

ASSESSING THE AWARENESS OF PACIFICATION COMMITTEES' STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION AMONG BARANGAY OFFICIALS AND CONSTITUENTS: GROUNDWORK FOR A SPECIALIZED TRAINING PROGRAM

JENNELYN B. ELIZAGA-PAGALILAUAN

Faculty Member, College of Public Administration
Cagayan State University, Philippines

ABSTRACT

This study analyzes the level of awareness of the barangay (the smallest administrative division in the Philippines) regarding the Lupong Tagapamayapa, an informal justice system established under the Local Government Code (Republic Act No. 7160). The study is situated in selected barangays in the third district of Cagayan, and was motivated by observations of a low awareness level and adherence to the Lupong Tagapamayapa provisions in one such barangay. The research used a descriptive research design to collect, present, and describe data concerning the current status of the Lupong Tagapamayapa. A researcher-made structured questionnaire with a 5 point-likert scale, based on the mandates in Sections 399 to 422 of the Local Government Code, was administered to participants after validation by research experts. Data collected was analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistics. The study concludes that that the members of Lupong Tagapamayapa and constituents display a very high level of awareness about the structure, functions, and procedures of the committee. The committee members are well-versed with the requirements for their roles, the importance of their residency, their terms of office, the regulations regarding termination of membership, and the procedures for amicable settlement. The constituents have demonstrated significant awareness of the Lupon's creation, terms of office, vacancies, administrative supervision, subject matter for amicable settlement, and the procedure for such settlements. However, certain areas like the provision regarding a Lupon member's change in workplace and the timeframe for protesting a settlement require more attention and awareness. Based on the findings, an enhanced training program must be implemented. While the members of the Lupong Tagapamayapa are generally well-informed, there are areas, such as the implications of changing one's place of work and the process following resignation, that could benefit from further training and orientation.

Keywords: orientation, constituents, resignation, committee, barangays

INTRODUCTION

Ensuring the safety and peace of the community is of paramount importance to the welfare of its constituents, particularly concerning their security, economic stability, and overall wellbeing. In the Philippines, the barangay serves as the smallest, but arguably the most important, governmental unit, as it is the first line of defense against disturbances, injustices, or disasters. Recognizing the crucial role barangays play, Republic Act No. 7160, or the Local Government Code (LGC) of 1991, mandated the establishment of the Katarungang Pambarangay - a system designed for amicable dispute resolution at the barangay level, circumventing the need for judicial or court intervention. A desirable development in the administration of justice is the employment of Katarungang Pambarangay as an informal forum for conflict resolution because it not only ensures the decongestion of the court system but also makes use of a legal system that is indigenous and traditionally Filipino.

The Katarungang Pambarangay, an informal forum that utilizes a legal system indigenous to the Philippines, has proven to be an effective tool in promoting justice administration by not only decongesting courts but also by providing swift and fair resolution to disputes. The onus of implementing this system falls significantly on the Punong Barangay, who is charged with the responsibility of constituting the Lupong Tagapamayapa in his barangay. This crucial role comes with a set of guidelines and standards, as outlined by experts Pe and Tadiar (1986), such as the non-politicized selection of members, the careful consideration of potential members, and the active involvement of the Sangguniang Barangay in advising and suggesting potential members:



(i) The Punong Barangay must select the best candidates while adhering to the norms; to do this, he may seek the advice, recommendations, and suggestions of the Sangguniang Barangay.

(ii) Because the Lupon is a group, Punong Barangay's actions have an impact on whether the panel succeeds or fails. Punong Barangay must therefore never lose sight of his obligations, especially given that he is responsible for selecting the Lupon's members.

(iii) Politics must be excluded from the member selection process. If political considerations were used as the criterion for selection, it might lead to the demise of the Lupon since its members would only take into account their own interests and comprehension of the issues at hand, not the primary reason for their existence.

In fact, as expressly stated in Section 399 (a) of the Local Government Code, the Lupon should be selected based on the following criteria: must be a barangay resident or worker; must be of legal age; and must possess integrity, impartiality, independence, fairness, reputation for probity, patience, resourcefulness, openness, and flexibility. In addition, within fifteen (15) days of the beginning of the Punong Barangay's tenure, the Punong Barangay must issue a notice to form the Lupong Tagapamayapa (Lupon), which consists of ten (10) but no more than twenty (20) individuals. As chairman of this body, Punong Barangay determines the date, time, and location of monthly meetings, presides over them, prepares the agenda for each meeting, and ensures that the Lupon exercises administrative oversight over the numerous Pangkats.

In one of the barangay activities where the researcher currently lives, she learned from the barangay officials that they were not able yet to constitute their Lupong Tagapamayapa. The researcher asked the reason why they were not able to constitute their Lupong Tagapamaya, and they have various answers. Some says that they were newly elected and that they are not familiar with it, and some answered that they lack knowledge about the said law.

Thus, the Punong Barangay said that if there are disputes brought before him, the Punong Barangay resolves such through arbitration. The researcher was alarmed with the answer given by the Punong Barangay. In fact, it has been a year since the barangay election happened and disputes should have been brought to them already. If Punong Barangay, who acts as the Local Chief Executive lacks knowledge about Katarungang Pambarangay, the settlement of disputes will be prolonged.

In view hereof, the researcher then embarks to study the level of awareness of the barangay on the structural and functional components of Lupong Tagapamayapa to know the appropriate technical support the said sector needs. Since the researcher who is an educator is committed to fulfill its social responsibility to the community particularly in helping the Katarungang Pambarangay, the researcher proposed an enhancement program for the Katarungang Pambarangay since they play a significant role in maintaining sustainable and inclusive peace in barangay levels.

The significant role of grassroots organizations, local authorities, and civil society representatives in conflict resolution, as highlighted by Kirbassov and Galymzhan (2014) in their position paper "Peace and Sustainable Development: A Two-Way Relationship", reinforces the necessity of this study. Given the essential role of the Katarungang Pambarangay in maintaining harmonious community conditions and the crucial role of Lupong Tagapamayapa, this study also seeks to propose an enhancement program aimed at empowering this sector.

METHODS AND PROCEDURES

RESEARCH DESIGN

A descriptive research design was employed for the present study. Gay (1971) defined the method of descriptive research as the gathering, presenting, and description of facts in order to test hypotheses or respond to inquiries about the current condition of the study's subject. The two main objectives of descriptive research, according to Travers (1981), are to describe a situation as it is at the time of the study and to investigate the reasons of a phenomenon.

RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS

There were two sets of participants in the study. The first set comprised of the members of the Lupong Tagapamayapa in the selected barangays of the third district of Cagayan wherein total enumeration was employed thus, the constituent-participants of the study were the complainants who filed cases from January 2018- December 2019 who willingly took part in the study.

The barangays of each municipality in the third district of Cagayan namely Solana, Penablanca, Iguig, Amulung, Tuao, Enrile and Tuguegarao City were chosen based on the size of their population.

The constituent-participants of this study were chosen based on convenience sampling method which were then asked to sign an informed consent to ensure that their participation in the study is voluntary. They were informed about the nature of the study, the benefits as well as their responsibilities as participants. Moreover, all questions that were raised by them in relation to their participation were answered by the researcher.

INSTRUMENTATION

The researcher formulated a researcher-made structured questionnaire with 5 point-likert scale wherein 5 has a descriptive value of very great extent and 1 has a descriptive value of very little extent. It was based on the requirements and mandates in Sections 399 to 422 of the Local Government Code.

The researcher-made questionnaire was subjected to try-out and validation by content with five (5) research experts to ensure that the questions were both valid and reliable before they were administered to the participants.

DATA ANALYSIS

The data collected were tabulated, analyzed, interpreted, and summarized using both descriptive and inferential statistics.

Frequency and Percentage Distribution. These tools were used to describe the demographic profile of participants in terms of their age, sex, educational attainment, seminars/ trainings attended, number of years as members of lupon and nature/ type of case filed.

Weighted Mean. This was used to describe the participants' level of awareness of barangay to the structural and functional components of Lupong Tagapamayapa.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1: Level of Awareness of Lupong Tagapamayapa-Participants on the Structural Components of Lupong Tagapamayapa (Creation of the Lupon)

Components	Mean	Descriptive Scale
1. The Punong Barangay is authorized to form and coordinate the Lupong Tagapamayapa.	4.54	Very Great Extent
2. Within fifteen (15) days of the beginning of the Punong Barangay's tenure, he/she issues a notice to form the Lupon and compiles a list of proposed Lupon Members.	4.54	Very Great Extent
3. The Lupong Tagapamayapa consists of at least ten (10) and no more than twenty (20) individuals.	4.66	Very Great Extent
4. Lupon Members must be genuine barangay residents or workers.	4.67	Very Great Extent
5. Members of Lupon must be of legal age.	4.51	Very Great Extent
6. Members of Lupon must possess the following characteristics: integrity, impartiality, independence, fairness, a reputation for decency, perseverance, resourcefulness, openness, and adaptability.	4.53	Very Great Extent
7. The notice was posted in three (3) prominent or strategic locations throughout the barangay.	4.50	Very Great Extent
8. The notice invites all barangay members to either support or oppose the proposed appointment of the individuals on the list.	4.41	Very Great Extent
9. The recommendation or opposition is within three weeks of the posting period.	4.32	Very Great Extent
10. Ten (10) days after the last day of posting, the Punong Barangay must place the Lupon Members' appointment in writing.	4.27	Very Great Extent
11. The letter of appointment is signed by the Punong Barangay and attested by the Barangay Secretary.	4.54	Very Great Extent
12. The newly designated Lupon members swear an oath in front of the Punong Barangay.	4.54	Very Great Extent
13. A Lupong Tagapamayapa is formed and/or organized in the	4.66	Very Great Extent

barangay.		
14. The Punong Barangay is the Chairperson of the Lupong Tagapamayapa.	4.44	Very Great Extent
15. The Barangay Secretary is also the Lupong Tagapamayapa Secretary.	4.38	Very Great Extent
16. The list of appointed Lupon members is posted in three (3) highly visible and strategic locations throughout the barangay.	4.47	Very Great Extent
Category Mean	4.50	Very Great Extent

As shown in the table, the members of Lupong Tagapamayapa are generally aware to “a very great extent” of the creation of Lupon, as demonstrated by a category mean of 4.50. The statement that obtained the highest mean of 4.67 is *Lupon Members must be an actual resident or working in the barangay*. This clearly indicates that the lupon tagapamayapa-participants are well-informed of the basic requirements needed in the consideration of membership in the lupon.

Table 2. Level of Awareness of Lupong Tagapamayapa-Participants on the Structural Components of Lupong Tagapamayapa (Term of Office and Vacancy)

Components	Mean	Descriptive Scale
1. Each Lupon Member serves for three (3) years.	4.38	Very Great Extent
2. The Lupon Members serve without any compensation.	4.50	Very Great Extent
3. If the Barangay has enough funds, honorarium is given to the Lupon Members who participated in the resolution of a particular case.	4.34	Very Great Extent
4. A Lupon Member who transfers residence is terminated.	4.04	Very Great Extent
5. A Lupon Member who transfers his/her place of work is terminated.	4.16	Great Extent
6. A Lupon Member who resigns is terminated.	4.19	Great Extent
7. A Lupon Member can be removed by Punong Barangay with the concurrence of the majority of all the members of the Lupon.	4.26	Very Great Extent
8. In case of vacancy occurs in the Lupon for any cause, the Punong Barangay immediately appoints a qualified person and holds office only for the unexpired portion of the term.	4.44	Very Great Extent
Category Mean	4.33	Very Great Extent

As shown in the table, the members of Lupong Tagapamayapa are aware to a very great extent about the rules on their term of office and vacancy. It is revealed in the data that the statement which yielded the highest mean score of 5.04 ‘very great extent’ is *A Lupon member who transfers residence is terminated.* Consistent with the findings in the preceding table, it is clearly understood by the members that their membership to the Lupon is residency-based; thus, transfer of such is considered termination of membership.

Meanwhile, two statements obtained the least mean scores of 4.16 and 4.19, respectively: *A Lupon member who transfers his/her place of work is terminated*; *A Lupon member who resigns is terminated*. While the results suggest that members are aware of these rules to a ‘great extent’, it can be understood that there is a need for members to be oriented more on these aspects in order to achieve higher extent of awareness.

Table 3: Level of Awareness of Lupong Tagapamayapa-Participants on the Functional Components of Lupong Tagapamayapa (Functions of the Lupon)

Components	Mean	Descriptive Scale
1. The Lupon provide administrative oversight for the conciliation committees.	4.35	Very Great Extent
2. The Lupon regularly convene once (1) per month.	4.24	Very Great Extent
3. The Secretary of the Lupon documents the outcomes of the mediation proceedings.	4.51	Very Great Extent
4. The Secretary of the Lupon provides reports on the mediation outcomes.	4.57	Very Great Extent
5. The Secretary of the Lupon has access to and maintains the proceedings submitted by various conciliation committees.	4.51	Very Great Extent
Category Mean	4.44	Very Great Extent

The table above shows that the members of Lupong Tagapamayapa are aware of their functions to a very great extent, with a category mean of 4.44. Their high extent of awareness implies that they exercise their functions accordingly.

This is supported by the findings of Pajarillo, et al (2018) that members of Lupon are confident that they will be able to successfully discharge their exceptional efforts, which are manifested by being conscious and disciplined enough over their mandated roles, functions, and responsibilities to ensure the success of each and every conciliation proceeding by adhering to all of the considered aspects of effectiveness.

Table 4: Level of Awareness of Lupong Tagapamayapa-Participants on the Functional Components of Lupong Tagapamayapa (Administrative Supervision of Lupon over the Conciliation Panels)

Components	Mean	Descriptive Scale
All offenses, civil and criminal in nature with maximum penalty not exceeding one (1) year imprisonment or a fine not Five Thousand Pesos (5,000.00); where parties usually reside in the same city or municipality.	4.24	Very Great Extent

Table 4 shows that the Lupong Tagapamayapa members are aware to a 'very great extent' on the subject matter for amicable settlement.

This implies that the Lupong Tagapamayapa members are very familiar on the penalties to be imposed upon the guilty party.

The Lupon is readily available and accommodating in fulfilling its responsibility in accordance with the current legal provisions, ensuring that disputes must be mandatory and obligatory upon the parties subject to the conciliation process, according to Agustin's (2018) study. Additionally, the Lupong Tagapamayapa has a policy of following the legal procedures with the utmost diligence as required by the Katarungang Pambarangay Law, the Local Government Code of 1991, and other comparable statutes. This shows that the Lupong Tagapamayapa is very effective in acting wisely in their duty to settle disputes amicably.

Table 5: Level of Awareness of Lupong Tagapamayapa-Participants on the Functional Components of Lupong Tagapamayapa (Procedure for Amicable Settlement)

Components	Mean	Descriptive Scale
1. The complainant submits his or her complaint orally or in writing to the Lupon Chairperson.	4.51	Very Great Extent
2. Within three (3) days of receiving the complaint, the	4.33	Very Great Extent

Lupon Chairperson issues a notice of hearing to the complainant and summons the respondent to the Lupon Chairperson's office.		
3. Within fifteen (15) days, the Lupon Chairperson listens to the parties and assists them in finding a resolution.	4.37	Very Great Extent
4. The resolution or agreement reached after ten (10) days is binding and has the same force and effect as a court's decision.	4.21	Very Great Extent
5. Any party may then object to the settlement within ten (10) days.	4.23	Very Great Extent
6. If the parties are unable to reach an amicable resolution, the Punong Barangay convenes the Pangkat Tagapagkasundo within fifteen (15) days of the conclusion of mediation.	4.21	Very Great Extent
7. Members of the Pangkat are selected from the Lupon by the complainant and the respondent.	4.19	Great Extent
8. If the parties are unable to concur on the membership of the Pangkat, the Lupon Chairperson determines the three (3) members by lot.	4.05	Great Extent
9. The Pangkat members elect a chairperson and secretary from among themselves.	4.21	Very Great Extent
10. The Lupon Secretary must provide the Pangkat Secretary with all case records for the Pangkat to review.	4.19	Great Extent
11. Relationships, biases, interests, and other similar factors discovered after the formation of Pangkat may be grounds for disqualification. The Pangkat reach a conclusion by majority vote. Its decision regarding this issue is irrevocable.	4.11	Great Extent
12. If the Pangkat decides to disqualify one of its members, the parties will concur on a replacement candidate.	4.18	Great Extent
13. If they cannot reach an agreement, the Lupon Chairperson fills the resulting vacancy by random.	4.10	Great Extent
14. The Pangkat convenes to hear both parties, investigate options for an amicable settlement within fifteen (15) days, which may be extended by an additional fifteen (15) days in a meritorious case, and issue subpoenas for witnesses as needed.	4.17	Great Extent
15. In all proceedings, litigants must appear in person without counsel or representative, with the exception of minors and the incompetent, who may be assisted by relatives who are not attorneys.	4.13	Great Extent
Category Mean	4.21	Very Great Extent

It can be gleaned from the table that the members of Lupon Tagapamayapa are aware to a 'very great extent' with the procedures for amicable settlement with a category mean of 4.21. This implies that the Lupon Tagapamayapa members are indeed very much aware on the procedures for amicable settlement wherein they are knowledgeable on the processes to be followed wherever cases are filed in their respective barangays.

It is also shown in the study of Agustin (2018) that the members of Lupon are meticulously carrying out the step-by-step process in accordance with their lawful mandate; they are conducting a more in-depth evaluation and investigation of the cases that have been brought before them in order to fulfill their obligatory function of amicably resolving conflicts.

Table 6: Level of Awareness of Lupong Tagapamayapa-Participants on the Functional Components of Lupong Tagapamayapa (Form of Settlement)

Components	Mean	Descriptive Scale
1. An amicable settlement is put into writing in a language or dialect known to the parties.	4.14	Very Great Extent
2. An amicable settlement is to be signed by the parties.	4.46	Very Great Extent
3. An amicable settlement is attested to by the Lupon Chairperson or the Pangkat Chairperson.	4.42	Very Great Extent
Category Mean	4.45	Very Great Extent

The table shows that the members of Lupong Tagapamayapa are aware to a 'very great extent' on their level of awareness in the creation of lupon. Generally, the participants manifest high extent of awareness. Thus, this indicates that the Lupong Tagapamayapa-participants are very much aware on the forms of settlement that whenever a case is filed, the lupon does its best to settle the case amicably to both parties.

Table 7. Level of Awareness of the Constituent-Participants on the Structural Components of Lupong Tagapamayapa (Creation of Lupon)

Components	Mean	Descriptive Scale
1. The Punong Barangay is authorized to form and coordinate the Lupong Tagapamayapa.	4.49	Very Great Extent
2. Within fifteen (15) days of the beginning of the Punong Barangay's tenure, he/she issues a notice to form the Lupon and compiles a list of proposed Lupon Members.	4.40	Very Great Extent
3. The Lupong Tagapamayapa consists of at least ten (10) and no more than twenty (20) individuals.	4.42	Very Great Extent
4. Lupon Members must be genuine barangay residents or workers.	4.48	Very Great Extent
5. Members of Lupon must be of legal age.	4.40	Very Great Extent
6. Members of Lupon must possess the following characteristics: integrity, impartiality, independence, fairness, a reputation for decency, perseverance, resourcefulness, openness, and adaptability.	4.44	Very Great Extent
7. The notice was posted in three (3) prominent or strategic locations throughout the barangay.	4.47	Very Great Extent
8. The notice invites all barangay members to either support or oppose the proposed appointment of the individuals on the list.	4.24	Very Great Extent
9. The recommendation or opposition is within three weeks of the posting period.	4.26	Very Great Extent
10. Ten (10) days after the last day of posting, the Punong Barangay must place the Lupon Members' appointment in writing.	4.26	Very Great Extent
11. The letter of appointment is signed by the Punong Barangay and attested by the Barangay Secretary.	4.36	Very Great Extent
12. The newly designated Lupon members swear an oath in front of the Punong Barangay.	4.24	Very Great Extent
13. A Lupong Tagapamayapa is formed and/or organized in the barangay.	4.40	Very Great Extent
14. The Punong Barangay is the Chairperson of the Lupong Tagapamayapa.	4.43	Very Great Extent
15. The Barangay Secretary is also the Lupong Tagapamayapa Secretary.	4.39	Very Great Extent
16. The list of appointed Lupon members is posted in three (3) highly visible and strategic locations throughout the barangay.	4.22	Very Great Extent
Category Mean	4.35	Very Great Extent

The table shows that the constituent-participants are aware with a “very great extent” in the creation of lupon with a category mean of 4.35. Hence, this indicates that the constituents are knowledgeable on the existence of lupong tagapamayapa and how it is being constituted in the barangay.

The awareness of the constituent-participants in the creation and existence of lupong tagapamayapa is deemed necessary because it is part of the role of lupon members to keep the constituents abreast especially on policies to ensure peace in the community.

Table 8. Level of Awareness of the Constituent-Participants on the Structural Components of Lupong Tagapamayapa (Terms of Office and Vacancy)

Components	Mean	Descriptive Scale
1. Each Lupon Member serves for three (3) years.	4.20	Great Extent
2. The Lupon Members serve without any compensation.	4.22	Very Great Extent
3. If the Barangay has enough funds, honorarium is given to the Lupon Members who participated in the resolution of a particular case.	4.23	Very Great Extent
4. A Lupon Member who transfers residence is terminated.	4.21	Very Great Extent
5. A Lupon Member who transfers his/her place of work is terminated.	4.01	Great Extent
6. A Lupon Member who resigns is terminated.	4.16	Great Extent
7. A Lupon Member can be removed by Punong Barangay with the concurrence of the majority of all the members of the Lupon.	4.32	Very Great Extent
8. In case of vacancy occurs in the Lupon for any cause, the Punong Barangay immediately appoints a qualified person and holds office only for the unexpired portion of the term.	4.35	Very Great Extent
Category Mean	4.21	Very Great Extent

It can be gleaned from the table that the constituent-participants are aware to a “Very great extent” on the terms of office and vacancy of lupon tagapamayapa with a mean of 4.21.

This shows that the constituents are equipped with knowledge on the period of office within which lupong tagapamayapa hold office in like manner with its vacancy. But as to the provision, “Lupon Member who transfers his/her place of work is terminated”, the constituents only are aware with a “great extent” hence, they should be well-informed on this since as residents of the barangay in times of changes of lupon composition, the Punong Barangay as head of the lupon shall have the responsibility to post its vacancy and should be known by the residents.

Table 9. Level of Awareness of the Constituent-Participants on the Functional Components of Lupong Tagapamayapa (Functions of the Lupon)

Components	Mean	Descriptive Scale
1. The Lupon provide administrative oversight for the conciliation committees.	4.15	Great Extent
2. The Lupon regularly convene once (1) per month.	4.21	Very Great Extent
3. The Secretary of the Lupon documents the outcomes of the mediation proceedings.	4.42	Very Great Extent
4. The Secretary of the Lupon provides reports on the mediation outcomes.	4.45	Very Great Extent
5. The Secretary of the Lupon has access to and maintains the proceedings submitted by various conciliation committees.	4.44	Very Great Extent
Category Mean	4.33	Very Great Extent

The table shows that the constituent-participants are aware on the functions of lupon which has a category mean of 4.33 or “very great extent”. This indicates that the constituent-participants are knowledgeable on the functions or the duties and responsibilities of the lupon tagapamayapa. When there is a case filed by the aggrieved party, there starts the function of the lupon tagapamayapa wherein the secretary also plays a pivotal role in filing and keeping the records of the proceedings.

Table 10. Level of Awareness of the Constituent-Participants on the Functional Components of Lupon Tagapamayapa (Administrative supervision of Lupon over the Conciliation Panel)

Components	Mean	Descriptive Scale
1. 1. All offenses, civil and criminal in nature with maximum penalty not exceeding one (1) year imprisonment or a fine not Five Thousand Pesos (5,000.00); where parties usually reside in the same city or municipality.	4.24	Very Great Extent

The table shows that the constituent-participants are aware to a “very great extent” on the administrative supervision of lupon over the conciliation panel. This implies that the constituent-participants are very aware on the fine to be imposed on the party who will be found guilty. Hence, all offenses not exceeding one year or a fine of five thousand pesos shall be imposed to the guilty party.

Table 11. Level of Awareness of the Constituent-Participants on the Functional Components of Lupon Tagapamayapa (Subject Matter for Amicable Settlement)

Components	Mean	Descriptive Scale
1. The complainant submits his or her complaint orally or in writing to the Lupon Chairperson.	4.20	Great Extent
2. Within three (3) days of receiving the complaint, the Lupon Chairperson issues a notice of hearing to the complainant and summons the respondent to the Lupon Chairperson's office.	4.41	Very Great Extent
3. Within fifteen (15) days, the Lupon Chairperson listens to the parties and assists them in finding a resolution.	4.42	Very Great Extent
4. The resolution or agreement reached after ten (10) days is binding and has the same force and effect as a court's decision.	4.12	Great Extent
5. Any party may then object to the settlement within ten (10) days.	4.09	Great Extent
6. If the parties are unable to reach an amicable resolution, the Punong Barangay convenes the Pangkat Tagapagkasundo within fifteen (15) days of the conclusion of mediation.	4.30	Very Great Extent
7. Members of the Pangkat are selected from the Lupon by the complainant and the respondent.	4.35	Very Great Extent
8. If the parties are unable to concur on the membership of the Pangkat, the Lupon Chairperson determines the three (3) members by lot.	4.19	Great Extent
9. The Pangkat members elect a chairperson and secretary from among themselves.	4.14	Great Extent
10. The Lupon Secretary must provide the Pangkat Secretary with all case records for the Pangkat to review.	4.27	Very Great Extent
11. Relationships, biases, interests, and other similar factors discovered after the formation of Pangkat may be grounds for disqualification. The Pangkat reach a conclusion by majority vote. Its decision regarding this issue is irrevocable.	4.24	Very Great Extent

12. If the Pangkat decides to disqualify one of its members, the parties will concur on a replacement candidate.	4.20	Very Great Extent
13. If they cannot reach an agreement, the Lupon Chairperson fills the resulting vacancy by random.	4.15	Great Extent
14. The Pangkat convenes to hear both parties, investigate options for an amicable settlement within fifteen (15) days, which may be extended by an additional fifteen (15) days in a meritorious case, and issue subpoenas for witnesses as needed.	4.13	Great Extent
15. In all proceedings, litigants must appear in person without counsel or representative, with the exception of minors and the incompetent, who may be assisted by relatives who are not attorneys.	4.16	Great Extent
Category Mean	4.23	Very Great Extent

It can be gleaned from the table that the constituent-participants are aware to a “very great extent” on the subject matter for amicable settlement. This indicates that the constituent-participants are aware on the different procedures for amicable settlement from filing of the case, recording until the processing of the case filed by the complainants to the barangay.

However, on the provision “in that case, any party can protest the settlement within ten (10) days” has the lowest mean of 4.09 or “great extent” wherein the constituent-participants still need to be oriented that in case a settlement be made and there are protest, still, the constituent-participants have 10 days to object.

Table 12. Level of Awareness of the Constituent-Participants on the Functional Components of Lupong Tagapamayapa (Procedure for Amicable Settlement)

Components	Mean	Descriptive Scale
1. An amicable settlement is put into writing in a language or dialect known to the parties.	4.24	Very Great Extent
2. An amicable settlement is to be signed by the parties.	4.02	Great Extent
3. An amicable settlement is attested to by the Lupon Chairperson or the Pangkat Chairperson.	4.15	Great Extent
Category Mean	4.14	Great Extent
Awareness Mean	4.25	Very Great Extent

The table shows that the constituent respondents are aware to a very great extent on the level of awareness on the creation of lupon, their term of office and vacancy, the functions, administrative supervision of lupon over the conciliation panels, subject matter for amicable settlement, and procedure for amicable settlement. This is a good indicator that the constituent-participants in the 3rd district of Cagayan are fully informed or conscious on the matters across management, supervision, or anything concerning the membership of the lupong tagapamayapa.

CONCLUSION

This study concludes that the members of Lupong Tagapamayapa and constituents display a very high level of awareness about the structure, functions, and procedures of the committee. The committee members are well-versed with the requirements for their roles, the importance of their residency, their terms of office, the regulations regarding termination of membership, and the procedures for amicable settlement. Furthermore, the constituents have demonstrated significant awareness of the Lupon's creation, terms of office, vacancies, administrative supervision, subject matter for amicable settlement, and the procedure for such settlements. However, certain areas like the provision regarding a Lupon member's change in workplace and the timeframe for protesting a settlement require more attention and awareness.


RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings, the following recommendations can be made:

1. **Enhance Training Programs:** While the members of the Lupong Tagapamayapa are generally well-informed, there are areas, such as the implications of changing one's place of work and the process following resignation, that could benefit from further training and orientation.
2. **Improve Constituents' Understanding:** Though constituents are generally aware of the Lupon's existence and functions, more efforts should be made to educate them further, especially regarding the implications of a Lupon member changing his/her workplace and the 10-day period for protesting a settlement.
3. **Publicize Vacancies:** The Punong Barangay should take responsibility for notifying constituents about changes in the Lupon's composition and any ensuing vacancies. This will ensure that constituents remain informed about the Lupon's structure and can participate in or contribute to the selection process.
4. **Revisit Penalties:** Ensure a thorough understanding of the penalties for violation of the amicable settlement is required among both committee members and constituents.
5. **Continue Evaluation and Research:** Further research and evaluations should be carried out to ensure the continued effectiveness of the Lupon, and to assess areas of weakness or where improvements may be needed. This includes a focus on maintaining a high level of awareness and understanding of the roles, responsibilities, and procedures of the Lupon among its members and constituents.
6. **Develop Awareness Campaigns:** Implement public awareness campaigns to help raise the level of understanding amongst constituent-participants about the roles, responsibilities, and functions of the Lupong Tagapamayapa, focusing on the areas identified as needing improvement in this study.

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