ABSTRACT

THE STRATEGY OF POOR PEOPLE EMPOWERMENT THROUGH OPTIMIZING ZAKAT AND INFAQ/SHADAQAH FUND MANAGEMENT

By

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The empowerment efforts in a poverty reduction context by Moslem society is actually having spiritual foundation as taught by the religion; the obligation to pay zakat (almsgiving) for capable people as an instrument for income distribution. The zakat management should be conducted optimally and professionally.

The research problem statement is “how does the poor people empowerment strategy through optimizing the zakat, infaq (charity in the way of Allah), and shadaqah (voluntary charity) fund management by BAZ (Zakat Management Institution) in Lampung province?” the research objective is to analyze the strategy of poor people empowerment through optimizing zakat and infaq/shadaqah fund management by BAZ in Lampung province.

This is a qualitative research. Informan come from Zakat Management Institution or BAZ in Lampung province and public representatives. Data are collected with interview and documentation, and subsequently is analyzed qualitatively with data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions.

The results show that the poor people empowerment strategy through optimizing zakat, infaq, and shadaqah fund management by Zakat Management Institution or BAZ in Lampung province are as follows. (1) strategy of collecting zakat from muzakki (zakat payer) is conducted by BAZ using socialization about the obligation of paying zakat, building BAZ in regency and district areas, building zakat collector units, and improving internal BAZ in Lampung province. (2) zakat distribution strategy is conducted based on categories of collection agreements by making priorities for zakat, infaq, and shadaqah fund uses, giving trust to the zakat distributor unit to distribute the collected fund, distributing the fund for incidental programs. (3) the zakat usefulness strategy especially for poor people is conducted by developing productive zakat to improve people life standards, so that the mustahiq (zakat receiver) will improve their economic standards that someday the will change to be muzakki (zakat payer). The zakat distribution is also monitored.

Keywords: empowerment strategy, optimizing management