

Implementation of Barangay Peace and Order Programs: A Situational Analysis

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Abstract.

It is along this line that it is important to craft a peacekeeping concept appropriate to the particular situation of peace and order in the barangay. Realizing the significance of barangay peace and order programs, this study was steered to determine the prevailing peace and order programs and its extent of implementation in Barangay Sumacab Este, Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija, Philippines. The researchers used a pre–designed survey questionnaire and distributed them to 270 barangay residents. The distribution was based on convenience sampling technique and data gathered were treated with a weighted mean. The results of the study have shown that majority of the barangay peace and order programs are implemented only to a moderate extent based on the experience of the citizens. Thus, it is recommended that the barangay officials together with all the concerned personnel including the chief of the barangay enforcers, the barangay enforcers, and barangay workers shall work altogether to strengthen the peace and order programs in the barangay. This shall be done with careful planning and well–defined strategies within the smallest political unit in the Philippines, the barangay level.

Keywords: Barangay; Peace and Order; Programs; Implementation; Barangay Enforcers.

1. Introduction

Peace and order is an essential aspect of every human life (Kimanuka, 2018). It is a natural state that every person seeks for peace and order. According to the National Economic and Development Authority Socioeconomic Report (2017), in building the foundations for sustainable development, a highly trusted and resilient society, and a globally competitive information economy, stability, security, and public order are the most essential elements. If truth be told, it is essential for stakeholders to preserve the advantages of enforcing peace and order policies at their sites in order to attract more companies to do business in the local area for them to achieve the anticipated robust economic growth in the future (Ocdan, 2018). Indeed, the fact that a state of peace and order encourages investment growth creates more opportunities for jobs and draws more visitors, peace and order is an important ingredient in sustaining economic development, social order, and political stability (PhDEssay, 2016).

The Philippines has a moderately high rate of violent crime (Sylvester, 2020) where the country's beauty masks a darker side, and crime is a problem that persists. According to the Philippine National Police (PNP) Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management, theft, physical assault, and robbery were among the most common crimes reported to local authorities in 2019 while other common crimes included were pickpocketing, confidence schemes, and credit card fraud. Correspondingly, carjacking, robberies, and violent assaults also occurred throughout the country (Overseas Security Advisory Council, 2020). According to Sison (2014), crimes are committed due to extreme hunger and for purely economic reasons such as lack of education, unemployment, and population growth because of these reasons, people are forcing to do crimes such as pickpockets and snatching (Internet Pocket Library, 2020). Crimes are mostly committed in areas where the poor live. Therefore, the barangay being the basic

units of the local government plays an important role in the development of the nation. That being said, the status of peace and order in a barangay illuminate that of the country, and a peaceful barangay is a peaceful country (PhDEssay, 2016).

On that premise, Executive Order No. 366, s. 1996 was created with the objective of organizing the barangay peace and order committees as the implementing area of the City/Municipal peace and order council at the barangay level. Due to this fact, the researchers as advocates of peace and order realized the importance of determining the peace and order programs and the extent of implementation of those at Barangay Sumacab Este located at Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija, Philippines. The researchers also believed that the outcome of this discovery may serve as a basis for the development of effective and efficient strategies for the peace and order ordinances that can regulate crimes in the barangay level which would ensure peace of mind for most of the residents.

2. Objectives of the Study

This study was aimed at determining the barangay peace and order programs and their scope of execution alongside these principles specifically at Barangay Sumacab Este, Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija, Philippines. This study focused on identifying the existing barangay peace and order programs. It also sought to assess, based on the experience of the residents, the extent of its implementation in the barangay which will later be a basis for recommendation if there are areas that are found to be in need of changes and improvement.

3. Methodology

To determine the prevailing barangay peace and order programs and its extent of implementation, this study employed the descriptive research design. Descriptive research is a fact-finding study with adequate and accurate interpretation of data. It discusses with emphasis what happens, such as the present state of the phenomenon (Calderon, 2007).

The study was conducted in Barangay Sumacab Este, Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija, Philippines. Its population as determined by the 2015 Census was 4,118 and this barangay represented 1.36% of the total population of Cabanatuan City (PhilAtlas, 2015). The researchers used a convenience sampling technique to 270 barangay residents. Convenience sampling is a type of nonprobability sampling in which people are sampled simply because they are "convenient" sources of data for researchers (Lavrakas, 2018). Likewise, the researchers distributed to the barangay residents a modified survey questionnaire form and conducted an informal interview and observation to supplement the data gathering. The four-point Likert scale was used to gauge the extent of implementation of the peace and order in the barangay. The scaling provided are as follows: 3.50–4.00—to a very great extent, 2.50–3.49—to a great extent, 1.50–2.49—to a moderate extent, and 1.00–1.49—to a lesser extent.

The data gathered were collated and tabulated. The results were interpreted quantitatively based on the percentage and identified range of interval. Lastly, the weighted mean was utilized in quantifying the extent of the barangay peace and order implementation.

4. Results and Discussion

Table 1. Extent of Implementation of Barangay Peace and Order Programs

No.	Item Statement	Weighted Mean	Verbal Description
1	Installation of closed circuit television cameras (CCTVs) to pathways, alleys, walkways and stairways intended for public use	2.36	To a moderate extent
2	Barangay enforcers regularly conduct patrolling or ronda in the area normally at night time	2.18	To a moderate extent
3	There is a peace and order information dissemination e.g. seminars, general assembly about peace and order, etc. within the barangay	2.20	To a moderate extent
4	Strict implementation of ordinances such as violation of drinking in public places, curfew for minors, anti-noise pollution, and others	2.51	To a great extent
5	Providing street lights to avoid crime during night time	2.16	To a moderate extent
6	Providing hand held radio to all barangay officials	2.25	To a moderate extent

7	Existing Community Disturbance Plan	2.10	To a moderate extent
8	Continuance of the rationalize development of “Pulis sa Barangay” in order to strengthen and compliment the security measures being implemented by the barangays	2.20	To a moderate extent
9	Mobilization of barangay enforcers per barangay to augment PNP personnel “Pulis sa Barangay” for the conduct of Oplan Sita to prevent motorcycle riding criminals in executing their plans	2.17	To a moderate extent
10	Conduct of seminars to barangay enforcers on Anti-Crime programs of the Philippine National Police	2.14	To a moderate extent
	Overall Average Weighted Mean	2.22	To a moderate extent

It can be noted from the data above that residents believed that all barangay peace and order programs are implemented to a moderate extent except for the strict implementation of ordinances such as violation of drinking in public places, curfew for minors, anti-noise pollution, and others, which is implemented to a great extent.

Since the barangay enforcers brigade plays an important role in the development and progress of the barangay, they must strictly monitor the implementation of the different ordinances such as anti-alcohol drinking in public places, curfew for minors, anti-noise pollution, motorcycle racing, and others. This is one of the implementing mechanisms of the Barangay Peace and Order Committee (BPOC), which has the primary task of ensuring that peace and order prevail in the barangay (Panelo, 2013).

Sadly, the residents thought that the installation of closed-circuit television cameras (CCTVs) to pathways, alleys, walkways, and stairways intended for public use are implemented only to a moderate extent. Realizing the fact that the installation of CCTV cameras will lessen if not eradicate the incidence of crimes as the police can immediately untoward incidents and act on them as they happen (Arranz, 2020). According to Hent (2019), the installation of CCTV cameras in all the barangays of the municipality will not only serve as a deterrent to the commission of crimes but it will also help in closely monitoring the prevailing situation in the barangays and help in the immediate identification of areas that may be affected by natural and human-induced disasters.

Likewise, the citizens alleged that the barangay enforcers duty of regularly conducting patrol or ronda in the area usually at night time is implemented only to a moderate extent. Although one of the roles and obligations of the chief of the barangay enforcers is to assist the barangay enforcers in preventing crime and promoting public safety; thus, the barangay enforcers are deployed in the barangay to conduct patrolling or ronda (Panelo, 2013). Their duties shall therefore be fulfilled to safeguard the security of the citizens in their barangay.

By the same token, the citizens claimed that peace and order information dissemination is implemented only to a moderate extent. Indeed, municipal councils are enacting various ordinances. As chief executive, the chief of the barangay enforcers is the one who enforces all laws and ordinances that exist within the barangay and are meant to preserve public order. However, in practice, there are questions as to their implementation, proper dissemination, and interest of the local leaders. In fact, in the study conducted by Redoble, Ramos, Vidal, and Valdes (2018), it was observed that many violations are committed due to lack of awareness on the legislations. This truly shows the importance of disseminating new ordinances.

The barangay residents also reported that the presence of street lights to avoid crime during night time as a peace and order program of their area is only implemented to a moderate extent. As everyone knows, lighting, street lighting, in particular, is one basic necessity for a peaceful, crime-free environment. This is because a well-lit place discourages the commission of a crime (Manila Standard, 2018).

The residents also added that having provided a hand held radio to all barangay officials is only implemented to a moderate extent. According to one of the barangay captains, one of their strategic approach in maintaining peace and order is by providing handheld radios to all barangay officials, Barangay Police Action Team (BPAT) as well as barangay workers to ensure a steady flow of communication for reporting and quick response. The presence of this gadget will surely help the enforcers to immediately report to the concerned agency any observations and untoward incidents.

In the same way, the barangay residents declared that the presence of an existing community disturbance plan as a peace and order program is implemented only to a moderate extent. Not realizing the fact that another factor which proves useful in the successful prosecution of the various programs of the government, is the involvement of the

citizens through the "barangay," or community in the campaign against lawlessness, criminality, and other forms of civil disturbances (Fifth United Nation Congress, 1975). Since the term barangay refers to "the basic political unit in the Philippines that implements policies of local and national governments and performs the role of primary planning and implementing a unit of government policies, plans, programs, projects, and activities in the community," (Caldo, 2015), the barangay should have a working and quality administrative structure, and frameworks for implementation (Redoble, Ramos, Vidal, and Valdes, 2018), and conduct of planning for the development of their programs (Mina, 2019).

The residents also added that the continuation of the rationalize development of "Pulis sa Barangay" to strengthen and complement the security measures being implemented by the barangays and the mobilization of barangay enforcers per barangay to augment PNP personnel "Pulis sa Barangay" for the conduct of Oplan Sita to prevent motorcycle-riding criminals in executing their plans are both implemented to a moderate extent. The "Pulis Sa Barangay" program was implemented in 2011 as embodied in "BAYANIHAN" or the Barangay Peacekeeping Operations (BPO) which mandates the organization of Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team (BPAT) as force multipliers and this program is under the direct supervision of the Philippine National Police (PNP) in close coordination with barangay officials (Palo, 2019).

Lastly, the citizens purported that the conduct of seminars to barangay enforcers on Anti-Crime programs of the Philippine National Police is only implemented to a moderate extent. Therefore, the importance of community participation and the conduct of seminars and BPATs Skills Training in the crime prevention and solution programs of the government shall be realized. They are also encouraged to collaborate and cooperate with the law

Enforcement agencies, like the PNP, for the achievement of the local development through the Community-Service-Oriented Policing System (NAPOLCOM5, 2015).

5. Conclusion and Recommendation

Reaffirming the commitment of all to guarantee peace and order from the barangay level, it can be identified from the above results that the residents agreed that the scope of implementation of the current peace and order programs in the above-mentioned barangay is only moderate. The researchers, therefore, propose an intensive study of the barangay's dominant programs to excavate the areas in need of strict implementation. Specifically, the researchers propose that the workers concerned must begin with careful preparation and a well-defined strategy to improve their barangay's peace and order programs. The additional purchase and installation of CCTV cameras in the strategic areas shall be included in their strategy.

It is also suggested that peace officers must perform patrols rigorously, particularly at night time, to deter criminal offenders. Also, the researchers acknowledged that laws and ordinances should be placed on the bulletin board of the Barangay Hall and other public areas so that people can easily access them and be well educated. Besides, it is strongly suggested that the Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team (BPAT) should attend peace-and-order seminars and training.

More professionally, the barangay should conduct a benchmarking to other model barangay for their effective crime prevention programs which can be apprehended through an in-depth study on the character, fears, and attitude of the residents in the said community. As the first step in their combat towards solidifying barangay peace and order, the barangay officials and barangay police be duty-bound to initiate an information drive on crime prevention among its residents. Their awareness can lead to cooperation and obedience as well as building a good relation and trust.

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