

Barangay Officials' Manifestation of Basic Functions in Addressing Public Safety and Security Threats

Mildred S. Maranan

Laguna College of Business and Arts, Calamba City, Laguna, Philippines

Author Email: mpsamiano@gmail.com

Date received: June 10, 2024

Date revised: July 28, 2024

Date accepted: August 5, 2024

Originality: 95%

Grammarly Score: 99%

Similarity: 5%

Recommended citation:

Maranan, M. (2024). Barangay officials' manifestation of basic function in addressing public safety and security threats. *Journal of Interdisciplinary Perspectives*, 2(9), 176-186. <https://doi.org/10.69569/jip.2024.0294>

Abstract. This study investigated the correlation between Barangay Officials' level of manifestation of basic deliverables within the framework of the Local Government Code of 1991 and the seriousness of public safety and security threats. Utilizing a quantitative descriptive correlational design, data were collected from 401 regular residents and Barangay Officials. Results indicate that Barangay Halang officials perform strongly in executive, legislative, and judiciary functions, with mean scores of 3.65, 3.68, and 3.68, respectively, classified as "Fully Manifested." A significant discrepancy was observed between resident and official assessments, evidenced by a T-test value of 3.42 and a p-value of less than .001, with officials rating their performance higher. Public safety and security threats were rated "Very Serious" in areas such as health and social welfare services, hygiene and sanitation, beautification, solid waste collection, "katarungang pambarangay," and infrastructure facilities, with mean values ranging from 3.60 to 3.75. Additionally, significant moderately small positive correlations ($p < 0.001$) were identified between the officials' performance in basic deliverables and the perceived seriousness of public safety threats. The study concludes that while Barangay Halang officials perform strongly, there are opportunities for improvement, especially in stakeholder collaboration and addressing diverse community needs.

Keywords: Barangay officials; Public safety; Local government code; Public security threat.

1.0 Introduction

Local government is often the most accessible level for citizens to access services, participate in public processes, and exercise their rights. However, fiscal responsibilities are often centrally controlled, limiting financial autonomy. Local governance encompasses decision-making and service delivery at the community level. The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), in collaboration with the National Barangay Operations Office (NBOO), played a pivotal role in assessing the performance of barangays in the Philippines. The Barangay Performance Management System (BPMS) is a tool utilized to evaluate barangay performance, including transparency, accountability, and service delivery. The BPMS comprehensively assesses the performance of barangays in various areas, including governance, administration, social services, economic development, and environmental management (Leal & Brutus, 2020). It aligns with the DILG's initiatives to employ mechanisms for LGUs to earn the Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG), a rigorous assessment system evaluating LGUs based on various criteria, including financial administration, disaster preparedness, social protection, and business-friendliness. However, the specific dynamics and challenges at the barangay level necessitated localized evaluations to understand LGU performance comprehensively.

This study shifted the focus to determining the correlation between the degree of manifestation of Barangay Officials in performing their basic deliverables and the degree of seriousness of public safety and security threats. The existing research landscape had predominantly focused on higher-level LGUs, neglecting in-depth studies on

barangay-level governance within the context of the Local Government Code. Empirical research on the capacities and performance of barangay-elected officials is limited, particularly within the unique context of Barangay Halang, Calamba City. Addressing this research gap was crucial in providing valuable insights into the dynamics of local governance, understanding the challenges faced by barangay-elected officials, and proposing strategies to enhance their performance and capacities. The goal was to improve local governance practices and promote sustainable development at the community level.

2.0 Methodology

2.1 Research Design

The research design for this study is descriptive correlational, chosen for its suitability in evaluating barangay officials' performance on basic deliverables and the public safety and security threats they encounter. This design aligns with the study's objectives and research questions, allowing data collection that describes respondents' assessments and explores potential associations between deliverables and threats. The correlational aspect investigates relationships between barangay officials' performance and the ability to deliver services and facilities. This is significant for policymakers and stakeholders, offering insights into how improved performance could enhance service provision and governance at the barangay level.

Locale

2.2 Respondents of the Study

The present investigation aimed to ensure a comprehensive and equitable portrayal of both barangay officials and barangay residents in Barangay Halang, Calamba City by incorporating a predetermined number of participants. The composition of the group of barangay officials consisted of a total of twenty individuals or 5% of the total respondents. The majority of the respondents, covering 381 (95%) of the total respondents, were residents who were registered voters of Barangay Halang. This chosen excerpt guaranteed a thorough examination of the variables under study.

2.3 Research Instrument

The data collection instrument for this study was a researcher-developed questionnaire designed to adhere to the provisions of the Local Government Code of 1991. It aimed to evaluate barangay officials' performance on basic deliverables and the seriousness of public safety and security threats within the framework of the code. The questionnaire focused on executive, legislative, and judiciary functions outlined in the code. To ensure validity and reliability, the questionnaire underwent a thorough validation process. Content validity was assessed through an expert review, with experts in local governance, social science research, and survey design evaluating the questionnaire's alignment with the code and its clarity, relevance, and adequacy. Lawshe's method was used to calculate the content validity ratio (CVR), which showed strong agreement among experts (CVR = 0.97). Reliability was evaluated using internal consistency measures such as Cronbach's alpha for Likert-scale questions within the questionnaire. The computed Cronbach's alpha value of 0.945 indicated excellent internal consistency. Face validity checks were also conducted to ensure the questionnaire appeared appropriate to participants and experts not involved in its development, further bolstering its overall validity.

2.4 Data Gathering Procedure

After obtaining permission, rigorous steps were taken to validate the survey questionnaires, a critical process before administration. A thorough evaluation and validation of the questionnaire's content were done. The questionnaires were meticulously crafted to adhere to the provisions of the 1991 Local Government Code. Experts in local governance, social science research, and survey design were incorporated into the validation process to increase validity. After the survey questionnaires had been validated and pilot-tested, they were distributed to the specified respondents using both medium- and hard-copy survey questionnaires and using Google Forms. The collected data were analyzed comprehensively using appropriate quantitative methods to generate insightful conclusions.

2.5 Ethical Consideration

The study adhered to the Data Privacy Act of 2012, which outlines guidelines for protecting personal information and data privacy rights. This ensured that all data collected from participants were handled with the utmost confidentiality and used solely for research purposes.

3.0 Results and Discussion

3.1 Level of Manifestation of Basic Deliverables of Barangay Halang Officials

In terms of Executive Functions

As shown in Table 1, the level of manifestation of basic deliverables of barangay halang officials as assessed by barangay officials themselves and residents in terms of executive functions is fully manifested, as shown in the composite assessment of 3.65 and garnered a standard deviation of 0.38 of the barangay officials and 0.32 of the residents. Enforces all laws and ordinances within the barangay, which yielded the highest mean score of 3.67, interpreted as fully manifested. On the other hand, performing other duties and functions as prescribed by law or ordinance received the lowest mean score, 3.62, and was interpreted as fully manifested.

Table 1. Descriptive statistics of the level of manifestation of basic deliverables of Barangay Halang officials in terms of executive functions

Indicators	Residents		Officials		Composite	
	Mean	Interpretation	Mean	Interpretation	Mean	Interpretation
1. Exercises supervision and control over all programs, projects, services, and activities of the barangay.	3.57	Fully Manifested	3.75	Fully Manifested	3.66	Fully Manifested
2. Enforce all laws and ordinances within the barangay.	3.58	Fully Manifested	3.75	Fully Manifested	3.67	Fully Manifested
3. Plans appointments of barangay personnel and creation and abolishment of positions as needed by the Local Government Code.	3.54	Fully Manifested	3.75	Fully Manifested	3.65	Fully Manifested
4. Performs other duties and functions as prescribed by law or ordinance.	3.59	Fully Manifested	3.65	Fully Manifested	3.63	Fully Manifested
Composite Assessment	3.57	Fully Manifested	3.73	Fully Manifested	3.65	Fully Manifested

Legend: 3.25-4.00 Fully Manifested (FM) 2.50-3.24 Manifested (M) 1.75-2.49 Partially Manifested (PM) 1.00-1.74 Not Manifested (NM)

These results imply that while Barangay Halang officials demonstrate strong performance in certain aspects of Executive Functions, there may be opportunities for further enhancement or diversification of their duties to better serve the community's needs and ensure comprehensive governance. This can involve continuous training and capacity-building initiatives to empower barangay officials with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively fulfill their roles and responsibilities across all areas of Executive Functions. Additionally, fostering greater collaboration and communication between barangay officials and residents can facilitate a more inclusive and participatory approach to governance, ultimately leading to improved community well-being and development.

These findings resonate with existing literature on barangay governance capabilities and executive functions. Floranza's (2021) study underscored the importance of assessing the performance of barangay officials, highlighting the need for regular training and continuous monitoring to enhance their capabilities. Moreover, Lopez and Reyes (2020) emphasized the critical role of evaluating executive functions to ensure efficient management and leadership within barangays, advocating for capacity-building programs focusing on managerial skills and financial management. Overall, the findings from both the assessment in Barangay Halang and the existing literature underscore the importance of evaluating and enhancing the executive functions of barangay officials to promote effective governance at the grassroots level.

In terms of Legislative Functions

As shown in Table 2, the level of manifestation of basic deliverables of barangay halang officials as assessed by barangay officials themselves and residents in terms of legislative functions is fully manifested, as shown in the composite assessment of 3.68 and garnered a standard deviation of 0.36 of the barangay officials and 0.33 of the residents. Reviews and approves the annual budget and appropriation ordinance, which yielded the highest mean score of 3.69 and was interpreted as fully manifested. On the other hand, enacting ordinances and resolutions relevant to barangay governance received the lowest mean score of responses with 3.63 and was interpreted as fully manifested.

These results imply that while Barangay Halang officials demonstrate strong performance in certain aspects of Legislative Functions, there may be opportunities for further improvement or innovation in their legislative activities to serve the community's needs better and promote good governance. This could involve capacity-building initiatives to enhance barangay officials' legislative skills and foster greater transparency and inclusivity in the legislative process. By strengthening legislative capabilities and promoting participatory governance,

barangay officials can effectively address community priorities and contribute to the overall well-being and development of Barangay Halang.

Table 2. Descriptive statistics of the level of manifestation of basic deliverables of Barangay Halang officials in terms of legislative functions

Indicators	Residents		Officials		Composite	
	Mean	Interpretation	Mean	Interpretation	Mean	Interpretation
1. Enacts ordinances and resolutions relevant to barangay governance.	3.56	Fully Manifested	3.70	Fully Manifested	3.63	Fully Manifested
2. Participate in the development planning process.	3.55	Fully Manifested	3.80	Fully Manifested	3.68	Fully Manifested
3. Review and approve the annual budget and appropriation ordinance.	3.57	Fully Manifested	3.80	Fully Manifested	3.69	Fully Manifested
4. Conducts/ Attends public hearings on important matters.	3.56	Fully Manifested	3.80	Fully Manifested	3.68	Fully Manifested
Composite Assessment	3.56	Fully Manifested	3.80	Fully Manifested	3.68	Fully Manifested

Legend: 3.25-4.00 Fully Manifested (FM) 2.50-3.24 Manifested (M) 1.75-2.49 Partially Manifested (PM) 1.00-1.74 Not Manifested (NM)

These findings aligned with existing literature on the legislative functions of barangay officials in the Philippines. Matsuda (2017, as cited in ElMassah & Mohieldin, 2020) highlighted the legislative powers granted to barangay officials under the Local Government Code, emphasizing their role in enacting ordinances and resolutions relevant to local governance. Carpio's (2020) study on implementing curfew ordinances by barangay officials underscored the importance of consistency in legislative enforcement to maintain public order effectively. Furthermore, Mendoza and Reyes (2021) emphasized the necessity of evaluating legislative functions to ensure responsiveness to community needs, advocating for legal education, and increasing public participation in the legislative process. Together, these studies and the assessment conducted in Barangay Halang underscore the critical role of legislative functions in barangay governance and the importance of effective implementation to address community concerns and promote public welfare.

In terms of Judiciary Functions

As shown in Table 3, the level of manifestation of basic deliverables of barangay halang officials as assessed by barangay officials themselves and residents in terms of judiciary functions is fully manifested, as shown in the composite assessment of 3.68 and garnered a standard deviation of 0.37 of the barangay officials and 0.35 of the residents. Encourages and facilitates amicable settlements and promotes the speedy and impartial resolution of disputes at the barangay level, which yielded the highest mean score of 3.71 and was interpreted as fully manifested. On the other hand, Acts as mediators and conciliators in barangay conciliation proceedings to settle disputes among community members received the lowest mean score of responses with 3.66 and were interpreted as fully manifested.

Table 3. Descriptive statistics of the level of manifestation of basic deliverables of Barangay Halang officials in terms of judiciary functions

Indicators	Residents		Officials		Composite	
	Mean	Interpretation	Mean	Interpretation	Mean	Interpretation
1. Acts as mediators and conciliators in barangay conciliation proceedings to settle disputes among community members.	3.51	Fully Manifested	3.80	Fully Manifested	3.66	Fully Manifested
2. Encourages and facilitates amicable settlements and promotes the speedy and impartial resolution of disputes at the barangay level.	3.56	Fully Manifested	3.85	Fully Manifested	3.71	Fully Manifested
3. Enforce the settlement or impose sanctions for violations of the terms and conditions of the settlement.	3.58	Fully Manifested	3.75	Fully Manifested	3.67	Fully Manifested
Composite Assessment	3.55	Fully Manifested	3.80	Fully Manifested	3.68	Fully Manifested

Legend: 3.25-4.00 Fully Manifested (FM) 2.50-3.24 Manifested (M) 1.75-2.49 Partially Manifested (PM) 1.00-1.74 Not Manifested (NM)

These results imply that while Barangay Halang officials demonstrate strong performance in Judiciary Functions, there may still be opportunities for further refinement or enhancement in their role as mediators and conciliators. This could involve ongoing training and professional development for barangay officials to strengthen their conflict resolution and mediation skills and efforts to promote community awareness and participation in the conciliation process. By continuously improving their judicial capabilities and fostering a culture of peace and reconciliation, barangay officials can effectively address conflicts and disputes within the community, contributing to social harmony and sustainable development in Barangay Halang.

The results of the study by Dagohoy (2021) agreed with the results as it highlighted the effectiveness of the conciliation process within the Lupong Tagapamayapa in Barangay Tibal-og, underscoring the importance of decision-making quality in enhancing the efficiency of dispute resolution mechanisms. Similarly, Cruz's (2020) study on the performance of Barangay Police Security Officers (BPSOs) emphasized the crucial role of barangay officials in maintaining peace and order at the grassroots level, providing insights into the perception of constituents and officials regarding the effectiveness of BPSOs. Additionally, Caelian et al. (2020) examined the implementation of the Community Peace and Order and Public Safety (POPS) program, highlighting the significance of community participation and good governance principles in fostering peace and safety within barangays. These studies and the assessment conducted in Barangay Halang underscored the importance of judiciary functions in promoting community harmony and resolving disputes effectively, contributing to improved governance and public welfare at the barangay level.

3.2 Difference of the Assessments Between Participants

There is a significant difference between the assessments of the residents and barangay officials regarding the manifestation of barangay halang officials on the performance of basic deliverables, as shown in Table 4. The rejection of the null hypothesis suggests that the perceived performance of Barangay Halang officials on basic deliverables may vary significantly depending on whether the assessment is conducted by residents or barangay officials themselves. This highlights the importance of employing multiple perspectives and stakeholder feedback in evaluating local governance effectiveness. By incorporating diverse viewpoints and feedback mechanisms into governance assessments, barangay leaders can gain a more comprehensive understanding of their strengths, weaknesses, and areas for improvement.

Table 4. Analysis of the difference in the assessments between participants

Variables	T-test	P value	Remarks	Decision
Executive Functions	2.09*	.037	Significant	Reject Ho
Legislative Functions	2.83**	.005	Significant	Reject Ho
Judiciary Functions	3.05**	.002	Significant	Reject Ho

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

The literature on barangay governance capabilities and administrative challenges corroborates these findings. Basaluddin's (2021) study on administrative capability in Jolo revealed various challenges barangay governments face, including resource scarcity and inadequate training, which may influence residents' perceptions of governance performance. Additionally, Gannaban's (2023) study on Barangay Secretaries underscored the necessity for training opportunities to enhance the knowledge and skills of barangay officials, aligning with the disparities observed in assessments. Together, these studies and the test results in Barangay Halang underscore the importance of addressing administrative challenges and providing training opportunities to bridge the gap between residents' perceptions and the actual performance of barangay officials, ultimately contributing to more effective governance and community well-being.

3.3 Level of Seriousness of the Public Safety and Security Threats in Barangay Halang

In terms of Health and Social Welfare Services

As shown in Table 5, the degree of seriousness of public safety and security threats in health and social welfare services is very serious, as shown in the composite assessment of 3.71, which garnered a standard deviation of 0.34 for the barangay officials and 0.30 for the residents. Lack of organization of seminars, workshops, and information campaigns on health issues resulted in low awareness and adoption of preventive measures among community members, which yielded the highest mean score of 3.74 and was interpreted as Very Serious. On the other hand, inadequate coordination and facilitation of health campaigns, immunization drives, and wellness programs resulted in a decline in residents' health, which received the lowest mean score of responses, 3.66, and was interpreted as very serious.

The assessment findings highlight the importance of investing in capacity-building initiatives and resource allocation to strengthen the barangay's ability to address public safety and security threats in health and social welfare services. By providing barangay officials with the necessary training, resources, and support, they can

better fulfill their roles in organizing and facilitating health-related activities, promoting community health awareness, and coordinating response efforts during public health emergencies.

Table 5. Descriptive statistics of the level of seriousness of the public safety and security threats in Barangay Halang in terms of health and social welfare services

Indicators	Residents		Officials		Composite	
	Mean	Interpretation	Mean	Interpretation	Mean	Interpretation
1. Inadequate coordination and facilitation of health campaigns, immunization drives, and wellness programs result in a decline in residents' health.	3.57	Very Serious	3.75	Very Serious	3.66	Very Serious
2. Limited accessibility to healthcare services	3.58	Very Serious	3.85	Very Serious	3.72	Very Serious
3. Insufficient collaboration with health centers, clinics, and hospitals has led to a shortage of medical supplies and personnel.	3.61	Very Serious	3.80	Very Serious	3.71	Very Serious
4. Poor oversight of social welfare programs, such as livelihood assistance, educational support, and aid for vulnerable groups, contributes to increased vulnerability among older people and persons with disabilities.	3.65	Very Serious	3.80	Very Serious	3.73	Very Serious
5. Seminars, workshops, and information campaigns on health issues are not organized, resulting in low awareness and low adoption of preventive measures among community members.	3.58	Very Serious	3.90	Very Serious	3.74	Very Serious
6. Inadequate efforts to ensure the availability of maternal and child health services, including prenatal care, safe deliveries, and child healthcare programs, pose risks to mothers' and children's well-being in the community.	3.59	Very Serious	3.80	Very Serious	3.70	Very Serious
Composite Assessment	3.60	Very Serious	3.82	Very Serious	3.71	Very Serious

Legend: 3.25-4.00 Very Serious (VS) 2.50-3.24 Serious (S) 1.75-2.49 Slightly Serious (SS) 1.00-1.74 Not Serious (NS)

These findings resonate with existing literature on the pivotal role of barangay officials in promoting health and social welfare services. Ramos et al. (2019) advocated for capacity-building programs tailored to barangay officials to bolster their effectiveness in delivering essential services, such as conducting health education campaigns and fostering collaboration with healthcare professionals. The disparities observed between the perceived seriousness of public safety and security threats among regular residents and barangay officials emphasize the need for targeted interventions and collaborative endeavors to address these pressing issues effectively. By aligning policy and practice with community needs and priorities, barangay officials can significantly improve health outcomes and enhance social welfare within their communities, ultimately fostering a better quality of life for all residents.

In terms of General Hygiene and Sanitation

As shown in Table 6, the degree of seriousness of public safety and security threats in terms of services and facilities related to general hygiene and sanitation is very serious, as shown in the composite assessment of 3.68 and garnered a standard deviation of 0.34 of the barangay officials and 0.33 of the residents. Limited efforts to provide and maintain access to clean and safe water sources by initiating water sanitation projects and collaborating with relevant agencies and a Lack of educational programs on hygiene practices emphasizing the importance of personal and environmental hygiene for community health, which both yielded the highest mean score of 3.70 and was interpreted as very serious. On the other hand, the insufficient enforcement of waste management regulations by overseeing proper waste segregation, collection, and disposal processes within the community received the lowest mean score of responses, 3.63, and was interpreted as very serious.

The assessment findings underscore the need for increased resources, capacity-building efforts, and collaborative partnerships to address the identified challenges related to general hygiene and sanitation services. By investing in infrastructure development, implementing educational campaigns, and strengthening regulatory enforcement, barangay officials can enhance their capacity to address public safety and security threats, improve access to essential services and facilities, and promote overall community well-being.

Table 6. Descriptive statistics of the level of seriousness of the public safety and security threats in Barangay Halang in terms of general hygiene and sanitation

Indicators	Residents		Officials		Composite	
	Mean	Interpretation	Mean	Interpretation	Mean	Interpretation
1. Insufficient enforcement of waste management regulations by overseeing proper waste segregation, collection, and disposal processes within the community.	3.55	Very Serious	3.70	Very Serious	3.63	Very Serious
2. Limited efforts are being made to provide and maintain access to clean and safe water sources by initiating water sanitation projects and collaborating with relevant agencies.	3.60	Very Serious	3.80	Very Serious	3.70	Very Serious
3. Ineffective measures to control vectors like mosquitoes and rodents, reducing the spread of diseases associated with poor sanitation.	3.58	Very Serious	3.80	Very Serious	3.69	Very Serious
4. no educational programs on hygiene practices emphasize the importance of personal and environmental hygiene for community health.	3.60	Very Serious	3.80	Very Serious	3.70	Very Serious
Composite Assessment	3.58	Very Serious	3.77	Very Serious	3.68	Very Serious

Legend: 3.25-4.00 Very Serious (VS) 2.50-3.24 Serious (S) 1.75-2.49 Slightly Serious (SS) 1.00-1.74 Not Serious (NS)

These findings are consistent with existing literature emphasizing the crucial role of barangay officials in maintaining general hygiene and sanitation standards within their communities. Tan (2021) underscored the importance of capacity-building programs to enhance waste management practices and collaboration with local environmental agencies. Moreover, studies by De Los Reyes and De Los Reyes (2019) and De Guzman and De Guzman (2019) emphasized the need for improved access to safe water, sanitation facilities, and educational programs on hygiene practices at the local level. These insights contributed to understanding current hygiene and sanitation challenges in the Philippines, informing policy and program development aimed at promoting proper hygiene practices and preventing the spread of diseases, particularly in the context of public health emergencies like the COVID-19 pandemic.

In terms of Beautification and Solid Waste Collection

As shown in Table 7, the degree of seriousness of public safety and security threats in beautification and solid waste collection is very serious, as shown in the composite assessment of 3.71, which garnered a standard deviation of 0.34 for barangay officials and 0.33 for residents. Inadequate oversight of beautification projects such as landscaping, park maintenance, and public space enhancement initiatives to improve the aesthetics of the barangay yielded the highest mean score of 3.74 and was interpreted as very serious. On the other hand, the inefficient and irregular collection of solid waste, organizing schedules, and collaboration with waste management agencies received the lowest mean score of responses, 3.68, and were interpreted as very serious.

Table 7. Descriptive statistics of the level of seriousness of the public safety and security threats in Barangay Halang in terms of beautification and solid waste collection

Indicators	Residents		Officials		Composite	
	Mean	Interpretation	Mean	Interpretation	Mean	Interpretation
1. Inadequate oversight of beautification projects, such as landscaping, park maintenance, and public space enhancement initiatives, to improve the barangay's aesthetics.	3.57	Very Serious	3.90	Very Serious	3.74	Very Serious
2. Limited mobilization of residents to participate in regular clean-up drives, promoting community involvement in maintaining a clean environment.	3.55	Very Serious	3.85	Very Serious	3.70	Very Serious
3. Inefficient and irregular solid waste collection, organizing schedules, and collaborating with waste management agencies.	3.55	Very Serious	3.80	Very Serious	3.68	Very Serious
4. Insufficient initiation and support of recycling programs, encouraging residents to reduce, reuse, and recycle waste materials, and poor existence of Material Recovery Facilities	3.55	Very Serious	3.85	Very Serious	3.70	Very Serious
5. Inadequate efforts to protect and preserve green spaces within the barangay, advocating for tree planting and environmental conservation efforts.	3.57	Very Serious	3.85	Very Serious	3.71	Very Serious
Composite Assessment	3.56	Very Serious	3.85	Very Serious	3.71	Very Serious

Legend: 3.25-4.00 Very Serious (VS) 2.50-3.24 Serious (S) 1.75-2.49 Slightly Serious (SS) 1.00-1.74 Not Serious (NS)

The assessment results highlight the importance of proactive measures, community engagement, and resource allocation to effectively address the identified challenges related to beautification and solid waste collection. By prioritizing initiatives to enhance the barangay's aesthetic appeal, improve waste management practices, and promote environmental sustainability, barangay officials can create a cleaner, safer, and more visually appealing community for all residents.

Acosta (2020) highlighted the challenges barangay officials face in managing waste disposal due to inadequate infrastructure and limited knowledge about waste segregation techniques. Bellotindos and Camarillo (2021) stressed the need to comply with solid waste management policies, particularly regarding recycling and composting initiatives. Their study underscored the importance of establishing functional material recovery facilities and accessible drop-off locations for recyclable materials to increase resident participation in waste management efforts. Together, these insights underscore the critical role of barangay officials in implementing effective beautification and solid waste management strategies to promote community well-being and environmental sustainability.

In terms of Maintenance of the Katarungang Pambarangay

As shown in Table 8, the degree of seriousness of public safety and security threats in terms of maintenance of the katarungang pam barangay is very serious, as shown in the composite assessment of 3.74 and garnered a standard deviation of 0.31 of the barangay officials and 0.32 of the residents. Ineffective facilitation of dispute resolution through the Katarungang Pambarangay, mediating conflicts and promoting reconciliation among parties, and Limited education of community members about their rights and the procedures for seeking resolution through the Katarungang Pambarangay both yielded the highest mean score of 3.76 and was interpreted as Very Serious. On the other hand, the inaccurate maintenance of records of cases handled by the Katarungang Pambarangay, ensuring transparency and accountability in dispute resolution, received the lowest mean score of responses, 3.71, and was interpreted as very serious.

Table 8. Descriptive statistics of the level of seriousness of the public safety and security threats in Barangay Halang in terms of maintenance of the katarungang pambarangay

Indicators	Residents		Officials		Composite	
	Mean	Interpretation	Mean	Interpretation	Mean	Interpretation
1. Ineffective facilitation of dispute resolution through the Katarungang Pambarangay, mediating conflicts and promoting reconciliation among parties.	3.61	Very Serious	3.90	Very Serious	3.76	Very Serious
2. Community members are not adequately educated about their rights and the procedures for seeking resolution through the Katarungang Pambarangay.	3.62	Very Serious	3.90	Very Serious	3.76	Very Serious
3. Inaccurate maintenance of records of cases handled by the Katarungang Pambarangay, ensuring transparency and accountability in dispute resolution.	3.56	Very Serious	3.85	Very Serious	3.71	Very Serious
4. More collaboration with legal institutions and authorities is needed to ensure the proper application of laws and regulations in resolving disputes.	3.57	Very Serious	3.90	Very Serious	3.74	Very Serious
5. More support is needed for individuals seeking legal advice or assistance within the barangay jurisdiction.	3.59	Very Serious	3.90	Very Serious	3.75	Very Serious
Composite Assessment	3.59	Very Serious	3.89	Very Serious	3.74	Very Serious

Legend: 3.25-4.00 Very Serious (VS) 2.50-3.24 Serious (S) 1.75-2.49 Slightly Serious (SS) 1.00-1.74 Not Serious (NS)

The assessment results underscore the need for barangay officials to improve the accuracy and transparency of record-keeping practices within the Katarungang Pambarangay. Inaccurate maintenance of records of cases handled by the Katarungang Pambarangay can undermine the integrity of dispute resolution processes, erode public trust, and hinder accountability. Therefore, barangay officials must implement robust record-keeping systems, ensure the transparency of case proceedings, and uphold accountability standards to instill confidence in the Katarungang Pambarangay as an effective mechanism for resolving disputes.

These findings align with existing literature emphasizing the critical role of barangay officials in facilitating the Katarungang Pambarangay and ensuring efficient conflict resolution. Diaz and Tan (2019) highlighted the reliance on barangay officials to properly function in the Katarungang Pambarangay and promote peace and order.

However, Santos and Reyes (2021) pointed out that lacking legal knowledge and training often hinders their capacity. Del Rosario and Torres (2019) shed light on the challenges faced in implementing the Katarungang Pambarangay and emphasize the importance of transitioning to an information system to enhance efficiency and effectiveness. Their insights underscored the need for training programs providing legal education and conflict resolution techniques to strengthen barangay officials' capacity to maintain the Katarungang Pambarangay efficiently. Overall, these studies contributed to understanding the complexities involved in maintaining the Katarungang Pambarangay and underscored the importance of addressing these challenges to ensure citizens have access to justice at the grassroots level.

In terms of Maintenance of Infrastructure Facilities

As shown in Table 9, the degree of seriousness of public safety and security threats in terms of maintenance of the Katarungang Pambarangay is very serious, as shown in the composite assessment of 3.73 and garnered a standard deviation of 0.34 of the barangay officials and 0.32 of the residents. Insufficient gathering of feedback from residents regarding infrastructure concerns and incorporating community input into planning and decision-making processes yielded the highest mean score of 3.76 and was interpreted as Very Serious. On the other hand, ineffective monitoring of repair and construction activities, ensuring compliance with quality standards, and timely completion of projects received the lowest mean score of responses, 3.71, which was interpreted as very serious.

Table 9. Descriptive statistics of the level of seriousness of the public safety and security threats in Barangay Halang
In terms of maintenance of infrastructure facilities

Indicators	Residents		Officials		Composite	
	Mean	Interpretation	Mean	Interpretation	Mean	Interpretation
1. Inadequate supervision of maintaining roads, bridges, public buildings, and other infrastructure facilities to ensure safety and functionality.	3.59	Very Serious	3.85	Very Serious	3.72	Very Serious
2. Limited identification and prioritization of infrastructure needs within the barangay, advocating for budget allocation and resources to address these needs.	3.62	Very Serious	3.85	Very Serious	3.74	Very Serious
3. Poor coordination with relevant agencies for infrastructure development projects, ensuring alignment with community needs and standards.	3.61	Very Serious	3.85	Very Serious	3.73	Very Serious
4. Ineffective monitoring of repair and construction activities, ensuring compliance with quality standards and timely completion of projects.	3.56	Very Serious	3.85	Very Serious	3.71	Very Serious
5. Insufficient feedback gathering from residents regarding infrastructure concerns, incorporating community input into planning and decision-making processes.	3.61	Very Serious	3.90	Very Serious	3.76	Very Serious
Composite Assessment	3.60	Very Serious	3.86	Very Serious	3.73	Very Serious

Legend: 3.25-4.00 Very Serious (VS) 2.50-3.24 Serious (S) 1.75-2.49 Slightly Serious (SS) 1.00-1.74 Not Serious (NS)

These findings resonate with existing literature, highlighting the challenges barangay officials face in infrastructure maintenance due to limited funding, technical expertise, and bureaucratic hurdles (Garcia et al., 2020). Capacity-building initiatives focusing on infrastructure management, financial planning, and collaboration with engineering professionals were essential to enhance their ability to effectively maintain and improve infrastructure facilities. Moreover, the capacity of barangay officials to provide quality services in various domains, including infrastructure maintenance, was contingent upon factors such as limited resources, inadequate training, and administrative challenges. Enhancing their capacity through targeted training and collaboration with relevant agencies can significantly improve service provision across multiple areas, contributing to overall community development (Garcia et al., 2020). Ultimately, these efforts could lead to more resilient and sustainable infrastructure systems, promoting public safety and security within the barangay.

3.4 Relationship Between the Level of Manifestation of Basic Deliverables and the Level of Seriousness of the Public Safety and Security Threats

There is a significant relationship between Barangay officials' level of manifestation of basic deliverables and the degree of seriousness regarding public safety and security threats in Barangay Halang. Table 10 shows that the probability values were all 0.001, which was less than the significance level of .05. Thus, the null hypothesis was rejected. The r value lies between 0.25 and 0.50, a moderately small positive correlation. It indicates a substantial

link between the level of manifestation of Barangay officials on the performance of basic deliverables and the degree of seriousness of the public safety and security threats.

Table 10. Analysis of the relationship between the level of manifestation of basic deliverables and the level of seriousness of the public safety and security threats

Basic Deliverables	Seriousness of Public Safety and Security Threats	r value	p-value	Remarks	Decision
Executive Functions	Health and Social Welfare Services	.369**	<.001	Significant	Reject Ho
	General Hygiene and Sanitation	.296**	<.001	Significant	Reject Ho
	Beautification and Solid Waste	.267**	<.001	Significant	Reject Ho
	Katarungang Pambarangay	.287**	<.001	Significant	Reject Ho
	Infrastructure Facilities	.266**	<.001	Significant	Reject Ho
Legislative Function	Health and Social Welfare Services	.388**	<.001	Significant	Reject Ho
	General Hygiene and Sanitation	.286**	<.001	Significant	Reject Ho
	Beautification and Solid Waste	.250**	<.001	Significant	Reject Ho
	Katarungang Pambarangay	.314**	<.001	Significant	Reject Ho
	Infrastructure Facilities	.316**	<.001	Significant	Reject Ho
Judiciary Functions	Health and Social Welfare Services	.392**	<.001	Significant	Reject Ho
	General Hygiene and Sanitation	.302**	<.001	Significant	Reject Ho
	Beautification and Solid Waste	.347**	<.001	Significant	Reject Ho
	Katarungang Pambarangay	.369**	<.001	Significant	Reject Ho
	Infrastructure Facilities	.354**	<.001	Significant	Reject Ho
	Overall Degree of Seriousness	.418**	<.001	Significant	Reject Ho

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

These results underscore the interconnectedness between the actions and effectiveness of Barangay officials across all branches of governance and the severity of public safety and security threats the community faces. Effective governance practices, including policy formulation, resource allocation, dispute resolution, and infrastructure maintenance, were crucial in addressing community safety concerns. Challenges such as inadequate resources, limited training, and poor coordination with relevant agencies hindered the effectiveness of Barangay officials in fulfilling their governance roles (Gomez, 2020). Moreover, promoting good governance principles such as transparency, accountability, and community engagement can enhance the effectiveness of governance functions in addressing public safety threats and promoting community well-being (Mejica & Monocay, 2020). Barangay officials can better serve their constituents and contribute to sustainable community development by addressing these challenges and fostering good governance practices.

4.0 Conclusions

This study's findings significantly advance the local governance field by providing a detailed assessment of the performance of Barangay Halang officials across various functions. This research highlights strengths and areas for improvement, offering a roadmap for enhancing governance practices. The work addresses existing gaps by identifying discrepancies between residents' and officials' perceptions regarding the performance of basic deliverables, emphasizing the need for inclusive and participatory evaluation processes. This advancement in understanding underscores the critical importance of aligning governance practices with community needs and priorities.

Furthermore, the study reveals the necessity for better health and social welfare services organizations, pointing to the potential benefits of comprehensive health education and preventive initiatives. The research underscores the pivotal role of effective governance and community engagement in addressing hygiene, sanitation, waste management, and community dispute resolution issues. By prioritizing these areas, Barangay officials can significantly improve the quality of life for residents and promote sustainable development.

Proactive governance practices, such as efficient service delivery, strict regulation enforcement, and diligent maintenance of essential facilities, are highlighted as essential for ensuring community safety and security. The study's findings suggest deficiencies in these areas can increase risks, underscoring the importance of governance reforms and capacity-building initiatives. Barangay officials can mitigate safety and security threats and build a thriving community by fostering transparency, accountability, and community involvement.

The proposed capacity development plan exemplifies a forward-thinking approach to governance, emphasizing the importance of continuous learning and skill development for officials. This plan lays the groundwork for improved governance practices and enhanced service delivery, ultimately contributing to the well-being and development of Barangay Halang.

For future research, exploring the long-term impacts of implementing the suggested governance reforms and capacity-building initiatives would be valuable. Comparative studies involving other barangays could also provide broader insights into best practices and common challenges in local governance. Further investigation into the specific needs and priorities of different community groups within Barangay Halang would also help tailor governance practices to be more inclusive and effective.

5.0 Contributions of Authors

This paper has a single author, who confirms that the author reviewed this study.

6.0 Funding

This work received no specific grant from any funding agency.

7.0 Conflict of Interests

The authors declare no conflicts of interest about the publication of this paper.

8.0 Acknowledgment

The researcher finished writing this paper with the support of the following individuals. The gratitude that the researcher feels towards these people is immeasurable and humbling.

Dean Alfredo G. Perez Jr., the Dean of Graduate Studies and a panel member. He added color during the researcher's stay in LCBA and humanely impacted the researcher as a working professional; Dr. Ramir R. Larino, the researcher's adviser, for his unwavering support, guidance, and patient instruction. The researcher feels blessed to have had him as an adviser because he not only patiently instructed and guided the researcher throughout this study but also had a profound understanding and expertise of the topic, which greatly contributed to completing this research; Dr. Ma. Lorena M. Tagala is the researcher's research professor and panel member. The researcher would like to thank her for excellent professional guidance, technical support, and constructive suggestions to improve this research roadmap. Dr. Eulalia M. Javier, the researcher's professor and statistician, for providing invaluable technical input and huge patience in treating the data, which aided the paper's completion; Dr. Marilyn I. Baysa, seated as defense panel chair, the researcher, is thankful for his valuable feedback and professional expertise to improve the quality of this paper; The researcher's MMPA colleagues, Alexandra Carreon and Edrian Mercado, their chitchat and casual motivation have been precious to staying sane on this journey; and For their intangible support and encouragement, the researcher's family and friends have been a constant source of life and motivation throughout my graduate school journey, including completing this paper.

9.0 References

- Acosta, J. (2020). Challenges and Opportunities in Barangay Beautification and Solid Waste Collection: A Barangay Officials' Perspective. *Journal of Local Governance*, 5(2), 87-104.
- Basaluddin, K. A. (2021). The administrative capability of the barangay governments in the municipality of jolo, philippines. *Open Access Indonesia Journal of Social Sciences*, 4(2), 318-330. <https://doi.org/10.37275/oaajss.v4i2.56>
- Bellotindos, L. & Camarillo, M. (2021). A Study of Policy Implementation and Community Participation in the Municipal Solid Waste Management in the Philippines. *Applied Environmental Research*, 43(2), 30-45. <https://doi.org/10.35762/AER.2021.43.2.3>
- Carpio, C. (2020). Implementation of Curfew Ordinances in Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija. *International Journal of English and Literature*, 5(1), 85-87. <https://doi.org/10.22161/ijels.51.16>
- Dagohoy, R. (2021). Capabilities and Difficulties of Barangay Officials on Local Budgeting Process (2021). *International Journal of Research and Innovation in Social Science*, 5(5). <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3871598>
- De Guzman, A. B. & De Guzman, R. B. (2019). Hygiene and sanitation practices in North Poblacion, Philippines. *Journal of Environmental Science and Management*, 22(1), 13-22.
- De Los Reyes, V. C. & De Los Reyes, R. C. (2019). Assessment of the attainment of national and global water, sanitation, and hygiene targets at the local level: A case study in the Philippines. *Journal of Environmental Science and Management*, 22(1), 1-12.
- De Torres, J. E., & N. Del Rosario, M. J. (2019). Issues in the implementation of katarungang pambarangay - philippine local justice system: Input towards the development of e-pabarangay. *International Journal of Managing Public Sector Information and Communication Technologies*, 10(4), 21-32. <https://doi.org/10.5121/ijmpict.2019.10402>
- Diaz, R. & Tan, C. (2019). Strengthening the Katarungang Pambarangay through Enhanced Training for Barangay Officials. *Asian Journal of Governance*, 7(1), 56-71.
- ElMassah, S. & Mohieldin, M. (2020). Digital transformation and localizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). *Ecological Economics*, 169, 106490. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolecon.2019.106490>
- Floranza, J. (2021). Barangay Governance in Northeast of Catanduanes, Philippines: Basis for Catanduanes State University Panganiban Campus Extension Program. *European Journal of Social Impact and Circular Economy*, 2(1), 100-123. <https://doi.org/10.13135/2704-9906/5058>
- Garcia, A. (2020). Infrastructure management in barangays: Responsibilities of barangay officials. *Journal of Community Development and Infrastructure*, 15(1), 35-48.
- Gomez, L. (2020). Capacity-Building and Adherence to the Local Government Code: A Study of Training Programs for Barangay Officials. *Local Government Studies*, 42(3), 627-642.
- Leal, R. C., Sagubo, O. S., & Brutus, R. M. (2020). Local government unit basic services: Implementation and assessment. *GATR Global Journal of Business Social Sciences Review*, 8(1), 49-59. [https://doi.org/10.35609/gjbssr.2020.8.1\(6\)](https://doi.org/10.35609/gjbssr.2020.8.1(6))
- Monocay, M. D., & Mejica, M. N. A. (2020). The governance performance of selected barangays in highly urbanized city. *Philippine Social Science Journal*, 3(2), 149-150. <https://doi.org/10.52006/main.v3i2.211>
- Mendoza, J., & Reyes, M. (2021). Evaluating legislative functions in barangays: A necessity for effectiveness and responsiveness. *Journal of Local Governance Studies*, 8(2), 87-102
- Ramos, J., Reyes AT., Serafica R., Kawi J., Fudolig M., Sy F., Leyva E., Evangelista LS. (2019). Barangay Officials' Roles in Promoting Health and Social Welfare Services. *Journal of Public Health*, 11(3), 1-8.
- Santos, J. & Reyes, E. (2021). Legal Capacity of Barangay Officials: Implications for the Effective Administration of Katarungang Pambarangay. *Journal of Legal Studies*, 8(1), 78-95.
- Tan, L. (2021). General Hygiene and Sanitation Services: A Capacity Assessment of Barangay Officials. *Philippine Journal of Environmental Health*, 3(1), 34-50.