



PERFORMANCE OF LUPON IN BARANGAY MANDARAGAT, PUERTO PRINCESA CITY

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Article history:	Abstract:
<p>Received: December 20th 2023 Accepted: January 14th 2024 Published: February 24th 2024</p>	<p><i>Lupon</i> or <i>Lupong Tagapamayapa</i> is a body organized in every barangay to dispense the <i>Katarungang Pambarangay</i> activities of a barangay. Hence, this study was conducted to determine the performance of <i>Lupon</i> using the descriptive research design gathered through survey questionnaires from 18 <i>Lupon</i> members and analyzed using frequency counts, means, and percentages. The study revealed that the performance of the <i>Lupon</i> in barangay was outstanding. Moreover, half of the respondents acknowledged that they lack training in supervising grievances/ conflict brought to the barangay. Hence, majority of them expressed that among the strategies to address the challenges is to have a conduct of in-service training for the <i>Lupon</i> members.</p>

Keywords: *Katarungang Pambarangay*, *Lupong Tagapamayapa*, Amicable Settlement

INTRODUCTION

Lupon or *Lupong Tagapamayapa* is a body organized in every barangay (Vigo, 2004). Section 399 of the Local Government Code of 1991 provides that there is hereby created in each Barangay a *Lupong Tagapamayapa*, hereinafter referred to as the *lupon*, composed of the *Punong Barangay* as chairman and ten (10) to twenty (20) members which shall be constituted every three (3) years. The *Lupon* of each Barangay shall have authority to bring together the parties actually residing in the same city or municipality for amicable settlement of disputes (sec. 408 of Local Government Code of 1991).

The *Lupon* dispense the *Katarungang Pambarangay* or Barangay Justice System of a barangay. It is an administrative body created by law to operationalize the barangay justice system which is better known as the *Katarungang Pambarangay* (Arada & Tamayo, 2020). The *Katarungang Pambarangay* (KP) was institutionalized through Presidential Decree 1508, promulgated in 1978, and the Local Government Code of 1991 as a strategy for improving and making the justice system more responsive to the needs of the community.

According to Martinez (2001), the establishment of *Katarungang Pambarangay* were to: obtain a just, speedy and inexpensive settlement of disputes at the barangay level; preserve Filipino culture and traditions concerning the amicable settlement of disputes; and relieve the courts of docket congestion and thereby enhance the quality of justice dispensed by them. However, the primary role of the *Lupon* is not to decide disputes and impose a solution on the parties but to assist the parties in discussing the possible amicable settlement of their disputes (Vigo, 2004). As its nomenclature clearly indicates, the purpose of the *lupong tagapamayapa* or "*Lupon*" is peacekeeping in nature, or douse cold water to whatever trouble may be brewing within the barangay (Arada & Tamayo, 2020).

In various barangays such that of Hagonoy, Bulacan, the extent of responsiveness of the barangay justice in terms of settlement of disputes was responsive (Benter, 2020). While the members of the *lupong tagapamayapa* in Barangay Caritan Centro in the city of Tuguegarao have excellently perform its duties and responsibilities (Agustin et al. 2018).

However, it cannot be denied that *lupong tagapamayapa* encountered problems in the administration of the barangay justice system. It is evident in the study of Mohammed & Caingat (2017) in Barangay Matatalaib, Tarlac City that based on the data they gathered, the primary concern of the respondents was the insufficient trainings or seminars related to the administration of the barangay justice system. This was followed by non-compliance of the respondents regarding the given summons. Also, other problems such as: the failure to track or contact the respondent, non-compliance with the agreement, giving false statement by the complainant or respondent, disorganized records, inadequate fund support and other forms of assistance for the *Lupong Tagapamayapa* from the barangay, failure to reach an agreement between the complainant and the respondent, unidentified respondent and inadequate manpower in barangay justice system.

Barangay Mandaragat as the locale of the study, is a barangay in the city of Puerto Princesa, Palawan, Philippines with a population of 10,248 as determined by Census in 2020. The assessment conducted to the *Lupon* was in order to determine how they dispense the *Katarungang Pambarangay*.

As such, this study was conducted to gauge: the performance of *Lupon's* duties and responsibilities in Barangay Mandaragat from the year 2020 to 2021; the challenges encountered by the *Lupon* members; and the strategies to address the challenges encountered by the *Lupon* members.

METHODOLOGY

This study used survey research method. To collect the data needed, questionnaires were distributed to the respondents with limited face-to-face interviews to all the *Lupon* members of Barangay Mandaragat. The questionnaire was patterned based on the study of Agustin et al. in 2018. To get the appropriate data needed, the questionnaire was divided into three parts. Part 1 contained the statements on the performance of *Lupon*. Part 2 contained statements about the challenges encountered by the *Lupon*. Lastly, Part 3 contained statements regarding the strategies to address the challenges encountered in the *Lupon*. Data was interpreted using descriptive statistics tools such as means, frequency counts, and percentages. To gauge the performance of *Lupon* for each criterion, this rating scale was used: 4.50 – 5.00 = At all times or outstanding; 3.50 – 4.49 = Most of the time or very satisfactory; 2.50 – 3.49 = Some of the time or satisfactory; 1.50 – 2.40 = A little of the time or fair; and 1.00 – 1.49 = None of the time or poor. While for the challenges and strategies to address the challenges, frequency counts and percentages were used.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Performance of *Lupon*

The performance of *Lupon* was determined based on the assessment made by the respondents in terms of (1) effort of *Lupon* to reconcile parties; (2) issuance of certification to file action; (3) execution of settlement; and (4) enforcement of rules.

The effort of *Lupon* to Reconcile Parties. Data revealed that almost all of the activities presented in this study was at all times delivered by the *Lupon* members. The overall mean of 4.61 denotes that the performance of *Lupon* in their effort to reconcile parties was outstanding as the activities were fulfilled by the *Lupon* at all times.

Issuance of Certification to File Action When Conciliation is Not Successful. Results showed that in barangay Mandaragat, a certification to file action was issued when conciliation is not successful. This happened despite of all the efforts to conciliate that parties do not reach amicable settlement, hence a certification to file action shall be issued and shall be submitted to the corresponding court or government office for filing of an appropriate case (LGC of 1991).

Execution of Settlement. The overall mean of 4.74 indicates that the performance of *Lupon* was outstanding as they delivered the services related to execution of settlement at all times.

Enforcement of Rules. Results of the study showed that all the activities of *Lupon* presented in this study were delivered at all times. With the overall mean of 4.54, it suggests that there was an outstanding performance of *Lupon* in the aspect of the enforcement of rules as the activities were fulfilled at all times.

Generally, results revealed that there was an outstanding performance of the *Lupon* as they believed that all of the duties presented in this study were delivered at all times. This coincides with what Agustin et al. (2018) reported that the members of the *lupon tagapamayapa* in Barangay Caritan Centro in the city of Tuguegarao have excellently perform its duties and responsibilities.

Challenges Encountered by the *Lupon* Members

The *Lupon* members in barangay Mandaragat encountered challenges. Half (50%) of them acknowledged that they lack training in supervising grievances/ conflict brought to the barangay. This concurs to the study of Mohammed & Caingat (2017) where they reported that in Barangay Matatalaib, Tarlac City, the primary concerns of the respondents were insufficient trainings or seminars related to the administration of the barangay justice system. Moreover, 8 (44%) noticed that there was lack of cooperation of the complainant; 4 (22%) observed that it takes more than a month to settle disputes due to simultaneous cases every day; while 3 (17%) pointed out that majority of the *Lupon Tagapamayapa* are professionals; another 3 (17%) admitted that there was limited financial support for the *Katarungang Pambarangay* operations; still another 3 (17%) noted that there was lack of participation among the *Lupon* members. Lastly, 3 (17%) of them claimed that there was a misunderstanding among the *Lupon* members. Despite these challenges that they encountered, they made sure that their duties will not be hampered. They tried their best to perform of what was expected from them. It is evident from the result of the study that they perform their obligations outstandingly.

Strategies to Improve the Performance of the *Lupon* Members

Since time immemorial, man has always been confronted with problems that can either challenge or spice life (Bagalayos et al.). For the *Lupon* members, majority (61%) of them recommended to have a conduct of in-service training with emphasis on legal procedures and decision-making for settlement of disputes. This corresponds to the recommendation in the study of Sotto (2021) that the barangay council should conduct a seminar on the basic laws, protocols, and procedures to provide more knowledge and skills necessary in addressing disputes in the community. In addition, 8 (44%) suggested that enhancement of the venue in resolving the cases to provide peace and order in the community. While 6 (33%) each expressed of having an additional honorarium for their services in resolving conflict

among the complainants as well as to have an intensified information dissemination on the basics of the Law on dispute settlements among the residents within the community.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the findings of the study, the following conclusions were drawn. There was an outstanding performance of the *Lupon* members as they believed that all of their duties were delivered at all times; Half of the *Lupon* members acknowledged that they lacked training in resolving grievances/conflicts brought to the barangay; Majority of the *Lupon* members expressed that among the strategies to address the challenges is to have a conduct of in-service training with emphasis on legal procedures and decision-making for settlement of disputes.

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