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Halal MSMEs Maqasid Syariah Framework Driving Sustainable Inclusive Regional Economic Growth

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Abstract:
The growing demand for sustainable and inclusive economic development has increased the strategic importance of integrating Islamic governance principles into halal MSME development. This study aims to examine how *Maqasid Shariah* strengthens halal MSME governance and contributes to sustainable regional economic resilience through the Heptahelix multi-stakeholder framework. A qualitative case study was employed using semi-structured interviews with 21 informants, field observations, and document analysis, followed by data condensation, reduction, display, and verification. The findings reveal that *Maqasid Shariah* improves ethical business governance, Heptahelix collaboration enhances institutional coordination for inclusive economic growth, and an integrated halal ecosystem strengthens long-term business resilience through certification, digital support, financing, and stakeholder synergy. This study proposes the Halal MSMEs *Maqasid Shariah* Framework as a novel model integrating Islamic governance with collaborative regional development. The findings recommend strengthening stakeholder coordination, Islamic business literacy, and digital halal ecosystem policies to improve sustainable and inclusive economic development.

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INTRODUCTION

The increasing complexity of the global economy has shifted development priorities from purely growth-oriented strategies toward approaches that emphasize inclusiveness, sustainability, and equitable prosperity. Within this context, Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) have become strategic drivers of regional economic development because of their significant contributions to employment creation, income distribution, poverty reduction, and local economic resilience (Alamanda et al., 2022; Khanzode et al., 2021; Supatminingsih et al., 2025). Nevertheless, economic growth alone does not necessarily guarantee broad societal welfare when development remains focused on conventional economic indicators. Islamic economics offers an alternative paradigm through the *Maqasid Shariah* framework, which places human well-being (*maslahah*) at the center of economic activities (Fuadi et al., 2021; Molasy et al., 2024). Consequently, integrating *Maqasid Shariah* principles into halal MSME development is essential for promoting sustainable and inclusive regional economic growth while ensuring that economic progress simultaneously generates social justice, ethical business practices, and long-term community welfare.

Despite Indonesia's continuous efforts to strengthen the national halal ecosystem through the implementation of Law No. 33 of 2014 on Halal Product Assurance, numerous challenges continue to limit the contribution of halal MSMEs to regional economic development (Harsanto et al., 2024; Khan et al., 2025). In Probolinggo Regency, East Java, thousands of MSMEs have obtained halal certification through government acceleration programs; however, the implementation of *Maqasid Shariah* principles remains largely administrative rather than transformative. Many business actors still perceive halal certification primarily as regulatory compliance instead of adopting it as a comprehensive business governance framework encompassing ethical production, equitable transactions, consumer protection, and social responsibility (Munthe, 2025; Mutmainah et al., 2023). Furthermore, limited Islamic business literacy, restricted access to Sharia-compliant financing, insufficient digital capabilities, weak human resource capacity, and fragmented stakeholder coordination continue to hinder the ability of halal MSMEs to generate inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

Previous studies have extensively discussed the relationships among *Maqasid Shariah*, halal MSMEs, and economic development; however, existing evidence remains fragmented. Warto et al. (2021) argues that *Maqasid Shariah* should serve as the foundation of economic development by emphasizing distributive justice, social welfare, and balanced wealth distribution. Likewise, Saifuddin et al. (2025) conceptualizes *Maqasid Shariah* as protecting religion, life, intellect, lineage, and wealth, thereby providing comprehensive guidance for economic activities. More recently, Rhezaldi et al. (2024) demonstrated that Maqasid-based MSME empowerment enhances social value creation, while Fernández (2021) and Harsanto et al. (2024) highlighted the importance of digital technology, research and development, financing, and regulatory support in strengthening halal value chains. Similarly, Priyatno et al. (2025) concluded that collaborative stakeholder engagement through the pentahelix model significantly supports halal industry development. Therefore, a substantial research gap remains regarding how halal MSMEs can simultaneously operationalize *Maqasid Shariah* values and collaborative governance mechanisms to achieve broader regional economic transformation.

Addressing this gap, the present study proposes a novel conceptual perspective through the Halal MSMEs *Maqasid Shariah* Framework, which integrates the five dimensions of *Maqasid Shariah* with the Heptahelix multi-stakeholder approach to explain the mechanisms through which halal MSMEs contribute to sustainable and inclusive regional economic growth. Unlike previous studies that predominantly consider halal certification as the principal indicator of success, this framework conceptualizes halal certification as one component within a broader Islamic economic governance system (Azwar et al., 2025; Julian et al., 2025). Specifically, the framework connects the protection of religion (*hifz al-din*), life (*hifz al-nafs*), intellect (*hifz al-'aql*), lineage (*hifz al-nasl*), and wealth (*hifz al-mal*) with the collaborative roles of government, academia, businesses, communities, media, Islamic financial institutions, and technology providers (Fatmawati et al., 2024; Haruna et al., 2024; Pane, 2025). Through this integration, the framework offers a more comprehensive explanation of how ethical governance, stakeholder collaboration, and Islamic values collectively foster sustainable regional development.

Accordingly, this study seeks to answer several fundamental research questions. How does the implementation of *Maqasid Shariah* principles within halal MSMEs contribute to sustainable and inclusive regional economic growth? How does collaboration among Heptahelix stakeholders strengthen the implementation of *Maqasid Shariah* in halal MSMEs? Why has the increasing number of halal-certified MSMEs not yet produced optimal regional economic outcomes? How can the proposed Halal MSMEs *Maqasid Shariah* Framework explain the relationships among halal governance, multi-stakeholder collaboration, and sustainable regional economic development? Addressing these questions is important because successful Islamic economic development depends not merely on regulatory compliance but also on the effective integration of *Maqasid Shariah* values throughout the regional economic ecosystem.

This study argues that halal MSMEs can generate stronger and more sustainable regional economic impacts when halal certification is integrated with *Maqasid Shariah* principles and reinforced through effective Heptahelix collaboration. Such integration is expected to improve business competitiveness, expand access to Islamic financing, accelerate digital transformation, strengthen governance quality, and enhance equitable wealth distribution within society. Accordingly, this research contributes theoretically by developing the Halal MSMEs *Maqasid Shariah* Framework as a comprehensive conceptual model linking Islamic economic governance, stakeholder collaboration, and sustainable regional development. Practically, the findings are expected to provide valuable policy recommendations for regional governments, halal industry regulators, Islamic financial institutions, academics, and MSME practitioners in designing collaborative strategies that strengthen halal MSMEs while promoting inclusive, resilient, and sustainable regional economic growth in accordance with the objectives of *Maqasid Shariah*.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study employed a qualitative case study design to explore how *Maqasid Shariah* principles are implemented within halal Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and how such implementation contributes to sustainable and inclusive regional economic growth through a Heptahelix multi-stakeholder framework (Kohn et al., 2024). A qualitative approach was selected because the research seeks to understand meanings, experiences, interactions, and governance practices that cannot be adequately explained through quantitative indicators alone. The case study strategy enabled an in-depth investigation of real-world phenomena within their natural context, allowing the researcher to capture the complex relationships among Islamic values, halal business practices, stakeholder collaboration, and regional economic development. This design is particularly appropriate for examining context-specific governance processes and generating comprehensive insights into the dynamics of halal MSME development.

The research was conducted in Probolinggo Regency, East Java, Indonesia, because the region represents one of the emerging halal MSME clusters supported by government halal certification programs and possesses substantial potential for regional economic development based on agriculture, food processing, and household industries. In addition, the regency has experienced significant growth in halal-certified MSMEs, making it an appropriate setting for examining the implementation of *Maqasid Shariah*. Purposive sampling was employed to select 21 informants, comprising 10 halal MSME owners, three officials from local government institutions responsible for MSME and halal certification programs, two representatives from the Ministry of Religious Affairs, two Islamic finance practitioners, two academic experts in Islamic economics, and two community leaders involved in halal business development. These diverse participants provided comprehensive perspectives on policy, business practice, financing, governance, and community engagement.

Data were collected using multiple qualitative techniques to ensure comprehensive understanding and triangulation (Kekeya, 2023). First, semi-structured interviews were conducted with all informants to explore their experiences, perceptions, and roles regarding the implementation of *Maqasid Shariah* and stakeholder collaboration in halal MSME development. Second, non-participant observations were undertaken at selected halal MSMEs to examine business operations, production processes, halal practices, and stakeholder interactions. Third, document analysis was carried out by reviewing government regulations, halal certification reports, regional economic statistics, policy documents, official publications, and institutional records related to MSME development. Combining interviews, observations, and documentary evidence enabled the researcher to obtain rich, contextual, and credible qualitative data while minimizing dependence on a single information source.

The collected data were analyzed using the interactive qualitative analysis model adapted from Miles, Huberman, and Saldaña (Cole, 2024) . The process began with data condensation, in which interview transcripts, observation notes, and documentary evidence were organized, coded, and simplified according to the research objectives. This was followed by data reduction, involving the selection of information directly related to *Maqasid Shariah* implementation, halal MSME governance, stakeholder collaboration, and regional economic development. Subsequently, data display was conducted through thematic matrices and conceptual mapping to facilitate interpretation of relationships among emerging themes. Finally, data verification and conclusion drawing were performed continuously by comparing findings across different data sources, refining interpretations, and ensuring logical consistency until credible conclusions were reached.

The trustworthiness of the findings was established through several qualitative validation strategies (Lee et al., 2024; Sarfo et al., 2021). Source triangulation was performed by comparing information obtained from MSME owners, government officials, academics, Islamic finance practitioners, and community representatives. Method triangulation was achieved by integrating interview data, field observations, and documentary analysis. To strengthen credibility, member checking was conducted by returning preliminary interpretations to selected informants for confirmation and clarification. Peer debriefing with experts in Islamic economics and qualitative research was also undertaken to evaluate analytical consistency and minimize researcher bias. Furthermore, an audit trail documenting research procedures, coding decisions, analytical processes, and interpretation development was maintained to enhance dependability, confirmability, and the overall rigor of the study.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Result

The findings demonstrate that sustainable regional economic growth is influenced not only by halal certification but also by the integration of *Maqasid Shariah* values, collaborative stakeholder governance, and the development of an interconnected halal ecosystem. The following discussion compares these findings with previous studies while highlighting their theoretical significance, practical implications, and contributions to strengthening sustainable halal MSME development within regional economic governance.

Maqasid Shariah Strengthens Halal MSME Governance

The implementation of *Maqasid Shariah* in halal MSME governance refers to the practical integration of Islamic objectives into daily business management, encompassing product compliance, ethical transactions, consumer protection, business sustainability, and social responsibility. In the field, this implementation was operationally identified through business practices reflecting the principles of *hifz al-din* (protection of religion), *hifz al-nafs* (protection of life), *hifz al-'aql* (protection of intellect), *hifz al-mal* (protection of wealth), and *hifz al-nasl* (protection of future generations). Rather than functioning solely as religious obligations, these principles guided managerial decisions, production processes, financial management, and customer relations. Consequently, halal governance was understood as an integrated ethical management system that strengthened organizational accountability, enhanced consumer trust, and promoted sustainable business performance within the regional halal economy.

Interviews with halal MSME owners revealed that halal certification represented only one component of broader Islamic business governance. One participant explained, "Obtaining halal certification was not our final objective. We also ensure that every ingredient is verified, production remains hygienic, employees understand halal procedures, and customers receive honest information about our products." Another owner similarly stated, "Running a halal business means protecting consumers from doubtful products while ensuring fair transactions with suppliers and customers." These responses indicate that participants interpreted *Maqasid Shariah* beyond regulatory compliance by integrating ethical values into operational decision-making. The findings suggest that governance quality emerged through continuous commitment to Islamic principles rather than certification alone.

Government representatives and Islamic finance practitioners consistently emphasized that *Maqasid Shariah* strengthened managerial accountability among halal MSMEs. A local halal facilitator stated, "Businesses that understand *Maqasid Shariah* usually manage production, finance, and customer services more responsibly because they consider accountability before both society and God." Likewise, an Islamic finance practitioner observed, "Entrepreneurs applying Maqasid principles tend to prioritize business sustainability, transparency, and community welfare instead of pursuing short-term profit." These statements demonstrate that *Maqasid Shariah* functions as a governance framework influencing managerial behaviour, financial discipline, and ethical leadership. The researcher interpreted these findings as evidence that Islamic values contribute directly to improving institutional governance through internally motivated business responsibility.

Field observations supported the interview findings through visible business practices consistently reflecting Islamic governance principles. Most observed halal MSMEs displayed official halal certificates, maintained clean production facilities, separated raw materials from finished products, provided transparent product information, and implemented standardized hygiene procedures throughout processing activities. Several businesses also recorded financial transactions systematically and demonstrated responsible relationships with employees and customers. These observations indicate that *Maqasid Shariah* was translated into observable managerial behaviour rather than remaining an abstract religious concept. Restating the findings, the implementation of Islamic objectives strengthened governance by integrating ethical management, operational transparency, and consumer protection into everyday business activities, thereby creating a more trustworthy and sustainable halal MSME ecosystem.

Heptahelix Collaboration Accelerates Inclusive Regional Growth

Heptahelix collaboration refers to the coordinated interaction among seven strategic stakeholders—government, academia, business actors, community organizations, media, Islamic financial institutions, and technology providers—to strengthen the development of halal MSMEs and promote inclusive regional economic growth. In this study, the collaboration was operationally identified through observable joint activities, including halal certification assistance, entrepreneurship training, digital marketing programs, financing facilitation, technology adoption, promotional campaigns, and cross-sector coordination meetings. Rather than operating independently, each stakeholder contributed complementary resources and expertise that collectively enhanced the regional halal ecosystem. Consequently, Heptahelix collaboration was understood as a practical governance mechanism that connected institutional support with business development, thereby expanding economic participation and improving regional competitiveness.

Table 1. Field Observation of Heptahelix Collaboration in Halal MSME Development

Observed Activities	Heptahelix Stakeholder	Observed Indicator	Research Interpretation
Halal certification assistance for MSMEs	Government	Regular certification facilitation and administrative support	Government actively functions as regulator and facilitator of halal governance.
Entrepreneurship and halal business training	Academia	Capacity-building activities involving lecturers and experts	Academic institutions contribute knowledge transfer and managerial improvement.
Product innovation and business expansion	Business actors	Continuous product development and market diversification	MSMEs actively improve competitiveness through innovation.
Community participation in halal promotion	Community	Local community involvement in exhibitions and mentoring	Community networks strengthen social acceptance and market access.
Dissemination of halal business information	Media	Promotion through digital platforms and local media	Media expands public awareness and market visibility.
Islamic financing support	Islamic financial institutions	Financing programs for halal MSMEs	Access to Sharia-compliant financing strengthens business sustainability.
Digital marketing and management systems	Technology providers	Adoption of digital platforms and information systems	Technology accelerates business efficiency and market connectivity.

The observational findings indicate that Heptahelix collaboration operates through complementary institutional roles rather than isolated stakeholder interventions. Government agencies facilitated halal certification and regulatory support, while academic institutions enhanced managerial capacity through education and training. Islamic financial institutions expanded financing opportunities, whereas technology providers improved digital business management and market accessibility. Community organizations and media further strengthened public engagement by promoting halal awareness and facilitating local participation. These observations demonstrate that stakeholder collaboration forms an interconnected support system for halal MSMEs. Restating the findings, inclusive regional economic growth emerged from continuous interaction among multiple institutions whose coordinated contributions strengthened business capacity, expanded economic opportunities, and improved the resilience of the regional halal ecosystem.

The overall observational pattern demonstrates that stronger stakeholder integration is associated with more comprehensive halal MSME development. Areas exhibiting frequent collaboration among government agencies, educational institutions, financial organizations, community groups, media, and technology providers showed greater business preparedness, wider adoption of halal standards, and stronger market participation. Conversely, fragmented institutional interaction limited access to information, financing, and innovation, thereby slowing business development. The observed pattern suggests that inclusive regional economic growth depends not only on individual stakeholder performance but also on the effectiveness of inter-institutional coordination. Therefore, Heptahelix collaboration functions as an enabling governance mechanism that connects diverse institutional capacities into an integrated ecosystem supporting sustainable halal MSME development and long-term regional prosperity.

Integrated Halal Ecosystem Enhances Sustainable Economic Resilience

The integrated halal ecosystem refers to the interconnected institutional environment that supports halal MSMEs through regulatory compliance, halal certification, digital information systems, stakeholder assistance, financial accessibility, and market development. In the field, this concept was operationally identified through documentary evidence demonstrating the interaction among government policies, halal certification records, digital management systems, and institutional support programs. Rather than functioning as isolated initiatives, these components collectively formed an ecosystem that strengthened business continuity and resilience. The operational indicator of ecosystem integration was reflected in the consistency between official administrative documents, visual records of implementation activities, and regional reports showing the continuous development of halal-certified MSMEs across several districts within Probolinggo Regency.

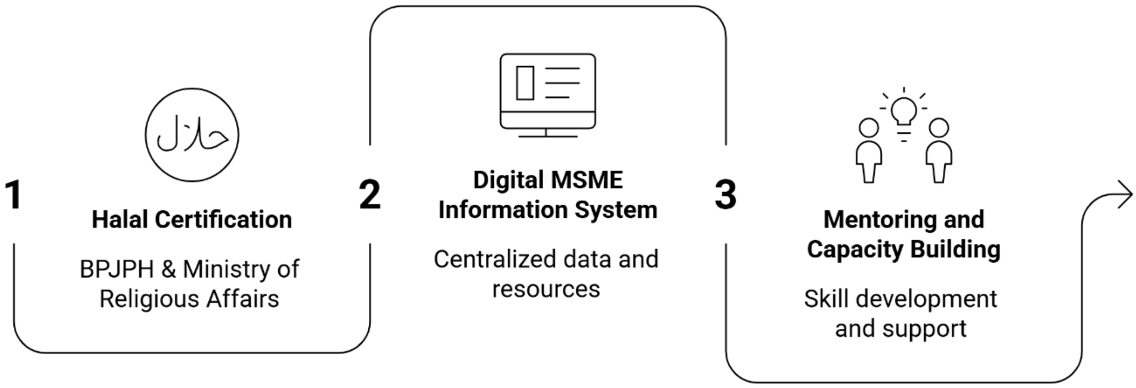

Figure 1. Strengthening Regional Halal Ecosystem

Documentary observations revealed that the regional halal ecosystem had developed through coordinated institutional initiatives rather than isolated certification activities. Official records indicated a steady increase in halal-certified MSMEs accompanied by continuous government assistance programs, digital business management initiatives, and policy support from local institutions. Visual documentation also showed the widespread use of halal labels on locally produced food products and evidence of regular mentoring activities involving multiple stakeholders. Furthermore, administrative documents confirmed the utilization of digital information systems for MSME registration and certification monitoring. These documentary findings indicate that halal ecosystem development has gradually evolved into a structured governance mechanism supporting long-term business sustainability instead of merely fulfilling administrative certification requirements.

The documentary evidence consistently demonstrates that sustainable economic resilience emerges when halal certification is embedded within a broader institutional ecosystem involving regulatory support, digital governance, business assistance, and continuous stakeholder engagement. Rather than viewing halal certification as an individual business achievement, the available documents illustrate that certification functions as one interconnected component within a larger governance structure supporting MSME competitiveness. This finding indicates that institutional integration improves business adaptability by creating stronger administrative capacity, expanding market legitimacy, and facilitating continuous business development. Consequently, the resilience of halal MSMEs is strengthened through coordinated institutional mechanisms that collectively reduce operational vulnerability while enhancing long-term regional economic stability.

The overall documentation demonstrates a clear developmental pattern in which institutional integration precedes business resilience. Regions exhibiting stronger collaboration among regulatory agencies, halal certification authorities, digital management systems, and MSME assistance programs consistently presented more organized halal business ecosystems. The available documentary records further indicate that business sustainability was not solely determined by the number of certified enterprises but by the presence of interconnected governance mechanisms that support continuous improvement. This pattern suggests that sustainable regional economic resilience is produced through cumulative institutional interactions rather than isolated policy interventions. Therefore, the integrated halal ecosystem represents a governance model capable of strengthening MSME sustainability while simultaneously supporting inclusive regional economic development.

Discussion

The first finding demonstrates that *Maqasid Shariah* functions as a governance framework rather than merely a religious compliance mechanism for halal MSMEs. Business actors incorporated ethical values into production management, financial accountability, consumer protection, and business sustainability, indicating that Islamic principles influenced managerial behaviour beyond certification requirements. This finding is consistent with Chapra's perspective that *Maqasid Shariah* should guide economic development toward justice and collective welfare while supporting Al-Shatibi's conception of protecting religion, life, intellect, wealth, and lineage through economic activities (Abidin et al., 2020; Azzafi et al., 2026). However, this study extends previous literature by showing that *Maqasid Shariah* also strengthens organizational governance through internally driven ethical management. Theoretically, the finding expands the governance dimension of *Maqasid Shariah*, whereas practically it encourages policymakers and MSME practitioners to integrate Islamic values into everyday business management instead of treating halal certification as an isolated administrative obligation.

The second finding reveals that inclusive regional economic growth depends on effective collaboration among government, academia, business actors, communities, media, Islamic financial institutions, and technology providers. This observation supports previous studies emphasizing stakeholder collaboration as a catalyst for halal industry development, particularly within pentahelix and collaborative governance models (Arsyanti et al., 2024; Nashrullah et al., 2026). Nevertheless, this research demonstrates that the Heptahelix framework provides a broader institutional perspective by incorporating Islamic financial institutions and digital technology as independent strategic actors supporting halal MSME sustainability. Theoretically, this finding enriches collaborative governance literature by integrating Islamic economic governance with multi-stakeholder development approaches (Ahmad et al., 2023; Yudha Pratama et al., 2025). Practically, regional governments should strengthen institutional coordination mechanisms, develop integrated assistance programs, and facilitate continuous collaboration to maximize the socioeconomic contribution of halal MSMEs within regional development strategies.

The third finding indicates that sustainable economic resilience emerges through an integrated halal ecosystem rather than through isolated certification programs. Documentary evidence demonstrates that policy support, halal certification, digital information systems, business mentoring, and stakeholder coordination collectively reinforce business sustainability and regional economic stability (Firmansyah et al., 2025; Rongcai et al., 2024). These findings align with previous studies arguing that sustainable halal value chains require institutional integration instead of fragmented interventions. However, this research advances existing knowledge by conceptualizing the halal ecosystem as an interconnected governance structure where regulatory compliance, technological innovation, and stakeholder collaboration simultaneously contribute to long-term resilience (Abdul Halim et al., 2024; Aliyanti, 2022; Marnita, 2024). Theoretically, this finding broadens understanding of ecosystem-based Islamic economic governance, while practically it highlights the necessity of integrating policy, technology, financing, and institutional support within regional halal development programs.

Collectively, the three findings suggest that sustainable regional economic growth cannot be explained solely through conventional economic indicators or the expansion of halal-certified enterprises. Instead, growth emerges from the interaction among ethical governance, institutional collaboration, and ecosystem integration, all of which reinforce one another within the regional halal economy. This interpretation differs from many previous studies that examine *Maqasid Shariah*, stakeholder collaboration, or halal certification independently. By integrating these three dimensions, the present study offers a more comprehensive explanation of how Islamic economic governance operates in practice. Finally, the proposed framework contributes theoretically by linking governance, collaboration, and ecosystem perspectives, while practically providing a holistic reference for regional halal development policies.

Overall, this study contributes to the growing discourse on Islamic economic development by introducing the Halal MSMEs *Maqasid Shariah* Framework as an integrative model explaining the relationship between ethical governance, stakeholder collaboration, and sustainable regional economic resilience. Unlike earlier studies focusing primarily on business competitiveness or halal certification outcomes, this framework emphasizes the interconnected roles of *Maqasid Shariah* values, Heptahelix collaboration, and institutional ecosystem development. The model therefore extends existing theories of halal governance by demonstrating that sustainable regional development depends upon simultaneous institutional, ethical, and collaborative transformation. Practically, these findings provide strategic guidance for governments, halal authorities, Islamic financial institutions, and MSMEs seeking to strengthen inclusive and resilient regional economic development through an integrated halal governance system.

CONCLUSION

This study concludes that sustainable and inclusive regional economic growth is strengthened when halal MSMEs integrate *Maqasid Shariah* principles within business governance, supported by effective Heptahelix collaboration and an interconnected halal ecosystem. The principal lesson is that halal certification alone is insufficient without ethical governance, institutional synergy, and ecosystem integration. The study contributes theoretically by proposing the Halal MSMEs *Maqasid Shariah* Framework as a comprehensive model linking Islamic governance with collaborative regional development. Nevertheless, this qualitative case study was limited to one regency, restricting broader generalization. Future research should validate the framework across different regions and employ comparative or mixed-method approaches to examine its applicability in diverse halal economic contexts.

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