



AN EVALUATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE 1185 IN COTABATO PROVINCE

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Abstract

The Study evaluates The P.D. 1185 of the FIRE CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES is a decree, rules and regulations promulgated late President Ferdinand Marcos last 27, as part the Land in order to minimize death and injury to persons and damage to properties fire. The provision of the FIRE shall apply all persons and private buildings, facilities or structures erected on constructed before its effectivity. Sampling techniques used in this study was personal interview and questioning during the second command conference of all municipal fire Marshall held at the BEP Cotabato Consand, Amas, Kidapawan, Cotabato. These questions were designed to obtain information on the Implementation of PD 1185 in Cotabato Province especially in the implementation of section 13 and 14 of the code. In connection with the implementation of PD 1185 in Cotabato Province, relatively, it is good despite of the problem that some of the occupants were still hesitant to comply the requirements being required in accordance with Laws, Rules and Regulations implemented by the BFP. With regards to the implementation of section 13 and 14 of the Code, basically, majority of the municipalities were already implementing the said Law but the only problem is the remittance of their fire code fees collection because some of the Local Officials in Cotabato Province still do not remit the said amount or collections to the national treasury and which is a violation pursuant to Section 14 of PD 1185.

Keywords: Presidential Degree1185, Fire Code, Fire Marshall, Cotabato Province

INTRODUCTION

The P.D. 1185 of the FIRE CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES is a decree, rules and regulations promulgated late President Ferdinand Marcos last 27, as part the Land in order to minimize death and injury to persons and damage to properties fire. The provision of the FIRE shall apply all persons and private buildings, facilities or structures erected on constructed before its effectivity.

The FIRE SERVICE under direct the DIRECTOR GENERAL the INTEGRATED NATIONAL POLICE now the DIRECTOR the BUREAU FIRE PROTECTION duly authorized representative shall be responsible for the enforcement CODE well as pertinent provision other LAWS pertaining to Fire protection safety and impose taxes, fees fines in accordance the FIRE CODE which shall accrue to the national fund or the general fund of the national government.

The enactment of Republic Act 6975 which took effect on January 1, 1991 paved the way for the establishment of the Philippine National Police (PNP), Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BSHF) and the Philippine Public Safety College (PPSC) under the umbrella of the Department of the Interior and

Local Government (DILG). Under the new set up the Bureau of Fire Protection chief is given full administrative and operational control over all its constituents resulting in greater positive innovations.

Statement of Problem

The study obtained baseline data about the perceived accomplishment of the Bureau of Fire Protection on the implementation of the Presidential Decree Cotabato Province 1185 in

It answered the following:

1. What are the existing situations of the Bureau of Fire Protection in Cotabato Province?
2. What are the desired or expected conditions of all - BFP fire station in Cotabato Province?

General Objectives of the Training

The main objective of the study was to evaluate the implementation of Presidential Decree 1185 in Cotabato Province.

Specific Objectives of this Training

1. To determine the existing situation of the Implementation of PD 1185 in Cotabato Province.
2. To ascertain the desired or expected requirements in the implementation of PD 1185.
3. To find out the skills and values desired to be developing in the implementation of PD 1185 in Cotabato Province.
4. To evaluate the implementation of Section 13 and 14 of the PD 1185.

Importance of the Study

1. To find out whether the designated fire safety enforcement division or fire safety prevention inspector is effective or ineffective in carrying the objectives and goals of the BFP especially the Implementation of the PD 1185 in Cotabato Province.
2. To evaluate the existing situations and expected condition of all BFP-fire station in Cotabato province.

Scope and Limitation of the Study

The respondents of the study were the members of the Bureau of Fire Protection in Cotabato Province.

The study was limited to the evaluation of the implementation of Presidential Decree 1195 in Cotabato Province.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Under this chapter, the following topics are included. Brief historical background of the BFP, legal basis for establishment, objectives and development needs of the BFP.

BRIEF HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE BFP

By: Chief Inspector Santiago E. Laguna, BFP

The formal organization of the fire service could be traced back on August 7, 1901 when the Manila Fire Department was established by the US-Philippines: Commission under the Department of Streets, Parks, Fire and Sanitation with F.R. Dodge and Captain 3.W. Hoey as the first fire chief and deputy chief respectively.

Manila fire department then had strength of eighty (80) men constituted into a fire fighting unit of one chief, one deputy, one chief engineer, one electrician, two clerks, two linemen, five captains, five natives lieutenants, four native engineers, fifteen drivers, three native drivers, twenty nine native pipe man and eleven native truck men.

Before the inauguration of the commonwealth government, Captain Jacinto Lorenzo was appointed as the first Filipino Fire Chief on October 19, 1935 the Commonwealth period and the naming of a Filipino fire chief was the logical result of an American policy to transfer the reins of responsibility to Filipinos.

It was during the time of President Marcos that the Integration of POLICE, FIRE and JAIL and the Philippine Constabulary was instituted. The idea behind the Integration of the protective services was to consolidate the manpower, materials, equipment and other resources strengthen the effectiveness. National Police Forces for to maximum

Presidential Decree 421 was issued organizing the four cities and thirteen municipalities with the greater Manila area into a singly body, the Metro Politan Police Force. It was divided into four districts similar to the territorial jurisdiction of the police districts with Chief Federico Barcia as the first Fire Marshal of the Metro Politan Manila Area.

Several successive projects were established for integration in the various provinces by virtue of seven Presidential Decrees. On March 21, 1974 the local police, fire and Jail in the provinces were made a part of the provincial law enforcement units under the supervision of the Philippine Constabulary. These steps led to the: promulgation of the Presidential Decree 765 on August 8, 1975 establishing the Integrated National Police (IMP) With the Fire Service as one of the component protective services.

Colonel Federico Barcia was then designated as for district 1/MPF Superintendent on June 27, 1978 was named as the INP Fire Marshall vice Fortunato Dejora.

The enactment of Republic Act 6975 which took effect on January 1, 1991 paved the way for the establishment of the Philippine National Police, Bureau of Fire Protection and Bureau of Jail Management and Penology as a separate entity under the umbrella power of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).

Under the new set up, the fire bureau chief is given full administrative and operational control over all its constituents resulting in greater positive innovations. In fact, within the short time span of its task in depending the fire bureau fared comparatively well with: its previous performance considering that the implementation of such authority was only last August 1991 and after the CY 1991 General Appropriation Act was signed into law.

LEGAL BASIS FOR ESTABLISHMENT

Pursuant to Republic Act 6975 known as the DILG Act of 1990, the Bureau of Fire Protection shall be responsible for the prevention and suppression of \$11 destructive fires on buildings. Houses, and other structures, forests, land transportation vehicles and equipment, or ships or vessels docked at piers, or wharves anchored in major seaport, petroleum industry installations, plane crashes, and other similar incidents, as well as the enforcement of the FIRE CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES.

OBJECTIVES/FUNCTIONS

1. To conduct fire safety preventions activities in accordance with the implementing rules and regulation of the Presidential Decree 1185 otherwise known as the FIRE CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES.
2. To enforce memorandum, directives, letter orders and other legal matters in line with BFP service for community development.
3. To conduct a more extensive information and education campaign on the safety involving Barangay leaders and BFP personnel as key communicators with the assistance of the school, other government agencies, civic organization and the media.
4. To suppress all destructive fires on houses, buildings, and other structures, forests, transportation vehicles and equipment, ships vessels docked at piers or wharves or anchored in major seaports, petroleum industry installations, plane crashes and other similar incidents.
5. To investigate all causes of fires and if necessary, file the proper complaints with the city or provincial prosecutor who has jurisdiction over the case.
6. To conduct and assist in rescue operation in times of emergencies, disasters and other calamities arising in the community; and
7. To perform other combat military and police duties as maybe provided by law and likewise if there is a threat to the national security of the Republic of the Philippines.

DEVELOPMENT NEEDS OF THE BFP

Just like peace and order and other pre conditions to national economic stability, fire safety, in terms of fire incidents in their absolute minimum occurrence and at the least damages, is essential in sustaining whatever economic growth achieved.

Widely prevalent these days in our cities and other urbanized centers are structural sign of constructions boom. Furthermore, in the next five years NEDA of the National Economic Development Authority forecast a rapid phase of industrial and commercial development in some cities and growing in the construction industry and business resurgence, the likelihood of more fire occurrence cannot be discounted compared to the previous years.

As a matter of necessity, the Bureau of Fire Protection anticipated any destruction of economic stability by mean of further upgrading its capability with corresponding pre-emptive and fire suppressive strategies to check this impending threats of fire.

To strengthen the efficiency on community development the dire service units is fire prevention and Fire suppression is therefore a top Priority of the Bureau of Fire Protection in order to achieve its goals and exercise more vigorously regulatory function in fire safety or fire code enforcement.

For the proficiency development of the personnel, the BFP is working for the institutionalization of the NAFRAC or the National Fire and Rescue Academy under the auspices of the Japanese Government to provide basic and advance training on firefighting rescue and other fire protection fields of study. This academy shall also aim to attain a higher standard of professionalism and other service oriented values for the BFP personnel.

The proposed recruitment of additional personnel is intended to coincide with the scheduled delivery of additional fire truck and firefighting apparatus to augment the 863 serviceable fire trucks. Furthermore, equipment that will be programmed should be modernized to adapt to the trend in high rise building and windowless establishment which requires aerial ladder firefighting apparatus that should reach more than 40 story buildings and fire trucks equipped with special devices that can grapple steel bars and can open concrete walls.

Hopefully, the realization of these programs by the end of 1996 especially in urbanized cities and towns shall be a considerable step towards the attainment of the goals and objectives.

In this same period, we also envision the establishment of additional fire stations in the pursuit of one of the functions of the bureau of Fire Protection as mandated under Section 56 of RA 6975 that "there shall be established at least one (1) fire station with adequate personnel, firefighting facilities and equipment in every provincial capital, city and municipality subject to the standards, rules and regulations as maybe promulgated by the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG).

To summarize it, the Bureau's vision is the quantitative expansion of our manpower and resources with high hopes for modernization in order to address both the immediate and long term problems of fire safety.

METHODS

This study was conducted in the Province of Cotabato. Cotabato is composed of nine (9) municipal fire stations which were authorized by the law to enforce PD 1185. The remaining nine (9) municipalities without fire stations were given to the municipalities with fire station as their additional area of responsibility.

Sampling

Sampling techniques used in this study was personal interview and questioning during the second command conference of all municipal fire marshall held at the BEP Cotabato Consand, Amas, Kidapawan, Cotabato. These questions were designed to obtain information on the Implementation of PD 1185 in Cotabato Province especially in the implementation of section 13 and 14 of the code.

Research Instrument

An interview schedule was structured and designed to elicit the required data from the respondents was used in this study. It consisted of the following sections:

1. Demographic profile of the respondents.

2. Discussion designed to obtain information in the implementation of PD 1185 in Cotabato Province
3. 3. Factors influencing the implementation of the said law especially section 13 and 14 of PD 1185.

The interview schedule was done all municipal are Marshall of Cotabato Province, the native dialect of the respondents were also used during the interview. Answers and data gathered during the interview was checked from the consolidated annual reports of Cotabato Province in order to know whether the data gathered was correct.

Data Gathering

This study used the personal interview schedule method to gather the data needed.

Date gathering was done from 01 January to 30 January 1996. Two interviewers were hired to help the researcher. They were brothers of the researcher in the BFF service.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTIC

The demographic characteristics of the respondents included in the study were age, sex, religion, tribe and educational attainment.

As shown in Table 1, majority of the respondents were old (34 years old) only 1 reached the age of 40, while the rest is low the age of 29.

Sex

As shown in table 2, majority of the respondents were male. This exemplified that BFF members in Cotabato Province were predominantly male. Although the Bureau was also recruiting Female employee but it is not surprising because male of BFP is better than the female in times of firefighting operation.

Religion

As shown in table 3, majority of BFP members were Christian. Based upon the number of the respondents, only one belong to Islam religion.

Tribe

As shown in table 4, majority of BFP members in Cotabato Province since were Cebuano. Based from the number of respondents, only three belonged to Ilongo and one from Muslim-Maguindanaon tribe.

Educational Attainment

As shown in Table 5, all of the respondents were college graduate. Basing on the modified general formula in the establishment of qualification standard of the Civil Service Commission, no employee shall be designated as head of office of any agency

without finishing a standard educational attainment and passing the appropriate eligibility.

A. Demographic Profile of the Respondents

Table 1. Age Distribution

AGE DISTRIBUTION	F	%
15 - 19		
20 - 24	1	11.10
25 - 29	2	22.20
30 - 34	5	55.50
35 - 40	1	11.10
TOTAL	9	100.00

As shown in table 1, majority of the respondents were old (34 years old) only 1 reached the aged of 40 while the rest is young with the age of 29 years old, or below.

Table 2. Sex Distribution

SEX DISTRIBUTION	F	%
Male	9	100
Female	0	
TOTAL	9	100.00

As shown in table 2, majority of the respondents were male. This exemplifies that BFP members in Cotabato Province were predominantly male. Although the Bureau was also recruiting female employees, but it is not surprising because male BFP is better than the female in times of firefighting operation and other major task.

Table 3. Religion

Religion	F	%
Islam	1	11.10
Catholic	8	88.80

Others		
TOTAL	9	100.00

As shown in table 3, majority of the BFP members were Christian with the religion of (Roman Catholic). Based upon the number of respondents, only 1, belong to Islam religion..

Table 4. Tribe

Tribe	F	%
Maguindanaon	1	11.10
Cebuano	5	55.50
Ilongo	3	33.30
Ilocano		
TOTAL	9	100.00

As shown in table 4, majority of the BFP members in Cotabato Province were Cebuano. Based from the number of respondents, only three belong to Ilongo and one from Muslim Maguindanaon tribe.

Table 5. Educational Attainment

Educational Attainment	F	%
College Graduate	9	100.00
College Level		
High School Graduate		
High School Level		
Elementary Graduate		
TOTAL	9	100.00

As shown in table 5, all of the respondents finished college graduate. Basing on the modified general formula in the establishment of qualification standard of the Civil Service Commission, no employee shall be designated as head of office of any agency without mashing a standard educational attainment and passing the appropriate eligibility.

WHAT CAN YOU SAY ABOUT THE IMPLEMENTATION 1185 IN COTABATO PROVINCE?

First of all, Fire Code of the Philippines is composed of of Part 1 and Part 11. In our implementation we kept on conducting Fire Safety Prevention Inspection to all buildings, structures and premises in order to determine the compliance and violation of the said Law. Another purpose of the said fire safety prevention inspection is to minimize the occurrence of fire and to eliminate fire hazard.

Implementation of Presidential Decree 1185 in Cotabato Province is good. Despite of the problem that some of the occupants were still hesitant to comply the requirements being required in accordance with Laws, Rules and Regulations implemented by the Bureau of Fire Protection.

Another problem noted is that in the case of buildings which really needs issuance of building permits, the issuing authority or the building officials failed to note the violations of the PD 1185 and that makes the occupant hard enough to comply the approval of the BFP. In fact, for humanitarian

Consideration, except section 13 and 14 of the code, No conformed or approved any application for permits submitted in our office provided that our mission on public safety and order will not be violated.

HOW IS SECTION 13 AND 14 OF THE PD 1165 IMPLEMENTED IN YOUR AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY?

Section 13 and 14 of the PD 1185 was implemented through the cooperation of the Municipal Mayor and the Local Treasurer by taking into effect the said Law and memorandum from the SILG. The said Law provides for the imposition of Fire Code taxes and fees on properties and persons, and gives authority to the Local Treasurer to collect the same for remittance to the national treasury. The implementation is relatively good, despite of the problems that some of the occupants were still hesitant to comply the requirements being required in accordance with Laws, Rules and Regulations implemented by the BFP.

WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED?

The following are the problems encountered during the implementation of the said law:

- a. Some of the municipalities failed to enforce the said Law and that's why they have no fire code fees collections.
- b. Some of the municipal mayor and local treasurer hesitated to remit the fire code fees collected to the National Treasury which is in violation pursuant to section 14 of PD 1185 otherwise known as the FIRE CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES.
- c. Some building officials do not submit their building plans for confirmation in the construction site purposely to see to it that the plans and specifications were being followed.

SUMMARY

Generally, the study was undertaken primarily to evaluate the implementation of Presidential Decree 1185 in Cotabato Province. More specifically the study aimed to: (1) determine the existing situation of the implementation of PD 1185 in Cotabato Province; (2) ascertain the required or expected requirements in the implementation of PD 1185 in Cotabato Province; (3) find out skills and values desired to be develop in the implementation of PD 1185; and (4) evaluate the implementation of section 13 and 14 of the PD 1185. Nine municipalities with fire station were selected to constitute samples representing Cotabato Province. Nine head of office designated as Municipal Fire Marshal served as the respondents of the study. An interview schedule was employed in data gathering. Analysis of data and the interpretation of the results were based on research objectives. Finally, basing on the demographic profile of

the respondents, majority of them were old, male and Christian in tribe. For their educational attainment, based in the number of respondents, all of them were college graduate.

In connection with the implementation of PD 1185 in Cotabato Province, relatively, it is good despite of the problem that some of the occupants were still hesitant to comply the requirements being required in accordance with Laws, Rules and Regulations implemented by the BFP. With regards to the implementation of section 13 and 14 of the Code, basically, majority of the municipalities were already implementing the said Law but the only problem is the remittance of their fire code fees collection because some of the Local Officials in Cotabato Province still do not remit the said amount or collections to the national treasury and which is a violation pursuant to Section 14 of PD 1185.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of the study, the following major conclusions were made:

1. Generally, the respondents were young with the age bracket of 27 to 40 years old. All most all were males, married and had passed degree. Collage
2. As a whole, the respondents obtained satisfactory or median level of job performance.
3. I therefore conclude that the implementation of PD 1185 in Cotabato Province is relatively good, despite of the problems that some of the occupants were still hesitant to comply with the requirements being required in accordance with Laws, Rules and Regulations being implemented by the Bureau of Fire Protection. With regards to the implementation of Section 13 and 14 of the Code, basically, majority of the municipalities were already implementing the said Law but the only problem as the remittance of their Fire Code Fees Collections to the National treasury because some of the Local Officials in Cotabato Province is still do not remit the said amount to the National Treasury and which is a violation pursuant to section 14 of PD 118s otherwise known as the **FIRE CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES**.

RECOMMENDATION

Based on the findings and conclusion of the study, the following conclusions and recommendations were drawn:

1. Results indicated that the respondents enforce the Law in their area of responsibility irregularly. It is suggested that the respondents will enforce the said Law not only in their area of responsibility but to include their additional area of responsibility.
2. Results also indicated that they have low performance in this particular job. In this regard, it is suggested that the BFP members enforcing the Law should strictly undergo several pre-service and in-service training or schooling in order to properly educate the constituents and the Local Officials of a certain municipality by means of seminars, pulung-pulong and symposium on the compliance of Presidential Decree 1185 otherwise known as the **FIRE CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES**

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