability of the region to implement

decentralization.

The decentralization is aimed at bringing the government closer to society so that a decentralized system

of government can create economic efficiency that, in turn, can improve the welfare of society in general.

According to Law No. 32 in 2004 and Law No. 33 in 2004, the objectives of fiscal decentralization in Indonesia

are:

1) Fiscal sustainability in the macroeconomic context;

2) Correction of the vertical imbalance to reduce the financial imbalance between central and local

government, where it is executed by enlarging the regional taxing power;

3) Correction of horizontal imbalance which is executed through minimizing disparities among regions in

block grant/transfer mechanisms and enabling local authorities to implement development policies that suit

the local needs, potentials and resources;

4) Reduction in the level of regional dependence on the central government;

5) Increase in accountability, effectiveness and efficiency in the framework of improving regional

performance;

6) Improvement of public service quality and

7) Enlargement of the public participation in decision taking in the public sector.

One problem that often occurs in association with the implementation of regional autonomy and

decentralization is the way in which the region can overcome financial dependence on the Central

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Government in meeting all the needs of regional development activities (Kuncoro 2004). Davey (1988)

argued that central government's fund transfer to a local government shows a regional dependence on the

centre. Abdullah and Halim (2003) added that the transfer from the central government implicitly influences

the decline of independence of a region. It is also strengthened by Mardiasmo (2002) that fiscal dependence,

subsidies and any central government assistance are a form of powerless locally generated revenues. The

success of regional autonomy is inseparable from the ability of the financial sector one of the important

indicators of regional autonomy. In this case, the local authorities are required to effectively and efficiently

run the government, encourage community participation in its development and increase prosperity by

increasing equity and justice. The regions, therefore, should be more creative in increasing their locally

generated revenues to increase accountability and flexibility in their spending (Sidik, 2002).

A local government's fiscal dependence can be identified by measuring its financial performance or

capacity as well as its readiness to develop regional autonomy. It can be reached from the extent of the

financing capabilities funded entirely by locally generated revenues and transfer funds. Measuring the

financial performance or capacity can be done using indicators of fiscal decentralization degrees (Khusaini &

Yustika, 2006; Kuncoro, 2004; Musgrave & Musgrave, 1973; Sularso & Restianto 2012). Meanwhile, to

identify the readiness of local governments to deal with regional autonomy, especially in the field of finance,

the extent of their ability to finance all activities funded entirely by all locally generated revenue can be

measured (Sumarsono, 2009). A region classified as autonomous has financial capacity in the region. This

means that the region has the ability and authority to extract its financial resources, and that it manages and

uses its own finances to finance the administration. Being autonomous also means less dependence on the

central government. The locally generated revenue in the region, therefore, should be the largest financial

source supported by central and regional fiscal balancing policies. Both traits will influence the patterns of

relations between the central and regional governments.

## 2.2. Regional financial capability

The ability of the region to obtain its own fiscal resources indicates how far the region can develop its

own sources to finance its needs without having to depend solely on the assistance of central government.

The ability of regions to finance their expenses can be seen by the size of their local revenues, as compared

to the balancing funds. The greater the locally generated revenues in the region, the less dependence the

region has upon the central government. The use of surplus budget, therefore, can be used for spending

allocations, especially spending on public infrastructure, rather than on financing such expenditure from the

account of the regional cash holder.

Regional revenue sources are three, namely locally generated revenue, transfer revenue and other

legitimate local revenue.

Locally generated revenue comes from local economic resources and includes local taxes, levies, profit

from regional-owned enterprises and other original local government revenues.

Transfer revenue comes

from the central government in its implementation of regional autonomy, and can be a grant fund that

consists of a tax sharing fund, non-tax and natural resources sharing funds, general and special allocation

funds and.

Other legitimate local revenue, which is regional income from other sources, such as third-party donation

to regions implemented in accordance with prevailing laws and regulations. This type of income is from

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grants, emergency funds from the government in the context of disaster management, tax sharing from the

provincial government, adjustment funds and financial assistance from the provinces or other governments

(Nordiawan, Putra, & Rahmawati, 2007).

All regional revenue either earned from locally generated revenue or as assistance from the central



government should be used to finance all regional expenditures. According to Law No. 32 in 2004 pertaining

to regional government, regional expenditure constitutes all regional obligations recognized as deduction of

net worth revenue in the particular budget period. Regional expenditures, as referred to in the regulation of

Minister of Home Affairs No. 13 in 2006 - concerning the guidelines on the regional financial management,

section 31, paragraph (1) - states that regional expenditure is used to finance the implementation of

government affairs. This implementation becomes the authority of the province, regency or city to finance

compulsory, voluntary and other affairs managed by certain fields or department which may be undertaken

jointly between the central and local government or among local government established under laws and

regulations. Regional expenditure is grouped into direct and indirect expenditure. Direct expenditure is a

budgeted expenditure that is directly related to the implementation of programs and activities while indirect

expenditure is a budgeted expenditure not directly related to the implementation of programs and activities.

Certain financial indicators measure financial performance. Government organizations use several performance measures, and degrees of fiscal decentralization are one of them (Khusaini & Yustika, 2006; Musgrave & Musgrave, 1973; Sularso & Restianto, 2012; Sumarsono, 2009). This shows the degree of contribution of locally generated revenue to the local revenue in totals - the higher the contribution of this revenue, the higher the regional capability in the implementation of decentralization (Khusaini & Yustika, 2006; Sumarsono, 2009; Utomo, 2012). Financial dependency ratio shows the amount of general allocation fund or funds derived from the central government budget allocated for financial distribution in the regions to finance their expenditure needs in the context of decentralization implementation. The transfer of authority from central government to the regional government leads consequently to the balancing of funds from central to regional government. Regional government can freely use these funds to provide better services to the community (Khusaini & Yustika, 2006; Utomo, 2012).

### 2.3. Previous empirical research

Fiscal decentralization has been conducted and has resulted in various responses both positive and

negative contributions to the growth of the economy. However, it is admitted that much less work is devoted

**3 TO THE STUDY OF ITS IMPACT (MARTINEZ-VAZQUEZ & MCNAB 2003).** In Indonesia, fiscal decentralization and its

impact on economic development has been studied in several regions and has shown various outcomes.

Fattah (2012) conducted research on the analysis of fiscal dependence of local governments in the

province of South Sulawesi in the era of regional autonomy in Indonesia. The research shows a low capacity

of fiscal decentralization, indicating that the financial performance and capacity of South Sulawesi's local

government is minimal. After its calculation, the degree of fiscal decentralization in the South Sulawesi's

government is ranged from 6.78 to 8.62%, showing that the level of fiscal dependency of South Sulawesi

upon the Central Government is still high. Adhim (2013) researched local financial capacity in supporting

implementation of regional autonomy in Indonesia (Study in Dompu regency at the budgeted period 2007-

2011). The results show that, based on the ratio of regional financial independence, the regional autonomy

still indicates an instructive relationship. Based on the ratio of the degree of fiscal decentralization and the

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ratio of routine capability index, the financial ability is still very low in financing regional development.

Nevertheless, the ratio of growth shows positive growth. Overall, the pattern of financial ability level reflects

very low categories in support of the implementation of regional autonomy.

Rahman, Naukoko, and Londah (2014) in the research entitled “Comparative Analysis of Local Financial

Capacity in North Sulawesi Province in Indonesia” studied on Manado and Bitun city during the period 2008-

2012. The results show the level of financial ability in both Manado and Bitung cities. They observed that the financial ability in Manado is still a bit higher than that of Bitung. In Manado, the average growth reached 2% every year, although it is below 20% level of independence, compared to the city of Bitung which only reached 1% growth every year and is below 10% level of independence.

Rudiyanto and Sasana (2015), in their research entitled "Financial Capacity of Local Government in the Implementation of Regional Autonomy (a study on the regency in the special province of Jogjakarta and Banten), showed that the financial performance of the regencies in the province of Jogjakarta is still relatively poor. From the ratio of regional financial independence point of view, the financial performance of the regencies is less than that of others.

Previous research has also shown how the implementation of fiscal decentralization did not contribute to the economic growth in some countries. Zhang and Zou (1998) researched how the allocation of fiscal resources from the central to local government influenced economic growth. The sample of the provinces in

China from 1978-1992 showed that higher levels of fiscal decentralization hampered the provincial economic

growth. It can thus be said that the implementation of fiscal decentralization has negative impact on the

economic growth and development of provinces. <sup>6</sup> **XIE, ZOU, AND DAVOODI (1999) ALSO CONDUCTED RESEARCH ON**

fiscal decentralization and economic growth in a cross-country study, using pane data from 46 countries

during the period 1970-1989. <sup>5</sup> **THEIR STUDY SHOWED A NEGATIVE IMPACT OF FISCAL DECENTRALIZATION ON THE GROWTH**

of economy in developing countries, and that there is no relationship at all between fiscal decentralization

and economic growth in developed countries. This indicates that the policies and implementations of fiscal

decentralizations can have a negative impact in any countries, depending on various positive and negative

factors it might trigger.

Nevertheless, some research shows successful stories of the policies and implementation of regional

autonomy and fiscal decentralization to the development of some economies. <sup>5</sup> **AKAI AND SAKATA (2002)**

conducted their research in 50 states of the United States, during the period 1992-1996, showing that fiscal

decentralization has resulted significantly in encouraging regional economic growth. It is supported by Iimi

(2005) and Malik, Mahmood-ul-Hassan, and Hussain (2006) in their research that claimed that fiscal

decentralization has a positive influence on economic growth. Bahl and Wallace (2006) conducted research

in Russia in the period 1997 found that fiscal decentralization has significant and positive relationship with

the level of regional economic growth. It is also supported by Bröthaler and Getzner (2010) in their research

in the provinces in the country of Austria during the period 1955-2007, found that fiscal decentralization

results significantly in encouraging long and short-term regional economic growth.

### 3. Portrait of the growth of regional economy

Mimika regency, in the eastern province of Indonesia in Papua, has its capital city in Timika, located

between 134°31'-138°31' east longitude and 4°06'-5°18' south latitude. The regency has an area of 19,592

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km<sup>2</sup> or 4.75% of the total area of the province of Papua. It has 18 districts and the majority of the population

is concentrated in the administrative area of the regency. This regency was historically a district of the main

regency of Fakfak , however, based on the Government Regulation No. 54 in 1996 the district then was

designated an administrative regency and later, based on Law No. 45 in 1999 in 1999, the district has been

an autonomous regency. The population in the regency has increased from time to time, and the total

population of the regency in 2010 was 183,491, and then increased significantly between 2014 and 2015 to

199,311 and 201,677 respectively. Annual population growth rate in the regency from 2010 to 2015 has



increased 9.91% and that from 2014 to 2015 to 1.19%.

Between 2010 and 2014, the highest average growth of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in this regency

came from mining and excavation at 90.08%, while the lowest is the electricity and water sector at 0.04%.

This proportion put mining as the biggest contributor to the local economy of the region, although its biggest

proportion is not in line with the growth of this sector to contribute the GDP of the regency. The size of the

contribution of mining and excavation to the GDP unfortunately fluctuated significantly. For instance, in 2010

it was Rp.53.455.115,34 but it dramatically decreased to the next 2 years (2011 and 2012) before a slight

increase in 2013 and another significant increase in 2014, to Rp.32.581.055,29. Transportation and

communication represented the second highest sector during these periods was, 2.94%, followed

respectively by trade, hotels and restaurants at 2.10%, and the building sector at 1.97%. All economic sectors

in the regency gradually increased between 2010 and 2014, except services and mining and excavation

services, the amounts of which fluctuated. The agriculture sector in the region experienced a gradual growth

from 2010 to 2013 before increasing almost three times in 2014. The insignificant increase of the agricultural

sector to the GDP from 2010 to 2013 was partly caused by limited irrigation facilities in the region. The

following table 1 below shows the growth of GDP in all sectors in the region.

TABLE 1. GDP growth in the regency of mimika in the period 2010-2014

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Contribution
Agriculture	262,894.70	292,445.02	323,111.02	359,971.68	1,012,987.83	1.22
Mining and excavation	53,455,115.34	42,185,764.84	36,929,787.82	42,702,413.10	32,581,055.29	90.08
Processing industry	16,826.14	18,973.14	20,987.19	23,349.19	85,387.99	0.09
Electricity And Water	18,523.29	20,147.67	21,951.15	24,243.22	13,288.40	0.04
Building	618,260.74	686,462.30	752,552.92	866,510.93	1,168,788.37	1.97
Trade, Hotels and Restaurants	656,092.85	749,773.82	864,258.14	1,004,088.74	1,160,986.59	2.10
Transportation and						

Communications 798,170.03 988,215.16 1,146,549.00 1,278,839.95 1,820,345.12  
2.94

Finance, Leasing and

Services Company 271,569.79 234,365.54 251,776.54 300,174.22 861,532.84 1.04

Services 210,707.30 248,694.07 296,639.28 346,065.86 133,219.79 0.51

Source: The development planning office, 2016

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The significant growth of GDP should be able to reduce the level of poverty in the region. Statistics in the

regency show the gradual decrease for poverty during the period 2003-2014. To measure poverty, the

regency uses basic needs approach, where poverty is viewed as the economic ability to fulfil food and non-

food consumption/expenditure. The regency defines a person living in poverty as a person whose

expenditure per capita per month is below the food poverty line. The food poverty line refers to the daily

minimum requirement of 2011 kcal per capita per day. The non-food poverty line refers to the minimum

requirements for household necessities for education, health and other basic individual needs. The following

graph is to show the level of poverty in the regency from 2003 to 2014.

Fig. 1: The percentage of poor people in the regency of Mimika in the period 2003-2014

Source: Central statistics, 2016

The above figure shows the number of poor people in the region based on the above measurements. It

indicates that the highest number of poor people is in 2005 - 60,736 people or 50.43%. The central

government policies that reduced fuel subsidies in 2005 have a significant impact on the poverty increment

in the regency during that year. However, after that the poverty rate gradually decreased until 2014, reaching

16.11% or 32,220 people. Based on this publication, the poorest people are located in the district of Mimika

Baru as the administrative government area.

4. Research method

This study utilizes elements of quantitative and qualitative research to explain fiscal decentralization in

the regency of Mimika. This study used secondary data of locally generated revenue and total revenue drawn

from the official publication of the government, the Central Bureau of Statistics, the Department of Revenue

32.75 30.75

50.43

41.58

32.73

28.74

24.74 23.66 22.57 20.09 20.37

16.11

0

10

20

30

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50

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2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014

YEAR

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and the Board of Financial Management and Assets in the regency of Mimika in the period of 2010-2015. The

analytical method uses the ratio of the degree of fiscal decentralization to measure the ability of local

government to increase its regional revenue in financing its development.

Mahmudi Fattah (2012); Khusaini

and Yustika (2006); Malmudi (2010) explained that the ratio of fiscal decentralization is calculated by dividing

locally generated revenues into the total revenue in a particular period. If the contribution of locally

generated revenue is higher, the ability of local governments to implement decentralization will be higher.

The following formula shows the Degree of Fiscal Decentralization ratio:

$$\frac{LGR_t}{TR_t} \times 100\%$$

$$\frac{LGR_t}{TR_t} \times 100\%$$

$$DFDR = \text{Degree of Fiscal Decentralization}$$

$$LGR_t = \text{Locally Generated Revenue in year } t$$

$$TR_t = \text{Total Revenue in year } t$$

The criteria used to assess the degree of fiscal decentralization can be categorized as the table below.

TABLE 2. Scale interval from the degree of fiscal decentralization

Scale Interval Local Finance Capacity

00.00-10.00 Very much less

10.01 -20.00 Less

20.01 -30.00 Adequate

30.01 -40.00 Moderate

40.01 – 50.00 Good

> 50.00 Very Good

Source: tim litbang depdagri, fisipol UGM, 1991

The results of fiscal decentralization are then analysed through the identification of cause and effect. The

data analysis leading to this identification results from in-depth interviews conducted by the researchers

during the fieldwork. In-depth interviewing is an important data collection method which can give a profound

understanding of the object being studied (Patton & Cochran, 2002). In this qualitative research technique,

data is collected through intensive in-depth interviews. These interviews are undertaken with a small

number of participants in order to explore their views and insights related to a particular issue, object or

situation (Boyce & Neale, 2006). Observation is then used to fully understand the context and to explain any

**7 DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN WHAT PEOPLE SAY AND WHAT THEY ACTUALLY DO;** thus, interviews might uncover any

possible behaviour of which the participants themselves may not be aware (Patton & Cochran, 2002). The



participants approached to be interviewed were considered able to provide necessary data to support the

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findings. Participants were selected through the purposive sampling method, where the researchers

purposefully chose them in order to meet certain criteria (Madsen, 2011; Tongco, 2007). The selected

participants in this study are those who work for the Revenue office and the Development Planning office in

the regency.

The Revenue office is considered the only office in the region one of whose duties is to increase the total

revenue in the region through the locally generated revenue sourced from the taxes, levies, profit from

regional-owned enterprises and other original local government revenue. The Development Planning office

in the region is also considered the place that can provide a significant input for its function in assisting the

regent in the implementation of regional government in the field of research and regional development

planning. Coordination, formulation and budgeting of regional income and expenditure has been one of the

duties of this office. Two different participants in each office (a total of four) are responsible for identifying

the cause and effect of minimum locally generated revenues in the region causing the high dependence upon

8 **TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT.** They were approached for the in-depth interviews.

## 5. Results

It is the duty of the Department of Revenue and the Board of Financial Management and Assets to

execute the administration of local government in the field of local revenue in the regency of Mimika.

Therefore, they have become the central source of information regarding local taxes, levies and other

resources of local revenue. The following table will explain the development of locally generated revenue in

the period of 2010-2015.

TABLE 3. Locally generated revenue in the regency of Mimika in the period 2010 2015

Locally generated Revenue	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Taxes	30.460.826.929	85.820.273.558	102.319.858.491	94.264.636.138	102.367.836.138	147.367.836.138
Levies	10.021.662.000	15.323.610.401	47.607.804.200	8.382.109.953	8.382.109.953	38.989.309.953
Profit from regional owned enterprises	5.069.537.059	4.194.432.211	5.500.000.000	6.038.699.124	6.038.699.124	31.758.699.124
Other original local government revenue	34.964.186.762	14.780.777.830	171.698.578.000	23.855.154.785	87.767.027.541	85.518.906.785

Total 80.516.212.750 120.119.094.000 327.126.240.691 132.540.600.000  
204.555.672.756 303.634.752.000

Source: The department of revenue and the board of financial statement and assets in the regency of Mimika, 2016

Table 3 shows the amount of each item of locally generated revenue in the region during the period of

2010-2015. It shows a significant increase of regional revenue from time to time despite a slight decrease

from 2012 to 2013. The local taxes from 2010 to 2015 have increased almost 5 times, from 30 million to

Rp.147 million and they have contributed the biggest revenue during those periods. This indicates the work

of the department of Revenue in the region to explore and maximize the potentiality of local revenues.

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However, if seen from the overall items of revenue, the amount of acceptance of revenue fluctuates. It

increased from 2010 to 2012 before then decreasing sharply in 2013 and experienced an increase again in

the past 2 years of the research period. The degree of fiscal decentralization is one of the benchmarks

showing the level of fiscal dependency in the regency of Mimika shown in Table 4 and Figure 2 below.

TABLE 4. The degree of fiscal decentralization in the regency of Mimika, period 2010-2015

Period

Locally generated

Revenue

Total Regional

Revenue

Degree of Fiscal

Decentralization

Local Finance

Capacity

2010	80,516,212,750	1,200,572,226,350	6.71	Very much less
2011	120,119,094,000	1,317,885,257,931	9.11	Very much less
2012	327,126,240,691	1,304,036,735,531	25.09	Adequate
2013	132,540,600,000	1,261,049,063,000	10.51	Less
2014	204,555,672,756	1,646,060,999,756	12.43	Less
2015	303,634,752,000	2,224,241,935,337	13.65	Less
Average	194,748,762,032	1,492,307,702,984	12.92	Less

The degree of fiscal decentralization as shown in the table above illustrates that the total of locally generated revenue, compared to the total revenue of the region, is relatively low. The acceptance of the local revenue in 2010 is only Rp.80.516.212.750 where the highest achievement is in 2012, amounting to Rp.327.126.240.691. Despite a relatively low level of fiscal decentralization, the amount indicates volatile conditions, showing a better trend and continuing to improve where, at the beginning of the analysis period in 2010, the amount is 6.71%, increasing to 9.11% in 2011 and sharply increasing to 25.09% in 2012 before a significant decrease to 10.51% in 2013. At the end of the two periods of the research, it reached to 12.43%

in 2014 and 13.65% in 2015. The highest amount of fiscal decentralization throughout the research periods

is located at 25.09 in 2012 showing an adequate degree.

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Fig. 2. The degree of fiscal decentralization, period 2010-2015

If seen from the overall period of the analysis, the degree of fiscal dependency in the regency of Mimika

is still very high and categorized as less in its local financial capacity, shown from the average degree of fiscal

decentralization to 12.92% (in scale interval 10.01-20.00). The average degree of fiscal decentralization in the

regency, amounting to 12.92%, indicates Mimika's local government's capacity to support its financing is still

considered less.

TABLE 5. Locally generated and transfer fund in the regency of Mimika

Year	Locally generated revenue	Transfer fund
2010	80,516,212,750.00	1,120,056,013,600.00
2011	120,119,094,000.00	1,197,766,163,931.00
2012	327,126,240,691.00	976,910,494,840.00
2013	132,540,600,000.00	1,128,508,463,000.00
2014	204,555,672,756.00	1,441,505,327,000.00
2015	303,634,752,000.00	1,920,607,183,337.00

Source: The department of revenue and the board of financial statement and assets in the regency of Mimika, 2016

This number also shows that the fiscal dependence of the regency upon the Central Government

financing is still high, indicating that the transfer from the central government through its transfer fund is

6.71

9.11

25.09

10.51 12.43

13.65



0

5

10

15

20

25

30

2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015

Year

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high. The transfer fund is the fund coming from the state (central government) that is allocated to the regions,

to fund their needs in the context of decentralization. To evaluate the dependency of the region to the top

government in the country, it is important to analyse the transfer fund. The following table is constructed to

show the dependence of the regency on the central government (Table 5).

By viewing the growth of locally generated revenue, that continues to increase, the regency of Mimika

should be able to sustain this growth through the establishment of its target of local taxes revenue, levies

and other items while paying more attention to its potentiality. Therefore, the locally generated revenue

needs better management and it is necessary to optimize the sources of all local revenues in order further

explore the potentiality of regional income. The local government, therefore, is expected to maximize its

locally generated revenue to reduce this dependency. This is because this component of revenue is strongly

associated with the dynamics of economic activities occurring in the regional economy. 9 **THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

is also expected to manage the locally generated income to finance its regional expenditure. When seen from

the acceptance of all revenue, the locally generated revenue is considered far smaller than that of the

transfer funds and other legitimate revenues. The amount of balanced budget increased from time to time

despite a decrease in 2012. This shows high dependence by the local government

## 6. Discussion

This finding of less fiscal decentralization in this study is in line with Davey (1988) arguing that central

government fund transfer shows high dependence on the centre. The decline of independence of a region is

implicitly influenced by the transfer of central government (Abdullah & Halim, 2003; Mardiasmo, 2002) and

the similar situation applies to the case of the regency of Mimika. The decentralization should be able to

develop economic growth. Malmudi (2010) stated that the more locally generated revenue shows the greater

capability of local governments to implement the decentralization. This revenue is needed to meet local

requirements and the decentralization should be able to increase local government revenue that in turn is

expected to increase regional economic growth (Akai & Sakata, 2002; Bröthaler & Getzner, 2010; Iimi, 2005;

Malik et al., 2006). One of the roles of local government in increasing this economic growth in the region is

to make the local government expenditures more effective in supporting the economic activities in the

society, such as public facilities development, and with proper allocation, it is also expected to increase the

local revenues. If it proves to be less favourable for the economic development, the regions will depend

heavily on the transfer of central government funds, and this causes low economic development.

The local government in this study, in carrying out the economy, needs to get sufficient attention from

central government towards helping economic growth in the region, as reflected through the transfer funds

from tax and non-tax sharing, general or special allocation funds. The transfer funds are used to support

regional expenditures; however, higher use of this fund indicates high dependence of local governments on

the central government. The positive benefit of central government's transfer funds comes only if the funds

are used for the consumption of goods and services so as to support economic activities that can develop the growth of the regional economy (Devarajan, Swaroop, & Zou, 1996). For example the transfer funds are used to finance direct expenditure in the forms of capital expenditures used mainly to support the implementation of regional programs and activities. The regency of Mimika, therefore, is expected to use the best possible ways in which all income derived from the transfer funds and other legitimate local revenue (which is regional

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income from other sources) can be used to develop the regional economy and at the same time provide good public services to the community.

However, the regency is still unable even to finance its indirect expenditures. As signalled above, indirect

expenditures are incurred to finance indirect activities of local government, such as public servants' salaries

and other expenses related to asset maintenance. These expenditures are disbursed even if the development

programs are not implemented. <sup>10</sup> THE LAW NO. 32 of 2004 categorizes indirect expenditures as fixed

expenditures that are routinely incurred even if there is no particular program being run by the government.

So the capacity to finance this expenditure in the region is considered to be urgent in order to sustain the

local government in running the daily governmental work. The routine capacity index is one of the financial

ratios used to measure local financial capacity in meeting the indirect expenditures (Vurry, Suwendra, &

Yudiatmaja, 2014). Further analysed data showed that the routine capacity index in the regency in the six

years up to 2015 is 27.88, meaning that 27.88% of the routine capacity index means that the regional revenue

is able to finance only 27.88% of indirect expenditures, while the remaining 72.12% cannot be met. Inability

to finance the indirect expenditures from the locally generated revenues needs to be subsidized by the

government through the transfer fund (Khusaini & Yustika, 2006; Utomo, 2012). In other words, the total of

locally generated revenues in the region is potentially used to finance only 27.88% of indirect expenditures,

while the remaining 72.12% needs to use the transfer funds from the central government. This indicates the

big proportion of transfer funds mostly covers the need of the regency to finance its routine expenditures

without being much used for goods and services related to direct expenditures to support the growth of

economy in the region.

Several factors are identified as causing the fiscal decentralization issues in the regency. Based on in-

depth interviews during the fieldwork, we identified two main issues; namely, there are unidentified

potential sources of the locally generated revenues and there is no maximum absorption of the taxes and

levies. The regency has potential in its forest sector as a producer of forest materials, such as timbers. The

materials could be sold in domestic and foreign markets and potentially increase their locally generated

revenues. In the tourism sector, with the richness of natural resources, including biodiversity in the region,

the government could develop various types of tourism (Muller, 2001; Timang, 2016). The region is also rich

in cultural values, including customary rituals, traditional dance, carvings and sculpture that could potentially

be developed as another type of cultural tourism (Harple, 2000; Muller, 2003; Pouwer, 2010). With well-

managed tourism, emphasising such aspects as the beautiful beaches and national parks, as well as the

support from their cultural attractions, such as traditional arts, museums and festivals, the regency actually

could attract both domestic and foreign tourists to visit it, and this could later increase the locally generated

revenues from taxes or levies.

Mining and excavation make the highest contribution to the region, among other economic sectors there.

PT. Freeport Indonesia, the Indonesian subsidiary of US-based Freeport-McMoRan Inc., amongst the world's



biggest gold and copper mining companies, played an important role in boosting regional economy in the

regency (Freeport-McMoRan, 2015, 2016; Sethi, Lowry, Veral, Shapiro, & Emelianova, 2011; Walton, 2008).

In 2015 the company not only provided benefits to local government but also the central government in the

forms of taxes, royalty, dividends and other payments, totalling 268 million US dollars. However, the issues

faced relating to the extension of the contract of work that affected the mine production has also affected

the contribution given to the local government (Jensen & Asmarini;, 2017; RadioNewZealand, 2017; Yahoo-

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Finance, 2017). In the past 5 years, from 2010 to 2014, the contribution of this mining company gradually

decreased (see the table 1 of the mining contribution to the GDP above). The extension of contract of work

with the central government of Indonesia and local government of Mimika will be definitely the biggest

contribution to the local economy of the region. Both government and company need to serious consider

adding the substantial values of local revenues to support economic activities.

The regency has potential resources that should be optimized to increase its local revenues. <sup>5</sup> **AS STATED BY**

<sup>10</sup> **THE LAW NO. 28** in 2009 on regional taxes and levies, there are 11 sources of taxes that should be maximized

for the benefit of the regency. The taxes are paid for hotel/motel, restaurant, entertainment, advertising,

road lighting, and non-metallic and rock mineral, parking, ground water, swallow nest, land and building in

rural and urban areas and acquisition of land and building rights. There are three different objects of levies,

including general services, business services and specific licensing. However, this potential has not been

maximised to increase the local revenues. Lack of human resources and supporting elements has partly

explained why these economic potentials are not fully absorbed. In order to increase the employees to work

on maximizing its local revenues, from each stage of planning, organizing, performing and evaluating the

process of collecting taxes, levies and other revenues, the regency needs to provide the relevant training in

performing each process. Supporting elements, such as facilities and infrastructure to support all-important

stages to the final point when the local revenue is collected and deposited to a regional bank account, need

to be provided by the region. The regency should probably form a team to directly visit in the field and

supervise the collection of each item of local revenue as feedback for further evaluation, in order to gain

better revenues.

In-depth interviews and direct observations showed that, despite an increase of awareness by the

region's society to pay for taxes and levies incurred by them, there have still been found some instances of

the society (individuals or organizations) disobeying the laws and not paying their obligations. There is no

apparatus to enforce the laws related to the collection of revenues in the field. So, the groups within the

society who do not pay their taxes or levies are not punished. In addition, there has been a deviation where

the amount collected in the field is different from that deposited to the account of the region. To solve this

issue, the regency through its relevant office should provide guidance for the employees about the

importance of law enforcement upon those who violate the laws, and it should take actions against

deviations that occur in the process of the collection of revenues coming from both society and regency

apparatus itself.

## 7. Conclusion

The degree of fiscal decentralization in the regency of Mimika is categorized less than its capacity and this

is shown from the average figure of 12.92% (in scale interval of 10.01-20.00). This amount indicates that the

dependence of Mimika upon the financing of the Central Government is high. This amount 12.92%, obtained

from the locally generated revenue divided by the total revenue, explains that the level of readiness of the

local government in financing its development in all sectors remains less. This also indicates that in the era

of regional autonomy, fiscal dependence of local government in the regency is 87.08%, showing a high

dependence of Mimika on the Central Government's financing. This local government is expected to optimize

the local potentiality to increase its locally generated revenue through local taxes, in order to reduce its

dependency while continuing to provide better public services to the community.

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The ability of locally generated revenue in the region at least in reducing the dependency upon the

government is used to finance local spending, especially direct expenditures. The roles of this revenue in the

region need to be improved to develop the economy. Therefore, it is important to evaluate the capacity of

this revenue as one of the indicators of the formation of independence of a region during the development

of decentralization in Indonesia. The local government, through its regional finance apparatus, should also

seek out possible alternatives to explore and develop its local revenues through various creative efforts. The

government should seek new resources of finance to develop its locally generated revenue either through

partnership programs with private parties, through establishment of locally-owned enterprises or through

equality participation with private companies in order to gain more revenues.

In order to obtain more accurate data on the amount of local tax and levies that can potentially be

applied, the government needs to re-record the number of taxpayers and the levies currently being paid. To

avoid any leakage of these revenues, the government needs to improve coordination with related agencies

in clarifying the type of taxes or levies that they have the authority to impose. It is also important periodically

increase monitoring to improve the transparency of the reasons for collecting these revenues. Local

regulations related to the process of collection, supervision and approval of the coordination with relevant

agencies should be reinforced. The government should also predict future regional possibilities or conditions

that will affect the locally generated revenues, and it should attend to future fiscal needs and capabilities

while planning the budget, so that each component of the possible revenues will be allocated to improve

both public service and the welfare of the community.

This research requires further analysis and discussion of economic conditions in the region. Analysis of

economic growth could be one of several indicators to measure the development of regional development.

Further discussion in the use of expenditures from both operational and capital spending, about whether

they are used to contribute to the development of local economy, can be another necessary element to

measure the growth of that economy.

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