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IMPLEMENTATION OF BARANGAY TANODS PROGRAM IN MAINTAINING PEACE AND ORDER IN COTABATO CITY

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ABSTRACT

This research study analyzed the implementation of the Barangay Tanods Program in promoting peace and order in Cotabato City, with particular focus on Mother Barangay Poblacion and Mother Barangay Rosary Heights. Anchored in Social Contract Theory and aligned with the Department of the Interior and Local Government Memorandum Circular No. 2003-042, the study identified Barangay Police Security Officers (BPSOs) as community-based peace enforcers and effective force multipliers of the Philippine National Police (DILG, 2003). It evaluated the extent to which barangay tanods fulfill their legally mandated responsibilities in crime prevention and public safety, highlighting their vital role in sustaining social stability, enhancing community safety, and supporting local governance.

The study's specific goal was to examine the level of implementation of the Barangay Tanods Program in terms of crime prevention functions such as frequent patrolling, surveillance operations, choke point establishment, and traffic control. It also looked into the effectiveness of barangay tanods in maintaining peace, order, and security through activities including monitoring, inter-agency coordination, intelligence and information gathering, and ongoing community engagement. Furthermore, the study looked into the difficulties that barangay tanods have when carrying out their assigned duties, notably in terms of training adequacy, resource availability, welfare provisions, and institutional support mechanisms (DILG, 2003).

The findings revealed that, while the Barangay Tanods Program helped to improve community safety, its overall success was limited by a number of obstacles. These included restricted

training opportunities, insufficient logistical and financial resources, poor cooperation with other local government entities, and inadequate welfare assistance for barangay tanods. The study emphasized the necessity of ongoing capacity-building activities, better resource allocation, stronger inter-agency collaboration, and increased community involvement. Implementing these techniques is critical to ensuring the Barangay Tanods Program's efficacy and promoting peace and order at the barangay level in Cotabato City (DILG, 2003).

Keywords: Barangay Tanods Program, Peace and Order, Community-Based Policing, Crime Prevention, Public Safety, Local Governance, Inter-Agency Coordination, Capacity Building, and Cotabato City.

INTRODUCTION

The stability and public security represent the fundamental pillars of economic development, social unity, and efficient governance, as societies rely on robust safety frameworks to protect citizens and uphold the rule of law. Within the Philippine local government structure, Republic Act No. 7160 and DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2003-042 officially designate Barangay Tanods as vital force multipliers. These individuals are tasked with maintaining public safety, preventing local crime, and supporting law enforcement efforts in a manner consistent with Social Contract Theory (DILG, 2003). While their contributions are widely recognized, significant questions remain regarding the consistency and overall success of the program's rollout. The concerns often focus on the adequacy of professional training, the availability of necessary equipment, and the level of coordination with other government agencies. In light of these issues, this research aims to evaluate the current implementation and operational success of the Barangay Tanods Program within Cotabato City. Furthermore, the study intends to pinpoint the specific obstacles and challenges these officers encounter while performing their legally mandated duties and responsibilities in the community.

Objectives of the Research

This study aimed to ascertain the extent of implementation of Barangay Tanods Program in delivering peace and order in Cotabato City. In particular, it aimed to evaluate how this program operated as a community-based peace and security mechanism (CSM) within the barangay system. It intended to assess if the required functions of the barangay officials and BPSOs were performed accordingly in promoting public safety, crime prevention, and mobilizing local governance initiatives toward social order.

The main aims of this study were to investigate the essential operational aspects of the Barangay Tanods Program. This involved assessing how effectively barangay officials and BPSOs implemented the crime prevention measures, including patrolling, surveillance, and monitoring of local areas. The study also aimed to evaluate the success of barangay tanods in upholding peace, order, and security by collaborating with law enforcement, engaging with the community, and enforcing barangay ordinances. Furthermore, it analyzed how these roles enhanced overall community safety.

Beyond these objectives, the study also aimed to analyze the significant challenges encountered by barangay tanods in the performance of their duties and responsibilities. This included identifying issues related to training adequacy, resource and logistical support, welfare provisions, and institutional backing from local government units. By examining these concerns, the research intended to generate practical recommendations that could strengthen policy implementation, enhanced program effectiveness, and improved support mechanisms for barangay tanods in Cotabato City.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The literature review emphasizes that peace, order, and security are intrinsically linked foundations necessary for achieving social stability and driving community progress, especially within the Philippine barangay system contained the nation's foundational political

structure (Bayan, 2011; White, 2022). To maintain these pillars, Barangay Tanods were formally established through the Local Government Code of 1991 (Republic Act No. 7160) and further defined by DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2003-042. These personnel act as essential civilian force multipliers, operating on the frontlines to manage crime prevention, conduct regular neighborhood patrols, perform surveillance, and provide critical support to formal law enforcement agencies (NAPOLCOM MC No. 2008-013; DILG, 2003). From a broader theoretical and philosophical perspective, the concepts of peace and security extend beyond the mere cessation of criminal activity; they represent holistic environments characterized by social cohesion, justice, and the active preservation of core societal principles (Hobbes, 1651; Spinoza, 1677; Galtung, 1969). Consequently, these academic and legal frameworks characterize the Barangay Tanods Program as a vital mechanism of local governance, fulfilling the state's social contract by safeguarding public welfare and maintaining communal harmony.

It is focusing on the core operational tasks specifically neighborhood patrolling, surveillance efforts, legal arrest protocols, and inter-agency coordination—underscore how vital these activities are for preventing crime and monitoring local environments, especially in areas where formal police presence is minimal (Stanton, 1992; Shamshak, 2012; Gainey, 2022). Furthermore, scholarly works exploring organizational coordination stress that synchronized efforts among local leaders are indispensable for the successful execution of safety and order programs (Mooney & Reiley, 2022; Worth, 2022; Brech, 2022). Legal scholarship regarding the distinction between valid and illegal arrests also highlights the significant dangers associated with inadequate training and the misuse of power, as codified in the Revised Penal Code and underscored by Philippine jurisprudence like *Duropan & Coloma v. People* (2020). However, while the current literature succeeds in defining the scope of operational duties, standard procedures, and legal constraints, it fails to offer a comprehensive or systematic evaluation of how effectively these functions actually implemented on the ground. There was

a notable lack of comparative analysis that considered the dual perspectives of both the barangay leadership and the residents themselves, representing a critical gap in existing research.

Contemporary research increasingly highlights the multifaceted obstacles encountered by Barangay Tanods, emphasizing the strain of insufficient resources, growing security expectations, and the urgent demand for systematic professionalization through enhanced training, better coordination, and robust policy frameworks (Benitez, 2013; De Jesus, 2018). Within the current literature, the internal security was conceptualized as a protective shield against various threats that could potentially undermine communal unity and the stability of local institutions (Buzan, as cited in Bodunde et al., 2014; Ogaba, 2010). The modern academic discourse further suggests that the long-term sustainability of local peace and order is heavily dependent on the successful integration of collaborative governance, active community involvement, and the implementation of flexible, adaptive strategies (Moore & Braga, 2004; Samaniego, 2015). These theoretical and empirical findings are intrinsically linked to the objectives of the current investigation, which seeks to evaluate the implementation levels, operational effectiveness, and specific hurdles of the Barangay Tanods Program in Cotabato City. By addressing these themes, the study reinforces the necessity of conducting detailed empirical assessments to improve and solidify local security mechanisms for the benefit of the community.

METHODOLOGY

This research utilized a quantitative methodology aimed at systematically determining the extent of the Barangay Tanods Program's implementation regarding peace and order maintenance within Cotabato City. By employing quantitative methods, the study was able to describe the prevailing conditions through a rigorous analysis of numerical data. The research focused its scope on two significant and representative areas within the city: Mother Barangay Poblacion and Mother Barangay Rosary Heights. A total of sixty (60) participants were

involved in the study, meticulously selected via random sampling to ensure unbiased and objective data collection. This sample was evenly divided, comprising thirty (30) active Barangay Tanods and thirty (30) incumbent Barangay Officials. This sampling approach facilitated a reliable and representative understanding of the target population's perspectives and experiences concerning the program's functions and operational dynamics within the selected barangays.

The data collection process utilized a carefully structured questionnaire that incorporated a five-point Likert scale, designed to measure both the frequency and the overall extent to which the Barangay Tanods Program had been implemented. Following the necessary acquisition of official approvals from both local barangay authorities and the relevant academic institution, the primary researcher personally administered these surveys to the participants. The subsequent data processing and analysis were conducted using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) Version 20 software. Specific statistical tools were then systematically applied, including frequency distributions, percentages, weighted mean calculations, and standard deviation measures. These analytical methods allowed for a thorough interpretation of the collected data to precisely determine the levels of implementation and evaluate the overall effectiveness of the Barangay Tanods Program within the study areas.

Results:

The findings of this research demonstrated that the execution of the Barangay Tanods Program within Mother Barangay Poblacion and Mother Barangay Rosary Heights had been largely successful in upholding local stability, especially regarding fundamental surveillance, consistent patrolling, and collaborative efforts with village leadership. According to the quantitative data, the program generally operates at moderate to high implementation levels; however, noticeable discrepancies were observed concerning the sufficiency of professional training, the provision of necessary equipment, and general resource allocation. While there is evidence of stakeholder involvement, it remains somewhat irregular, and underlying

communication barriers between the tanods, barangay officials, and external local agencies continue to hinder maximum operational productivity. Furthermore, the results suggest that a lack of adequate financial backing and logistical support poses a threat to the long-term sustainability of these security efforts. Consequently, there is an urgent requirement for standardized monitoring processes, more robust capacity-building programs, and intensified community participation to significantly bolster the program's impact and overall success.

Discussion:

The research results indicated that although the Barangay Tanods Program acted as an indispensable force multiplier for neighborhood safety, its ultimate success was heavily contingent upon robust institutional backing, ongoing professional development, and the consistent availability of resources. Drawing from the principles of Social Contract Theory, the functions performed by these tanods embody a collective societal agreement to uphold harmony and protection through a framework of shared accountability. Despite this foundational purpose, the identified deficiencies in organizational coordination and a lack of necessary logistical supplies had served to undermine this essential mandate. The study confirmed that frequent training sessions significantly boosted the technical competencies and reaction times of the tanods, while sufficient equipment improved their overall state of operational readiness. To overcome existing obstacles, it was imperative to reinforce the partnership between village leaders, local government authorities, and general public. Furthermore, the implementation of formal feedback systems and synchronized planning strategies would likely enhance institutional trust, promoted accountability, and ensured the program was sufficiently flexible to address the changing landscape of local peace and security issues.

CONCLUSION

The research concluded that while the Barangay Tanods Program in Cotabato City had been largely successful in its mission to promote communal safety and maintain public harmony, there remained several pivotal areas that necessitate strategic refinement to ensure the program's long-term impact and sustainability. A primary finding emphasized that the implementation of consistent, high-quality, and comprehensive training modules was absolutely fundamental for upholding professional standards and enhancing the practical competencies of tanods as they execute their daily responsibilities. Furthermore, the investigation revealed that persistent deficiencies in financial backing, logistical equipment, and material supplies had created significant bottlenecks in operational productivity, suggesting a dire need for prioritized resource distribution and more robust funding from local government sectors.

While the study noted existing levels of stakeholder involvement, it highlighted that more disciplined coordination and transparent communication channels between the tanod units, barangay leadership, and broader municipal agencies were required to achieve a truly unified and efficient security framework. Additionally, the research underscored the necessity for forward-thinking, adaptive strategies and integrated planning sessions coupled with rigorous, ongoing monitoring to effectively manage the evolving complexities of local peace and order. Finally, the establishment of formal community feedback mechanisms was presented as a vital step toward aligning the program's tactical objectives with the actual needs of the citizenry, thereby cultivating a culture of trust, mutual accountability, and collective responsibility in safeguarding the community.

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