

Empowering Joint Business Group in Mamuju Regency

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Abstract The problem of poverty is a complex issue dealt by all countries including Indonesia and the province of West Sulawesi. Accordingly, many poverty alleviation programs have been issued by the government. Even so, there are numbers which only act reactively and temporarily with no sustainability to solve the root problem. One of them is known as Joint Business Group (KUBE). This research applies descriptive method with qualitative approach. The instrument includes guided interview toward 21 informants, observation, and documentation. Data mining techniques and analysis in the form of reduction, display, and conclusion. The research findings show that the empowerment of joint business group in Mamuju Regency has been selected by the proposal referring to the priority scale based on the guidance of poverty reduction. It is done by identifying poor and less developed joint business group in the location and checking the facts and data of the groups who submit the application. Concerning funding aspect in 2013, West Sulawesi Provincial Government has channeled the assistance through deconcentration funds of APBN worth 1,8 billion rupiahs to ninety rural and 20 urban cities' joint business group. In 2014, there are 50 urban and 90 rural's KUBE for Mamuju Regency get rations as much as 19 urban and 44 rural with 20 million rupiahs per KUBE. Influenced by internal factors such as lack of knowledge and spirit of KUBE board itself, the external factors from the political aspect create pressure between political and government elites who violate the procedure by imposing sympathetic and fictitious KUBE. Furthermore, to optimize KUBE programs, it is advisable that the Board of Social Service should be more selective in choosing KUBE proposals, adding more budget, being firm and convincing KUBE board to understand the management of its business type, and avoid the pressure from the political element.

Keywords: Empowerment, , Fund, Joint Business Group

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I. BACKGROUND

Social development in Indonesia is, in essence, an effort to achieve the state's objectives contained in the Preamble to the 1945 Constitution, namely to promote the general welfare and intellectual life of the nation. The process of building the facilities and infrastructure is attempted to reach out to various regions is not yet optimal because of limited government funds and the extent of territories that must be reached. The impact, in terms of economic politics, poverty is seen as a consequence of wealth and power on the one hand and foster the fringe people have a weak bargaining position from other parties. From a socioeconomic point of view, poverty profiles are also the product of the filtering-effect of social coatings and access structures within a society, obstructing the opportunities of the poor in obtaining the various services and fruits of development.

By observing the characteristics of poverty, poverty alleviation is aimed towards strengthening community institutions, both from the aspect of institutional empowerment and strengthening of community organizations. Empowerment is a process that elevates the changing power relationships between individuals, groups and social institutions. The context of empowerment can include (1) changing attitudes, poor people are guided and assisted toward normative social behavior, (2) increasing social participation of people who are the target of policy, in order to have the opportunity to participate, not only in decision making, (3) social solidarity, social empowerment capable of creating a condition or state of relationship between individuals/groups based on shared moral feelings and beliefs and reinforced by shared emotional experiences, (4) improvement the economic condition of the people, through social empowerment is expected to increase economic condition and increase the income of the citizens, especially the poor, (5) improvement of the function of poor family, poor family institution is also the main target in poverty alleviation with the aim to return the expected family function.

The central government through the Ministry of Social Affairs has channeled direct assistance to poor communities with *KUBE* through banking mechanisms. Assistance shall no longer be of a nature (goods) which shall be provided by the Central Government through a third party, but provided by *KUBE* members themselves.

The implementation of *KUBE* in West Sulawesi in 2011 get assistance worth a total of 4.9 billion rupiahs through the Social Service of West Sulawesi Province. This assistance was handed over by the Chairman of Commission VIII *DPR*, Abdul Kadir Karding to the Governor of West Sulawesi, Anwar Adnan Saleh. Abdul Kadir Karding said, "This assistance is given to help small entrepreneurs in improving their economic level, and in the implementation it is not on target." Anwar Adnan Saleh explained the aid allocation, "Social Development Assistance for *KUBE* is budgeted for 1.8 billion rupiahs for 60 *KUBE* in Mamasa and North Mamuju, each receiving 30 million rupiahs. The funding for 1.7 billion rupiahs has growth with an allocation of 20 million rupiahs for one *KUBE*, awarded to 85 *KUBE* spread over five districts. There are 14 *KUBE* in Majene, 18 *KUBE* in Mamasa, 22 *KUBE* in Mamuju, 26 *KUBE* in Polewali, and 5 *KUBE* in North Mamuju (*RMOL.CO News Agency Politics/21 April 2011*). As mentioned earlier in the media regarding budget allocation for Joint Business Group (*KUBE*) in West Sulawesi province, here are the following data:

Table 1: The Disbursement of Deconcentration Funds Assistance for *KUBE* per Regency

Regency/Year	2011	2012	2013	2014
Mamuju	28	33	65	63
Polman	34	39	20	16
Majene	18	0	25	15
Mamasa	20	27	0	30
Mamuju Utara	10	10	0	16
Total	110	109	110	140

Source: Board of Social Service of West Sulawesi, 2017

In the implementation of *KUBE* program, it is not running as expected. There are some obstacles that occur so that the existing programs are implemented and there is also stalled each district. such as the distribution of aid to the community until the last deadline has been delayed by the Social Service of West Sulawesi. In fact, *KUBE* assistance should be distributed no later than December 20 for assistance from the budget of West Sulawesi in 2011 and December 25 for assistance sourced from the state budget in 2011. According to the Head of Empowering Sector of Board of Social Service in West Sulawesi Province, Syahrul, "The channeling of funds has been partly channeled as received in Mamasa District, but other districts have not. We do not know what causes it so it has not been channeled. In fact, *SP2D* already exists. For this problem, the banks know better." (*Radar Sulbar, December 28, 2011*).

Reviewing *KUBE* problem in West Sulawesi Province, the researcher is interested in conducting research on "*Empowering Joint Business Group in Mamuju Regency*".

II. REVIEW OF RELATED CONCEPTS

1. Poverty Concept

According to *Bappenas*, poverty is a condition where a person or group of men and women can not fulfill their basic rights to maintain and develop a dignified life that fulfills food, health, education, employment, housing, clean water, land, resources nature, the environment, the security of violence or the threat and the right to participate in socio-political life for both women and men. The criteria of the Central Bureau of Statistics are called absolute poor if their income is not enough to meet their minimum needs in food, clothing, housing, education, health and other basic needs. Specifically for the basic needs of food used is 2100 calories per capita in each day.

2. Empowerment Concept

In the administration of government and the implementation of the development, Ma'ruf (2004: 51) stated that the government should pay attention to the following matters:

- 1) The central and local government should no longer be in the most decisive position and the community as the object, but the society should be the subject of development. If the previous planning is always from top to bottom then the next starts from the bottom up (bottom up);
- 2) Society empowerment is intended for the community in its individual and social capacities to have the ability to continue its life based on the existing economic, socio-cultural and natural resource advantages;
- 3) Society empowerment basically expands self-reliance and active role of society in self-protection and environment;

- 4) Active participation of the community in the planning process is one of the keys to the success of any development

Kartasasmita (1996: 169) says "Conceptual empowerment is an effort to build power by encouraging, motivating and awakening awareness of the potential possessed and working to develop it." Backwardness of society requires encouragement from government or authorized institutions so as to develop themselves and be able to stand from its own ability.

Partadinata (2004:45) confirms that meaningful community empowerment improves people's capacity and independence in their implementation through three main approaches:

- 1) Creating an atmosphere and climate that embody the development of its potential or power;
- 2) Strengthening the potential or power of the community (empowering); and
- 3) Protecting the community through favor of the weak to maintain unbalanced competition, where the weak are less able to face the strong.

Here are following strategies used to empower the poor:

- 1) The formation of self-help groups, meaning that the poor are given the freedom to form and move in the desired group;
- 2) The assistance, which is very important considering that the task is to foster group activities, accompanying the process of forming and organizing the group as facilitator, communicator or dynamicator. In order for the group not to depend on outsiders (being independent); and
- 3) Involving local village apparatus, which is needed in funding the disbursement.

According to Somudiningrat (1999:138), the success indicators from which are used to measure the implementation of community empowerment programs include:

- 1) Reduced poor population;
- 2) Increased business and income distribution made by the poor by utilizing available resources;
- 3) Increasing public awareness of efforts to improve the welfare of poor families in the environment;
- 4) Increasing the independence of groups that are characterized by the growing productive efforts of members and groups, the stronger the group's capital, and the value of the extent of group interaction with other groups; and
- 5) Improving community capacity and equity of income of groups capable of meeting their basic social needs.

3. Joint Business Group (KUBE) Concept

Joint Business Group (*KUBE*) is a group of citizens or social assisted families formed by the community or social assisted families who have been fostered through the process of *PROKESOS* (social welfare program) activities to carry out social welfare activities and economic enterprises in the spirit of togetherness as a means to improve the welfare level social (Depsos RI, 2005). The existence of Joint Business Groups for the poor in the midst of society has sought the means to increase productive economic enterprises, especially in income-generating, providing some of the necessary needs for the poor, creating a harmonious social relationship among the poor, self-development, and as a forum for inter-member experience

Through the group, each poor family can share experiences, communicate with each other, get to know each other, and solve problems and perceived needs.

a. Goals and Targets

The goals of *KUBE* is directed towards accelerating poverty eradication through:

- 1) Improving the ability of *KUBE* members in meeting the needs of daily living, characterized by increasing income, improving food quality, clothing, health, and education;
- 2) Improving the ability of *KUBE* members in overcoming problems that may occur in their families as well as in social environment;
- 3) Improving the ability of *KUBE* members in presenting their social roles;

b. Legal Basis of KUBE Programs

Landasan hukum pelaksanaan program bantuan sosial KUBE meliputi:

- 1) The Constitution (*Undang-Undang Dasar*) 1945 on Article 34;
- 2) Law No. 6 of 1974 on Basic Provisions of Social Welfare;
- 3) Government Regulation No. 42 of 1981 on the Social Welfare Services for the Poor and Needy;
- 4) Presidential Decree No. 124 of 2001 and No. 8 of 2002 on the Poverty Reduction Committee;
- 5) Ministerial of Social Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia Decree No. 50/PENGHUK/2002 on Poverty Reduction;

- 6) MoU Ministry of Social Affairs-KUKN Ministerial Agreement No.02/HUK/NKB/2013, No.01/KB/M.KUKM/II/2013 on the Building and Developing *KUBE*.

c. Organization and Management of *KUBE*

- 1) Management of *KUBE* In essence, *KUBE* is formed by and for members of *KUBE* which is selected from the group members who are willing and able to support the development of *KUBE*, have qualities such as willingness to serve, sense of call, able to organize and coordinate the activities of its members, have tenacity, knowledge, and well-experienced;

- 2) Membership of *KUBE*

KUBE members are *PMKS* as the target of the prepared program. The number of members for each *KUBE* ranges from 5 to 10 persons/*KK* in accordance with *PMKS* type;

- 3) Administration of *KUBE*

The management or managers of *KUBE* need to have a record or administration that governs membership, organization, activities, finance, bookkeeping, and so forth. *KUBE* records and administration include member books, *KUBE* rule books, financial bookkeeping/yield management, list managers, and so on.

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research was conducted in Mamuju Regency, conducted from August to October 2017. This research is descriptive with qualitative approach. The method of collecting data primarily through in-depth interview, while secondary data that is taking on the research-related institutions, as well as direct observation on the location of *KUBE* beneficiary recipients.

IV. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Board of Social Service of West Sulawesi Province has done several things in the implementation of *KUBE* programs in Mamuju Regency as follows:

1. Identification of *KUBE*

Identification is an act to discover a type of business made by a group of joint ventures through a proposal submitted to the government of *KUBE* fund management. This identification in the form of direct examination of the field in accordance with the facts filed by the applicants;

2. Socialization

Socialization is an activity of empowerment of joint business group (*KUBE*) both orally and writing which is addressed to people who have less access to information and about government assistance through group effort. The purpose of socialization is to convey information to the community with less access to information and build perceptions of the *KUBE* programs.

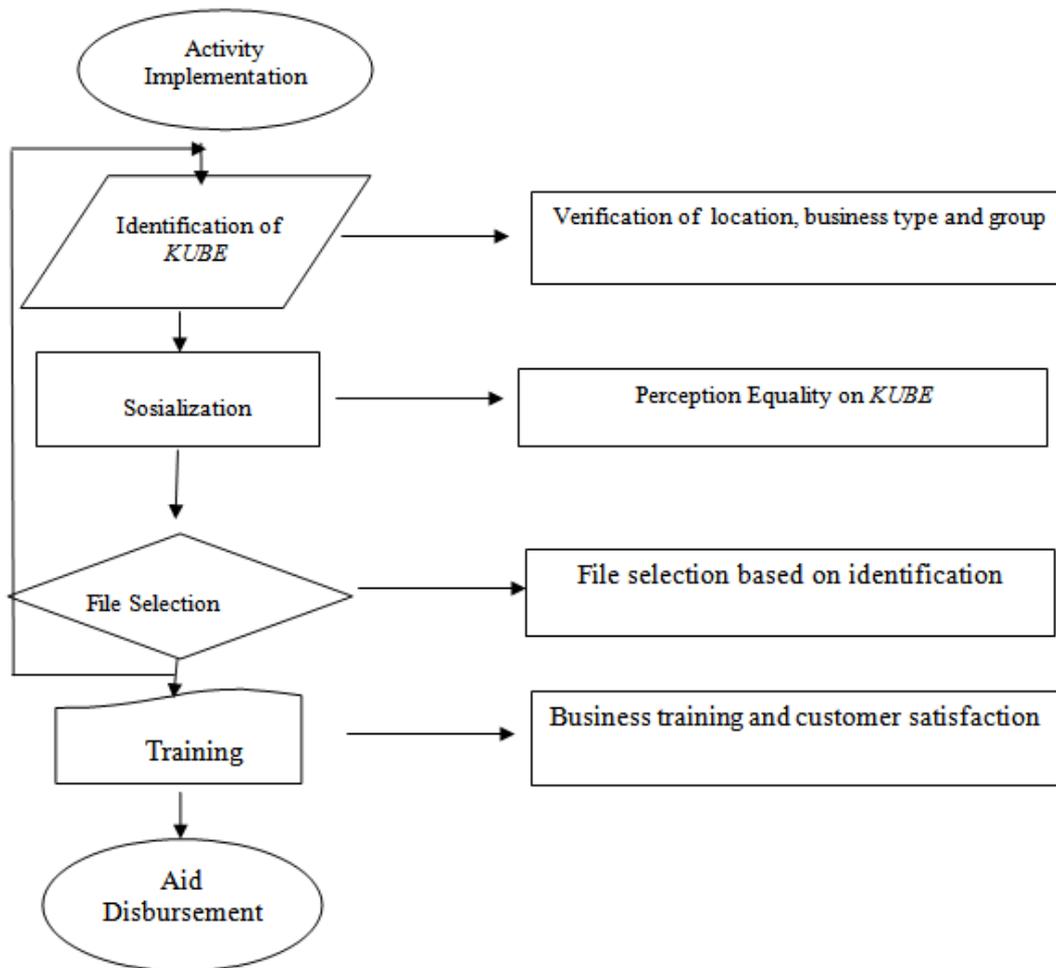
3. File Selection of *KUBE*

The selection is an effort made by the assistance team and the government by selecting and sorting the file of applicants in accordance with the target criteria. The selection was conducted at the Social Service Office of the Government of West Sulawesi based on the number of incoming proposals and the results of identification conducted by the *KUBE* Fund management team. The selection process is done after all applicant files are collected, then verified based on the identification result done by the management team. After that, those are applied by the priority scale based on the level of the applicant condition that really need for the continuation of their business

4. Business Training

Vocational skill training is intended to improve practical business capabilities tailored to *KUBE* interests and skills as well as regional conditions. Another added value of training is the growing self-esteem of *KUBE* members to overcome the problems faced and improve their living conditions as well.

Figure 1: The Flow of Activity Implementation of KUBE



Source: Data Information and Oobservation on KUBE in Mamuju Regency, 2017

5. Fund Resources

The resources of the policy meant here are the resources of funds and human resources sufficient quality and quantity. Resources of funds come from the State Ministry of Social Affairs (*DIPA Directorate of Poverty Reduction*) allocated to support the implementation of the program as follows:

a) Stimulant Support for KUBE

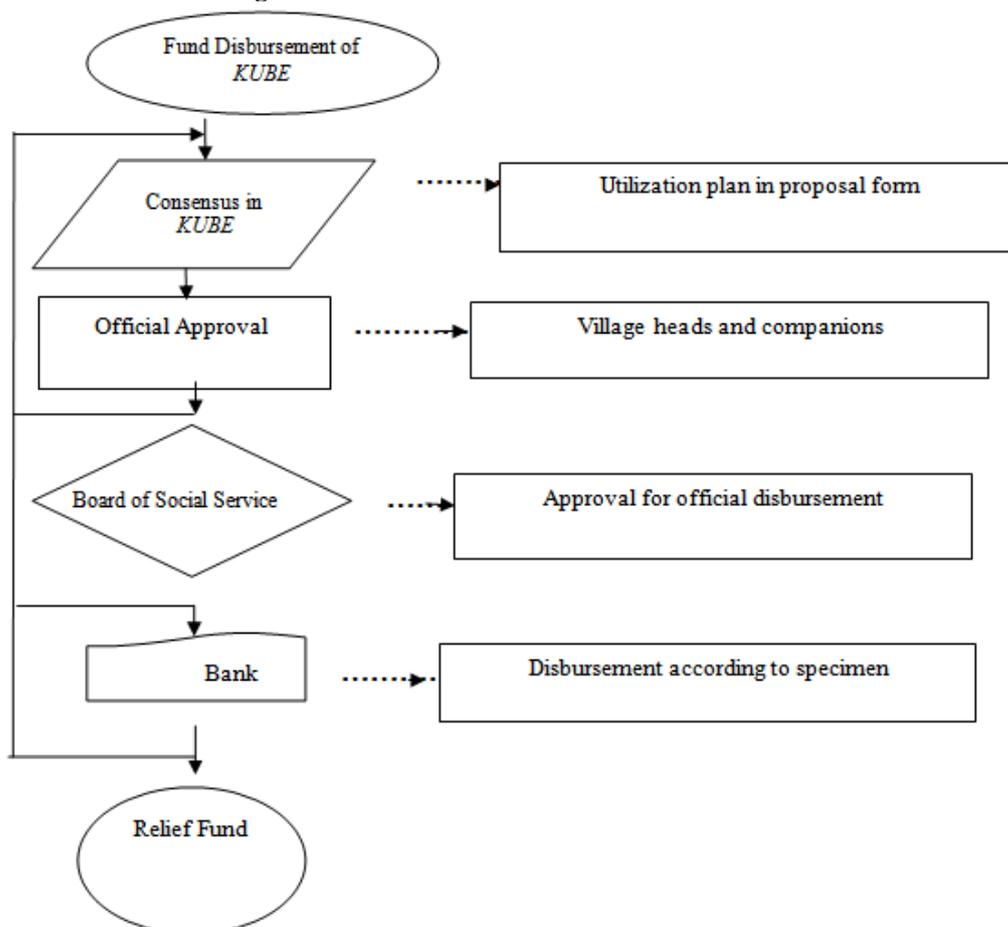
It is a stimulant fund that is channeled directly to KUBE through a recording at a governmental bank;

b) Operational Cost

Operational costs are used to support regional operational activities, such as administration and coordination, coaching, mentoring, monitoring and evaluation, and the compilation and submission of reports. The point here is companion honor, report copies, and so on.

Mechanisms and requirements for disbursement of KUBE funds describe that there is a clear proposal of business that has been agreed by all members, clear program of work/utilization, well-known counselor, village officials, and known to the District Social Service and forwarded to the West Sulawesi Provincial Office. Moreover, the process and request for approval to the authorized officials in which at the time of disbursement, it must queue at the bank. Those are described in the following flow form:

Figure 2: The Flow of Fund Disbursement of KUBE



Source: Data Information and Observation on KUBE in Mamuju Regency, 2017

In 2013, the Provincial Government of West Sulawesi has channeled the assistance of Joint Business Group through Deconcentration Budget of fiscal year 2013, valued at 1.8 billion rupiahs to 90 groups of rural and 20 of urban KUBE. While in 2014, there are 50 urban and 90 rural KUBE for Mamuju Regency which get rations as much as 19 urban and 44 rural with total 63 KUBE. For more details, see the following table:

Table 2: Data of KUBE Empowerment in Year 2012-2014

No.	Regency	Year 2012		Year 2013		Year 2014		Total
		Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	
1	Mamuju	7	26	20	45	19	44	161
2	Majene	0	0	0	25	15	0	40
3	Polman	9	30	0	20	16	0	75
4	Matra	3	7	0	0	0	16	26
5	Mamasa	6	21	0	0	0	30	57
	Total	25	84	20	90	50	90	359

Source: Board of Social Service of West Sulawesi Province, 2017

Based on table 1, it can be seen that the distribution of aid to Joint Business Group in West Sulawesi Province through Social Service from 2012 until 2014 is 359 Joint business groups including 95 urban and 264 rural *KUBE* in five districts. The funding of each group of joint efforts to get assistance varies depending on the type of business developed by the group, but based on observations and study documents of more researchers at the number 20 million rupiahs among others: *Karya Kali* in Binanga Urban Village Mamuju District for Washing Motorcycle with 20 million rupiahs; *Rahmatullah* in South Peak Environment, Binanga Urban Village for trading business with 20 million rupiahs; *Sipatuo* in Bebanga Subdistrict, Kalukku District for trading business with 20 million rupiahs. Those are as explained as follows:

Table 3: Identity and Business Type of *KUBE* in Mamuju Regency

No.	<i>KUBE</i>	Board Member	Address	Business Type	Total Aid (Rp)
1	Karya Kali Mamuju	Idris	Jln. Tammasapi Kel.Binanga	Motorcycle/ Car Washing	Rp 20.000.000
2	Rahmatullah	Jasmani	Ling. Pun Selatan Kel.Binanga	Trading	Rp 20.000.000
3	Sipatuo	Patta	Kel. Bebanga Kec.Kalukku	Trading	20.000.000
4	Kube Amanda Kreatif	Arianto	Kel. Binanga Kab.Mamuju	Printing	20.000.000
5	Semoga Sukses	Firman	Dusun Pokkang kec.Kalukku	Carpentry	20.000.000
6	Mawar	Yanti Ara	Dusun Sendana Kec.Tommo	Tailoring	20.000.000
7	Sabar Subur	Rukman	Desa Keang kec.Kalukku	Carpentry	20.000.000
8	Sipodalle	Darmi C.	Dusun Beru Beru kec.Tappalang	Trading	20.000.000
9	Sisayangi	M.Yunus	Dusun papalang Kec.Papalang	Cow Farming	20.000.000
10	Sumber Sejahtera	Amiruddin	Dusun Lebanai Desa Lebanai Rano Kec.Tapalng Barat	Trading	20.000.000

Source: Board of Social Service of West Sulawesi Province, 2017

E. Factors Affecting The Implementation of *KUBE* Empowerment

It cannot be denied that internal and external influences in the implementation of *KUBE* programs also determine success or failure by these following factors:

1. Internal Factor

Based on observations and in-depth interviews with *KUBE* administrators, it was found that some administrators themselves did not possess knowledge of the business types in their group, only because they were invited to form a group/sufficient membership due to the lack of understanding. They do not work wholeheartedly. In fact, there are even those who directly ask to be divided only funds for *KUBE* assistance program that has been disbursed. These findings were also recognized by the West Sulawesi Provincial Social Services Head which lead to a decision to stop the aid for such business group.

2. External Factor

Politics influences many policies including poverty alleviation program policies. The political influence is referred to the impact of practical political engagement on decision-making in the implementation of *KUBE* programs. From the results of interviews with the Head of Social Service of West Sulawesi Province, it is recognized that in budgeting, there is always a tug-of-war between the government and members of House

Representatives (*DPR*) and political parties that impose the will. Furthermore, there is a kind of buying and selling interests but in the name of the poor. This type of transaction is a fictitious *KUBE* whereas also found in Mamuju Regency.

V. CONCLUSION

The empowerment for Joint Business Group in Mamuju Regency Proposal selection has been made referring to priority scale based on guidance of poverty reduction implementation for poor group. It is effortlessly developed by identification to location of the applicants to see and check the factual data;

The empowerment for Joint Business Groups in Mamuju Regency in terms of funding sources. In 2013, the Provincial Government of West Sulawesi has channeled the assistance of Joint Business Group through Deconcentration Budget of fiscal year 2013, valued at 1.8 billion rupiahs to 90 rural and 20 urban *KUBE*. While in 2014, there are 50 urban and 90 rural *KUBE* for Mamuju Regency to get rations as much as 19 urban and 44 rural with total 63 *KUBE*. The funding for each group of joint ventures to get assistance varies depending on the type of business developed by the group at 20 million rupiahs per *KUBE*;

The empowerment for Joint Business Group in Mamuju Regency is influenced by internal factor that is lack of knowledge and spirit of *KUBE* management itself. While the external factor from political aspect happened to give pressure between political elite and government breaking procedure by imposing its sympathizer to receive assistance and fictitious *KUBE*.

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