

The Public Policy Analysis on the Program Implementations of the Delivery of Basic Services in the Local Government Code of 1991 (Republic Act No. 7160) in the Province of Ilocos Sur

Christopher F. Bueno

ABSTRACT

For more than two decades the implementation of Republic Act No.7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code, has been exclusively assessed by local governance experts (particularly the Local Government Operation Officers) of the decentralization policy within the context of basic services and facilities (Section 17) in the Local Government Units (LGUs). The Local Government Operation Officers (LGOOs) assessed the experience in the field as to how the Local Government Units provide the support of the local executive and legislative body including the national programs along the devolved functions of agriculture and environment services, health services, social welfare services, education services, peace and public safety, and infrastructure facilities. The objective of this study was to assess the public policy on the program implementations of the delivery of basic services in the Local Government Code of 1991 (Republic Act No. 7160) through the extent of effectiveness and responsiveness in the implementation along the devolved areas (the transfer of power from the national government agencies to the local government units devolved) on education, health, social welfare, and environment.

Keywords: public policy, basic services, program implementation, Ilocos Sur

INTRODUCTION

This research study provides the application of the local governance model provided the public policy analysis as to the implementation of the decentralization policy along Republic Act No. 7160 Section 16-17:

1. Section 16. General Welfare - Every local government unit shall exercise the powers expressly granted, those necessarily implied therefrom, as well as necessary, appropriate, or incidental of its efficient and effective governance, and those which are essential to the promotion of general welfare. Within their respective

jurisdictions; local government units shall ensure and support, among other things, the preservation and enrichment of culture, promote health and safety, enhance the right of the people to a balanced ecology, encourage and support the development of appropriate and self-reliant scientific and technological capabilities, improve public morals, enhance economic prosperity and social justice, promote full employment among their residents, maintain peace and order, and preserve full employment, maintain peace and order, and preserve the comfort and convenience of their inhabitants.

This study utilized the descriptive type of research, documentary analysis and the e-report of the Local Government Performance Monitoring System (LGPMs) to provide substantial and comprehensive findings relevant to decentralization policy of Republic Act No. 7160 otherwise known as the "Local Government Code of 1991." This research study provides benchmarking approach in local governance for the public policy analysis to analyze and interpret the implementation of the decentralization policy along the provisions of Section 16-17 of Republic Act No. 7160. It is an innovative tool of public administration research with a multi-disciplinary approach in a qualitative analysis to interpret and validate the respondents' assessment in the field of local governance. Finally, the result of the research study provides the LGU information and data as to the public policy analysis of the decentralization programs provided in Republic No. 7160 along the delivery of basic services in support of agriculture, health, education, social welfare, and other LGU services. It must be noted that the devolved programs of the Local Government Units have not been well implemented as to the main feature of general local government services in the locality. It is, therefore, imperative to look into the extent of effectiveness and responsiveness in the implementation of the program.

The general objective of the research paper is to assess the public policy on the program implementations of the delivery of basic services in the Local Government Code of 1991 (Republic Act No. 7160) through the extent of effectiveness and responsiveness in the implementation along the devolved areas (the transfer of power from the national government agencies to the local government units devolved) on education, health, social welfare and environment.

The specific objectives of the study are to identify the profile of the LGOOs in terms of personal profile along age, sex, and years of government service and the LGU profile in the assigned area of the respondents along Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA), local income, and other sources of income; to assess the public

policy (Republic Act No. 7160) on the program implementations of the delivery of basic services of the Local Government Units in Ilocos Sur on Health Services, Social Welfare Services, Agriculture Services, Education Services, Solid Waste Disposal and Environmental Services, Infrastructure Services along extension, and on-site research in agriculture, health services, social welfare, infrastructure services, and other LGU services; to identify the extent of responsiveness of the public policy (Republic Act No. 7160) on the program implementations to the Assessment of the Executive Official (EO), Sangguniang Bayan (SB) and National Programs (NP) along the Delivery of Basic Services of the Local Government Units in Ilocos Sur; and to synthesize the critical issues that must be addressed on the responsiveness of the public policy on the program implementations to the assessment of the Executive Official (EO), Sangguniang Bayan (SB), and National Programs (NP) in the delivery of basic services for the Prescription to follow the standards of the " Rising Tiger Economy of Asia in Local Governance."

The relevant literature in this study discusses the implementation of decentralization policy along Republic Act No. 7160, Section 2(a) that the territorial and political subdivisions of the State enjoys genuine and meaningful local autonomy to enable them to attain their fullest development as self-reliant communities and make them more effective partners in the attainment of national goals. It also provides for a more responsive and accountable local government structure instituted through a system of decentralization whereby local government units shall be given more powers, authority, responsibilities, and resources.

De Guzman and Brillantes (1978) expounded the concept of decentralization as a state or condition where power or authority comes from the center. Rondimelli and Cheeema (1985) define decentralization as the transfer of planning, decision making, or administrative authority from the central government to its field organizations, local administrative units, semi-autonomous and parastatal organizations, local governments, or non-government organizations.

Brillantes (1987) further expounded that there are several modes by which the process of decentralization can be operationalized. These include: (1) devolution which essentially is the transfer of power for the performance of certain functions from the national or central authorities to the lower levels of government, e.g., local governments; and (2) deconcentration which, essentially, is the process of delegating functions from the national or central authorities to the lower levels or field (or regional units).

The Code provides for three forms of decentralization-"devolution," "deconcentration," and "debureaucratization." Devolution is defined as the transfer of political power and authority over a distinct territory from the national government to local governments (Sections 15 and 17f). Deconcentration is the parallel transfer of administrative control over a certain sector. Debureaucratization is the transfer of certain public functions to private entities or NGOs. Specifically, under the Code (Section 17 a and b), LGUs gain the main responsibility for the delivery of basic services and facilities in their communities (Bueno, 2011).

The public policy analysis is further articulated by the implementation of the e-report of the Local Government Performance Monitoring System (LGPMs) which provides information and data about the state of local governance along the administrative governance, economic governance, environmental governance, social governance and valuing framework governance e-report of LGMS).

METHODOLOGY

This study utilized the descriptive type of research, documentary analysis, qualitative research, and the e-report of the Local Government Performance Monitoring System (LPGMS) to provide substantial and comprehensive findings relevant to decentralization policy of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the "Local Government Code of 1991". The key respondents of the study were the Local Government Operations Officers (with majority plantilla positions of LGOO V) who have been working in the municipal governments of Ilocos Sur during the implementation of the Local Government Code . This was the basis on public policy analysis as to the program implementation of the Local Government Code to answer the descriptive questionnaire as to the effectiveness and responsiveness of the decentralization policy in the delivery of basic services with the end goal of improving the quality of life of the people in the municipality.

1. The DILG Officers (respondents of the study) of Ilocos Sur were able to answer the questionnaires along the level of effectiveness and responsiveness on the program implementation of the delivery of basic services Republic Act No. 7160 (Local Government Code of the Philippines). The Likert scale was utilized in the research interpretation with the following: 4.21–5.00 Very High Level of Effectiveness and Responsiveness (VH); 3.41–4.20 High Level of Effectiveness and Responsiveness (H); 2.61–3.40 Average Level of Effectiveness and

Responsiveness (A); 1.81-2.60 Low Level of Effectiveness and Responsiveness (L)1.00-1.80 Not Effective and Responsive(NE).

2. The Local Government Performance and Monitoring System (LGPMS) of the Department of Interior and Local Government e-report portal to further discuss the findings of the perception of the respondents (DILG Officers) in relation to social governance. The accomplishment reports taken in the internet and other reports Local Government Units served as the documentary analysis to further explain the study.

The provision of Section 17, Book 1 of this Act served as the basis of the decentralization assessment along the: (1) The basic services and facilities for the improvement of quality life in the municipality; and (2) The LGU organizational mechanisms and national program/projects that defined the role of the Chief Executive Officers (Mayors), Sangguniang Bayan, and inter-government agencies collaborations. The other statistical treatment included the mean score, rank, and frequency count for the responsiveness and effectiveness of the basic delivery services in the LGU. The comparative analysis of the decentralization gaps provided the descriptive analysis with qualitative approach and correlation study as to the LGOO profile and revenue generation to analyze the relationship to the effectiveness and responsiveness of the delivery of basic services in the Local Government Units. The graduate students enrolled in the public administration who were employed in the DILG were interviewed and they answered the guided questions on the effectiveness and responsiveness that were integrated in the research analysis of the researcher as to the public policy analysis of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of the Philippines.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The findings and discussions of the study presented the public policy analysis on the program implementation of the delivery of basic services as provided in the Republic Act No. 7160 (Local Government Code of the Philippines).

The Profile of the Respondents (Local Government Operations Officers)

The respondents' profile provided information about the assigned area in the municipality taken from the e-report portal (2011) of the LGPMS of the DILG such as Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA), local sources of income, and other sources of income in relation to the budgetary allocation as mandated by Republic Act No. 7171. The profile shows that the majority of the LGOO respondents were within the

age range of 51-60 (37.50%) followed by age range of 41-50 (29.20%). Majority of them are female (62.50%). Most of the respondents have a length of service of 16 years and above, with plantilla position of LGOO V while the other three are LGOO 1.

In the LGU profile in the assigned area of the Local Government Operations Officers, most of the LGOO respondents are assigned in the 4th class municipalities (41.68%) including the 3rd class and 5th class municipalities (with 20.83%) equivalent to 83.33 percent in this study. More than half of the municipalities (59.34%) receive budgetary allocation of the Internal Revenue Allotments (IRA) within the range of 41-50 million pesos and 21-30 million pesos while 29.67 percent receive 31-40 million pesos.

Furthermore, most of the local sources are within the range below 2 million pesos (62.50%). However, the LGUs of Ilocos Sur receive the other sources of revenues in Republic Act No. 7171 with more than half of the LGU with the staggering amount of 36-40 million pesos for four (4) municipalities ; 41-45 million pesos for two municipalities; 46-55 million pesos for two municipalities and 60 million pesos and above for the three municipalities. The rest of the municipalities receive below 25 million pesos.

The Public Policy Assessment (Republic Act No.7160) on the Program Implementations of the Delivery of Basic Services of the Local Government Units in Ilocos Sur

On Health Services

The public policy analysis on its responsiveness and effectiveness of the program implementation of Republic Act No. 7160 under Section 17, Title Five, Book I for a municipality (iii) on the basic services and facilities for health services provided the implementation of programs and projects on primary health care, maternal and child care, communicable and non-communicable disease control services, access to secondary and tertiary health services, purchase of medicines, medical supplies, and equipment needed to carry out the services.

Table 1. The public policy analysis on the program Implementation along health services of the local government units in Ilocos Sur.

Health Services	5	D	R
1. Primary Health Care	4.04	H	1
2. Maternal and Child Health Care	4.04	H	1
3. Communicable and Non-Communicable services	3.76	H	3
4. Access to Secondary and Tertiary Health services	3.00	A	4
5. Purchase of Medicines, Medical Supplies and Equipment	3.82	H	2

Legend :

- 4.21–5.00 Very High Level of Effectiveness and Responsiveness (VH)
- 3.41–4.20 High Level of Effectiveness and Responsiveness (H)
- 2.61–3.40 Average Level of Effectiveness and Responsiveness (A)
- 1.81–2.60 Low Level of Effectiveness and Responsiveness (L)
- 1.00–1.80 Not Effective and Responsive(NE)

On Health Services. The implementation of the health services is subject to the provision of Book 1, Title 5 of Republic Act 7160 through the creation of Local Health Board. The implementation of the decentralization involving the delivery of basic services and facilities along health services showed that the following findings as assessed by the LGOOs. There is a high level of effectiveness and responsiveness in the primary health care and maternal and child health care (=4.04). The following are the basic health services provided in the LGU: (1) maternal deliveries and ante partum; (2) growth monitoring; (3) consultation and treatment; (4) expanded program on Immunization(BCG, OPV, DPT, HEPA B, TT, Measles); (5) Nutrition and Operaton Timbang including micronutrients supplement (Vit. A., Iodine and Ferrus sulfate), deworming; (6) National Tuberculosis Program; (7) Family Planning Program; and (8) malaria, Dengue and acute respiratory program.

The health services in 2011 that had also excellent performance of 20.83 percent (5 municipalities) and high rating of 54.17 percent (12 municipalities). Furthermore, the presence of the functional Rural Health Units (with standards and criteria set by the Department of Health) has local allocation for public health purposes employing physicians, nurses and other health personnel. The high level of effectiveness and responsiveness in the basic health services would be attributed from the local appropriations on the plantilla positions in the personal services for medical and health personnel in support of the primary health care, maternal and child care. The Maintenance Operations and Other Expenses (MOOE) and Capital Outlay produce the Input health service that incline to respond the purchase of

medicines, medical supplies and equipment (5=3.82) that comply to the operation of the Rural Health Unit.

Table 2.The areas of improvement of health services along social governance in !locos Sur.

Description	No.of LGU	Percent	Rank
1. Improve the primary health care or basic services or curative services	10	41.67	1
2. Mobilize the Local Health Board	5	20.83	2
3. Innovate, Mobilize, Mission. Provide health to indigent families. If latter is expensive try promoting food supplements like vitamins	1	4.67	3
4. Improve maternal care services	1	4.67	3
5. Improve the quality of child care services	1	4.67	3

Although, it is highly effective and responsive for the communicable and non-communicable diseases (5=3.76), the medical viability is limited to primary health care for maternal and child care. The critical area of research analysis in this area is the deadly diseases that affected the majority of poor people that reduces the Human Development Index in life expectancy in the disease occurrence of tuberculosis, hypertension, cancer, hepatitis, dengue, and other diseases that respond to high user medical fees in the medical treatment. The medical support services may not respond to the primary health services of the LGU. It must be noted that access to secondary and tertiary health services (=3.00) may not respond well to this provision as millions of investments. With the health service implementation it's not viable to the city government and provincial government for the establishment of the tertiary hospital.

In the FGD of the public administration students the health investment was related to the PPP program for the public sector. The Private- Public Partnership (PPP) for secondary and tertiary health services may not be viable for 3" and 4" class municipalities as to its medical investment and demand analysis unless there is a presence of the sustained expansion of commercial activities in locality. The deadly occurrence of communicable and non-communicable diseases may respond well to provincial tertiary hospital rather than district hospitals as to the presence of medical specialists and personnel.

On Social Welfare

The public policy analysis on its responsiveness and effectiveness of the program implementation of Section 17 (iv) of Republic Act No. 7160 on social welfare included programs and projects on child and youth welfare, family and community welfare, women's welfare, welfare of the elderly and disabled persons, community-based rehabilitation programs for vagrants, beggars, street, children, scavengers, juvenile delinquents, and victims of drug abuse; livelihood and other pro-poor projects, nutrition services; and family planning services.

Table 3. The Public policy analysis on the program implementation along social welfare services of the local government units in Ilocos Sur.

Social Welfare Services		5	D	R
1.	Child and Youth Services	3.74	H	2
2.	Family and Youth Welfare	3.70	H	4
3.	Women's Welfare	3.61	H	6
4.	Welfare of the Elderly and Disabled Persons	3.71	H	3
5.	Community-Based Rehabilitation	2.53	L	8
6.	Livelihood and Pro-Poor Projects	3.41	A	7
7.	Nutrition Services	3.67	H	5
8.	Family Planning Services	3.87	H	1

On Social Welfare. The respondents' assessments were directed to the family planning services (5-3.87) as the responsive and effective way in providing social welfare. Seemingly, this function is directed to the health services within the program thrust of the LGU on Health and Nutrition and Population control with specific allocation of contraceptives for family planning program (Family Planning Program, New Acceptors, and Continuing Users) that were previously provided by the National Government. However, nomenclature of family planning services is presented in the normal psycho-social functioning such as pre-marriage counselling for engaged couples; counselling of disadvantaged dysfunctional families; and solo parents assistance.

There are no specific Local Government Performance Monitoring System (LGPMS) to validate the result in order to review the result of the study. In the LGU accomplishment reports provide specific functions and responsibilities reflective in social welfare development that the LGOO has tangible observation to have high assessment in this area:

1. The implementation of the day care service in the barangays in support of the provision of the early childhood care and development for pre-school as of 2011.
2. The supervision of special projects funded by national government agency (DSWD) particularly the Pantawid Pamilyang Filipino Program that became functionally distributed social justice mechanism in the LGU.
3. The Philhealth for local income family and the referral of clients in the PCSO.
4. The shelter repair and distribution of relief goods after occurrence of disaster.
5. The aid to individual in crisis condition of solo parents, children /youth, women and elderly.
6. The implementation of national laws in support of senior citizens.

On Agriculture

The public policy analysis on its responsiveness and effectiveness of the program implementation of Section 17 (iv) of Republic Act No. 7160 provided the information about the scope of extension and on-site research in agriculture such as the plants and animals' protection and management, livestock markets, organizational promotion in fishery, agriculture, and fishery.

Table 4. The public policy analysis on the program implementation along agricultural services of the local government units in Ilocos Sur.

Basic Services	5	D	Rank
1. Prevention and Control of Plants	2.89	A	7
2. Prevention and Control of Animal Pest and Diseases	3.05	A	5
3. Dairy Farm	1.46	NE	11
4. Livestock Markets	1.80	NE	8
5. Animal Breeding Station	1.76	NE	9
6. Artificial Insemination Center	1.57	NE	10
7. Assistance in the Organization of Farmers	3.68	H	1
8. Fishermen's Cooperatives	3.16	A	4
9. Other Collective Organization	3.22	A	2
10. Transfer of Appropriate Technology	3.18	A	3
11. Community-Based Forestry Project	3.00	A	6

On Extension and On-Site Research in Agriculture. As to the program implementation of the extension and on-site research in agriculture showed average assessment for the following programs such as assistance in the organization of farmers (5=3.68); other collective organizations (=3.22) fishermen's cooperative as transfer of appropriate technology (X=318), and prevention and control of animal pest and diseases (5=3.05). This area has not well been accomplished when compared with the other basic delivery services variables with the LGOOs assessment as "average".

The Local Government Performance Monitoring System has evaluated high performance in support to agriculture with 62.50 percent, however, the areas of improvements are the following with (rank and percent based on the scope of the study):

1. Improve infrastructure support-e.g. communal irrigation system, farm to market road, and post-harvest facilities. (Rank 1: 75% or 18 municipalities)
2. Improve credit facilitation services to farmers (Rank 2: 70.83% or 17, municipalities)
3. Provide assistance to research and development. e.g. techno-demo co-operators, and research institutions. (Rank 3: 66.67% of 16 municipalities)
4. Extend adequate production- e.g. planting materials, fertilizers, laboratory services such as soil testing. (Rank 4: 62.50% or 15 municipalities)
5. Improve market development services - e.g. trade fairs, exhibits, mission and congresses. (Rank 5: 50% or 12 municipalities)
6. Reach more farming household beneficiaries (Rank 6 : 20. 83% or 5 municipalities)

On Education

The education sector provides dominant interpretation along the interpretation about the state of local governance along education. The Local Government Performance Monitoring System (LGPMS) evaluated high performance in social governance along education services with one (1) municipality rated as excellent and 11 municipalities rated high, however 5 municipalities with a rating of fair and 1 municipality with a rating low. These are the areas of improvement identified in Local Government Monitoring System:

1. Establish a scholarship. It is the essence of public service (Rank1: 50% or 12 municipalities)

2. Invest the Special Education Fund in actions that improve the quality of the human capital: construction, repairs or maintenance of school buildings; extension classes and extension teachers; and educational research. (Rank 2: 37.50% or 9 municipalities)
3. Establish or improve the quality of the Alternative Learning System (Rank 2: 37.50% and 9 municipalities)

On Peace, Security and Disaster Management

The state of local governance along peace, security, and disaster management provides clear cut assessment in the Local Government Units (LGUs) as presented in the Local Government Performance Monitoring System (LGPMs). This is evaluated as high performance in social governance along peace, security, and disaster management by 54.17 percent (12 municipalities). However, the areas of improvement were identified :

1. Ensure an annual financial allocation to the Katarungang Pambarangay. The Local Government Code mandates the community peace/harmony and solidarity. (Rank 1: 54.67% or 13 municipalities)
2. Strengthen the Peace and Order Council and the Local Council for the Protection of children. There are lot of creative ways to achieve such status- for a start ensue the provision of annual financial support to peace and order and public safety initiatives. (Rank 2: 45.68% or 11 municipalities)
3. Strengthen the Local Disaster Coordinating Council (Rank 3: 37.50% or 9 municipalities)
4. Enhance Local Government Unit to manage risks of disasters, including relief, other associated services and rehabilitation. (Rank 4: 8.33% or 2 municipalities)

On Solid Waste Disposal and Environmental Services

These are the significant results of the 2011 state of local governance as reports in Local Government Performance Monitoring System in consonance through the qualitative analysis in this research study:

The LGOOs rated the Solid Waste Disposal System (=3.36) and Community-Based Forestry Projects (X=2.91) average assessment as implemented by the local executive; high assessment on Infrastructure (=3.86); Agricultural Services (←3.82); Health Services (5=3.70); Social Welfare Services (=3.63); Peace and Order (5=3.60);

and Education Services (−3.55). A comprehensive research analysis requires qualitative studies for realistic interpretation and validation of facts that this variable is related in the Urban Ecosystem Management under the Local Government Performance Monitoring System (LGPMS) along Environmental Governance. Majority of the municipalities under study are rated high (45.83%) and the following areas of improvement were identified:

1. Move from open dumpsite facility to controlled dumpsite to a sanitary landfill as the final disposal facility. (Rank 1: 54.67% or 13 municipalities)
2. Ensure that every barangay has a material recovery facility. (Rank 1: 50% or 12 municipalities (Rank 2: 50% or 12 municipalities)
3. Strengthen the Solid Waste Management Board (Rank 3: 41.67% or 10 municipalities)
4. Improve solid waste collection practices (Rank4: 33.33% or 8 municipalities)
5. Prepare if none has been formulated, or improve solid waste collection practices (Rank5: 21.27% of 7 municipalities)
6. Enforce pollution control measures (Rank 6: 4.67% or one municipality)

The strategic opportunity of environmental governance has been excellent particularly in forest eco-system and fresh–water management to the more than half (58.80%) of the municipalities of Ilocos Sur covered by the study. The forest ecosystem management and freshwater-ecosystem management performed with excellent rating that set target areas for rehabilitation and protection and ensure the realization of projects The environment governance has strategic feasibility and viability for eco-tourism and other investments opportunities to utilize the forest ecosystem management and freshwater-ecosystem management.

The prime of local economic development may utilize, innovate, and mobilize the potential investment resources based from the derived excellent performance in the environment and economic governance as assessed in the LGPMS. However, the entrepreneurship, business, and industry promotion must be in place to fulfil such economic support:

1. Improve the quality of permitting or licensing. (Rank 1: 66.67% or 16 municipalities)
2. Provide or cause the provision of direct support services to business, particularly those categorized as micro, small and medium (Rank 2: 29.67% or 7 municipalities)

3. Ensure the case of doing business strategize to effect the issuance of building occupancy, and business permits in a more expedient manner. (Rank 3: 20.83% or 5 municipalities)

Seemingly, the take-off of good business opportunity and employment in the state of economic governance in the LGU as justified by the well-established support services may come in the form of tax incentives, product labelling, product packaging, training, job fair and trade fairs. But the sustainability and outcome-based marketing structure remained elusive far from the prescription to leap frog in the support of the "Rising Tiger Economy in Asia".

On Infrastructure

Table 5 discusses the infrastructure facilities defined in Section 17 as needed in the school, agricultural and fishery productions, health services and local public works.

Table 5. The public policy analysis on the program implementation along infrastructure facilities of the local government units in Ilocos Sur.

Infrastructure Facilities	5	D	Rank
1. Municipal Bridges	3.47	H	3
2. School Building and Others	3.68	H	2
3. Clinics, Health Centers and Other Facilities	3.71	H	1
4. Communal Irrigation	2.80	A	6
5. Small Water Impounding Project	2.73	A	8
6. Fish Cage	2.40	L	11
7. Artesian Well	2.27	L	12
8. Rainwater Collector	1.47	NE	13
9. Water Supply	2.74	A	7
10. Seawall	2.53	A	9
11. Dike	2.47	L	10
12. Drainage /Sewerage/Flood Control	3.09	A	4
13. Road signs	2.85	A	5

The LGOU have highly assessed the effectiveness and responsiveness of the decentralization policy along infrastructure on the clinics, health centers, and other facilities (=3.71); school buildings and others (=3.68); and municipal bridges (5=3.47). The infrastructure projects in education through school buildings is

facilitated from the Local School Board as financial fund and is available in the Special Education Fund (SEF) taken from the one percent of the Real Property Tax of the LGU, while infrastructure of health is facilitated in the special body on Local Health Board. However, there are also highly funded social services projects that are worth millions in the completion by phases particularly bridges and other infrastructure projects regularly allotted in Capital Outlay.

These are the other projects on infrastructure with average assessment by the LGOO along: (1) road signs (5=2.85); (2) drainage / sewerage/ flood control (=3.09); (3) communal irrigation (5=2.80); (4) water supply (X=2.74); (5) small ponding project (=2.73); and (6)seawall (€=2.53).On the other hand, LGOOs assessed that low priority is given to dike (=2.47); fish cage (5=2.40); and artesian well (5=2.27).

The Responsiveness of the Public Policy (Republic Act No. 7160) on the Program Implementations of the Delivery of Basic Services in the LGUs to the Assessment of the Executive Officials (EO) Sangguniang Bayan (SB) and National Programs

The overall rank of the health services, peace and order, infrastructure facilities, social welfare, and education services have shown responsive and effective on the program implementation of Republic Act No. 7160. However, the community based-forestry, solid waste disposal system, and agricultural services had shown low level of responsiveness as to its program implementation in the Local Government Units.

The Community **Based-Forestry** consistently rank as one of lowest level of responsiveness national program (Rank 6), sangguniang bayan (Rank 7) and executive official (rank 9). Generally, the LGOOs assessment may come to the idea of the program becomes a "Barangay Tree Park" and other environmental terms that connotes the community based-forestry. There are no substantial and evident proof in the concept of sustainable development for the LGOO to show higher rank marking in this area.

Table 6. The public policy analysis on the program implementation as to the assessment of the executive official (EO), sangguniang bayan (SB) and national programs (NP) along the delivery of basic services of the local government units in Ilocos Sur.

Basic Services	EO	R	SB	R	NP	R	OA	OR
1.1 Health Services	3.70 (H)	3	3.50 (H)	2	3.60 (H)	1	3.60 (H)	1
1.2 Social Welfare Services	3.63 (H)	4	3.45 (H)	3	3.46 (H)	5	3.51 (H)	4
1.3 Solid Waste Disposal System	3.36 (A)	7	2.50 (L)	8	3.55 (H)	4	3.14 (A)	7
1.4 Education Services	3.55 (H)	6	3.32 (A)	6	3.63 (H)	2	3.50 (H)	5
1.5 Community-Based Forestry Proj.	2.91 (A)	8	3.06 (A)	7	3.27 (H)	6	3.08 (A)	8
1.6 Agricultural Services	3.82 (H)	2	3.40 (A)	5	2.95 (A)	8	3.39 (A)	6
1.7 Infrastructure Facilities	3.87 (H)	1	3.55 (H)	1	3.18 (A)	7	3.53 (H)	3
1.8 Peace and Order	3.60 (H)	5	3.43 (H)	4	3.58 (H)	3	3.54 (H)	2

Legend : EO- Executive Officials; R-Rank; SB-Sangguniang Bayan; NP-National Program; Overall-OA; OR- Overall rank

The LGU has to look into the strategic opportunity on its natural resources with substantial portion of the national and international funding for environmental programs, forest development, and sustainable development that are aligned with the community based-forestry. There are no decentralization gaps as to the responsiveness in the implementation of the programs but the only concern is the tangible proof of employment and income sustainability produced in the community based-forestry.

As a matter of fact, the LGPMS has proof to show the excellent performance that it is hard to accomplish by the LGU for the record in the environmental variable along forestry as the by-product of its responsiveness in this area along environmental governance:

1. Forest Ecosystem Management (58.33% or 14 municipalities) has excellent performance in setting target areas for rehabilitation and protection, and ensures the realization of projects.

2. Freshwater-Ecosystem Management (58.33% or 14 municipalities) has excellent performance in setting target areas for rehabilitation and protection, and ensure the realization of forestry projects.

Secondly, the **Solid-Waste Disposal System** has average assessment (5=3.14) with rank 4 (5=3.14) in the national program; rank 7 (=3.36) in the executive officials; rank 8 in the sangguniang bayan when compared among the variables of the basic delivery services. As validated by the LPGMS the solid waste management under the urban ecosystem management provides the areas of solution that may address the average assessment in this area. It is imperative to improve this program along the critical areas in the sanitary landfill with provisions of materials recovery and collection practices to respond efficiency and effectiveness in the solid-waste disposal system of the LGUs. The local legislation needs the enactment, enforcement, and regulation relevant to the implementation of the national law on Solid Waste Management and strengthening the Solid Waste Management Board.

Thirdly, the **Agricultural Services** have average assessment (=3.39) with rank 6 when compared to the other basic services. The executive officials have been able to comply with high level of assessment (=3.82) and priority rank 2 in the basic services, however, local legislation (Rank 4: 5=3.40) and national program (Rank 8: 5=2.95). The inter-government agencies collaborations of the Department of Agriculture, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Agrarian Reform, Department of Public Works and Highways and Financial institutions such as land bank and including the academe have not been totally well-established in the complementary process in providing technical assistance to the LGU. The total approach of development is well-defined by the inter-government agency collaboration as provided by the LGU code to support improvement of infrastructure, credit facilitation, research and development, commerce and marketing development for the farmers.

In the fourth analysis in this study, the **Education Services** was able to rank 6 for the executive officials (5=3.55) and sangguniang bayan (5=3.22) of the LGU while rank 2 (=3.50) in the national programs that positively affected with the over-all rank of 5 (=3.50). The LGPMS assessment on education reflects some concerned areas of improvement that need to be addressed in the LGU particularly the local scholarship programs (Rank 1: 50% or 12 municipalities) and the investment of Special Education Fund (Rank 2: 37.50% or 9 municipalities) such as

construction, repairs or maintenance of school buildings; extension classes and extension teachers; and educational research. The establishment of Alternative Learning System has also important strategic developmental tool to enhance the education services.

Finally, the **Social Services** have better rank standing (OR-Rank: 4) when compared to the education services, agricultural services, and community-based forestry with an overall meaning rating of 3.51 and descriptive rating of high. No specific measures were taken in the LPGMS in social governance as the consideration directs to support peace, security and disaster management, support on education and health services, and support to housing and basic utilities. However, the national buzz words of Pantawid Pamilyang Filipino Program, Senior Citizens discount and social pension plan, relief operation, and Philhealth support.

The Critical Issues that must be addressed In the Comparative Analysis on the Responsiveness of the public policy on the program implementations to the Assessment of the Executive Official (EO), Sangguniang Bayan (SB) and National Programs (NP) in the Delivery of Basic Services for the Prescription to follow the standards of the " Rising Tiger Economy of Asia in Local Governance"

The economic governance has been the strategic core ingredients in the government capacity to enhance the basic delivery of services that has been provided in Republic Act No. 7160 as articulated in concept in the Local Government Performance Monitoring System (LGPMS) of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG). The IRA dependent support may not provide enough leeway to prescribe in joining the "Rising Tiger economy of Asia" as investment and local economy contributed the leap frog development in the Philippines. The LGUs must respond to the following indicators in the LGPMS of the DILG under the entrepreneurship, business, and industry promotion for 3rd to 5th class municipalities:

- a) The creation of demand-driven support on infrastructure, tourism including entertainment parks, agriculture (including forestry and fishery development), education, peace and security, and local economic zones.
- b) The quality of innovation to enhance the permitting or licensing mechanisms including issuance of the necessary papers (business permits) in business, commerce and industry. This is the basic requirement for viable strategic business and industry in rural-urban management for the LGU.
- c) The direct support services to business in the micro, small and medium business including product labelling, product packaging, training, job fair

- and trade. It is important that an administrative support body should take the lead in marketing the potential investments in the LGU.
- d) The market development services particularly sustainability of the marketing of local products not simply trade fairs, exhibits, missions and congresses.
 - e) The real economic sense of regional and national support in business and investments of inter-agency collaborations within the situs of economic development and growth.

The prescription for the "Rising Tiger Economy in Asia" primarily gauges in indicator 1 with the valuing governance/fundamentals of governance to follow the political maturity of development in the LGU. The value of economic success depends on careful planning in the long term, however, the current reality of economic growth and development defines more success in "traffic congestions" as the indicator of the real development in the LGU. The heavier the traffic congestions the higher level of enjoyed economic investments and business opportunities in the LGU. The spill off concepts will come in when there is already "heavy traffic congestion" that the LGU requires expanding the situs of development to the other barren LGUs.

CONCLUSIONS

On the profile of the respondents, the majority of the LGOOs were within the age range of 51-60 followed by age 41-50. Majority of them are female. Most of the respondents have a length of service of 16 years and above with plantilla position of LGOO 5 while the other three respondents are LGOO 1.

On the program implementations of Republic Act No. 7169 as perceived by the respondents and validated documentary results of the Local Government Performance Monitoring System (LGPMS) the following were assessed with high performance in social governance: (1) health services; (2) education services; (3) peace, security and disaster management; (4) Infrastructure. The extension and on-site research in agriculture showed average assessment in the following programs in this area such as assistance in the organization of farmers; other collective organizations including fishermen's cooperative as transfer of appropriate technology; and prevention and control of animal pest and diseases.

In the assessment of local officials (Mayors, and Sangguniang Bayan), they seemed to agree with the respondents evaluation (DILG Officers) on the

responsiveness of the program implementations of the delivery of basic services as provided in Republic Act No. 7160 that higher performance on health services (rank 1), peace and order (rank 2), infrastructure facilities (rank 4), and education services(rank 5).

The core of the findings is relevant to the critical issues that must be addressed in the comparative analysis on the responsiveness of the Executive Officials (EO), Sangguniang Bayan (SB), and National Programs (NP) in the delivery of basic services for the prescription to follow the standards of the "Rising Tiger Economy of Asia in Local Governance." The economic governance has been the strategic core ingredients in the government capacity to enhance the basic delivery of services that have been provide in Republic Act No. 7160 as articulated in concept in the Local Government Performance Monitoring System (LGPMS) of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG). The IRA dependent support may not provide enough leeway to prescribe in joining the "Rising Tiger economy of Asia" as investment and local economy contributed the leap frog development in the Philippines. The LGUs must respond the following indicators in the LGPMS of the DILG under the entrepreneurship, business and industry promotion for 3" to 5" class municipalities.

RECOMMEDATIONS

There is a need to review the program implementation of the delivery of basic services of the Republic Act No. 7160 on the program implementations of Republic Act No. 7169 along extension and on-site research in agriculture in the areas of the organization of farmers; other collective organizations including fishermen's cooperative as transfer of appropriate technology, prevention and control of animal pest and diseases . The basic delivery services on agriculture, solid waste disposal, and community-based forestry should be further strengthened as to the program implementations of the Local Government Units.

The multi-disciplinary approach of research analysis should also be utilized for comprehensive findings that affect its application not only in public policy analysis but extends to the social, political, economic and behavioural implications to resolve the intricate societal issues affecting the LGUs.

The prescriptions of the "Rising Tiger Economy in Asia" should be considered for the strategic training and support of the academe and inter-governmental

agencies collaborations, linkages, and partnerships for its implementation of the economic governance in the Local Government Units.

The public policy analysis should be further be studied in the program implementation of the Republic No. 7160 to validate the findings relevant to the delivery of basic services.

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