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Administration of Punong Barangays in the Implementation of Katarungang Pambarangay Law in the Province of Albay

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ABSTRACT

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Republic Act 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991 provides the Katarungang Pambarangay Law as an extra governmental mechanism aims at perpetuating the time-honoured tradition of amicably settling interpersonal disputes in a community without the recourse to the formal legal system. This study assess the administration of Punong Barangays in Katarungan Pambarangay Law. It specifically determined the profile of Punong Barangays and Lupong Tagapamayapa, assessed their administrative supervision along disposition of cases; timeliness; resolution of the cases; and communication and documentation and identified the key constraints encountered. This study conducted in the province of Albay, specifically in the city of Ligao, Tabaco and Legazpi covering the period from CY 2022 to 2024. This study used the Descriptive Quantitative Research Design. The respondents of the study are the selected Punong Barangays and Lupong Tagapamayapa. The

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study reveals that the Katarungang Pambarangay Law demonstrates consistently excellent performance in Albay, showcasing an effective local justice system that fosters community trust. However, significant knowledge gaps and practical challenges, including authority application and inter-barangay coordination, hinder the law's effective implementation in Legazpi, Tabaco, and Ligao.

INTRODUCTION

Katarungang Pambarangay (KP), a localized conflict resolution system in the Philippines, plays a significant role in promoting community justice and maintaining social harmony. This community -based approach is vital to efficiently and effectively resolving disputes at Barangay level, with the aim of relieving the burden of formal judicial systems and promoting peaceful coexistence among community members. The research indicates that the KP enhances the social capital, enabling local leaders referred to as the Lupong Tagapamayapa, which are entrusted to facilitate mediation and arbitration processes (Noveloso et al., 2024).

The effectiveness of the KP in conflict resolution is underlined by their training initiatives, which aim to improve the skills of the members involved. Agoot and Cruz (2024) highlight the importance of training Barangay's Human Rights Council in informed decisions that adhere to human rights standards, which in turn enrich community practices in relation to justice. These initiatives provide members the necessary management and conflict resolution skills, promoting an environment of trust and cooperation. In addition, the role of the media as a tool for shaping the public's perception of law application and justice cannot be neglected (Atanacio & Amparo, 2024). As communities become more informed about their rights and the available mechanisms, their self -government capacity and resolution increases, increasing the overall effectiveness of the Katarungang Pambarangay system.

Philippines has carried out important legislative initiatives to improve local governance and the resolution of disputes through the Law of the Republic No. 9285, also known as the Law of Resolution of Alternative Disputes (ADR) of 2004, and the Law of the Republic No. 7160, known as the Local Government Code of 1991. The Law of the Republic No. 7160 describes the framework for local governance, emphasizing decentralization and empowerment of LGU to facilitate self -government and community participation. This law has been fundamental to remodel governance structures by promoting local autonomy and the transfer of powers of the national government to local entities. In addition, it highlights the need for LGU to establish systems and procedures for

the efficient resolution of local conflicts. The local government code has played a fundamental role in allowing local leaders to address community disputes effectively, thus promoting best governance practices. On the other hand, the Law of the Republic No. 9285 presents a holistic approach for the resolution of disputes by encouraging the use of alternative mechanisms instead of depending solely on judicial processes (Basilio et al., n.d.).

Specifically, this study describes the administration of punong barangays in the implementation of Kataranungang Pambarangay law in the Province of Albay. It determined the profile, assessed the administrative supervision and identify the key constraints encountered of punong barangays and lupong tagapamayapa. In the Province of Albay particularly the three cities has the various problems in the implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay Law. These disputes are referred to the Punong Barangay through the mediation process and others are referred to Lupong Tagapamayapa for conciliation settlement in the Barangay level. Punong Barangays who are the chairpersons of the Lupong Tagapamayapa find difficulty in resolving the cases brought before them.

Moreover, confrontations of both parties tend to have the amicable settlement through arbitration and repudiation process. In addition, some disputes result to secure certification to file action into courts when no amicable settlement happened. These processes involve the amicable settlement between the complainant and the respondent with the failure of following a certain agreement of both parties. Effective administration by Punong Barangay and Lupon Tagapamayapa fosters community peace and order, streamlining processes for local government units and the Department of Interior and Local Government. This research provides valuable data for future researchers, offering insights into best practices and areas for improvement in barangay governance and conflict resolution. Specifically, this study is beneficial to the Punong Barangay, Lupong Tagapamayapa, Community, Barangay Peace and Order Committee (BPOC), Barangay Officials, Department of Interior and Local Government, Local Government Unit, Researcher and Future Researchers.

Addressing the challenges in the implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay Law within the province of Albay would lead to a more efficient and effective resolution of local disputes. By strengthening the mediation and conciliation processes, Punong Barangays and Lupong Tagapamayapa members would be better equipped to handle cases, reducing the frequency of confrontations and the need for arbitration or repudiation. This would foster a more harmonious community environment, minimizing the number of cases escalating to court and thereby alleviating the burden on the judicial system. Furthermore, improved adherence to amicable settlement agreements would

build trust in the barangay justice system, promoting a culture of peaceful conflict resolution and enhancing overall community peace and order within the province.

FRAMEWORK

This study is anchored on the Role Theory by Bruce J. Biddle in 1986. Role theory concerns one of the most important features of social life, characteristic behavior patterns or roles. It explains roles by presuming that persons are members of social positions and hold expectations for their own behaviors and those of other persons. Biddle delineates the complexities inherent in human interaction, postulating that individuals occupy various roles that inform their behaviors and perceptions in social contexts. This perspective is particularly pertinent in contemporary society, where the multiplicity of roles, influenced by the quick evolving digital scenario, significantly shapes individual identity. As social expectations evolve, individuals must sail these changes in dynamics, which can result in paper conflicts or function tension (Narang et al., 2024).

Applying Bruce J. Biddle's 1986 Role Theory to the profiles of Punong Barangays and Lupong Tagapamayapa members reveals a complex interplay of expected behaviors, social positions, and performance within a community. Role Theory posits that individuals occupy specific social positions, each associated with a set of expectations or roles. Punong Barangays, elected leaders, are expected to embody leadership, administrative competence, and community advocacy, their roles heavily influenced by legal mandates and the community's perceived needs. Lupon members, appointed for their perceived impartiality and community standing, are expected to act as mediators and peacemakers, adhering to legal guidelines for dispute resolution. Both positions are shaped by the role set, or the network of individuals with whom they interact, including residents, local officials, and other community stakeholders. The role performance of these individuals is then judged against these expectations, influenced by factors such as their personal characteristics, training, and the specific context of the barangay. Deviations from expected behaviors can lead to role strain or conflict, highlighting the dynamic and negotiated nature of these roles within the community's social structure.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The Katarungang Pambarangay system, enshrined in Philippine law, serves as a cornerstone of local governance, empowering barangays to resolve disputes

amicably and efficiently. This study delves into the administration of Punong Barangays in the implementation of the Lupong Tagapamayapa, aiming to understand the nuances of their role, identify challenges faced, and explore opportunities for enhancing their administrative effectiveness. Specifically, this study aimed to describe the administration of punong barangays in the implementation of Lupong Tagapamayapa members in the Province of Albay. Specifically, it aimed to assessed the administrative supervision of lupong tagapamayapa members and punong barangays along disposition of cases; timeliness; resolution of the cases; and communication and documentation. It also identified the key constraints encountered by the punong barangays and lupong tagapamayapa members. Likewise, it propose a capability building program to improve the administration of punong barangays and lupong tagapamayapa members in the implementation of Katarungang Pambarangay Law.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

This study used the Descriptive Quantitative research design. This allowed for a comprehensive assessment of the administrative supervision of the Punong Barangays in Katarungan Pambarangay Law in the Province of Albay. Wherein the quantitative data done through surveys to be administered to a sample of Punong Barngays and lupong members in Legazpi, Tabaco and Ligao City. It was used in assessing the administrative supervision of lupong tagapamayapa members and punong barangays along disposition of cases; timeliness; resolution of the cases; and communication and documentation. Statistical analysis was conducted on the survey data to derive meaningful insights and identify any significant trends or patterns. In addition, the quantitative method was used to gather responses from respondents as to the key constraints encountered by the punong barangays and lupong tagapamayapa members.

Research Site

This study was conducted in Albay, specifically in Legazpi, Tabaco and Ligao City. In general, Albay is a province within the Bicol Region of the Philippines, situated largely in southeastern Luzon. Legazpi City, the provincial capital and the Bicol Region's center, located at the southern base of Mayon Volcano, served as one of the primary locations for this research, which spanned three cities within Albay. The province encompasses a total land area of 2,575.77 square kilometers (994.51 sq mi), ranking it as the 53rd largest in the Philippines.

Respondents

The primary respondents of the study are the 57 Punong Barangay and 564 Lupon Tagapamayapa members. They were considered as respondents because they can share their personal experiences needed for the study and they are deemed knowledgeable and competent to provide the necessary data. Punong Barangay are indispensable respondents for a thesis on administrative supervision within the Katarungan Pambarangay Law due to their direct administrative responsibility and supervisory role over the Lupong Tagapamayapa. Likewise, the Lupon Tagapamayapa members are important respondents because they are the frontline implementers, possessing direct experience with the supervisory practices of the Punong Barangay. Their firsthand knowledge of procedural challenges, training needs, and community dynamics provides invaluable insights into the system's effectiveness.

Instrumentation

A survey questionnaire was prepared composing of several indicators to avoid leading the respondents and to gain as much information on the phenomenon as possible. To ensure that the instrument comprised the themes and areas that the study was supposed to examine, the items included in the questionnaire were subjected to validation by member of the Lupon Tagapamayapa. Face and content validity are questionnaire measurement techniques used to judge and quantify measurements that appear acceptable to the general public and highly qualified experts. The study used a Likert-type of survey questionnaire that gave the respondents four (4) choices of answers on the administrative supervision in Katarungang Pambarangay Law.

Sampling Technique

To choose the respondents for this research, a combination of purposive sampling. Purposive sampling encompasses various non-probability techniques, also recognized as selective or subjective sampling. In this approach, the researcher used their judgment to select units for study. Purposive sampling aims to concentrate on specific characteristics within a population that are pertinent to answering the research questions effectively. The purposive sampling was used in selecting the Barangays Captains and Lupong Tagapamayapa.

Data Analysis

For the purpose of acquiring reliable data, a questionnaire was administered. The statistical analysis in this study relied on the weighted mean. This method facilitated the determination of the total number of respondents, the nature of

their responses, and the frequency of the phenomena under examination.

Research Ethics Protocol

This study adhered to strict ethical standards. Participation was voluntary, with informed consent obtained through a consent letter. Respondent anonymity was guaranteed, and the dignity of participants was prioritized through careful question design. The researcher is committed to the independent and impartial presentation of all collected data.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This part of the study presents the analysis and interpretation of the data gathered on the administrative supervision of Punong Barangay in the Katarungan Pambarangay Law in the province of Albay. They were analyzed and interpreted in the light of the insights from reading of related literatures and the result of questionnaire with the key respondents.

1. Level of administrative supervision of Punong Barangays and Lupong Tagapamayapa members in the administration of Katarungang Pambarangay Law

Administrative supervision of punong barangays in the respective area of jurisdiction means overseeing and coordinating the daily operations of anorganization's administrative functions. This includes the disposition of cases, timeliness, resolution of the cases, communication and documentation ensuring compliance with policies and improving administrative processes.

a. Disposition of Cases

The Katarungang Pambarangay Law, prioritizes amicable settlement and community-based dispute resolution. Upon filing a complaint, the Punong Barangay or Pangkat ng Tagapagkasundo facilitates mediation or conciliation, aiming to help parties reach a voluntary agreement. If successful, this agreement is documented and legally binding.

Table 1
Disposition of Cases

IndicatorS	Legazpi N=218		Tabaco N=194		Ligao N=209		TWM	AI
	WM	AI	WM	AI	WM	AI		
The punong barangay conducts mediation proceedings to complainants and respondents.	4.00	E	4.00	E	4.00	E	4.00	E
Conducts thorough fact- finding and investigation for each case before proceeding to settlement.	3.37	E	3.56	E	3.42	E	3.45	E
Effectively leads the settlement, helping disputing parties find mutual agreements.	3.23	VS	3.57	E	3.33	E	3.38	E
Makes impartial decision based on evidence and fairness, ensuring that both parties are satisfied with the resolution.	3.92	E	3.62	E	3.51	E	3.68	E
Unresolved cases during mediation process are brought before the Lupong Tagapamayapa for settlement of the case.	3.80	E	3.59	E	3.36	E	3.58	E
AWM	3.58	E	3.58	E	3.41	E	3.52	E

Legend: 4-Excellent 3-Very satisfactory 2-Satisfactory 1-Fair

The study's findings consistently indicate an Excellent level of performance (weighted mean of 3.52 overall) in the administrative supervision of Punong Barangays and the Lupon Tagapamayapa across Legazpi, Tabaco, and Ligao in Albay. This signifies a highly effective local justice system characterized by active Punong Barangay engagement in mediation, thorough fact-finding, impartial decision-making leading to satisfactory resolutions, and a seamless referral process for unresolved cases to the Lupon. This strong performance across all indicators including the conduct of settlement proceedings, investigation, leadership in finding mutual agreements, impartiality, and case escalation demonstrates a robust commitment to procedural fairness, efficiency, and community trust in the barangay-level dispute resolution mechanisms, contributing significantly to peace and order within the province.

In relation to this, Gonzales (2022) found that while communities appreciate the accessibility of the Barangay judicial system, they express concerns about timeliness and effectiveness, highlighting the Punong Barangay's crucial role

in building trust. Ravina (2023) emphasized that transparent administrative practices enhance effectiveness and community trust in the system. Remoto and Villalobos (2021) showed the need for gender-sensitive training and administrative supervision to address social issues like sexual harassment.

Moreover, Balbada and Seuba-Balbada (2023) stressed the importance of effective implementation and service training to improve dispute resolution. Despite challenges, the Barangay Justice System offers measurable benefits. Increased community participation fosters shared ownership and social cohesion. Positive interactions rebuild trust, leading to healthier governance dynamics. Bangit et al. (2025) illustrated that fair disciplinary measures enhance social harmony. Ultimately, the system's efficacy depends on the training, awareness, and engagement of local authorities and community members.

Across Southeast Asia, community-based justice mechanisms vary. In Thailand, village committees, district administrators, Community Justice Centers, and Community Dispute Mediation Centers all played a role in mediation. Indonesia saw community policing as its form of community justice. Meanwhile, the Philippines utilized the Katarungang Pambarangay (KP) or Barangay Justice System (BJS). Finally, in Myanmar, alternative dispute resolution was facilitated by community elders, village leaders, 10/100 household leaders, and Ward/Village Tract Administrators (Glubwila et al., 2021).

b. Timeliness

Timeliness is fundamental to the Katarungang Pambarangay's effectiveness, directly impacting its accessibility and community harmony. Swift resolution minimizes the burden on disputing parties, fosters trust in the system, and allows barangay officials to efficiently handle case volumes. A focus on timely processes streamlines the system, empowers communities to resolve disputes locally, and reduces reliance on formal courts, ultimately contributing to a more efficient and accessible justice system and enhancing the overall quality of life within the barangay.

Table 2
Timeliness

Indicators	Legazpi N=218		Tabaco N=194		Ligao N=209		TWM	AI
	WM	AI	WM	AI	WM	AI		
Immediately acknowledges and files complaints upon receipt.	3.79	E	3.48	E	3.42	E	3.56	E
Schedules the settlement sessions promptly, without unnecessary delay.	3.87	E	3.44	E	3.42	E	3.58	E
Ensures that ail cases are resolved within the prescribed timeframe, adhering to legal deadlines.	3.71	E	3.40	E	3.29	E	3.47	E
Prioritizes and expedites cases that require urgent attention, such as those involving public safety.	3.64	E	3.56	E	3.36	E	3.52	E
Resolves cases efficiently, minimizing the time spent on each case without sacrificing thoroughness.	3.82	E	3.59	E	3.69	E	3.70	E
AWM	3.7	E	3.49	E	3.44	E	3.55	E

Legend: 4-Excellent 3-Very satisfactory 2-Satisfactory 1-Fair

The consistently excellent rating in the administrative supervision of Punong Barangays and the Lupon Tagapamayapa regarding timeliness underscores a highly efficient and responsive local justice system. This efficiency is evident in the prompt acknowledgment and filing of complaints, swift scheduling of settlement sessions, adherence to legal deadlines, and the prioritization of urgent cases concerning public safety. Notably, barangay officials are perceived as resolving cases efficiently without compromising thoroughness. This commitment to timeliness across all indicators demonstrates a well-functioning system where residents can expect swift action and resolution of their disputes, fostering trust and confidence in the barangay leadership and contributing to overall community stability and a sense of justice.

Recent studies emphasize the critical role of timely interventions in the Barangay Justice System (BJS) for community satisfaction. Roxas (n.d.) found that rapid actions by Lupong Tagapamayapa lead to higher dispute resolution rates and enhanced perceived effectiveness, while delays exacerbate tensions. Umengan (2023) highlighted the importance of adhering to Local Government Code (LGC) deadlines in mediation, reinforcing the BJS's legitimacy and

fostering community respect. Thorough compliance with LGC documentation promotes consistency, efficiency, and transparency in the BJS. Punong Barangays and Lupong Tagapamayapa members are crucial for ensuring LGC compliance, facilitating community governance, and mediating conflicts, thus reducing the burden on higher courts. Umengan's research revealed compliance gaps that negatively affect community trust and satisfaction, with higher compliance correlating with increased trust.

Moreover, Costelo et al. (2022) emphasized the "purok" system's role in rapid responses to grassroots conflicts, fostering community ownership. Bernal-Sundiang et al. (2023) drew parallels to primary care systems, noting that response delays affect community well-being. Bueno and Salapa (2021) argued that well-trained local employees are essential for efficient dispute management and improved community relationships. In Brunei Darussalam, the system is relatively formalized, providing a quick response to small disputes, but often without legal application (Hoang Tu Linh, 2025). On the other hand, the Cambodian Bjs operates within a structure that fights against legitimacy, impacting its overall effectiveness (Brown et al., 2024).

c. Communication and Documentation

Communication and documentation form the bedrock of a successful Katarungan Pambarangay Law, ensuring transparency and fairness throughout the dispute resolution process. Clear communication empowers disputing parties by explaining their rights and procedures, providing regular case updates, and facilitating productive dialogue during mediation.

Table 3
Communication and Documentation

Indicators	Legazpi N=218		Tabaco N=194		Ligao N=209		TWM	AI
	WM	AI	WM	AI	WM	AI		
Clearly explains legal rights, procedures and outcomes top disputing parties.	3.75	E	3.54	E	3.57	E	3.62	E
Ensures that all parties are regularly updated on the status of their cases, including upcoming hearings and deadline.	3.67	E	3.36	E	3.54	E	3.52	E
Facilitates productive open and communication between disputing parties during settlement.	3.79	E	3.28	VS	3.52	E	3.53	E
Accurately documents all proceedings, including meeting minutes, agreements, and resolutions.	3.58	E	3.08	VS	3.35	E	3.34	E
Safeguards the confidentially of all case-related documents and communications, ensuring privacy.	3.52	E	3.60	E	3.39	E	3.50	E
AWM	3.66	E	3.37	E	3.43	E	3.49	E

Legend: 4-Excellent 3-Very satisfactory 2-Satisfactory 1-Fair

Communication and Documentation within the administrative supervision of Punong Barangays and the Lupon Tagapamayapa highlights a strong commitment to transparency, accountability, and efficient case management within the Katarungang Pambarangay Law. This excellence is reflected in the clear explanation of legal rights and procedures to disputing parties, regular updates on case status, facilitation of productive open communication during settlements, accurate documentation of all proceedings, and the safeguarding of case confidentiality. This consistent prioritization of clear communication and diligent record-keeping fosters trust, ensures due process, and contributes to a more informed, engaged, and ultimately more just and effective local dispute resolution system across the province.

Effective communication and documentation are crucial for enhancing the efficiency and transparency of the Barangay Justice System (BJS) in resolving local disputes. Aquino et al. (2023) highlight the impact of Barangay staff's writing styles on work performance, emphasizing the need for clear and concise

written communication for effective policy articulation and dispute resolutions. This is particularly important in contexts with low legal literacy. Jacinto et al. (2023) further emphasize the importance of oral communication skills, noting that improved skills contribute to more effective conflict resolution and negotiation. Targeted training programs are essential to strengthen these skills among Barangay officials.

In addition, Añana et al. (2024) found that increased community awareness of the BJS leads to greater participation in dispute resolution, highlighting the role of effective communication in encouraging community involvement. When community members are well-informed, they are more likely to participate meaningfully in resolving disputes. Furthermore, Metillo et al. (2022) explored the experiences of Barangay officials in resolving community disputes, illustrating the practical implications of effective communication and documentation. Their findings reveals that clear communication in documenting disputes and resolutions enhances credibility and improves community perceptions of the BJS. This narrative approach provides valuable insights into the tangible benefits of effective practices.

The structure of this system, emphasizing the participation of the community, contrasts with the mediation processes of the most formalized village of Malaysia (Chu & Daffern, 2024). In addition, countries like Thailand use community initiatives similar to the Barangay system, but often face challenges in harmonization in various legal landscapes (Hoang Tu Linh, 2025). Collectively, these systems highlight the regional dynamics that influence justice in Southeast Asia.

d. Resolution of the Case

Effective resolution signifies the system's ability to facilitate amicable settlements, fostering community harmony and reducing reliance on formal courts. Ideally, resolutions are achieved through mutual agreement, ensuring fairness and impartiality, and are accurately documented for legal validity. Successful resolutions build trust in the system, empower communities to manage their disputes, and provide accessible justice to those who may lack resources for formal legal processes.

Table 4
Resolution of the Case

Indicators	Legazpi N=218		Tabaco N=194		Ligao N=209		AWM	AI
	WM	AI	WM	AI	WM	AI		
Resolves a high percentage of cases through successful mediation, without needing further legal escalation.	3.84	E	3.36	E	3.73	E	3.64	E
Leads to fair and legally sound decision that are respected by the disputing parties.	3.50	E	3.40	E	3.71	E	3.54	E
No number of cases escalated to higher courts by ensuring proper resolution the barangay level.	3.61	E	3.50	E	3.31	E	3.42	E
Maintains a high level of satisfaction among disputing parties, with resolutions seen as fair and equitable.	3.37	E	3.57	E	3.31	E	3.42	E
Successfully resolved cases in a way that prevents the recurrence of similar disputes in the future.	3.39	E	3.65	E	3.51	E	3.52	E
AWM	3.54	E	3.50	E	3.37	E	3.47	E

Legend: 4-Excellent 3-Very satisfactory 2-Satisfactory 1-Fair

The resolution of cases under the administrative supervision of Punong Barangays and the Lupon Tagapamayapa highlights a highly effective local justice system in Albay. This excellence is demonstrated by the high percentage of cases resolved through successful mediation, the fair and legally sound decisions respected by disputing parties, the minimal escalation of cases to higher courts, and the successful resolution of disputes in a way that prevents their recurrence. This collective performance across these indicators signifies a robust capacity for achieving lasting and equitable resolutions at the barangay level, fostering community harmony, minimizing the need for formal legal intervention, and showcasing the Katarungang Pambarangay Law as a vital and trusted component of local governance in the province.

This compilation of studies examines conflict resolution and local governance, primarily focusing on the Philippines' Katarungang Pambarangay (KP) system and related issues. The KP system, based on restorative justice, aims to resolve disputes through mediation and conciliation, with cultural factors significantly influencing its effectiveness (Cerna, 2023). International conflict

resolution studies highlight the importance of culturally sensitive, locally-led solutions. Sone (2017) advocated for African-led solutions to border disputes. Raharjo (2016) demonstrated the effectiveness of cross-border cooperation. Zaw (2018) examined ethnic conflicts in Myanmar. Ragandag (2018) also researched traditional conflict resolution practices among various indigenous groups within the Philippines.

In Cambodia, base mediation reflects social norms, but faces challenges in implementation (Agcaoili, 2024). Comparatively, the youthful justice considerations of Malaysia and Thailand reveal discrepancies in the results influenced by cultural factors (Agcaoili, 2024). Socioeconomic conditions further complicate these systems throughout the region, with vulnerabilities in work migration intensifying the need for effective resolution mechanisms (Jabar & Jesperson, 2024). Thus, while goals align, cultural influences usually dictate the effectiveness of these systems.

2. Key constraints encountered by the Punong Barangay and Lupong Tagapamayapa Members

The Punong Barangays and Lupon Tagapamayapa Members, despite their vital role in local justice, often encounter key constraints that hinder their effectiveness. These constraints, stemming from various factors, impact their ability to efficiently and fairly resolve disputes within their communities. Recognizing and addressing these challenges is important for strengthening the Katarungan Pambarangay Law and ensuring its continued relevance in promoting peace and order at the grassroots level.

a. Key constraints encountered by the Punong Barangay

The primary and consistently significant constraint faced by Punong Barangays across Legazpi, Tabaco, and Ligao is a lack of comprehensive knowledge regarding the Katarungang Pambarangay Law and related existing laws, directly hindering their ability to effectively mediate and make legally sound decisions. Following this, a notable challenge involves the practical application of their authority, particularly in granting resolutions and ensuring respondent participation in settlement meetings, with inconsistencies observed across the cities. Finally, difficulties arising from the disputing parties themselves, including resistance to immediate settlement, non-cooperation and disrespect from respondents (especially those from different barangays), pose a substantial obstacle to effective mediation. These findings emphasize a critical need for enhanced legal training for Punong Barangays, improved mediation techniques, strategies to encourage respondent cooperation, and specific approaches to address

cross-barangay disputes to strengthen the implementation of the Katarungang Pambarangay Law.

b. **Key constraints encountered by the Lupong Tagapamayapa**

A significant challenge across the three cities is the lack of respondent cooperation, particularly from those residing in different barangays and those exhibiting disrespectful or uncooperative behavior, hindering the mediation efforts of both Punong Barangays and the Lupon Tagapamayapa. For the Lupon members specifically, their foremost constraint is the difficulty in providing effective legal advice, followed closely by the lack of cooperation from respondents in settling disputes and their own limited knowledge of existing laws. Additionally, cross-barangay respondents' non-compliance with summons, the delegation of responsibilities during the Punong Barangay's absence, and the Lupon's perceived ineffectiveness in guiding disputants further impede their work. Ultimately, dealing with arrogant and unyielding disputants is a major obstacle. These interconnected constraints highlight a critical need for targeted interventions, including enhanced legal and mediation training for Lupon members, strategies to improve respondent engagement and cooperation (especially in cross-barangay cases), clearer protocols for delegated responsibilities, and community education to foster respect for the Katarungang Pambarangay Law.

The Philippine Barangay system, crucial for local governance and conflict resolution, faces numerous challenges that hinder its effectiveness. Limited training and capacity building among Barangay officials, as highlighted by Adamos (2023), impede their ability to manage disputes effectively. Villamor and Dagohoy (2020) emphasize that a lack of community trust, often due to perceived limitations of local leaders and hasty decision-making, significantly reduces the success of conflict resolution efforts.

Community engagement, emphasized by Guia and Mangubat (2021), is also critical, as marginalized community members reduce the effectiveness of conflict resolution. Administrative supervision plays a vital role in ensuring positive outcomes, with inadequate support leading to a decline in effectiveness. The Purok system's effectiveness is also questioned, with Costelo et al. (2022) suggesting it can divide rather than unite communities. Metillo et al. (2022) highlight the need for adaptability and creativity in resolving disputes, while Roxas (n.d.) found points to communication deficiencies and the need for improved mediation processes.

3. Proposed Capability Building Program to improve the administration of Punong Barangays and Lupong Tagapamayapa Members

Recognizing the ever-evolving landscape of local governance, this initiative emphasizes the imperative of continuous professional development for Punong Barangays and Lupong Tagapamayapa members. By concentrating on pivotal domains legal compliance, conflict resolution, and community engagement, the program aims to furnish these local leaders with the essential tools and resources to excel in their roles. Specifically, it seeks to enhance administrative efficiency through streamlined processes, careful record-keeping, and the fostering of transparency and accountability. Furthermore, it aims to fortify their legal expertise, ensuring a deep understanding of relevant laws and ordinances for compliant and effective implementation. To bolster peaceful dispute resolution, the program will equip Lupong Tagapamayapa members with proficient settlement.

Equally important is the cultivation of strong community engagement, fostering relationships with constituents, promoting participatory governance, and mobilizing community resources. Likewise, the program will refine leadership and management skills, encompassing strategic planning, informed decision-making, and effective team-building, thereby empowering these local leaders to navigate the complexities of barangay administration and drive positive community development.

This Capability Building Program aims to cultivate a force of competent and empowered local leaders who are committed to serving their communities with integrity, efficiency, and effectiveness. By investing in the development of Punong Barangays and Lupong Tagapamayapa members, we are investing in the future of our barangays and the overall well-being of our nation. By improving their skills, these programs not only enable local leaders, but also promote trust in the community, increasing citizen participation in governance. In addition, enhanced administrative skills can lead to more effective implementation of local policies, promoting transparency and responsibility. The undulating effects of this capacity construction can contribute to improving public services and greater socioeconomic development within Barangays. Therefore, investing in the professional development of community leaders is not merely beneficial, but necessary for participatory governance in the Philippines.

CONCLUSIONS

The Katarungang Pambarangay Law in Albay demonstrates consistently excellent performance in administrative supervision, case resolution, communication, and documentation, indicating an effective local justice

system that fosters community trust and reflects the dedication of its members. However, significant constraints hinder KP Law implementation, primarily knowledge gaps in the law and related frameworks for both Punong Barangays and Lupon members. Practical challenges include applying authority, ensuring respondent participation, providing legal advice, managing difficult respondents, inter-barangay coordination issues, and Punong Barangay absences. To address these issues, a proposed Capability Building Program aims to empower Punong Barangays and Lupon members through targeted training in legal compliance, conflict resolution, community engagement, and leadership, ultimately strengthening local governance and fostering more responsive and well-served communities.

TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH

The findings of this study could be translated a capability building program to improve the administration of punong barangays and lupong tagapamayapa members in the implementation of Katarungang Pambarangay Law. The improvement of administrative skills between Punong Barangays and Lupong Tagapamayapa is essential for effective governance. A capacity building program adapted to these local leaders can face the specific challenges they face in community management and conflict resolution. These programs can provide training in areas such as resource allocation, financial management and legal structures, which are important to efficiently performing their responsibilities.

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