# THE ROLE OF THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY IN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Elfadhli<sup>1</sup>, Fajar Budiman<sup>2</sup>, dan Nabil Bonavido<sup>3</sup>

 <sup>1</sup>Fakultas Ekonomi dan Bisnis Islam, Universitas Islam Negeri Mahmud Yunus Batusangkar <u>elfadhli@iainbatusangkar.ac.id</u>
<sup>2</sup>Perbankan Syariah, STAI YAPTIP Pasaman Barat <u>fajar budiman13@staiyaptip.ac.id</u>
<sup>3</sup>Fakultas Ekonomi dan Bisnis Islam, Universitas Islam Negeri Mahmud Yunus Batusangkar nabilbonavido@gmail.com

#### ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research is to find out the role of the Regional Planning, Research and Development Agency (BARENLITBANGDA) as a planner in the economic development of Sawahlunto City. The type of research conducted is field research or field research with a descriptive qualitative approach. Data collection techniques that the authors use are interviews and documentation. The analysis technique used is data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions. The results showed that BARENLITBANGDA of Sawahlunto City as a planning agency in the economic development of Sawahlunto City has a major role, namely planning economic development in Sawahlunto City. The economic development plan that had been prepared by BARENLITBANGDA for Sawahlunto City was submitted to the Mayor and discussed at the Sawahlunto City RPJMD meeting involving all parties related to economic development in Sawahlunto City. Benefits of research For the author to know more deeply about the role of BARENLITBANGDA in the economic development of Sawahlunto City.

#### Keywords: Role, Obstacle, BARENLITBANGDA

## **INTRODUCTION**

Development is a conscious and planned process of modernity towards a better change than before. Development is a national effort to realize human ascend. Due to the essential nature of humans as multidimensional creatures, national development is a place for accumulation of various development programs originating from regional development (Nelly Lestari, 2021: 33).

In order for development in urban areas to proceed according to plan, it is necessary to have a unified factor that influences the production of urban space and a special focus on the role of the state, the private sector and society (Nntaka et al., 2023). Then decentralized urban planning is a policy tool and practice used to regulate urban infrastructure for sustainable development (Abubakari et al., 2023)

One of the areas that is currently having development is Sawahlunto City. Sawahlunto City is a city located in West Sumatra Province. The development of Sawahlunto City is inseparable from the history of mining. Before discovering coal, Sawahlunto had no any development at all, but after an inspection by Ir. De Groet in Sawahlunto in 1868, for the first time the City of Sawahlunto became the first coal mining production city in West Sumatra which was inaugurated in 1891 (Andi Asoka, 2005: 3)

Sawahlunto city is developing into one of the historical old cities in Indonesia currently which has many cultural heritage objects. Some cultural heritage objects in Sawahlunto include: Mbah Suro Mining Pit, Sawahlunto Railway Museum, old buildings around the Youth Market, Silo Square and the Goedang Ransoem Museum located on Jalan Abdul Rahman Hakim, Kelurahan Air Dingin , Lembah Segar District, Sawahlunto City, West Sumatra (Uiz, 2014: 3-4).

Since the Ombilin mine in Sawahlunto stopped operating in the early 1990s, the infrastructure built during the Dutch Colonial government was not functioning as it should. Many buildings that used to be mining infrastructure have changed functions, both as government administration offices and banking offices to community settlements and mining infrastructure buildings have been turned into museums, for example, Goedang Ransoem Museum (Adrial, 2014: 6).

On one hand, local economic development has become a renewed interest in academics and policy debate (Salder, 2023). On the other hand, the Regional Planning, Research and Development Agency (BARENLIBANGDA) in the regions is in a strategic position in government and has a central role in managing development and serving the community (et al., 2020). This paper aims to explore the role of the Regional Planning, Research Development and Agency (BARENLIBANGDA) the Economic in Development of Sawahlunto City.

## **Theoritical Study**

1. Role

The role is defined as a device of behavior that is expected to be possessed by people who are domiciled in society. Position in this case is expected as a certain position in society which may be high, mediocre or low. Position is a container whose contents are certain rights and obligations. While these rights and obligations can be regarded as roles. Therefore, someone who has a certain position can be said to be a role holder. A right is actually an authority to do or not to do, while an obligation is a burden or duty (R. Sutyo Bakhir, 2009: 348).

2. Development

Development shows the occurrence of an advanced process based on its own strength, depending on humans and their social structure. Development is not top-down, but depends on "inner will", the process of self-emancipation. Thus, active and creative participation in the development process is only possible if it occurs due to the maturation process (Kumba Digdowiseiso, 2019: 3-4).

3. Development Planning

Early planning, especially at the end of the 19th century and after the second world war, focused on aspects of the design of the physical environment and was referred to as the morphological conception of space stage. Over time, planning develops because of human needs, so planning is needed by humans so that the potential for failure is smaller in efforts to fulfill needs (Deddy Supriyadi, 2004: 21).

## 4. BARENLITBANGDA

BARENLITBANGDA is an acronym for Badan Perencanaan, Penelitian dan Pengembangan Daerah which means Regional Planning, Research and Development Agency. Formed in 1980 by Presidential Decree (1980:27). The Regional Development Planning Agency is a regional technical institution related to research and regional development planning led by an agency head who is under responsible to the mayor/governor through the regional secretary (Hisyam & Andri, 2022). Barenlitbangda has main duty and organizational structure in it. They include the main duties and functions of the head of the agency, the main functions of the secretariat, the main functions in the economic sector, the physical and infrastructure fields, the social and cultural fields, and the field of income development and reporting research, also the field of capital development. Brenlitbangda's job is not far from the elaboration of its acronym which will be related to planning, research and development of a region (Kuncoro, 2009: 21).

## **RESEARCH METHODS**

The writer's research method is descriptive qualitative research. The instrument in this study was the researcher himself. The writer collects data, reduces data, presents data and analyzes data. Authors are assisted in carrying out activities with assistive devices such as field notes, and assistive devices such as cameras. The author uses data collection techniques in the form of interviews and documentation to collect information.

Data analysis is the process of systematically compiling data from interviews, field notes, and documentation and drawing conclusions so that they can be understood and shared with others (Sugiyono, 2015: 89). Data reduction. data presentation, and drawing conclusions are steps in managing data analysis. The writer uses the source triagulation method.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

#### 1. The role of Regional Planning, Research and Development Agency (Barenlitbangda) as a Planner in the Economic Development of Sawahlunto City.

BARENLITBANGDA Sawahlunto City as a planning agency in the economic development of Sawahlunto City has a main role, that is planning economic development in Sawahlunto City. The economic development plan that had been prepared by BARENLITBANGDA for Sawahlunto City was submitted to the Mayor and discussed at the Sawahlunto City RPJMD meeting involving all parties related to economic development in Sawahlunto City. This is in accordance with what was disclosed by Mrs. Helmi Surya as the Head of Economic Development Planning for the BARENLITBANGDA of Sawahlunto City. As follows:

"BARENLITBANGDA is an agency that has the main task of being a planner and participating in *the implementation of economic development in Sawahlunto City" (Helmi, Interview December 5<sup>th</sup>* ,2022).

The same thing was said by Mr. Neutropen Nuklis as Functional Planner. As follows:

"BARENLITBANGDA has the main task, as a planning agency for economic development in Sawahlunto City" (Netropen, Interview December  $5^{th}$ ,2022).

Likewise, what was said by Srimar Yeni as Functional Planner. As follows:

"BARENLITBANGDA has the main task, as a planning agency for economic development in Sawahlunto City" (Yeni, Interview December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022).

The population of Sawahlunto City in 2022 is 66,413 people. It increased compared to 2021 (65,687 people). The growth rate shows a positive number and shows an increasing trend. The increase in population will certainly have an impact on the emergence of problems in terms of population. The more the population, the more in determining policies that need to be considered in terms of the provision of various facilities and infrastructure or public facilities so that the welfare of the population is guaranteed. This is in accordance with what was disclosed by Mrs. Helmi Surva as the Head of Economic Development Planning for the BARENLITBANGDA of Sawahlunto City as follows:

"the population of Sawahlunto City in 2022 increased compared to 2021. In 2022 the population of Sawahlunto City was 66,413 people while in 2021 the population of Sawahlunto City was 65,687 people. The increasing in population has an impact on population problems.

BARENLITBANGDA Sawahlunto City as a planning agency is tasked with planning so that population problems can be resolved such as policies for providing facilities and infrastructure needed by the community" (Helmi, Interview December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022).

The level of health quality is an important indicator to describe the quality of human development in a region. The healthier the condition of a community, the better it will support the processes and dynamics of economic development in a region. In the end, the results of economic activity, that is the level of productivity of the population of an area can be realized. Regarding to the health development, the BARENLITBANGDA of Sawahlunto City has planned various health programs to improve public health status, especially in providing easy access to public services, such as *puskesmas* whose main target is to reduce the level of community morbidity, reduce maternal and infant mortality, reduce the prevalence of malnutrition and malnutrition. less and increase life expectancy. This is in accordance with what was disclosed by Mrs. Helmi Surya as the Head of Economic Development Planning for the BARENLITBANGDA of Sawahlunto City. As follows:

"Regarding health development, the BARENLITBANGDA of Sawahlunto City has planned various health programs to improve public health status, especially in providing easy access to public services, such as health centers whose main target is to reduce community morbidity rates, reduce maternal and infant mortality rates, reduce the prevalence of malnutrition and malnutrition and increase life expectancy" (Helmi, Interview December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022).

Fulfillment of the right to quality education is a measure of justice and equity in development outcomes and at the same time is an investment in human resources needed to support sustainable development. Equity, access and improving the quality of education will make local people have skills in the framework of regional economic development. BARENLITBANGDA Sawahlunto City as a planning agency has designed so that the quality of education in Sawahlunto City can be increased by means of equity and expansion of access to education, structuring education governance and anticipating an increase in education funding. This is in accordance with what was disclosed by Mrs. Helmi Surva as the Head of Economic Development Planning for the BARENLITBANGDA of Sawahlunto City. As follows:

"BARENLITBANGDA of Sawahlunto City as a planning agency has designed so that the quality of education in Sawahlunto City can be increased by means of equity and expansion of access to education, structuring education governance and anticipating an increase in education financing" (Helmi, Interview December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022).

Employment is one of the biggest problems of concern to local governments, where this employment issue is a very sensitive issue that must be resolved using various approaches so that the problem does not spread which has an impact on reducing people's welfare and security. Various problems in the field of employment faced by local governments include high unemployment rates, low expansion of open job opportunities, low competency and labor productivity. BARENLITBANGDA Sawahlunto city as an economic development planning agency has made a plan so that labor problems can be overcome. Such as holding employment training and providing business capital so that human resources in Sawahlunto City can create new jobs so that the unemployment rate in Sawahlunto City can decrease. This is in accordance with what was disclosed by Mrs. Helmi Surva as the Head of Development Planning Economic for the BARENLITBANGDA of Sawahlunto City. As follows:

"BARENLITBANGDA of Sawahlunto City as an economic development planning agency has made a plan so that labor problems can be overcome. Such as holding employment training and providing business capital so that human resources in Sawahlunto City can create new jobs so that the unemployment rate in Sawahlunto City can decrease" (Helmi, Interview December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022).

Population consumption pattern is also one of the socio-economic indicators of society which is strongly influenced by local culture and environment. Environmental culture and behavior will shape certain patterns of habits in community groups. The composition of household expenditure can be used as a measure to assess the level of economic welfare of the community. Household consumption expenditure includes various final household consumption expenditures on goods and services to meet the needs of individuals or groups directly. Household expenditure here includes purchases for food and non-food (goods and services) in the country and abroad. BARENLITBANGDA of Sawahlunto City as a planning agency has the task of planning so that people's consumption patterns can be stable and not experience such great inequality that economic development through the community can be achieved in accordance with the plans that have been made. This is in accordance with what was disclosed by Mrs. Helmi Surva as the Head of Development Planning Economic for the BARENLITBANGDA of Sawahlunto City. As follows:

"BARENLITBANGDA of Sawahlunto City as a planning agency has the task of planning so that people's consumption patterns can be stable and not experience such great inequality that economic development through the community can be achieved in accordance with the plans that have been made" (Helmi, Interview December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022).

Housing and the environment are organized to ensure the realization of livable and affordable housing in a healthy, safe, harmonious, orderly, planned, integrated and sustainable environment. The definition of housing itself is a collection of houses as part of settlements, both urban and rural, which are equipped with infrastructure, facilities and public facilities as a result of efforts to fulfill livable houses. Besides as a place for living, the house can also show one's social status. A person's social status is positively related to the quality/condition of the house. The higher a person's social status, the greater the opportunity to meet the need for better quality housing. BARENLITBANGDA of Sawahlunto City as a regional development planning agency has the task of planning the construction of livable housing so that every family in Sawahlunto City has a livable home. This is in accordance with what was disclosed by Mrs. Helmi Surva as the Head of Planning Economic Development for the BARENLITBANGDA of Sawahlunto City. As follows:

"BARENLITBANGDA of Sawahlunto City as a regional development planning agency has the task of planning the construction of livable housing so that every family in Sawahlunto City has a livable home" (Helmi, Interview December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022).

The problem of poverty is the main problem of the Indonesian people which has always been a priority for the government and has become a routine agenda in the national development plan. The poverty rate in Sawahlunto City in 2022 has decreased compared to 2021. The reduction in poverty that occurs is inseparable from the role of BARENLITBANGDA of Sawahlunto City in planning regional development. The efforts made by BARENLITBANGDA of Sawahlunto City to overcome poverty include collecting data on the income and expenditure of the people of Sawahlunto City. The data that has been obtained was then discussed at a regional development planning meeting. This is in accordance with what was disclosed by Mrs. Helmi Surya as the Head of Development Planning Economic BARENLITBANGDA Sawahlunto City. As follows:

"Efforts made by BARENLITBANGDA of Sawahlunto City to overcome poverty include collecting data on the income and expenditure of the people of Sawahlunto City. The data that has been obtained is then discussed at a regional development planning meeting" (Helmi, Interview December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022).

The implementation of economic development cannot be separated from the participation of stakeholders, namely the local government, the public and the private sector. Shared commitment and consistency in implementing the program of activities that have been formulated are the main keys in achieving sustainable and sustainable development. This is in accordance with what was disclosed by Mrs. Helmi Surya as the Head of Economic Development Planning for the BARENLITBANGDA of Sawahlunto City. As follows:

"When commitments can run together, there will definitely be mutual support between OPDs so that all can synergize well and can also work together so that all parties including the community can contribute to regional economic development" (Helmi, Interview December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022).

BARENLITBANGDA Sawahlunto City as a regional planning agency works closely with many parties so that regional development can run well. As regional planning agency, а of BARENLITBANGDA Sawahlunto City coordinates with all stakeholders who work together so that regional development in Sawahlunto City can run well in accordance with the plans that have been made. This is in accordance with what was disclosed by Mrs. Helmi Surva as the Head of Economic Development Planning for the BARENLITBANGDA of Sawahlunto City. As follows:

"BARENLITBANGDA as a regional planning agency which is a kitchen for concocting all plans in collaboration with all stakeholders and producing a regional development plan that is poured into the RPJMD" (Helmi, Interview December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022).

The formation of the RPJMD is based on economic growth in Sawahlunto City. Because without an analysis of economic growth, local governments cannot simply target regional economic growth. This is in accordance with what was disclosed by Mrs. Helmi Surya as the Head of Economic Development Planning for the BARENLITBANGDA of Sawahlunto City. As follows:

"For the formation of the RPJMD to materialize, it must first go through the stages of analyzing economic growth in Sawahlunto" (Helmi, Interview December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022).

In the developing of the economic sector, the Government of Sawahlunto City through BARENLITBANGDA is planning so that economic development in Sawahlunto City can run well. One of the efforts so that economic development in Sawahlunto City can run well is to formulate the economic problems that exist in Sawahlunto City. The results of the deliberation will later become a benchmark for local governments to make policies in the economic sector of Sawahlunto City. This is in accordance with what was disclosed by Mrs. Helmi Surya as the Head of Economic Development Planning for the BARENLITBANGDA of Sawahlunto City. As follows:

"The government's effort through BARENLITBANGDA as a planning agency in the economic development of Sawahlunto City is to look for economic problems in Sawahlunto City, for example the unemployment rate in Sawahlunto City is increasing, then find out what causes it and also look for solutions to solve these problems, so later, it can be formulated planning that economic development in Sawahlunto City can run well" (Helmi, Interview December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022).

The economic development plan that has been made by the government of Sawahlunto City through BARENLITBANGDA is poured into the RPJMD. Prior to being ratified, the draft that has been prepared by the Sawahlunto City government through BARENLITBANGDA will first be socialized to all community groups in Sawahlunto City through a public communication forum. It is in this public communication forum that the public will be able to find out the design of economic development in Sawahlunto City. And also in this public communication forum all groups of people can provide input and suggestions that they feel can help in economic development in Sawahlunto City. This is in accordance with what was disclosed by Mrs. Helmi Surya as the Head of Development Planning Economic for the BARENLITBANGDA of Sawahlunto City. As follows:

"After the RPJMD draft is completed, a forum called FKP, which stands for public communication forum, will be held. It is in this forum that later socialization will be made of how the economic development plan in Sawahlunto City has been included in the RPJMD" (Helmi, Interview December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022).

To ensure that economic development planning can run well, BARENLITBANGDA not only acts as a planning agency but also directly participates in overseeing the realization of economic development so that it is in accordance with the plans that have been made. This is in accordance with what was disclosed by Mrs. Helmi Surya as the Head of Economic Development Planning for the BARENLITBANGDA of Sawahlunto City. As follows: "BARENLITBANGDA, not only services as a planning agency, but also directly participates in the economic development process to oversee the relevant OPDs so that economic development can proceed according to plans that have been made" (Helmi, Interview December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022).

In accordance with what was said by Ms. Helmi Surva ST, MT as the Head of the Economic Development Planning Section of BARENLITBANGDA for Sawahlunto City, the role of BARENLITBANGDA for Sawahlunto City in the economic development of Sawahlunto City is as a planning agency which has an important task, namely assisting the Mayor in leading, coordinating, fostering, controlling and evaluating all programs and activities in the field of economic development planning for the Sawahlunto City. Besides, the BARENLITBANGDA of Sawahlunto City also plays a direct role in overseeing the process of realizing the economic development plan that has been made so that it goes according to what has been planned.

2. The constraints Experienced by BARENLITBANGDA of Sawahlunto City as Planners in the Economic Development of Sawahlunto City

In carrying out its duties and functions, the constraints experienced by BARENLITBANGDA of Sawahlunto City as a planner in economic development are not optimal the coordination and synchronization of the regional economic development planning process yet. Besides, there has not been effective control and evaluation from regional economic development policies yet, there wasn't integrated regional economic development systems yet, there hasn't been optimally managing and using regional economic development data as well as reducing the capacity of regional economic development planning resources yet. This is in accordance with what was disclosed by Mrs. Helmi Surva as the Head of Economic Development Planning for the BARENLITBANGDA of Sawahlunto City. As follows:

"The constraints experienced by BARENLITBANGDA of Sawahlunto City as planners in economic development are not yet optimal coordination and synchronization of the regional economic development planning process, not yet effective control and evaluation of regional economic development policies, not yet integrated regional economic development planning systems, not yet optimal management and utilization of development data regional economy and the low capacity of regional economic development planning resources" (Helmi, Interview December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022).

While, one of the constraints from BARENLITBANGDA of Sawahlunto City in carrying out economic development is about lack of budget so that economic development planning cannot be realized properly. Even though, the government of Sawahlunto City through BARENLITBANGDA of Sawahlunto City always tries to make all the plans that have been designed run as expected. This is in accordance with what was expressed by Ms. Helmi Surya as the Head of Economic Development Planning for the City of Sawahlunto BARENLITBANGDA. As follows:

"One of the obstacles experienced by BARENLITBANGDA of Sawahlunto City in implementing economic development was the lack of budget provided so that several programs did not go according to the initial plan" (Helmi, Interview 05 December 2022).

BARENLITBANGDA Besides. of Sawahlunto City experienced other obstacles in implementing economic development in Sawahlunto City. As felt by the tourism sector which is one of the sectors that is very influential in economic development in Sawahlunto City. Due to Sawahlunto City is one of the cities included in the world heritage which is a historic old city and also a mining tourism city, therefore, the tourism sector in Sawahlunto City plays an important role in economic development in Sawahlunto City.

However, since COVID-19, tourist visits to Sawahlunto City have decreased experienced drastically. So that it is very influential on regional income from the tourism sector of Sawahlunto City. This is in accordance with what was disclosed by Mr. Neutropen Nuklis as the Planning Functional. As follows:

"Before pandemic of COVID-19, tourism visits to Sawahlunto City were very high, moreover, every year an event was always held which was always attended by national and foreign tourists, unfortunately after being hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, tourist visits to Sawahlunto City has decreased drastically. Besides, many annual events were not held due to the pandemic regulation about social distancing at that time" (Netropen, Interview December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022).

Another obstacle from BARENLITBANGDA of Sawahlunto City in implementing economic development is the lack of awareness of the citizen of Sawahlunto City to do entrepreneurship so that the unemployment rate in Sawahlunto City is still relatively high. The high unemployment rate has had a major impact on regional economic development. This is in accordance with what was expressed by Mrs. Srimar Yeni as the Functional Planner. As follows:

"The obstacle in implementing economic development in Sawahlunto City is that there are still many unemployed people in Sawahlunto City and there is also a lack of awareness from the citizen about entrepreneurship so that it affects regional economic development" (Yeni, Interview December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022).

#### **3.** Efforts Made by BARENLITBANGDA of Sawahlunto City as a Planner to Overcome Constraints in Economic Development in Sawahlunto City

BARENLITBANGDA of Sawahlunto City has made efforts to deal with the constraints they met as an economic development planner that is to make coordination between parties involved in economic development work properly, such as holding meetings to discuss economic development plans in Sawahlunto City. This is in accordance with what was disclosed by Mrs. Helmi Surya as the Head of Economic Development Planning for the BARENLITBANGDA City of Sawahlunto. As follows:

"BARENLITBANGDA of Sawahlunto City is making efforts to make coordination between parties involved in economic development work properly, such as holding meetings to discuss economic development plans in Sawahlunto City" (Helmi, Interview December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022).

Meanwhile, to deal with the constraint in the implementation of economic development in Sawahlunto City, BARENLITBANGDA of the City of Sawahlunto made many efforts so that the economic development plans that had been planned could run as expected. One of the efforts to deal with these constraint is to become a party that participates in overseeing the course of economic development in Sawahlunto City. This is in accordance with what was disclosed by Mrs. Helmi Surya as the Head of Economic Development Planning for the BARENLITBANGDA City of Sawahlunto. As follows:

"To deal with the constraint in implementing economic development in Sawahlunto city is to directly oversee the economic development of Sawahlunto city so that economic development planning can run well even with a limited budget" (Helmi, Interview December  $5^{th}$ , 2022).

Another effort made by BARENLITBANGDA of Sawahlunto City to overcome obstacles in the implementation of regional economic development is to hold back activities that were not carried out due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which are currently starting to diminish. The Government of Sawahlunto also hopes that tourist visits in Sawahlunto City, which have decreased, can be as they were before the COVID-19 pandemic hit. This is in accordance with what was disclosed by Mr. Neutropen Nuklis as Planning Functional. As follows:

"We are trying to get the number of tourism visits back to Sawahlunto City by holding back events that were not held due to the COVID-19 pandemic" (Netropen, Interview December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022).

In addition, another effort made by BARENLITBANGDA of Sawahlunto City is to make the most of existing natural resources so that they can be put to good use. And entrepreneurship training is also held so that people are more aware of entrepreneurship so that the unemployment rate can be reduced and regional economic development can run well. This is in accordance with what was expressed by Mrs. Srimar Yeni as the Functional Planner. As follows:

"We try to make the most of existing natural resources so that they can be put to good use. And we also hold entrepreneurship training so that people are more aware of the importance of entrepreneurship so that the unemployment rate can be reduced" (Yeni, Interview December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022).

With the efforts that have been made by BARENLITBANGDA of Sawahlunto City, it is hoped that public awareness will arise to do entrepreneurship so that the unemployment rate in Sawahlunto City can be reduced and new business fields open so that economic development in Sawhlunto City can run well in accordance with the plans that have been previously designed.

#### **Conclusions and Research Contributions**

The conclusion from the results of the study "The Role of the Regional Planning, Research and Development Agency (BARENLITBANGDA) in the Economic Development of the City of Sawahlunto" is: BARENLITBANGDA of Sawahlunto City as a planning agency in the economic development of Sawahlunto City has the main role of planning economic development in Sawahlunto City.

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