

# Peace and Order and Public Safety Implementation in Santo Tomas, Isabela, Philippines

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**Abstract:** -This study examined the implementation of the peace & order and public safety programs of Santo Tomas, Isabela that involved the assessment on the functionality of the barangay peace and order committee, functionality of the barangay anti-drug abuse council, functionality of the Lupong Tagapamayapa, organization and strengthening capacities of barangay Tanod, functionality of the barangay disaster risk reduction and management committee, implementation of risk assessment and early warning system, and preparedness for the effective response and recovery. Using documentary analysis and descriptive survey, this inquiry employed among the implementers of barangay peace & order and public safety and residents of Santo Tomas, Isabela. Results showed that the barangay peace and order committee, the Lupong Tagapamayapa, Barangay Tanod, and the barangay disaster risk reduction and management committee are highly functional, nevertheless, the barangay anti-drug abuse council encountered limitations in complying with the set standards of operation. Moreover, the risk assessment and early warning system is implemented and the effective response and recovery programs are prepared across barangays of the municipality.

**Keywords:** *Peace and Order, Public Safety, Functionality, Implementation, Preparedness.*

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## I. INTRODUCTION

Peace, justice and strong institution is one of the sustainable development goals of the United Nations. This demonstrates the importance of peaceful societies in paving the way for sustainable development. Peace is an indicator of the attainment of the United Nations aims to improve the living conditions of all people now substantially and in future generation and to protect the world. The international community values peace and justice and calls for stronger judicial systems that will enforce laws and work toward a more peaceful and just society.

Section 5, Article II of the 1987 Constitution of the Philippines declares that the maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and the promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all of the people of the blessings of democracy.

Further, peace is described as an environment where individuals and communities are able to develop their potentials fully and attain progress and freely exercise their rights with

due regard for the others while being equally mindful of their responsibilities. Relatively, the Peace and Order and Public Safety Plan is a three-year plan consisting of programs and activities to promote peace and order and public safety in a particular locality and consolidated Integrated Area/Community Public Safety Plan of the cities and municipalities within the province as specified in DILGMC no. 2015-128.

In addition, Department of Interior and Local Government administers the Seal of Good Governance for Barangay (SGLGB) pursuant to Memorandum Circular No. 2021-074 which is a progressive performance assessment and recognition system that aims to give distinction to barangay with remarkable performance across various government areas, equitable and quality public services. Part of the SGLGB assessment are the safety, peace and order, and disaster preparedness programs of the barangays.

Along the concept of peace and order and public safety, Santo Tomas, Isabela has its mandates to strengthen people capability through livelihood trainings, disaster preparedness

and enhancement of their awareness for sustainable environment to uplift living condition of the community. Development is the ultimate goal of the municipality having peace and order and public safety plays a major role and a key ingredient in achieving such goal. Security and maintenance of peace and order in every community shall be given careful study. With this, the LGU shall ensure the mobilization and facilitation of the overall participation of line agencies, private organizations, civil society organizations, communities and other stakeholders in order to maximize the efforts in curbing all forms of criminality and illegal drugs. Further, the LGU shall stand firm in the implementation of laws, ordinances, policies and other issuances aimed at addressing the root causes of social unrest, increasing number of road and vehicular accidents and internal conflict within the municipality. Also, the LGU shall strengthen its efforts and activities to ensure the protection of children, families and other vulnerable sectors during emergency and crisis situation. With this, the municipality shall be able to reduce conflict and violence, and contribute in building peace and order and public safety in the community. Hence, it shall attain its ultimate vision which is peaceful and disaster resilient community with progressive and sustainable economy.

This study was anchored in the peace, justice and strong institution SDG goals of the United Nation and in the capacity and institutional development agenda of Isabela State University. Particularly, this study is geared towards assessing the implementations of peace and order and public safety programs of Santo Tomas, Isabela since this municipality is the target clientele of College of Criminal Justice Education of Isabela State University for extension programs.

#### ➤ Objectives

This study assessed the implementation of the peace & order and public safety programs of Santo Tomas, Isabela. Specifically, this study aimed the following:

- To describe the operation of the peace and order programs relative to:
- ✓ Functionality of the Barangay Peace and Order Committee (BPOC)

- ✓ Functionality of the Barangay Anti-Drug Abuse Council (BADAC)
- ✓ Functionality of the Lupong Tagapamayapa (LT)
- ✓ Organization and Strengthening Capacities of Barangay Tanod

- To describe the operation of the public safety programs relative to:
- ✓ Functionality of the Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Committee (BDRRMC);
- ✓ Level of implementation of the Risk Assessment and Early Warning System (EWS)
- ✓ Level of Preparedness for the Effective Response and Recovery

## II. METHODOLOGY

Using both qualitative and quantitative descriptive design, this study employed among the implementers of barangay peace & order and public safety and residents of Sto. Tomas, Isabela. The qualitative part of this study was a documentary analysis from the reports of the twenty seven barangays to figure out the operation of the peace & order and public safety programs covering the Functionality of the Barangay Peace and Order Committee (BPOC), Functionality of the Barangay Anti-Drug Abuse Council (BADAC), Functionality of the Lupong Tagapamayapa (LT), Organization and Strengthening Capacities of Barangay Tanod, and Functionality of the Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Committee (BDRRMC). Moreover, the quantitative part was conducted through a survey instrument and Arithmetic mean that assessed the implementation of the public safety programs relative to the level of Risk Assessment and Early Warning System (EWS) and the level of Preparedness for Effective Response and Recovery were determined. The respondents were the residents of the different barangays of Sto. Tomas, Isabela, who are selected through purposive sampling, where only those who have resided for three years or more and have involvement or experience with the councils were selected. Further, the instrument of the study was based on the provisions of DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2021-074-Seal of Good Local Governance for Barangay. The following 4-Likert scale was used to measure the quantitative part of the study.

Table 1. 4-Likert Scale was Used to Measure the Quantitative Part of the Study

Arbitrary values	Range	Description	
4	3.26-4.00	Highly implemented	Highly prepared
3	2.51-3.25	Implemented	Prepared
2	1.76-2.50	Moderately implemented	Moderately prepared
1	1.00-1.75	Not implemented	Not prepared

### III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### ➤ *The Operation of the Peace and Order Programs*

Table 2. Functionality of the Barangay Peace and Order Committee (BPOC)

Indicators	Remarks
1. Organized Barangay Peace and Order Composition	Highly functional
2. Formulated Barangay Peace and Order and Public Safety Plan	Highly functional
3. Physical accomplishment of Barangay Peace and Order and Public Safety Plan	Highly functional

The preceding table displays the functionality of the barangay peace and order committee (BPOC) in maintenance of peace and order as reflected in the documents available across barangays of Sto. Tomas, Isabela. The data reflected that the barangay peace and order councils are highly functional in all barangays of the municipality, implying that the councils are compliant with the provisions of local government relevant to organization of council, formulation of plans, and providing physical accomplishments. This finding also denotes that the members of the councils have actively participated in the attainment of the prevailing peace and order in the municipality, hence, the councils are potential tools in the achieving a peaceful and orderly society.

This result is supported in the study of Mangilimutan, Mejica, & Caelian (2020), which claimed the functionality of community peace and order and public safety (POPS) is stringently monitored by the Philippine government and has a great extent of implementation. Further, and above result is comparable to the findings of Adonis (2021) that the management style of the barangay leader are effective in the implementation of the peace and order programs particularly in the attainment of the vision and mission, barangay plans, policies and programs through democratic governance.

Table 3. Functionality of the Barangay Anti-Drug Abuse Council (BADAC)

Indicators	Remarks
1. Organized BADAC composition	Highly functional
2. Established Rehabilitation Referral Desk	Highly functional
3. Organized BADAC Auxiliary Team	Highly functional
4. Formulated BADAC plan of action	Highly functional
5. Organized Community Information, Education and Communication activity	Failed
6. Conduct of at least three monthly meetings	Failed

The foregoing table presents the functionality of the Barangay Anti-Drug Abuse Council (BADAC) of Sto. Tomas, Isabela as showed in the available records across all barangays of the municipality. The result exposed that the Barangay Anti-Drug Abuse Council (BADAC) are highly functional in terms of its composition, establishment of rehabilitation referral desk, organization of auxiliary team, and formulation of plan of action. This figure signifies that the councils are well structure with strong composition and guided with plan of actions, hence, capable of implementing activities directed to achieve drug free communities. Nevertheless, the councils came short in organizing community information, education, and communication; and likewise did not meet the policy regarding conducting of monthly meetings. This data suggests that the councils need to establish programs that will enable the community to be aware on the information regarding illegal drug abuse. In addition, that council may institute mechanisms to encourage all members to conduct and attend meetings in relation to the operations of the council.

The above context is supported in the study of Romualdo (2022) revealing that the Barangay Anti-Drug Abuse Council (BADAC) has a very great extent of functionality in terms of drug-clearing operations. Similarly, the above finding is found in the study of Cabangan (2019), that the in Cabangan, Isabela, BADAC in the three-phases of drug clearing operations are much implemented and that the barangay anti-drug abuse councils are functional in terms of organizations, recognition, presence of BADAC action plan, creation of BADAC Auxiliary Team, and orientation as to functions and responsibilities. In addition, the above result is comparable with the study of Pilar (2024) which argued that the increase in the percentage of drug-cleared barangays is influenced by the participations of the civilian sectors and the effectiveness in the implementation of peace and order programs is based on citizens' cooperation and effort

Table 4. Functionality of the Lupong Tagapamayapa (LT)

Indicators	Remarks
1. Appointment of Lupong Tagapamayapa members	Highly Functional
2. Proper filing of records	Highly Functional
3. Conduct of monthly meetings	Highly Functional
4. Attendance of Lupong Tagapamayapa to KP trainings	Highly Functional

The above table disclosed the functionality of the Lupong Tagapamayapa (LT) in Sto. Tomas, Isabela, based on available documents across barangays. The data exhibited that the Lupong Tagapamayapa are highly functional in all barangays of the municipality. The result indicates that the Lupong Tagapamayapa have complete compositions, have filed records properly, have conducted monthly meetings, and Lupon members have attended required trainings. Moreover, this data entails that the Lupong Tagapamayapa met the required policies in their operations, enabling to them to be highly functional in settling disputes under restorative justice parlance.

The foregoing finding is sustained in the study of Lorenzo, et al. (2023), which found that there is a high level of implementation of Katarungang Pambarangay Law and that the level of implementation of KP law was manifested by age and educational attainment of the members. On the other hand, Sotto (2021) revealed that there were different disputes among the residents filed and there were problems encountered by the Lupong Tagapamayapa in its effort to settle the disputes amicably.

Table 5. Organization and Strengthening Capacities of Barangay Tanod

Indicators	Remarks
1. Organized Barangay Tanod composition	Highly Functional
2. The qualifications of Barangay Tanod	Highly Functional
3. Attendance of Barangay Tanod to trainings	Highly Functional

The preceding table displayed the organization and strengthening capabilities of barangay tanod in Sto. Tomas, Isabela based on available records of the all barangays in the municipality. The result reelected that the barangay Tanod are highly functional in terms of its composition, qualifications of members, and attendance of members to relevant trainings. This data pointed out that the barangay Tanod are well-organized with the capability to perform tasked relative to peace and order.

Peacekeeping Action Team (BPAT) officers were very responsive in safeguarding and patrolling the neighborhood and are highly knowledgeable and visible in securing their respective communities through ronda or patrol activity. Besides, the finding is supported in the study of Wakat (2024) which emphasized the barangay Tanod are dedicated civilian volunteers showing commitment, to preventing crime through teamwork and dedicated adherence to duties.

#### ➤ The Operation of Public Safety Programs

The above premise is found in the study of Laroza, et al. (2023), which revealed that the majority of Barangay

Table 6. Functionality of the Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Committee (BDRRMC)

Indicators	Remarks
1. Organized BDRRMC compositions	Highly Functional
2. Approved BDRRMC Plan	Highly Functional
3. Budget allocation for BDRRMC	Highly Functional
4. Physical accomplishment	Highly Functional

The foregoing table reveled the functionality of the Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Committee (BDRRMC) across barangays of Santo Tomas, Isabela, based on available documents. The data displayed that the Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Committee (BDRRMC) are highly functional, which implied that the council met the mandated policy in its operations. Further, the result exposed that the councils have organized composition, with approved plan, have budget allocations, and have physical accomplishments. This finding denotes that the

councils are proficient to providing services relevant to disaster risk deduction.

The above premise is comparable to the findings of Kanyasan, et al. (2018) that in LAO, the policy on disaster risk reduction management was widely disseminated and implemented in all levels across sectors and there is a strong leaderships of the implementers that facilitated the implementation of the disaster risk reduction programs.

Table 7. Level of implementation of the Risk Assessment and Early Warning System (EWS)

Indicators	Mean	Interpretation
1. The conduct of activities in relation to risk assessment.	3.15	Implemented
2. The conduct of activities in relation to contingency planning.	3.17	Implemented
3. The setting up of a certified barangay risk map.	3.28	Highly implemented
4. The indication of possible risk either natural or man-made in the barangay risk map.	3.20	Implemented
5. The noticeability of the barangay risk map to the public.	2.99	Implemented
6. The establishment of early warning system.	3.22	Implemented
7. The establish early warning system among the hazard prone barangay.	3.30	Highly implemented
8. The noticeability of the early warning system to the public.	3.21	Implemented
9. The accuracy and timeliness of the early warning system.	3.23	Implemented
10. The appointment of officer to operate the early warning system	3.27	Highly implemented
Category mean	3.20	Implemented

The preceding table showed the level of implementation of the risk assessment and early warning system (EWS) across barangays of Santo Tomas, Isabela based on the assessments of the residents. The data indicated that the risk assessment and early warning system is implemented in the all barangays as reflected in the category mean 3.20. This result entails that prevailing risks are assessed and there are early warning system established in all barangays. Moreover, the highest rated indicator is “The establish early warning system among the hazard prone barangay” with a mean of 3.30, which signifies that hazard prone barangays are equipped with early warning system, ensuring that residents will be notified in times of disasters. Nevertheless, the lowest rating is obtained in the

indicator “The noticeability of the barangay risk map to the public” with a mean of 2.99, which suggest the need for better dissemination and visibility of all barangay risk maps.

The above context is similar in the study of Dela Cruz and Galanto (2022), which exposed that people involved in implementation the disaster risk reduction management program are fully prepared and the disaster preparedness activities are still improving. The personnel are aware of and do understand the DRRM program and activities. Moreover, the implementation of DRRM is directly and significantly associated with the level of awareness and understanding of the involved personnel.

Table 8. Level of Preparedness for the Effective Response and Recovery

Indicators	Mean	Interpretation
1. The permanent evacuation center of the barangay.	3.08	Prepared
2. The availability of the evacuation center to the residents.	3.04	Prepared
3. The capacity of the evacuation center to accommodate evacuees.	2.86	Prepared
4. The evacuation center being equipped with communication devices.	2.85	Prepared
5. The evacuation center being equipped with rescue vehicle.	2.93	Prepared
6. The evacuation center being equipped with electric generator set.	2.82	Prepared
7. The evacuation center being equipped with alternative light source.	2.99	Prepared
8. The evacuation center being equipped with first aid kits.	3.22	Prepared
9. The evacuation center being provided with personal protective equipment	2.99	Prepared
10. The evacuation center being equipped with basic human commodities.	2.95	Prepared
11. The evacuation center being manned by appointed barangay officials	3.20	Prepared
Category mean	2.99	Prepared

The foregoing table displayed the level of preparedness for the effective response and recovery across barangays of Sto. Tomas, Isabela based on the assessments of the residents. The result revealed that the programs on response and recovery are prepared in all barangays of the municipality as indicated in the category mean 2.99. This figure implies that the barangays are furnished with facilities and equipment necessary for response and recovery of residents when affected by disasters. Nevertheless, the result reflects that there is a need for

improvement of facilities and provisions of complete package of equipment for effective response and recovery of residents against disasters.

The above premise is comparable to the research of Rogayan and Dollete (2020) that in southern municipalities of Zambales, residents have encountered numerous disasters and that their lived experiences encouraged them to practice disaster preparedness. Their preparedness is related to their



understanding gained from the advice received about local disaster risk reduction and management task forces. Furthermore, the result is similar to the claim of Balanggoy (2024) that in Secondary Public Schools in the Province of Benguet, Philippines, there is a high level of implementation for disaster prevention and mitigation, preparedness, recovery, and rehabilitation. Nevertheless, disaster response needs improvement in the implementation

#### IV. CONCLUSION

The peace and order programs of Santo Tomas, Isabela are typically implemented, through the responsive barangay councils spearheading the operations of various mechanisms and activities toward peace and order. The Barangay Peace and Order Committee, Lupon Tagapamayapa, and Barangay Tanod are highly functional, ensuring its compliance to policies prescribed by the Department of Interior and Local Government. Nevertheless, the Barangay Anti-Drug Abuse Council encountered limitations in complying with the set standards of operation. Furthermore, the public safety programs of the municipality are adequately implemented, with a highly functional Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Committee. There is a risk assessment and early warning system implemented and programs for effective response and recovery are evident in all barangays. On the other hand, the Municipal Local Government needs to continuously monitor and strengthen the operations of the different barangay councils and providing support in order to intensify the peace & order and public safety programs.

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