

The Fiscal Health Check of Local Administrative Organization: Case Studies of Si Racha District, Chonburi

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ABSTRACT

Local administrative organizations are in close proximity to people. They are the first point of contact for public service delivery. All public services require a budget to be achieved. Therefore, the fiscal health of local administrative organizations is an important factor that affects the quality of public services in each area. And for that reason, this research aims to assess the fiscal health of local administrative organizations using mixed methods. The researcher used quantitative indicators within the scope of income, expenditure, liabilities, and equity. And the researcher also interviewed stakeholders to analyze the relationship between politics and fiscal policy. Chaopraya Surasak City Municipality and Laem Chabang City Municipality, the local administrative organization in Si Racha District, were selected as units of analysis using a purposive sampling approach. A criterion for selection is location; be located in a high-growth area. The results demonstrated that Chaopraya Surasak City Municipality and Laem Chabang City Municipality had moderately good fiscal health. The major weakness of both municipalities was that the proportion of tax receivables has continued to increase. These situations risked fiscal health. Another factor was the check and balance system. It was found that the check and balance mechanism was not sufficient. There were many implicit issues in the budget process. As a result of the fiscal health check, the municipalities should strengthen their fiscal health on those issues.

Keywords: fiscal health, fiscal risk, local public finance