

Perceived Performance of Bicol Police on the Campaign Against Criminality and Illegal Drugs

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Abstract –The Philippine National Police (PNP) is tasked to enforce the law, prevent and control crimes, maintain peace and order and ensure public safety through the active support of the community. This study determined the community ratings and feedbacks on the performance of Bicol Police in their campaign against criminality and illegal drugs. Quantitative and qualitative research methods were employed through survey and face to face interview with the different sectors in Bicol region. The developed and validated survey-questionnaire was administered to 1,381 sample respondents. The findings revealed that the campaign against criminality and illegal drugs are fully supported by Bicolanos from all sectors, across age brackets and regardless of community type. It was also revealed that Bicol Police earns respect from community when people feel secured especially when they perform well in their campaign against criminality and illegal drugs. Every sector in the region has varied issues and concerns as well as appreciation on the efforts of Bicol Police in providing quality services in fighting criminality and illegal drugs. With this, the Bicol Police should maintain active partnership and collaboration with the community to achieve a safe, secure and peaceful place to live in for Bicolanos. Outputs of this survey may be utilized as a guiding tool by PNP RO5 in their future projects and activities.

Keywords –Bicol Police, Campaign Against Criminality and Illegal Drugs, PNP Performance

INTRODUCTION

Article II, Section 4 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution states that the prime duty of government is to serve and protect the people [1]. It is through this mandate that the Philippine National Police (PNP) was established in 1990 by virtue of Republic Act No. 6975. PNP is tasked to prevent and control crimes, maintain peace and order, and ensure public safety through the support of community [2].

PNP has implemented several programs and projects to carry out their functions in collaboration with various agencies. These include programs to fight criminality and illegal drugs in the country especially during the administration of President Rodrigo Duterte [3]. His campaign against illegal drugs through the PNP is his most important accomplishment according to the latest Pulse Asia survey conducted in June 2018[4]. Almost 7 out of 10 Filipinos believe that the “most important” accomplishment of President Duterte’s administration is eradicating illegal drugs [5]. With this, the PNP affirmed that the government’s relentless peace and

order campaign significantly contributed to creating a secure environment across the nation [6].

The Police Regional Office 5 (PRO 5) conducted campaigns to address crime prevention and solution, peace and order, and security through strict enforcement of special laws and stronger police-community partnerships in the Bicol region [7]. PRO5 announced that the region’s peace and order situation for CY 2018 was generally peaceful. This can be attributed to the good working collaboration and support of local government units (LGUs) and other government agencies in the region particularly in the campaign against criminality and illegal drugs [8].

This study is anchored on community-oriented policing (COP), a philosophy that promotes organizational strategies that support the systematic use of partnerships and problem-solving techniques to proactively address the immediate conditions that give rise to public safety issues such as crime, social disorder, and fear of crime [9]. With COP, the goals of police can be attained through an active partnership between police departments and the people in

community by allowing them greater voice in setting local police priorities, and involving them in efforts to improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods [10].

Strong relationships of mutual trust between police agencies and the communities they serve are critical to maintaining public safety and effective policing [11]. Bicol Police believe that the feedback of community on their performance and services is vital for the organization's continual improvement. In addition, implementing periodic community surveys to obtain community feedback is important in order to build trust and legitimacy [12]. Hence, this study aimed to determine the community ratings and feedbacks on the performance of Bicol Police on their campaign against criminality and illegal drugs. Results of the survey could be utilized as tool in ensuring effective and efficient delivery of police services in the region.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

This study aimed to determine the community ratings and feedbacks on the campaign against criminality and illegal drugs of Bicol Police. Specifically, it aimed to: (1) determine the community ratings of Bicol Police on campaign against criminality and illegal drugs when grouped according to sectors, age and community type (2) determine the relationship that exists between the community ratings on campaign against criminality and illegal drugs; and (3) identify community feedbacks on Bicol Police's campaigns against criminality and illegal drugs.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study employed quantitative-qualitative research methods. A survey was conducted to gather the ratings and feedback of Bicol Police on its campaign against criminality and illegal drugs from different sectors of the region. The enumerators conducted face to face interview with identified respondents. A qualitative analysis of the written feedback from community was also included in the study.

The Respondents

There were 1,381 sample respondents involved in the survey who were identified based from the regional population of 5,796,989 with ~ 2.64 margin of error and 95% confidence level. Multi-stage sampling techniques were used to determine the respondents per sector in the region. There were 200 sample respondents from the provinces of Albay, Camarines Sur, Naga City and Catanduanes while Masbate and Sorsogon have 198 and 199 sample respondents, respectively. The province of

Camarines Norte has the lowest of 184 sample respondents among the provinces.

Four municipalities were randomly selected through draw lots as the area of analysis per province. The study ensured that there was a representative urban area in each of the provinces such as a City and/or Capital which was purposively selected prior to the selection of the other three municipalities. Each municipality was allotted with 50 respondents incorporating the 13 sectors namely: academe, agriculture sector, business sector, elected government officials, government employees, informal workers, judiciary, media, parent, private employee, religious sector, transportation, and youth sector. These respondents were purposively selected in coordination with the LGUs at the Barangay level. The Camarines Sur Province is subdivided into two categories since it comprises a chartered city, the Naga City with four Police Stations. There were 50 sample respondents in the covered area of each of the four Police Stations of Naga City.

Table 1. The Respondents per Sector

Sector	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Academe	140	10.14
Agriculture Sector	138	9.99
Business Sector	91	6.59
Elected Govt official	103	7.46
Govt Employee	120	8.69
Informal Worker	131	9.49
Judiciary	19	1.38
Media	21	1.52
Parent	142	10.28
Private Employee	108	7.82
Religious Sector	86	6.23
Transportation	135	9.78
Youth	142	10.28
No Response	5	0.36
Total	1381	100

Table 1 shows that out of 1381 sample respondents, 10.28% of them belong to both parents and youth sectors, and 10.14% were from academe sectors. There were 9.99% sample respondents from agriculture sector, 9.78% from transportation sector, 9.49% from informal worker sector, 8.69% from government employees, 7.82% from private employees, and 7.46% from elected government officials' sector. There were 6.59% sample respondents from business sector, 6.23% from religious sector, 1.52% from media and 1.38% from judiciary sector.

In terms of sex profile, Table 2 shows that majority of the respondents are male. In terms of civil status, majority of them were married. Also, most of them belong to the working age group with age bracket of 21 to 50 years old.

Table 2. Profile of the Respondents

Profile	Total	Percentage
Sex		
Male	746	54.02
Female	629	45.55
No Response	6	0.43
Civil Status		
Single	410	29.69
Married	867	62.78
Separated	18	1.30
Widow/er	67	4.85
Other	8	0.58
No Response	11	0.80
Age Bracket		
20 y/o and below	95	6.88
21 to 30 y/o	276	19.99
31 to 40 y/o	278	20.13
41 to 50 y/o	371	26.86
51 to 59 y/o	224	16.22
60 y/o and above	131	9.49
No Response	6	0.43
Total	1381	100

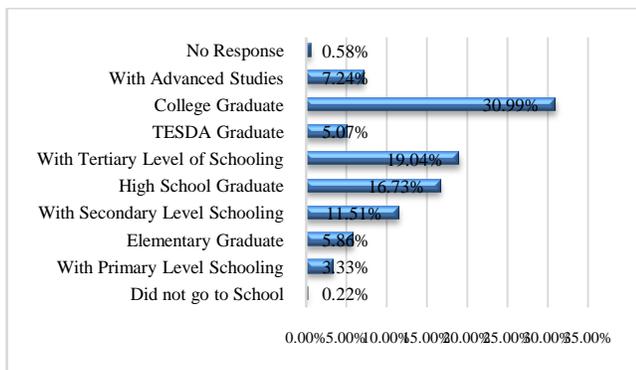


Fig. 1. Educational Attainment of the Respondents.

In terms of educational attainment, figure 1 shows that 30.99% were College degree holders, 19.04% attended College level schooling and 16.73% were high school graduates. Only 0.22% did not attend any level of schooling. While 3.33% attended primary level of schooling, 5.86% were elementary graduates and 5.07% were TESDA graduates. Only 7.24% have advanced level of schooling. This connotes that almost all respondents are literate, can comprehend and provide useful information needed in the study.

Instrument

The questionnaire used in the study was drafted by SSC Office of Research & Development Services in consonance to PNP requirements and existing survey-questionnaire utilized for several years. It was validated on October 30, 2017 during its presentation to the PNP Regional Office with their Regional Advisory Council and six Provincial Directors for comments and suggestions. It undergone revisions to improve both the content and face validity. It was presented to 28 identified enumerators and seven tabulators during their regional orientation and training last November 29, 2018 on the administration of the Community Survey.

The survey-questionnaire with three parts was subjected for dry-run in the regional level to the municipality not covered by the survey on December 17-20, 2018. The final form of questionnaire was distributed by the research team to the seven project area coordinators on December 21, 2018.

Specifically, the first part of the questionnaire focused on the demographic profile of respondents. The second part highlighted items on the community ratings on the performance of Bicol Policein their campaign against criminality and illegal drugs. The questionnaire also included open-ended questions on their comments and suggestions to improve implementation of said campaigns.

Procedure of the Survey

The regional research team was organized, and enumerators and tabulators were identified from LGUs in the respective provinces. Written consent from Local Chief Executives was sought by the project area coordinator prior to the conduct of survey. The regional survey was simultaneously conducted in the six provinces and chartered City of the region from December 26, 2018 to January 5, 2019. However, due to the low-pressure area brought by typhoon Usman that hit the region during the last week of December 2018, the administration and retrieval of survey-questionnaires in the provinces of Masbate, Camarines Sur and Catanduanes were postponed and extended by at most two-week period. Tabulation was conducted by assigned tabulators for each of the municipality and province. The tabulated results were submitted to regional research team until January 15, 2019.

Data Analysis

The statistical tool used in the study was mainly descriptive in nature. Frequency count, mean and percentages were the statistical tools used in analyzing

the demographic profile of respondents and the net community approval ratings on performance of Bicol Police. Frequencies and percentages results were transformed in graphical form for pictorial representation of the results. The community approval rating is the combined percentages of the responses of respondents at “agree” and “very much agree” levels while the disapproval ratings is the combined percentages of responses at “disagree” and “very much disagree” levels. The community net approval rating was identified by subtracting the unfavorable rating from the favorable response of respondents on the two identified variables.

Comments, suggestions and feedback of the respondents were analyzed qualitatively through coding. Feedbacks were grouped accordingly as positive, negative and neutral along the campaign against criminality and illegal drugs. The qualitative analyses were used as support to the findings of the study on the community rating of Bicol Police.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Sectoral Net Community Ratings on the Performance of Bicol Police on its Campaign Against Criminality and Illegal Drugs

Campaign Against Criminality. PNP is committed to ensuring public safety and reducing the fear and the incidence of crime in the community [13]. Figure 2 shows that among the 13 sectors, judiciary gave the highest approval rating of 100% along the campaign against criminality. It is followed by 93.57% approval rating from academe and 93.02% approval rating from religious sector.

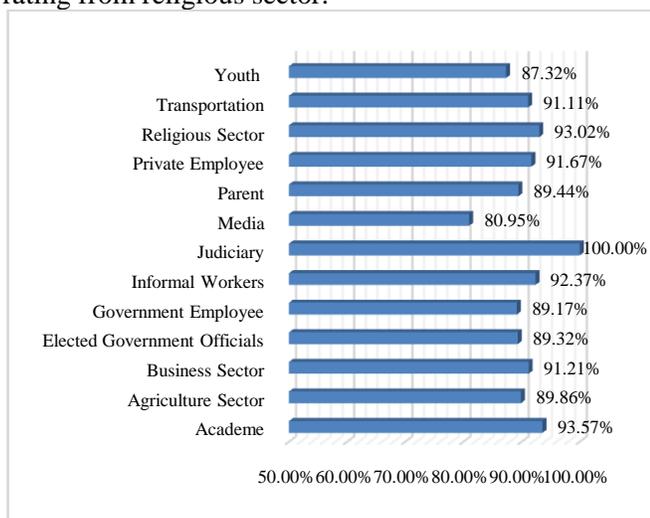


Fig. 2. Sectoral Net Community Approval Ratings on Campaign against Criminality

The informal workers, private employee, business and transportation sectors gave approval ratings of 92.37%, 91.67%, 91.21%, and 91.11% respectively. The sectors of agriculture, parent and elected government officials provided approval ratings of 89.86%, 89.44% and 89.32% respectively. Government employees gave an approval rating of 89.17%. The youth and media sectors gave approval ratings of 87.32% and 80.95% respectively.

It can be deduced that judiciary sector gave the highest approval rating of 100% while media sector gave the lowest of 80.95%. The results signify that the campaign against criminality in the region is well approved by almost all sectors especially by respondents from judiciary, academe and religious sectors. The community approval ratings on the campaign against criminality are supported by the positive feedbacks from respondents. They mentioned that Bicol Police utilizes an effective system to maintain security and the policemen are active and easy to deal with especially when they have problems in the community. It can also be noted based from PRO5 accomplishment report that in 2018, there is a notable decrease of 20.93% in the total crime volume in the region from 32, 168 in year 2017 to 25, 435 in year 2018 [14]. The decline is attributed to the increased police presence in the community and to police actions taken during investigations that led to high crime solution efficiency, and active police community relations [15].

The results also revealed that among the seven sectors, the media demonstrated the highest disapproval along this domain as represented by two, for every 10, undecided or disapproving respondents. The number of respondents used in this survey for the sectors of judiciary and media men was minimal though due to the small number of practitioners of these professions in Bicol region.

In terms of community age grouped net approval ratings on the campaign against criminality, respondents with ages 20 years old and below gave 95.79% approval rating. Respondents with ages 21 to 30 years old gave a 93.12% approval rating while those respondents with ages from 31 to 40 years old provided an approval rating of 94.24%. Respondents whose ages belong to the brackets 41 to 50, 51 to 59 and 60 years old and above gave approval ratings of 97.04%, 92.86% and 93.13% respectively.

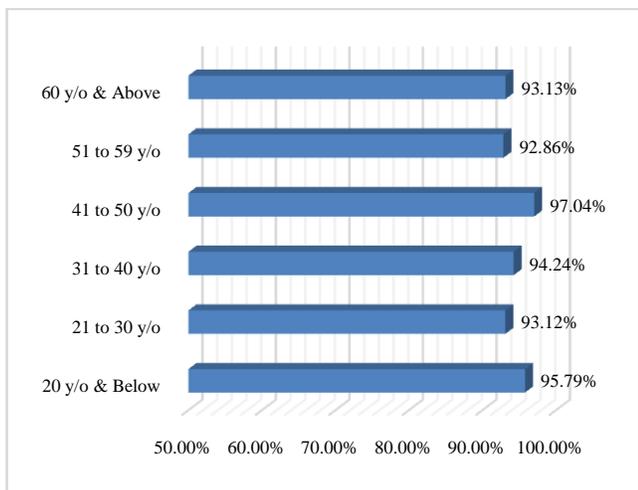


Fig. 3. Community Age Grouped Net Community Approval Ratings on Campaign Against Criminality

This study revealed that when respondents were grouped together along different age brackets, the highest net approval rating on the campaign against criminality was from ages 41 to 50 years old. Generally, the net approval rating on the campaign against criminality was relatively high across all age brackets with ratings higher than about 92 percent. This implies that the implementation of the campaign against criminality by Bicol Police is felt in the region and highly visible to the Bicolanos across all age brackets.

As shown in figure 4, both respondents from rural and urban areas provided high approval ratings on the performance of PNP against criminality with 92% and 93% ratings respectively. The disapproval ratings from these areas were only 3 percent and 2 percent, correspondingly which are both negligible. This means that nine out of 10 Bicolanos highly approve the campaign against criminality regardless of their community type.

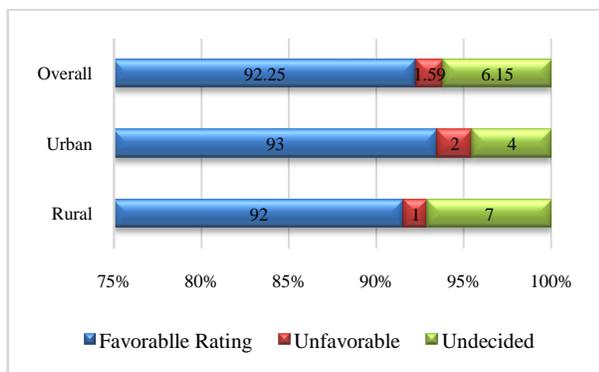


Fig. 4. Ratings by Community Type on Campaign Against Criminality

Campaign Against Illegal Drugs. One of the key programs of President Duterte is the eradication of illegal drugs in the country. With this, the PNP launched several anti-narcotic operations and activities across the country including the Bicol region.

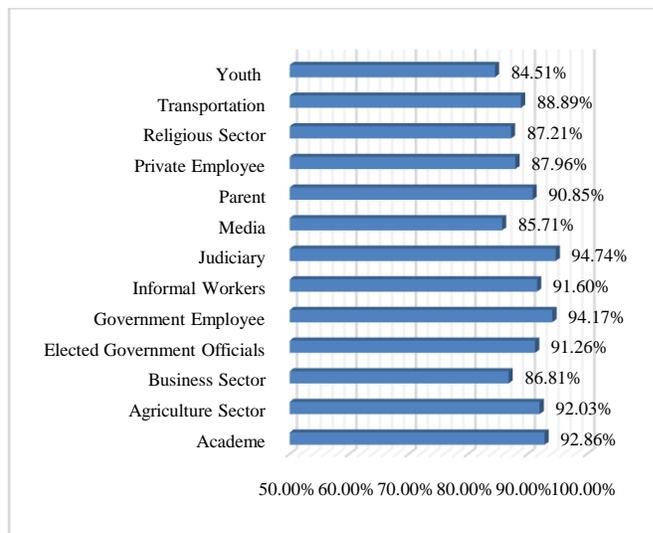


Fig. 5. Sectoral Net Community Approval Ratings on Campaign Against Illegal Drugs

Figure 5 shows that judiciary and government employee sectors gave the highest approval ratings of 94.74% and 94.17% respectively on campaign against illegal drugs. Academe sector gave 92.86% while agriculture sector gave 92.03% approval ratings. The sectors of informal workers and elected government officials gave approval ratings of 91.60% and 91.26% respectively. Parent, transportation and private employee sectors gave approval ratings of 90.85%, 88.89% and 87.96% respectively. The religious sector provides 87.21% approval rating while 86.81% from business sector. Media and youth sectors gave the lowest approval ratings of 85.71% and 84.51% respectively.

It is evident that the sectors from judiciary and government employees demonstrated the highest approval on the campaign against illegal drugs. The findings implied that the campaign against illegal drugs are well favored by all 13 sectors with about 85% and above approval rating. This signifies that for every 10 Bicolanos, either eight or nine of them supported the war on drugs campaign of the Bicol Police across all the mentioned sectors. This is consistent with the results of latest Social Weather Stations (SWS) Survey in June 2019 that eight in 10 Filipino adults are satisfied with President Duterte's war on drugs [16].

The sectors who rated the lowest net approval rating on the performance of Bicol Police in its campaign against illegal drugs were the youth and media sectors with 84.51% and 85.71% ratings, respectively. These ratings correspond to two teenagers and media practitioners who are disapproving the said campaign.

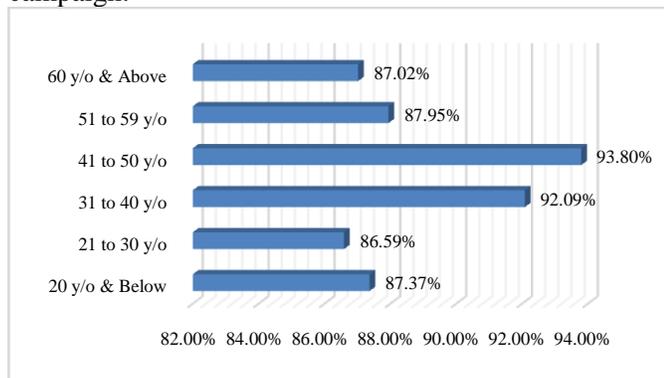


Fig. 6. Community Age Grouped Net Ratings on Campaign Against Illegal Drugs

Figure 6 shows that among the six age brackets, respondents with ages from 41 to 50 years old gave the highest approval rating of 93.80% on the campaign against illegal drugs. It is followed by respondents with ages ranging from 31 to 40 years old who gave 92.09% approval rating. Respondents with ages from 51 to 59 years old gave 87.95% rating. While the other age brackets such as 20 years old and below, 60 years old and above and 21 to 30 years old provided approval ratings of 87.37%, 87.02% and 86.59%.

When grouped by age brackets, the top supporting age groups among respondents were those with ages ranging from 31 to 50 years old. It can be inferred that these groups are possibly parents who have profound concern for the future of their children, thus fully supporting activities of Bicol Police to prevent proliferation of illegal drugs in the community. Youth and senior citizens gave almost the same net approval ratings of about 86 to 87 percent on the campaign against illegal drugs.

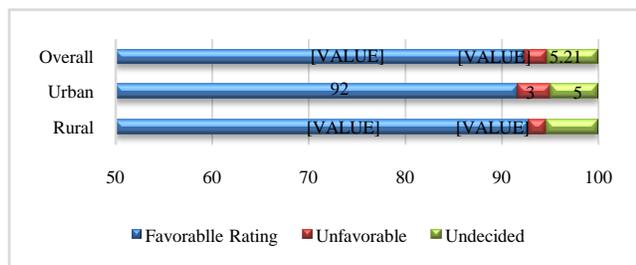


Fig. 7. Ratings by Community Type on Campaign Against Illegal Drugs

Figure 7 revealed that respondents from both rural and urban areas highly approved the campaign against illegal drugs. Respondents from rural areas gave 93% approval rating while those from urban zones provided 92% approval rating. This implies that Bicolanos highly approved the performance of Bicol Police on campaign against illegal drugs regardless of community type.

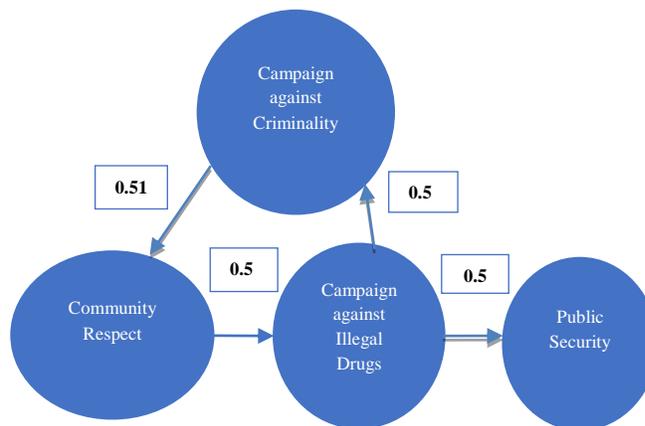


Fig. 8. Correlational Analysis Between the Campaign Against Criminality and Illegal Drugs

Figure 8 shows that the performance of Bicol Police in the campaign against criminality is highly correlated to community respect as shown by 0.51 computed Pearson correlation values. Community respect is also highly correlated to the performance of PNP on its campaign against illegal drugs with 0.56 computed r-value. It is also presented that the performance on campaign against illegal drugs is highly correlated to public security denoted by 0.55 computed r-value and also highly correlated to the performance on campaign against illegal drugs with 0.51 computed r-value.

The results signify that there is a significant relationship between the performance of Bicol Police on their campaign against illegal drugs and their performance against criminality and public security. There is also a significant relationship between the performance against criminality and community respect and the performance against illegal drugs. This implies that Bicol Police earns the respect of community when they perform well on their campaigns against criminality and illegal drugs. People also feel more secured because of the performance of Bicol Police in said campaigns. The statement from Directorate for Police Community Relations lends support to the findings of the study. It was mentioned that the ability of Police to perform their duties is dependent upon public approval of police existence, actions, behavior,

and the ability of police to secure and maintain public respect [17].

Community Feedbacks on Campaign Against Criminality and Illegal Drugs

The analysis of feedback is composed of the highlights of comments and recommendations of respondents from different sectors in the region. These were categorized based on evident themes and analyzed according to the variables considered in the study.

Campaign against Criminality

The comments and recommendations from different sectors focused on increasing the number of police personnel and vehicles and intensifying the implementation of curfew hours in Bicol region. However, there have been commendations to the police force along their campaign against criminality.

For example, a respondent from business sector in Albay noted the following observation:

“Magaling ang kapulisan ditto sa amin, maiging makisama at mag ayos ng mga krimen. Masipag sila magronda upang maiwasan ang anumang di kanais-nais na pangyayari sa lugar” (The police officers in our community works well with others and are good at resolving crimes. They roam around the community to prevent crimes from happening.)

This comment is supported by a respondent from religious sector in the same province who wrote:

“The policemen are active and easy to deal with especially when we have problems in our community. This happened when there were thieves that entered our place. The incident happened two years ago. I salute them for the effort given to us. It was around 1:30 in the morning.”

A respondent from the academe in Sorsogon also stated:

“Maganda ang sistema ng ginagawa ng kapulisan ukol sa seguridad sa bayan” (The PNP utilizes an effective system to maintain security in our town.)

Along this theme, the following recommendation from the academe was raised.

“Lalo pang ipagpatuloy ang pagpapatupad sa mga programa laban sa mga katiwalian o masamang elemento ng pamayanan” (Continue implementing programs against criminality in the community.)

Moreover, recommendation to add police personnel to further sustain law enforcement is noted by an elected government official in Albay who asserted:

“Dagdagan ang kapulisan sa kada komunidad” (Increase the number of police force in each community)

This is reinforced by a comment from a government employee in Catanduanes.

“Ang munisipalidad ng Caramoran sa Probinsya ng Catanduanes ang pinakamalaki in terms of land area, binubuo o sakop nito ang 21 barangays nakaramihan ay watak-watak o malalayo. Para mas maparating ang kamoayan kontradroga at mapanatiling ligtas at tahimik ang bawat lugar sa aming komunidad, hangad po naming na mas dagdagan pa ang puwersa ng ating kapulisan” (The municipality of Caramoran in the Province of Catanduanes is the biggest in terms of land area which comprises 21 far flung barangays. To strengthen police campaigns against illegal drugs and maintain peace and order in our community, we hope for an increase in number of police force.)

Another comment from a government employee in Catanduanes validates the need to increase the number of PNP personnel.

“Lack of PNP personnel, ratio to population is small”

Aside from police personnel, additional police vehicles may also be considered by PNP Albay as reflected in the following recommendation from the agriculture sector:

“Dagdagan ang mga mobile patrol sa mga barangay lalo na pagbanggi para maiwasan ang kriminalidad.” (Increase the number of police

vehicles in the barangay particularly at night to prevent crimes)

The same recommendation is raised by a parent from Camarines Norte who wrote:

“Sana ay may mga patrol mobile maging sa mga lugar na malalayo sa bayan” (Hopefully, there are also police mobile patrols in far flung areas.)

The recommendation to strengthen implementation of curfew hours was also evident in the following recommendations from the academe, government employee and transportation sectors of Catanduanes, respectively:

“Ipagpatuloy ang pagbibigay ng curfew sa mga kabataan” (Continue the implementation of curfew hours to minors)

“Ipatupad ang curfew at pagbabawal sa mga aktibidad na nakakalikha ng ingay sa mapayapang oras ng pagtulog sa gabi” (Implement curfew and prohibit activities that disturb peaceful hours at night)

“Magpatupad ng curfew sagabi” (Implement curfew hours at night)

Campaign against Illegal Drugs

It can be noted that majority of comments and recommendations from respondents support the Bicol Police in its campaign against illegal drugs. For instance, a government employee in Camarines Norte hopes that those who are involved in illegal drugs will be apprehended.

“Sana mahuli ang lahat ng sangkot sa droga at wag nila palampasin itong mga ito” (Those who are involved in illegal drugs should be apprehended.)

This is restated by a respondent from religious sector in Camarines Norte who also expressed support to intensify the campaign against illegal drugs.

“Dapat paigtingin ang kampanya kontra droga (It is a must to intensify campaign against illegal drugs.)

Moreover, there is a call to be more transparent to public when it comes to illegal drugs. A member of the agriculture sector in Sorsogon wrote the following comment:

“Sa pagsugpo sa illegal na droga, sana yung mga nakukumpiska nilang mga droga ipakita nila sa mga tao kung saan nila yun dinadala o tinatago para maniwala yung mga tao na talagang disidido sila sa mga kampanya nila dito” (In the fight against illegal drugs, we hope that the police will be transparent in showing where the drugs are brought so that the public is convinced that they are determined in their campaign.)

The religious sector of Camarines Sur expresses its appreciation to PNP on its campaign to eradicate the use of illegal drugs in the communities.

“Ang aking masasabi sa ating mga kapulisan ay sana wag mahinto sa pagsugpo ng illegal na droga at muling panatilihing maayos ang kanilang serbisyo ditto sa aming lugar” (I hope that the police should continuously deliver efficient services to our community including their campaign against illegal drugs.)

In community policing, active building of positive relationships with members of the community is required [18]. The feedback of community could further improve the implementation of Bicol Police’s campaign against criminality and illegal drugs. This is in consonance to the recommendations stated in the Final Report of the President’s task Force on 21st Century Policing that law enforcement agencies should collaborate with community members in developing policies and strategies in reducing crime, improving relationships, increasing community engagement, and fostering cooperation [18].

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based from the findings of this study, the following are concluded: (1) The campaign against criminality and illegal drugs are well favored by Bicolanos from all sectors, across age brackets and regardless of the community type, (2) Bicol Police earns the respect of community when people feel secured especially when they perform well their mandates

against criminality and illegal drugs, and (3) Every sector in the region has varied issues, concerns, challenges as well as appreciation on the efforts of Bicol Police in providing quality services specifically in fighting criminality and illegal drugs.

The following are recommended: (1) Bicol Police needs to sustain and intensify their campaign against criminality and illegal drugs (2) Bicol Police should continue to maintain its positive image by performing effectively their duties and functions with high standard and in accordance to the rule of law; (3) Comments and suggestions of different sectors may be considered and incorporated in the PNP RO5 operational plan to address their concerns and be given appropriate action; (4) Bicol Police may endeavor to always promote and maintain partnership and collaboration with the community to achieve a safe, secure and peaceful place to live in for Bicolanos; (5) Outputs of this survey may be utilized for policy enhancement and as a guiding tool by the PNP RO5 in their future projects and activities; and (6) Future studies may be conducted to assess the performance of Bicol Police in other aspects and sectors not included in the study.

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