



IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL BUILDING CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES AMONG FOURTH TO SIXTH CLASS MUNICIPALITIES

ALMINA MARIE L. GANGE
MUNICIPAL ENGINEER
LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT- CUYO, PALAWAN
engrmgange@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

This descriptive-evaluative study determined and described the implementation of the National Building Code of the Philippines among fourth to sixth class municipalities in the Province of Palawan. Two sets of researcher-made questionnaire were used to gather data from seven local chief executives, seven building officials and 25 applicants for building permits. The survey was supplemented by random interviews made by the researcher. Findings of the study revealed an absence of full-time building official, lack of budgeting allocations, and difficult access to professionals who can act to clients' requests for building permits. Despite these challenges, clients claimed to be "very much satisfied" and "very satisfied" with the services they received although they claimed that the Code is irrelevant to their needs. Problems and issues contested on lack of personnel and the complaints from clients on the application of Code requirements in their situation. Policy recommendation was drafted to address the findings of the study.

Keywords: *Building Code of the Philippines, Fourth to Sixth Class Municipalities*

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of Presidential Decree 1096, also known as the National Building Code of the Philippines (Code), which was issued on February 19, 1977, is to enforce uniform standards and requirements on building design, construction, use, occupancy, and maintenance in accordance with the state's policy to protect life, health, property, and the promotion of the general welfare (Section 5, Article II, 1987 Philippine Constitution).

Through the years, the Code has been enriched through the ratification of its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), and the issuance of Administrative Order No. 270, which prescribed the implementation of its IRR and identifying the offices and officials who are responsible for the implementation of the Code (Fulgar, 2021).

The researcher, who has been employed with a local government unit of a fourth-class municipality, has observed that the current Code presents some difficulties to ordinary citizens who apply for building permit and related documents in the municipality where she works as a building official. Likewise, during conferences among building officials like her, it has been a common observation among them that some provisions of the Code can hardly be complied by fourth- to sixth-class municipalities.

Further, as a result of technological advancements in building design and construction, rapid urbanization, the development of mega-cities characterized by high-rise buildings and structures, and the pertinent requirements of related laws and other government agencies, it

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has become imperative to review the various provisions of the existing Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the Code in order to make them realistic and applicable to the present condition.

With the steep requirements of the Code for lower class municipalities, the implementation gives burdens to public leaders, building officials and residents due to limitation of resources, practicing professionals and other technical requirements by the Code.

It is in view of these reasons that the researcher's intent was sparked to undertake the present study.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Research Method

Mixed-method research was used in the study. According to Gardner(2011), mixed-method research involves the use of both quantitative and qualitative method in a single study.

The use of both methods provided a more complete understanding of research problems than does the use of either approach alone (Fraenkel & Wallen, 2010)

Research Design

The present study used the descriptive research design that employed both quantitative and qualitative method of gathering and analyzing the data.

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According to Ardales (2008), descriptive research design is appropriate for studies which aim to find out what prevail in the present: conditions or relationships, held opinions and beliefs, processes and effects, and developing trends.

While its primary concern is conditions and things which exist at the time of study, it also considers the past events and influences which are deemed related to what is studied in the present.

Participants of the Study

The respondents of this study were 7 building officials, 7 local chief executives, and 35 applicants for building permits and occupancy permits with a total of 49 respondents in all.

These respondents came from nine fourth to sixth class island municipalities in the province of Palawan. However, one municipality does not practice the implementation of the Code, and the other is government owned island without residents applying for building permit.

Sampling Design

The study used the purposive sampling design. According to Fraenkel and Wallen (2010) purposive sampling is used when the researcher believes that the sample would be representative of the population and that they possess the necessary information about the population.

In the present study, the researcher believed that the chosen respondents were able to generate the information needed by the study.

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Convenience sampling is a non-probability sampling technique in which units are selected for the sample based on their accessibility to the researcher. This could be due to geographical proximity, availability at a given time, or a propensity to participate in the study. Convenience samplings were used for the clients (Nikolopoulou, 2022).

Research Instrument

The primary data collection tool was a questionnaire designed in a researcher-mode format, which was used by the researcher. The questionnaire included both closed-ended and open-ended questions for respondents to consider. There were two different kinds of questionnaires used: one for local government unit executives and people who implemented the code, and another for clients.

Validity of the Research Instrument

The researcher prepared the drafts of the questionnaires for correction of her thesis adviser. After the drafts had been corrected by the adviser, they were referred to a jury of experts who assessed the content validity using Guilford's 8-point criteria for content validation. When the draft had been found valid, it was finalized for reliability testing.

Reliability of the Survey Questionnaire

To determine the consistency and stability of the questionnaires, the researcher conducted a pilot test of the same, using 15 respondents for each questionnaire. The inter-rater

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reliability technique was used with the help of LGUs building officials and clients from the Province of Guimaras.

The data gathered from the pilot test were computed using the K20 formula. The result yielded a reliability coefficient of 0.731 for Local Chief Executives and Building Officials, and 0.711 for clients of the building permit application. According to Fraenkel and Wallen (2000), for research purposes, the reliability coefficient must be 0.70 or higher.

Data Gathering Procedure

The questionnaires were reproduced and administered to the respondents of the study. Before the administration of the questionnaire, the researcher wrote the respective LGUs and officials concerned to ask permission to conduct the study. Informed consent of the respondents was likewise obtained. The researcher personally administered the questionnaire. With regard to the secondary data, another letter was sent to officials concerned to request for the needed data. The questionnaires were reproduced and administered to the respondents of the study. Before the administration of the questionnaire, the researcher wrote the respective LGUs and officials concerned to ask permission to conduct the study. Informed consent of the respondents was likewise obtained. The researcher personally administered the questionnaire. As regards the secondary data, another letter was sent to officials concerned to request for the needed data.

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The study's questionnaire for the building officials and local chief executive contains yes/no and fill-in-the-blank questions to collect information about the available resources within the municipality.

The study's questionnaire for clients contains inquiries regarding their experience, specifically their level of difficulty in adhering to the code's requirements.

Data Analyses

After the retrieval of the questionnaires the responses organized, tallied and coded for easy representation.

In qualitative research, thematic analysis is frequently performed. The spotting, examination, and interpretation of qualitative data patterns are given primary importance. You have the ability to look at qualitative data in a certain way if you use this approach. It is most frequently used to refer to a collection of texts, such as an interview or a collection of transcripts.

Statistical Tools

The researcher used frequency count and percentage to give meaning to the quantitative data.

Frequency. A frequency distribution illustrates a truncated grouping of data into manually exclusive classes and the number of occurrences in each class (Korb, 2013).

Percentage. A percentage is calculated by dividing one quantity by another and rebasing the result to 100 (Korb, 2013).

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RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The researcher had arrived at the following conclusions after coming to terms with the results described above:

The demographic profile of the Local Chief Executives and Building Officials shows that they are a rather homogeneous group.

The mandate of the legislation, more particularly Republic Act No. 1096, also known as the National Building Code of the Philippines, was the primary source from which the duties and obligations of the Building Official were drawn.

The results showed that both the implementers and the clients had a difficult time complying with the Code since the criteria were so stringent. Despite this, the clients are content with the service they receive from the staff at the Office of the Building Official because of the manner in which they are served.

The implementers and clients hailing from municipalities with a lower socioeconomic status had a tough time complying with the criteria of the Code. This is due to the fact that the majority of the items listed in the requirements are not available in the locale. According to the findings of the research, both the current law and the newly published memorandums fail to recognize the isolated location and capacity of citizens living in lower class communities to comply with the regulations.

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In conclusion, the issues that local government units (LGUs) face are the services that need to be offered to the people in a way that will not prevent them from complying with the laws while still being in accordance with the Code. This result in a longer processing time for permits and complaints from client applicants regarding the stiff requirement of the Code.

CONCLUSION

The recommendation of this study is to promote the adaptability of the lower class municipalities to deliver services in the most effective, efficient, and responsive way possible while keeping the minds of safety to meet the demands of their customers.

The socio-demographic profile of the implementers reveals that the majority of those working in the field are male; however, elected officials and plantilla positions do not necessarily require the sex of an individual to be voted on and qualified for the positions respectively. As a result, there is no policy that is recommended to address the socio-demographic profile of the implementers.

According to the socio-demographic profiles of the client applicants, there are no issues with the sex of the client applicants for building permits. There is a distribution of ages shown by the age group, which indicates that people of any age bracket are asking for a building and occupancy permit. Because high school graduates, college level students, and college graduates are all applying to fulfill the requirements of the Code, educational attainment does not play a

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significant role in the decision-making process. As a result, it is not recommended to implement any policy in order to address the socio-demographic profile of the customer applicants.

For the current state of implementation of the Code among the fourth- to sixth-class municipalities in the province of Palawan in terms of client needs and demands, management structures, personnel complement, and access to professional intervention, the legislators not only have to take into account the capabilities of high-class towns when designing laws and memorandums, but they also have to take into account the capabilities of low-class municipalities if they want to help the low-class municipalities. This is necessary if they want to help the low-class municipalities.

P.D. 1096, also known as the National Building Code of the Philippines, is strongly encouraged to be reviewed and revised with the consideration of lower-class municipalities. It is also recommended that the members of the Sangguniang Bayan, along with the local Chief Executives and the Building Officials, craft a resolution and ordinance for the implementation of Presidential Decree 1096 without compromising the safety of the resident applicants of building permits, with the approval of the Secretary of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

The end aim of any piece of legislation must consistently be clear, quantifiable, attainable, pertinent, and time-bound. Nevertheless, given the capabilities of the lower-class towns, the Code's objectives cannot be realized in their entirety. In order to prevent drafting memorandums

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without taking into mind the financial constraints of local governments, the agency must also take into consideration memorandums.

Every single law that has been made or that will be crafted in the future needs to be inclusive of all types of municipalities. Consideration must be given to municipalities that are of a lower class. Classes of implementation need to be recognized as well, much like income classes are when it comes to applying financial constraints.

It is also recommended that the local officials be given the opportunity to determine the constraints that each municipality faces in terms of the application of the Code, without compromising the safety of the building owners, so that they may provide the general public with improved services in response to the needs that they express. This will help the outcomes of the implementation of the Code in terms of clients, compliance, and satisfaction.

Before any planned actions can be put into motion, they must first be vetted by higher-ranking officials and given permission to proceed. This ensures that the actions are legal and appropriate. This is done to ensure that even the municipalities with lesser levels of development will adhere to the Code in a manner that is of the highest possible quality.

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