

EVALUATION OF THE PROCESS DEVELOPMENT KAPUAS RAYA PROVINCE

Verdico Arief^{1*}, Andjani Trimawarni², Muhammad Rachimoellah³

¹Administrasi Negara, Politeknik Negeri Pontianak,  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8703-8698>

²Administrasi Negara, Politeknik Negeri Pontianak,  <https://orcid.org/0009-0007-6008-4532>

³Administrasi Negara, Politeknik Negeri Pontianak,  <https://orcid.org/0009-0002-0801-5672>

e-mail : verdico.arief@gmail.com*, andjanitrimawarni.at@gmail.com, muhammadrachimoellah95@gmail.com

*Author Correspondence: verdico.arief@gmail.com

Received: 21/08/2026 | Revised: 11/09/2026 | Accepted: 25/09/2026 | Published: 29/09/2026

Abstract

Plans to establish the new autonomous region of Kapuas Raya Province have been proposed to the central government of the Republic of Indonesia for nearly two decades, yet to this day they have not been realized. When questioned about the current status of the process to establish this new autonomous region, neither the local government nor the central government is aware of its progress. Yet many parties, including the public, are eagerly awaiting the establishment of this new autonomous region. Therefore, an evaluative study is pivotal to determine how far the process of establishing the new Kapuas Raya Province has progressed. This study was conducted qualitatively with the aim of exploring the phenomenon in depth. The evaluation theory developed by Stufflebeam and Zhang was used as a guide. The results of the study reveal that in 2013, the President of the Republic of Indonesia had already approved the formation of the Kapuas Raya Province; however, the process has faced obstacles, such as administrative requirements, legal regulations, and the existence of a moratorium. Furthermore, the lack of intensive communication between the local and central governments to oversee the formation of the new autonomous region of Kapuas Raya Province has caused the process to remain stalled to this day.

Keywords: *kapuas raya, autonomous region, regional development, equitable regional development*

INTRODUCTION

Following the 1998 reforms, Indonesia has established 12 new provinces located in various regions. In early 1998, Indonesia had only 27 provinces; as of 2026, it has 38 provinces, with the new provinces having been formed following the reforms (Arief, Trimawarni, Rachimoellah 2025). Each region has been granted the right by the Government of the Republic of Indonesia to establish new autonomous regions, whether in the form of regencies, cities, or provinces. Regional autonomy is the right and obligation of an autonomous region to manage and regulate its own internal affairs in accordance with applicable laws and regulations (Nasution 2009). Regional autonomy is the right to govern a region independently (Cornelis 2016). Based on data from the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, by the end of 2025, 377 regions had proposed territorial expansion with the aim of forming new autonomous regions (Rachman 2025). Among these many proposals is the proposal to establish the Kapuas Raya Province.

Discussions regarding the formation of the Kapuas Raya Province began to gain traction when Indonesia entered the post-reform era, around the 2000s (Redin 2020; Sari 2025). The idea of establishing the Kapuas Raya Province was initiated by several regencies located in the eastern part of West Kalimantan (Sari 2025). The rationale for establishing this province is to accelerate development in the eastern part of West Kalimantan as well as in areas along the border with Malaysia (Saad 2023). This is because, to this day, development in West Kalimantan Province has been more centred on coastal areas. With the formation of this new autonomous region, it is expected that equitable development can be achieved (Saad 2023). The formation of Kapuas Raya Province has received full support from the governor of West Kalimantan (Kundori 2018; Oxtora 2018; Oxtora 2025). The public also strongly supports the formation of this new autonomous region (Timotuis 2020; Sari 2025).

For nearly two decades, the proposal to establish the Kapuas Raya Province has been submitted to the central government. The process of establishing the Kapuas Raya Province has also been deemed to meet the requirements of applicable laws and regulations (BPK Kalbar 2021; Andilala and Evi 2021). However, to date, there has been no response or indication that the formation of the new autonomous region of Kapuas Raya Province will be realized. This is despite the fact that the proposal to establish the new autonomous region of Kapuas Raya Province was submitted alongside proposals for other new autonomous regions, such as South Papua Province, Central Papua Province, and Southwest Papua Province, as outlined in Presidential Letter No. 66/Pres/12/2013. The proposals for the establishment of these three new autonomous regions in Papua were approved and implemented by the central government of the Republic of Indonesia, resulting in their designation as new provinces in 2022. Regrettably, the establishment of the new autonomous region of Kapuas Raya Province has yet to be realized as of the end of 2026.

When examining how and to what extent the process of establishing the new autonomous region of Kapuas Raya Province has progressed, there is no significant data available that provides complete and comprehensive information. This naturally leaves the public questioning about the actual status of the plan to establish the new autonomous region of Kapuas Raya Province whether it will truly be implemented and carried forward, or if it remains merely a concept and a topic of discussion. This issue is often used as a political tool by certain parties (Abdurahman 2024). Meanwhile, the public strongly supports and expects the formation of the new autonomous region of Kapuas Raya Province (Timotuis 2020; Sari 2025). All elements of the government and stakeholders in West Kalimantan also support the formation of the new Kapuas Raya Province (Lucas 2025). Therefore, it would be worthwhile to discuss this issue in depth and from a scientific perspective. Ultimately, this would provide data on the current status of the formation of the new Kapuas Raya Province.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The word “autonomy” itself consists of two Latin words: “autō,” meaning “self,” and “nomos,” meaning “rule” (Cornelis 2016). Thus, literally, autonomy can be defined as “self-rule.” This etymological definition of autonomy remains general in nature, as it can apply to individuals, groups, or institutions. Regional autonomy is also defined as the rights, authority, and obligations of an autonomous region to manage and regulate its own affairs in accordance with applicable laws and regulations (Nasution 2009). Regional autonomy emerged as a result of regional dissatisfaction with the central government due to disparities in development (Djohan 2025). Regional autonomy is a form of the implementation of the concept of decentralization. Decentralization is an effort to disperse authority from the central government by transferring governmental authority from the central government to autonomous regions, so that they can manage and regulate matters that have become the internal affairs of those autonomous regions (Nasution 2009). The fundamental of decentralization is not a complete separation, but rather the delegation of governmental authority from the central government to local governments, so they can manage their own affairs (Supriatna in Arenawati 2014). Decentralization is the transfer of responsibilities, authority, and resources—including funds, personnel, and all other resources from the central government to the local government level (Arenawati 2014).

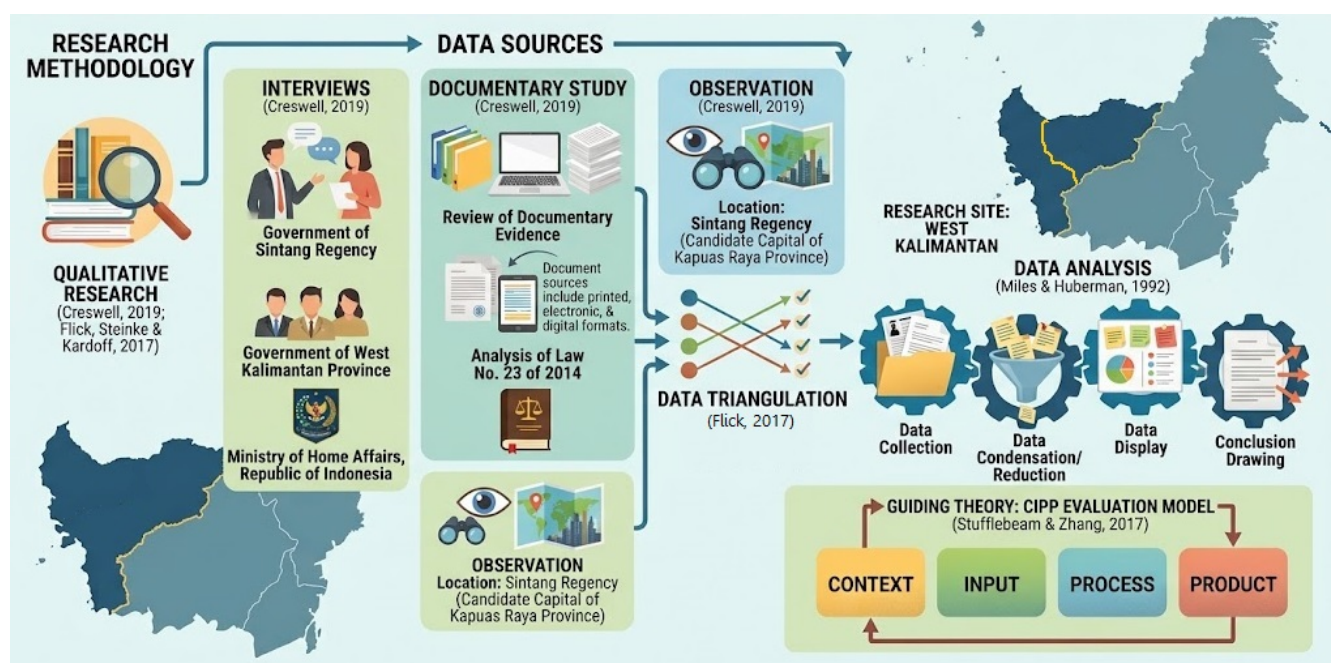
Regional autonomy refers to the rights, powers, and obligations of autonomous regions to regulate and manage their own governmental affairs and the interests of the local community within the system of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia (Law No. 23 of 2014, Article 1, Paragraph (6)). Through Law No. 23 of 2014, the government of the Republic of Indonesia grants every region the right to establish new autonomous regions and exercise regional autonomy. However, establishing a new autonomous region is not a trivial matter; there are many requirements that must be met, such as administrative requirements, regional capacity requirements, territorial requirements, and so on. Furthermore, establishing a new autonomous region requires approval from various parties, ranging from the Regency or City Regional People’s Representative Council, the Regent or Mayor, the Provincial Regional People’s Representative Council, the Governor, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the People’s Representative Council of the Republic of Indonesia, to the Vice President and the President of the Republic of Indonesia.

Evaluation is pivotal to oversee the process of establishing new autonomous regions. It is an activity conducted to assess the benefits of a policy or activity (Nugroho 2017). Evaluation is the process of assessing the extent of progress made by stakeholders in carrying out a task; it is the process of assessing a policy, so that one can identify the strengths and weaknesses of the policy that has been implemented (Dunn 2003). The purpose of evaluation is to assess performance, identify gaps between achievements and expectations, and learn from the results of the evaluation (Nugroho 2017). Evaluation consists of three categories: first, evaluation during implementation, also known as process evaluation; second, evaluation after the activity or policy has been implemented, known as

consequence evaluation; and third, impact evaluation or outcome evaluation of the activity that has been carried out, which is known as summative evaluation (Dunn in Nugroho 2017).

METHOD

This study was conducted using a qualitative approach (Flick, Steinke, and Kardoff 2017; Creswell 2019). Qualitative research allows researchers to explore various phenomena more broadly and in greater depth regarding social, societal, organizational, cultural, political, and other issues (Reichert 2017; Creswell 2019). The data for this study were collected through interviews (Creswell 2019). The interviewees included representatives from the Sintang Regency government, the West Kalimantan Provincial government, and the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia. To supplement the data, this study also utilized document analysis and observation (Creswell 2019). In conducting the documentary analysis, the researcher examined documents containing various records of the process of establishing the new autonomous region of Kapuas Raya Province from a variety of sources, including both printed and electronic/digital documents. Additionally, the researcher analyzed Law No. 23 of 2014, which serves as the legal framework for establishing the new autonomous region of Kapuas Raya Province. The observations were conducted in one of the locations designated as part of the new autonomous region of Kapuas Raya Province namely, Sintang Regency which is being prepared as the prospective capital. Data triangulation will be performed using data from interviews, documentary studies, and observations (Flick 2017). Data analysis will employ the Miles and Huberman framework, involving data collection, data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions (Miles and Huberman 1992). The guiding theory used in this study is the CIPP evaluation theory developed by Stufflebeam and Zhang (Stufflebeam and Zhang 2017).



(Source: Research 2026)

Figure 1. Qualitative research workflow the process evaluation formation of Kapuas Raya province

RESULTS

Contextual Assessment of the Establishment of the New Autonomous Region of Kapuas Raya Province

The effort to establish the new autonomous region of Kapuas Raya Province was initiated by various community aspirations in West Kalimantan Province, including the districts of Sintang, Sanggau, Kapuas Hulu, as well as Melawi and Sekadau. These aspirations arose due to development disparities across various regions in eastern West Kalimantan Province, as regional development has historically focused more on the coastal areas of West Kalimantan. The five regencies covered by the proposal have vast geographical areas, with some located in inland regions and relatively far from the provincial capital of West Kalimantan. These conditions affect the community's access to public services and the effectiveness of development distribution. Additionally, the five regencies within the proposed region possess abundant natural resources, such as potential for bauxite, gold, and even uranium mining.

Furthermore, the plantation sector also holds significant potential and is highly promising. Furthermore, the freshwater sector also shows great potential for development. However, although these regions possess significant natural resources, they have not yet been able to generate substantial and equitable prosperity for local communities. This situation provides a strong justification for strengthening infrastructure, connectivity, human resources, investment, and governance all of which can optimize the region's potential and create added value for the community.

These conditions also highlight the need to reduce interregional development disparities. Gaps in human development achievements, welfare levels, infrastructure quality, and access to public services indicate that development in the West Kalimantan region has not yet fully resulted in uniform outcomes across all areas. From the perspective of the CIPP context evaluation, this situation is viewed as an urgency that forms the basis for the emergence of a policy. The establishment of the Kapuas Raya Province is expected to create a form of government that is closer to the community, so that development plans can be formulated based on the characteristics and needs of the region, while also enhancing the capacity of local governments to develop economic potential and expand access to services. In addition to geographical and development factors, the persistence of the aspiration to establish the Kapuas Raya Province indicates the presence of social and political dimensions. This aspiration has developed over a long period of time and involves various stakeholders, including the public, the regency government, the provincial government, the Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD), community leaders, and groups that support the establishment of Kapuas Raya all of whom have made it a part of the regional development agenda that continues to be advocated and consolidated by various actors. In the context of the CIPP evaluation, the existence of this support and these aspirations forms part of the policy environment that must be taken into account, as it indicates a perceived need for changes in governance and development in the eastern region of West Kalimantan.

The results of the contextual evaluation indicate that there are a number of conditions underlying the call for the establishment of the Kapuas Raya Province, namely issues regarding governmental control, limited access to public services, the need for equitable development, and the suboptimal utilization of the region to achieve a development governance model that better aligns with the area's characteristics. These conditions make the background for the establishment of the Kapuas Raya Province quite relevant.

Evaluation of Input on the Establishment of the New Autonomous Region of Kapuas Raya Province

The establishment of the new autonomous region of Kapuas Raya Province can be considered to be relatively ready in terms of the requirements for forming a region. Regarding the physical territorial requirements, the proposal to establish the new autonomous region of Kapuas Raya Province has met the minimum requirement of consisting of five regencies or cities, namely Sintang, Sanggau, Kapuas Hulu, Sekadau, and Melawi. These five regions have agreed to unite to form the new autonomous province of Kapuas Raya. They have also agreed to separate from their previous host province, West Kalimantan. The proposed capital of Kapuas Raya Province has already been designated as Sintang. Sintang is considered to have a strategic geographic location because it is centered in the region's coverage area. Furthermore, Sintang is considered to have the most developed infrastructure and economy among the five regencies. The Sintang regency government has set aside a strategic plot of land for the administrative center, located along the route connecting Sintang and Kapuas Hulu. The West Kalimantan provincial government has also drafted a blueprint for the Kapuas Raya provincial government office complex. Before the new permanent government building is completed, the West Kalimantan provincial government has already identified buildings that are suitable and ready to serve as government offices, as well as buildings that can be repurposed as temporary offices to ensure the continued functioning of the government should the Kapuas Raya province be established in the future.

Regarding technical requirements, the local governments of Sintang, Sanggau, Kapuas Hulu, Sekadau, and Melawi regencies, together with the West Kalimantan provincial government, have completed an academic study. This scientific document provides a detailed analysis of the feasibility of various aspects including geography, demographics, security, economic potential, fiscal conditions, and the region's various potentials once this province is officially established. The existence of the Academic Paper on the Formation of Kapuas Raya Province is also recorded in the catalog of the Indonesian House of Representatives (DPR RI) Library and was compiled based on primary and secondary data from the five regencies that comprise the proposed province. From a technical analysis perspective, the proposal to establish the Kapuas Raya Province is grounded in an academic foundation and data covering various parameters of regional feasibility. This is further reinforced by a statement from the Governor of West Kalimantan in 2026, who noted that administrative and technical requirements including the academic study,

support from the covered regions, and the preparedness of government infrastructure have been prepared and fulfilled (Oxtora 2026).

The establishment of the new autonomous province of Kapuas Raya has already received support from local governments, including the regents and regional legislative councils of each regency whose territories are part of the Kapuas Raya region. In addition, the Governor of West Kalimantan and the West Kalimantan Provincial Legislative Council strongly support the formation of the new autonomous province of Kapuas Raya. The Governor of West Kalimantan and the West Kalimantan Provincial Legislative Council have signed a letter of approval for the territorial expansion and the provision of initial grant funds to support the transitional period of governance once it is approved by the central government. The central government has also strongly supported the formation of this new autonomous region; as early as 2013, the central government issued Presidential Directive No. 66/Pres/12/2013, in which the central government, through the President of the Republic of Indonesia, requested that the proposal for the formation of the new Kapuas Raya Province be followed up immediately so that a draft law establishing the Kapuas Raya Province could be prepared and enacted. However, as of the end of 2026, the draft law on the establishment of the Kapuas Raya Province had not yet been drafted or enacted, so the formation of the new autonomous region of Kapuas Raya Province has not yet been realized.

Evaluation of the Process of Establishing the New Autonomous Region of Kapuas Raya Province

Efforts to establish the Kapuas Raya Province began around the 2000s (Redin 2020; Sari 2025). The idea of forming the Kapuas Raya Province first came to the spotlight when the eastern region of West Kalimantan still consisted of three regencies: Sanggau, Sintang, and Kapuas Hulu (Sari 2025). Discussions regarding the formation of Kapuas Raya Province began in earnest in 2003 with the holding of an initial seminar on the proposal at Kapuas University in Sintang (Sari 2025). Subsequently, on August 14, 2006, a seminar and panel discussion were held, resulting in the Sintang Declaration. The declaration outlined the aspirations and commitments of the five regencies located in the central and eastern regions of West Kalimantan Province to establish the Kapuas Raya Province, with Sintang Regency as its provincial capital. Still in 2006 and continuing through 2007, the establishment of the Kapuas Raya Province began to receive approval and support from the respective Regional People's Representative Councils (DPRD) and regional heads of Sintang, Sanggau, Kapuas Hulu, Sekadau, and Melawi Regencies, as documented in the DPRD's decision letters and the letters of approval from the respective regional heads of the five regencies in the eastern part of West Kalimantan. In 2007, the establishment of Kapuas Raya Province also received approval from the regional head and the Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD) of West Kalimantan Province, as its host province (Redin 2020). After all the required documents for the proposal to establish the new autonomous region of Kapuas Raya Province were completed in accordance with Law No. 32 of 2004, the West Kalimantan provincial government officially submitted a request to the central government of the Republic of Indonesia.

Nationally, in 2010, the establishment of the Kapuas Raya Province was included in the Master Plan for Regional Reorganization (Desartada) for the 2010–2025 period, which stated that the central government estimated that by 2025, West Kalimantan Province would see the addition of up to two new provinces and up to two new regencies or cities (Larasati 2017; Sari 2025). Subsequently, between 2013 and 2014, efforts to establish the Kapuas Raya Province intensified and began to show progress, both at the local and national levels. During that period, the proposing regions drafted an academic paper on the formation of the Kapuas Raya Province, and a Draft Law (RUU) on the formation of provinces, regencies, and cities was discussed at a Plenary Session of the Indonesian House of Representatives (DPR RI) on October 29, 2013 (Sari 2025). On another occasion, the President of the Republic of Indonesia, through Presidential Letter No. R-66/Pres/12/2013, mandated that the establishment of Kapuas Raya Province be included in the priority list for deliberation of the Draft Law on the establishment of new autonomous regions (DPD RI 2014; Larasati 2017; Syahrie 2025; Sari 2025).

Following up on the letter from the President of the Republic of Indonesia, No. R-66/Pres/12/2013, in 2014, the Regional Representative Council of the Republic of Indonesia (DPD RI) conducted a regional assessment visit and issued an official recommendation for the establishment of the Kapuas Raya Province, as set forth in DPD RI Decision No. 40/DPDRI/III/2013-2014 regarding the Regional Representative Council of the Republic of Indonesia's Views on the Draft Law on the Establishment of the Kapuas Raya Province (DPD RI 2014). However, efforts to establish the Kapuas Raya Province were delayed because in 2014 the same year a change in the head of state occurred—a policy was issued imposing a moratorium on the formation of new autonomous regions, citing the need for effectiveness and efficiency in government administration (Syahrie 2025).

The temporary suspension of all processes for the formation of new autonomous regions in Indonesia continued in 2016. Through Vice Presidential Memorandum No. M-14/Wapres/10/2016, the moratorium on the formation of new autonomous regions was temporarily suspended pending further discussion by the central government. This moratorium was based on the country's financial condition, so all proposals for the formation of new autonomous regions in Indonesia were postponed until further discussion took place. However, as of 2026, the central government has not yet discussed the continuation of Vice President of the Republic of Indonesia Memorandum No. M-14/Wapres/10/2016; consequently, plans to establish the new autonomous region of Kapuas Raya Province have been delayed, as have the processes for establishing new autonomous regions in several other parts of Indonesia.

The establishment of a new autonomous region is a process of multi-level governance, as its success depends on the interaction between the regency government, the provincial government, the Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD), the Regional Representative Council (DPD), the House of Representatives (DPR RI), and the central government. Stakeholders involved in the process of establishing a new autonomous region must be able to communicate with one another intensively, continuously, and sustainably in order to process the proposal for the establishment of a new autonomous region from start to finish. This is because the completeness of input at the regional level does not necessarily equate to readiness to obtain a decision on the formation from the central government. Therefore, effective communication between local governments and the central government is essential so that the process and progress of establishing the new Kapuas Raya autonomous region can be monitored. However, this has not been carried out effectively by the stakeholders involved in the formation of the new Kapuas Raya Province, making it difficult for various parties to conduct evaluations or to determine at what stage the formation process currently stands. They forget that the process of establishing a new autonomous region cannot happen overnight; it requires time and a lengthy process, and may even involve different administrations. There must be effective communication between one administration and the next as they take the political baton in a given region to delegate the task of overseeing the process of establishing the Kapuas Raya province.

Evaluation of the Outcomes of the Establishment of the New Autonomous Region of Kapuas Raya Province

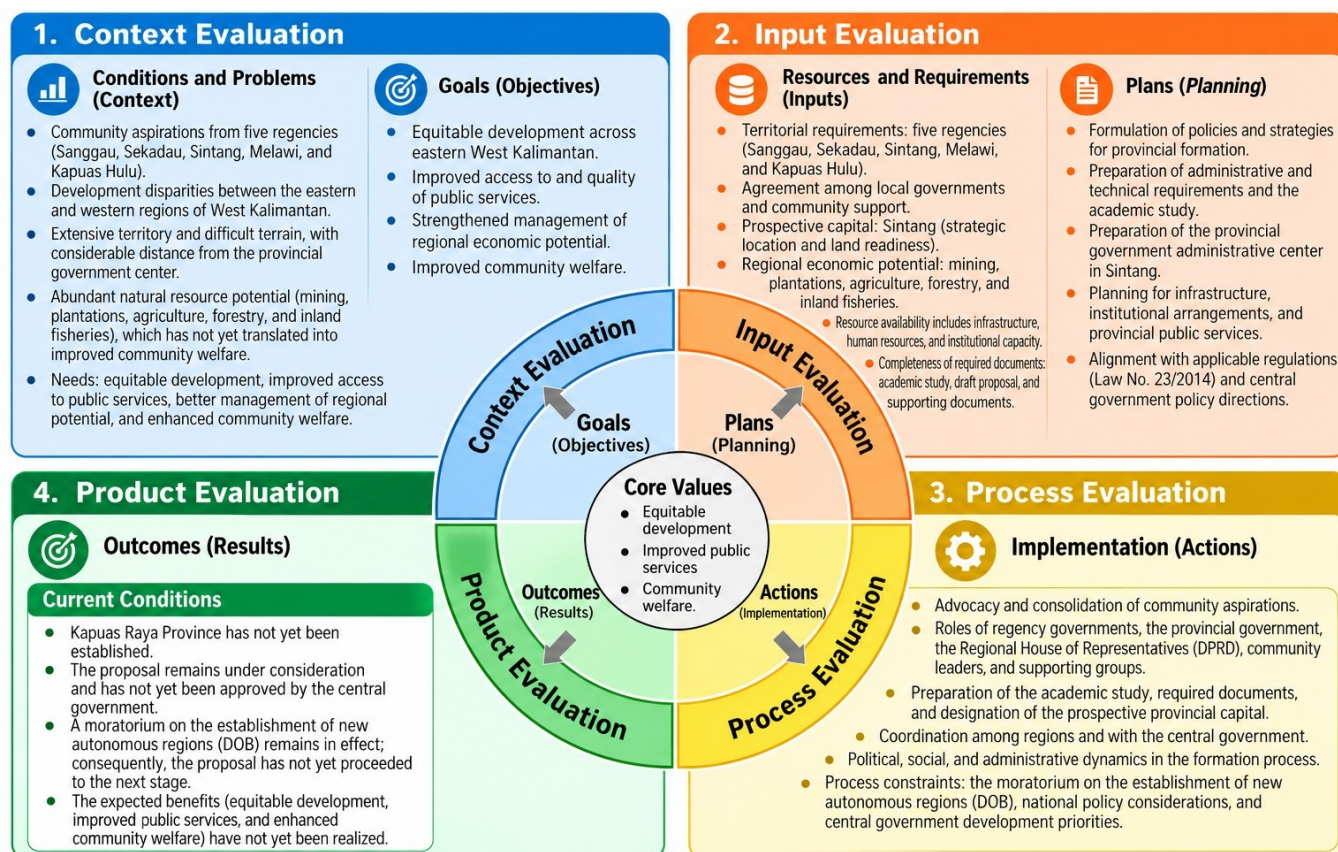
The process of establishing the new autonomous region of Kapuas Raya Province has not yet been successfully implemented. The failure to establish the new autonomous region of Kapuas Raya Province is attributed to several factors. However, it has not yet been confirmed which of these factors are the primary causes of this failure, as neither the local government nor the central government has been able to pinpoint the exact main factors preventing the successful establishment of the new autonomous region of Kapuas Raya Province. Nevertheless, they predict that several factors may be hindering the formation of the new Kapuas Raya Province, including failure to meet the requirements set forth by law, changes in legislation, and the moratorium on the formation of new autonomous regions.

The primary reason cited for the failure to establish the new autonomous region of Kapuas Raya Province was its failure to comply with legal regulations. In 2007, the West Kalimantan provincial government officially submitted a proposal to the central government of the Republic of Indonesia to establish a new autonomous region based on Law No. 32 of 2004. The proposal was subsequently included in the national strategic plan in 2010, and in 2013, the central government of the Republic of Indonesia officially mandated the immediate drafting of a bill for the establishment of the new autonomous region of Kapuas Raya Province, as outlined in a letter from the President of the Republic of Indonesia, No. R-66/Pres/12/2013. Subsequently, the Regional Representative Council of the Republic of Indonesia issued a recommendation stating that the establishment of the new autonomous region of Kapuas Raya Province was feasible. However, since then, the West Kalimantan provincial government has received no further positive news regarding the formation of the new Kapuas Raya Province. Given that the process of proposing the formation of a new autonomous region is extremely lengthy and complex, it is possible that in subsequent stages, various parties may not recommend proceeding with this proposal.

The second reason why the proposed formation of the new autonomous region of Kapuas Raya Province failed to materialize was due to changes in the local government law. The regulation used to propose the formation of the new autonomous region of Kapuas Raya Province was Law No. 32 of 2004; however, midway through the process, there was a change in legislation, and Law No. 23 of 2014 was enacted to replace Law No. 32 of 2004. Due to these regulatory changes, all stakeholders involved in the team tasked with establishing the new autonomous region of Kapuas Raya Province had to align the requirements for establishing the new autonomous region with the new regulations. However, the stakeholders were unable to meet the requirements set forth in Law No. 23 of 2014, resulting in the suspension of the process to establish the new autonomous region of Kapuas Raya Province.

Furthermore, the fourth reason why the establishment of the new Kapuas Raya Province has not yet been realized is due to a moratorium on the formation of new autonomous regions. This is outlined in the memorandum of the Vice President of the Republic of Indonesia, No.M-14/Wapres/10/2016. A compelling reason for this moratorium is the country's current poor financial condition. However, this is not a justification that can be regularly used to answer the public's questions about why the process of establishing the new autonomous region of Kapuas Raya Province has failed to materialize. This is because, even while the moratorium was in effect, the central government of the Republic of Indonesia was still able to establish new autonomous regions such as South Papua Province, Central Papua Province, Southwest Papua Province, and Mountainous Papua Province which were all established simultaneously in 2022 despite the moratorium on the formation of new autonomous regions. This has sparked controversy: why was the process for establishing the new Kapuas Raya Province suspended, while other regions were granted exemptions? As of the end of 2026, the establishment of the new Kapuas Raya Province has yet to be realized.

Although the context or background for the formation of Kapuas Raya Province is quite relevant, all requirements have been met, and all stages of the regional formation process have been completed, ultimately leading to its inclusion in the central government's considerations in 2007. However, the decision to establish it remains dependent on the configuration of national policies and politics, as well as other considerations. Policy aspects must be taken into account; public policy regarding the formation of the new autonomous region of Kapuas Raya Province must have an evidence base that can be used to prove that the chosen policy alternative is feasible and capable of solving the problem. This is because the formation of Kapuas Raya Province is based on development disparities in the province of West Kalimantan. It is hoped that the establishment of this new autonomous region can address these issues, rather than creating new ones.



(Source: Research 2026)

Figure 2. Lesson line of research evaluation of the process development Kapuas Raya province

CONCLUSION

The proposal to establish the new autonomous region of Kapuas Raya Province officially began in 2007. Then, in 2013, a recommendation was issued to draft a bill for the establishment of the new autonomous region of Kapuas Raya Province so that the process of establishing Kapuas Raya Province could be realized quickly. However, as of the end of 2026, the establishment of Kapuas Raya Province has yet to be realized. The draft bill for the establishment of the Kapuas Raya Province has not yet materialized in any form. Various reasons have been cited for why this has happened, ranging from failure to meet administrative requirements, failure to meet legal requirements, and the existence of a moratorium on the formation of new autonomous regions. The lack of intensive and continuous communication among the stakeholders involved in the process of establishing the new autonomous region of Kapuas Raya Province over time a process that has spanned various administrations has made it difficult for both the local and central governments to assess how far along the process of establishing this new autonomous region has actually progressed.

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