



BUPATI SUMBAWA BARAT PROVINSI NUSA TENGGARA BARAT

West Sumbawa, September 25th, 2020

To : Open Government Partnership Secretariat
1110 Vermont Avenue NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20005

Number: 050/032/Bappeda Litbang/IX/2020
RE: Letter of Support of West Sumbawa Regency for OGP Local Application

Dear Selection Committee of Open Government Partnership (OGP) Local,

On behalf of the Government of West Sumbawa Regency, I would like to express our willingness and commitment to participate in the Pilot Program of Open Government Partnership (OGP) Local. We firmly believe that an open and transparent government is critical to promoting public participation in reducing poverty and providing the best quality of public services in West Sumbawa.

We have agreed that we are willing to join the Local OGP application with the West Nusa Tenggara Provincial Government. This is in accordance with the agreement between the two Local Governments (West Sumbawa Regency - West Nusa Tenggara Province) and our Civil Society Organization (CSOs) partners: FITRA NTB, Seknas FITRA, SOMASI NTB, PWYP Indonesia, SOLIDARITY CENTER, LEGITIMID, and also the Secretariat of the CSOs-Open Government Partnership in Indonesia.

We are keen to join the OGP Local because the program provides support to the local governments in the form of seminars, training and consultations by OGP practitioners, experts and partners. It also enables us to build multi-stakeholder collaboration across the region to address local challenges. These supports will be beneficial to improve the quality of government-driven action plans and eventually improve the quality of life of West Sumbawa citizens.

By joining OGP Local, West Sumbawa Regency wants to improve and scale up good practices in West Sumbawa. We have been implementing reform measures to enhance transparency, accountability, and citizen participation within our local government.

Important co-creation innovations in public service as follows:

First, The Regional Mutual Assistance Empowerment Program or abbreviated as PDPGR has played a significant role in strengthening community participation in the entire regional development cycle. Planning, implementation and evaluation are facilitated by PDPGR agents who come from members of the local community who inhabit each area or are called

peleuk. PDPGR activities take advantage of community meeting rooms directly at the community level by presenting people from various entities with a maximum of 500 people scheduled every Thursday night for the absorption of public aspirations directly conveyed to Regional Leaders and officials in related agencies. We call this activity "YASINAN" based on local Islamic tradition, which is a forum with the aim of minimizing the difficulties of the community in conveying their aspirations and minimizing the emergence of street parliaments and criminality due to clogged taps of democracy, providing information while maintaining harmony and a conducive regional situation.

Second, Strengthening social accountability in the implementation of regional development. The local government through PDPGR has also provided a complaint and feedback mechanism or conveying aspirations for the community regarding the implementation of regional development, particularly the delivery of public services. This mechanism can strengthen community solidarity in planning and implementing development. The birth of a regional program based on Gotong Royong where residents play a role in planning activities, making an inventory of problems, registering people's needs and communicating directly to regional leaders on each subject matter and need to become a regional program in the form of Gotong Royong.

Third, Increasing the effectiveness of regional programs and budgets, especially the fulfillment of the basic rights of the community in various fields. The West Sumbawa Regional Government has allocated a regional budget for the fulfillment of these basic rights amounting to 112 billion IDR per year from year 2016 to year 2019. These services are allocated for Gotong Royong activities in the health and sanitation sector through: the "Jambanization" program to realize safe and adequate sanitation for poor households and vulnerable groups; Providing monthly assistance to groups of disabilities and the elderly through the "Disability and Elderly Pariri Card"; Providing Business Capital to local economic growth through the "UMKM Bariri Card"; Providing Assistance and Needs for Fishermen through the "Fishermen's Bariri Card"; Providing Agricultural Service Assistance through "Bariri Tani Cards"; and the Government to pay health contributions to residents through the "Healthy Pariri Card"; and budget allocated for the construction of houses unfit for habitation through the "Bariri Papan Card". All of these activities were carried out by means of *GOTONG ROYONG*, the community played a direct role from data collection, planning to implementation, while the Government had a role in guidance, monitoring and evaluation. This data collection is able to increase the validity of data and information factually and effectively as a reference for the government in preparing work plans and allocating regional budgets.

The *GOTONG ROYONG* mechanism which has been institutionalized through Regional Regulation Number 3 year 2016 concerning the Regional Program for Mutual Empowerment (PDPGR) has become the database for the direction of development in West Sumbawa Regency for five years.

These initiatives have an impact in reducing the poverty rate in West Sumbawa Regency by 2.56%, namely in 2016 of 16.50% and in 2019 of 13.85%. This initiative is also very helpful for solving social problems after the earthquake and during the Covid-19 pandemic in West Sumbawa Regency.

West Sumbawa regency envisions to scale up these good initiatives in OGP Local Program. For instance, West Sumbawa Regency wants to improve its public services through increased community participation. The community is given extensive space in conveying ideas,

proposing activities and recording field problems. So that the West Sumbawa Government has references and databases that are accountable in regional development and budget allocation for fulfillment of development based on GOTONG ROYONG DATA through online (base on technology) and offline (base on local wisdom) for Complain Handling Mechanism. We have ambitions to integrate PDPGR with NTB One Data, Revitalize Posyandu and NTB CARE. We will also develop innovation collaborations between West Sumbawa Regency with Province of West Nusa Tenggara, West Sumbawa Regency with local governments within a province and at the national level.

We have a serious commitment to OGP Local and have qualified resources such as the Regency Development Planning Office (Bappeda), and other respective offices in running the government's openness commitment and carrying out collaborative initiatives with civil society. We also have collaborated with CSOs such as Perkumpulan Media Lintas Komunitas (Medialink) as the Secretariat of the CSO-Open Government Partnership Indonesia, FITRA NTB and Seknas FITRA related to budget transparency, "LEGITIMID" and "SOLIDARITY CENTER" who are concerned with the public services issues.

We are willing to commit, learn and share our knowledge with other local governments at the same province, at the national and from abroad. We will share experiences, both in groups and with other Local Citizens in the respective countries, and thematic circles with other potential group members.

All of this prior diagnosis effort will undoubtedly help us to design and implement an ambitious Open Government action plan, in conjunction with the citizen's driving force. Based on various problems, we will focus on thematic policy areas:

- Open data and public information disclosure
- Public service delivery
- Marginalized Communities
- Citizen Participation
- Health

We would be very proud to have the opportunity to get support from the Open Government Partnership to develop and advance the open government system in West Sumbawa. We are very welcome to embrace new ideas about open governance, collaborate with civil society and provide the necessary resources. We are also ready to share ideas and learn about open government practices with other countries.

Sincerely, —


Dr. Ir. H. W. Musyafirin, MM
Regent of West Sumbawa

