



## **DIFFICULTIES OF BARANGAY COUNCIL IN CRAFTING LOCAL LEGISLATION IN PLARIDEL, ABORLAN, PALAWAN**

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<b>Received:</b> 8 <sup>th</sup> October 2023 <b>Accepted:</b> 8 <sup>th</sup> November 2023 <b>Published:</b> 11 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	This study generally aimed to determine the difficulties of barangay council officials in crafting local legislation in Plaridel, Aborlan, Palawan which was conducted from December 19-21, 2022 at Plaridel, Aborlan, Palawan. A descriptive method employing survey questionnaire was used to gather data from the respondents. Results showed that barangay councils faced minor difficulties in crafting local legislation as their competence fall short very slightly. Moreover, they experienced slight difficulty in following the processes in the crafting of local legislations. However, barangay council officials perceived that they were not facing difficulty in the performance of their duties and responsibilities as local legislators.
<b>Keywords:</b> Barangay Council, Local Legislation, Sangguniang Barangay	

### **INTRODUCTION**

Legislative department is considered as the leading policy participant in the policy making process in the country that varies from one country to another but is distinguished to be the formal lawmaking body in any political system in which the one function, they all have in common is that they have the constitutional authority to pass law, repeal or change them (Mendoza 2001).

Local legislation is important because it is a powerful, vital tool for: addressing the problems of the citizens of the LGU; promoting the general welfare and development of the LGU and its citizens; and attaining the vision of the LGU for its citizens (Provincial Government of Bulacan, 2022).

The barangay local legislation is the interaction of the local legislative body composed of Punong Barangay, Barangay Kagawads and the Sangguniang Kabataan Chairperson whose duties and responsibilities are specified in the Local Government Code of 1991. However, local legislation is a participatory process, thus, it acquires legitimacy and special acceptability through the involvement of different stakeholders (Provincial Government of Bulacan, 2022).

Bagalayos et al. stated that "since time immemorial, man has always been confronted with problems or difficulties that can either challenge or spice life. Man surrenders a part of his freedom to form an organized society and establish a government. People believe that the government can provide everything that they need. Because of this, there is a great expectation on the government to carry out its duties and functions effectively. However, the obligations and responsibilities of the officials are all encompassing. They are responsible for the protection, security, peace and order, protection of the environment and others. And often times, they encounter difficulties or challenges on the enactment, execution or enforcement of their activities that affects and interferes the free flow of duties of the government at the same time the services given to the people."

With this, the researchers would like to know about the difficulties or issues faced by the Sangguniang Barangay in the crafting of local legislations.



## **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The main objective of the study was to determine the difficulties of barangay council officials in crafting local legislation in Plaridel, Aborlan, Palawan. Specially, it aimed to determine the difficulties faced by the barangay council officials in terms of their competencies, processes and performance.

## **METHODOLOGY**

Descriptive design was used for this study employing the survey questionnaire distributed to all members of the barangay council in barangay Plaridel, Aborlan, Palawan. To get the appropriate data needed, the questionnaire was divided into three parts. Part 1 contained the statements related to competencies of the barangay council officials. Part 2 contained statements about difficulties in adherence to processes. Lastly, Part 3 contained statements regarding the difficulties in performing the duties and responsibilities as part of barangay council in the crafting of local legislation in Plaridel, Aborlan, Palawan. Data was interpreted using descriptive statistics tools such as means, frequency counts, and percentages. To gauge the difficulties of barangay council for each criterion, this rating scale was used: 4.50 – 5.00 = Agree; 3.50 – 4.49 = Somewhat Agree; 2.50 – 3.49 = Fairly Agree; 1.50 – 2.40 = Slightly Agree; and 1.00 – 1.49 = Disagree.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Difficulties of Barangay Council Officials in Crafting Local Legislation in Plaridel, Aborlan, Palawan**

The result of the study was based on the perceptions of the barangay council officials of Plaridel, Aborlan, Palawan as to the difficulties they encountered in crafting local legislations in terms of: competence; process; and performance.

#### **On Competence**

Results revealed that respondents faced slight

difficulties in crafting local legislations in their barangay as they slightly agreed that they: lack of knowledge on the parliamentary rules and procedures (2.20); no trainings related to crafting of ordinances or resolutions (2.00); inadequate knowledge on relevant laws and ordinances (1.80); lacking commitment on the dos and don'ts in public service (1.80); lacking knowledge on the technical format of ordinances or resolutions (1.70); no relevant trainings on barangay governance (1.70); lacking knowledge in the steps and procedures to be followed in the passage of an ordinance or a resolution (1.60); and lack of communication skills particularly in writing (1.50). While they disagree that they show disorder behavior during sessions (1.40).

The grand mean of 1.74 described as "slightly agree" implies that respondents were amenable that there were challenges or difficulties in crafting barangay legislations through which their competence as barangay councils fall short slightly, but those were just minor difficulties only or the degree of seriousness is light which do not fully affect in the performance of their duties.

#### **On Process**

On following the process, study shows that respondents slightly agreed that: consultation from the different sectors for preparation of barangay development plans such as comprehensive multi-sectoral development plans and public investment programs have not been regularly made (2.00); legislative agenda is poorly crafted (1.70); they do not always adhere to the order of business during sessions (1.70); no appropriate action rendered to member(s) of barangay council for disorderly behavior and absences without justifiable cause (1.70); they do not regularly follow the legislative process (1.60); and they do not religiously observe the Sanggunian's Internal Rules of Procedure (1.50).

With the grand mean of 1.70 described as "slightly agree", result implies that barangay council officials experienced slight difficulty in following the



processes in crafting local legislation.

### **On Performance**

As to the performance of their duties and functions, study revealed that almost all of the issues presented under performance were opposed by the respondents. It appears that respondents denied that they: failed to attend barangay sessions regularly (1.40); do not support or cooperate to Punong Barangay's or to fellow kagawads' vision and expectations (1.40); failed to submit legislative measures to be implemented in the assigned standing committee (1.30); failed to file proposed resolutions and ordinances for respective area of responsibilities (1.30); and do not attend to the conference on Barangay Legislation, SP Forum and other meetings/projects sponsored by the city government that directly involve the barangay councils, either as beneficiaries or as stakeholders (1.20). While they slightly agreed that they lack focus due to numerous committee involvements (1.70). With the grand mean of 1.38, findings imply that there was no issue in terms of their performance which is crucial in the crafting of legislations. They believed that they did not fall short in performing their duties and responsibilities as part of the council of their barangay.

Finally, the overall mean of the study of 1.61 described as "slightly agree", implies that barangay council officials were facing a slight or minor difficulty in relation to the crafting of legislations among the barangay council officials in Plaridel, Aborlan, Palawan. Based on their competence, findings reveal that two respondents were amenable that they don't have full knowledge on the parliamentary rules and procedures. Then one respondent claimed that he/she has inadequate knowledge on relevant laws and ordinances. While another one claimed that he/she lacked relevant trainings on barangay governance as well as no trainings attended related to crafting of ordinances and resolutions. Then in terms of process, two of the respondents were amenable that consultation from the different sectors for preparation of barangay

development plans such as comprehensive multi-sectoral development plans and public investment programs have not been regularly made. While one each of the respondents somewhat agreed that: their legislative agenda was not perfectly created; they did not always adhere to the order of business during sessions; and they did not regularly follow the legislative process. Finally, as regards to performance, one respondent somewhat agreed on the issue that he/she failed to attend barangay sessions regularly, then another one failed to file a proposed resolutions and ordinances for his/her respective area of responsibilities. Also, another one somewhat agreed that he/she did not fully support or cooperate to Punong Barangay's or to fellow kagawads' vision and expectations and lacking of focus due to numerous committee involvements.

### **CONCLUSIONS**

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

1. Barangay council officials faced slight difficulties in crafting local legislation as their competence fall short very slightly.
2. Barangay council officials experienced slight difficulty in following the processes in crafting local legislations.
3. Barangay council officials were not facing difficulty in the performance of their duties and responsibilities as local legislators.

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