

# The implementation of the Philippine National Police (PNP) Anti-Illegal Drugs Campaign Plan - Project Tokhang in Medina, Misamis Oriental

Joann Dajuya Lim \*

\* Bukidnon State University, Medina Campus, Philippines

## ABSTRACT

With the hottest issue on anti-illegal drugs campaign plan project tokhang in the Philippine National Police (PNP), the study assessed the level of implementation in the municipality of Medina as crime prevention. It also sought the problems encountered by PNP in the implementation of project tokhang. The researcher utilizes descriptive study. It made a researcher-made instrument and the interview technique in gathering the data. Findings show that (1) Project Tokhang and the different stages of its implementation got a rating of well implemented. (2) The problems encountered included the following: inadequate financial and logistic support for its operation; lack of active participation of drug surrenderers in activities; the lack of participation of Barangay Anti-Drug Abuse Council (BADAC); and lack of initiative for the conduct of Community-Based Rehabilitation Program (CBRP). The study concluded that most of PNP have complied with all the stages in the implementation of the project tokhang and they followed the protocols, guidelines, procedures and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) indicated in the Revised Manual on Anti-Illegal Drugs and Investigation. Problems on the implementation of project tokhang did not affect the performance of the PNP personnel. Therefore, it can be concluded that they found ways and means to sustain the program in compliance of the mandates to avoid administrative sanctions.

**Keywords:** Project Tokhang, Anti-Illegal Drugs, Philippine National Police

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) solely lodged the solution to the drug problem. Despite the efforts of PDEA, problems on illegal drugs continue to haunt the government with the rise of drug-related

incidents that threaten public safety, order, and security. The war on drugs has become so complicated that the Philippine National Police (PNP) came in and helped in implementing drug clearing strategies and neutralizing illegal drug personalities nationwide [1-2].

The Republic Act 6975 "Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Act of 1990" provides the powers and functions of the PNP as follows: (a) Enforce all laws and ordinances relative to the protection of lives and properties; (b) Maintain peace and order and take all necessary steps to ensure public safety; (c) Investigate and prevent crimes, effect the arrest of criminal offenders, bring offenders to justice and assist in their prosecution; (d) Exercise the general powers to make an arrest, search and seizure per the Constitution and pertinent laws; and (e) Detain an arrested person for a period not beyond what is prescribed by law, informing the person so detained of all his rights under the Constitution [3-7].

The legal mandates one of which is RA 9165, also known as the "Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002" provides the State develop and adopt a comprehensive, unified, integrated, and balanced national drug abuse [8]. It prevents control strategy and formulates the National Anti-Drug Plan of Action (NADPA) which outlines the efforts of the government to strengthen its campaign against drugs and contribute in international efforts to counter the world drug problem [9]. The PDEA issued EO No. 218 which directs the efficient and effective implementation of policies and strategies formulated by the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB) [10].

One of the compelling reasons why more rational methods of dealing with drug addicts must be devised is the close relationship between drug addiction and crime. The compulsion for the drug makes every drug

addict a law violator and a criminal [11]. Nevertheless, drugs and crime are related to each other in at least three ways. First, the immediate effect of drugs on the mind and body may create mental or physical states that somehow facilitate aggression or theft [12]. Second, drugs are connected to crime when a drug user has a pressing need to consume them but lacks the necessary funds to do so; such situations may lead to predatory crimes, including burglary, robbery, or theft, among others. A third way in which drugs and crime are related is that some psychoactive substances are illegal to use, trade (buy or sell), or grow/manufacture [13].

According to the DDB 2015 National Household Survey, there were around one point eight million (1.8 M) drug users in the country, thirty-eight point thirty-six percent (38.36%) of which are unemployed. As of February 2016, PDEA reported that twenty-six point ninety-one percent (26.91%) or eleven thousand three hundred twenty-one (11,321) of the country's forty-two thousand sixty-five (42,065) barangays were "drug-affected" (mostly in urban areas). A barangay is said to be drug-affected when there is a proven existence of drug users, pushers, manufacturers, marijuana cultivators, or other drug personalities regardless of the number in the area. On record, the National Capital Region (NCR) has the highest rate of affectation with ninety-two point ninety-six percent (92.96%) of the region's barangays, followed by Calabarzon at 49.28% [12].

Based on PDEA's 2015 arrest data, methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu

topped the list of most abused illegal drugs, followed by marijuana and party drugs like cocaine and ecstasy. The afore-cited data is indicative of the worsening drug problem that has victimized mostly the underprivileged and impoverished sector of the society. Although much has already been done and accomplished in the national campaign to eradicate illegal drugs, yet the problem persists, and it continues to breed social ills. Apparently, in the fight to go after high-level drug traffickers, the government seems to have overlooked the worsening drug problem at the grassroots level [12].

The top three regions in the country that are most affected by the drug problem are Region VII (Central Visayas), National Capital Region (Metro Manila), and Region X (Northern Mindanao). In Misamis Oriental alone, three hundred one (371) or eighty-eight percent 88% of four hundred twenty-four (424) barangays are drug-affected; either as slightly affected, moderately affected, and seriously affected [13].

Three (3) barangays in Misamis Oriental are seriously affected. The seriously affected barangays pertains to the presence of marijuana plantation, and more than twenty percent (20%) of the barangay population is drug personalities (i.e., users, pushers, financiers). There are two hundred twenty-three (223) moderately affected barangays where two to twenty percent (2-20%) of its inhabitants are drug personalities. In the same province of Misamis Oriental, one hundred forty-five (145) barangays are slightly affected, or less than two percent of the barangay population is drug personalities [14].

The Crime Information Reporting and Analysis System (CIRAS) generated the crime incidents according to the provisions of RA 9165 specifically the use of methamphetamine (shabu), marijuana, and volatile substance were three hundred twelve (312) or two-point four percent (2.4%) out of twelve thousand nine hundred forty-six (12,946) crime committed for the period 2014 to 2015 (didmeprojects. ph). It contributed to barangay drug affectation in the province.

The three hundred twelve (312) recorded crime incidents under the provisions of RA 9165 result in the arrest of the HVT conducted through buy-bust operations, search warrants, warrants of arrest, checkpoint inspections, and entrapment operations. These operations alarmed the constituents of the province who are involved in illegal drug activities specifically the drug users, pushers, financiers, and drug syndicates. The operations against illegal drugs contributed to the rise of the peace and order index in the province. The record of drug-related crime incidents for 2016 to 2017 is ten thousand six hundred sixty-three (10,663) compared to twelve thousand nine hundred forty-six (12,946) for 2014 to 2015.

In Command Memorandum Circular Number 16-2016 entitled "PNP Anti-Illegal Drugs Campaign Plan Project Double Barrel" will be conducted in a two-prolonged approach, namely: Project Tokhang and Project HVT. We have to build a stronger and more transparent partnership with the PNP in our anti-illegal drugs campaign, including proactive leadership and stricter control and supervision by local chief executives

of peace and order, safety, and security issues [15].

The study of Pajarillo (2016) concluded that the contentment of police efforts in the campaign against illegal drugs is highly effective based on the collective efforts of the personnel of Rosario Police Station in the conduct of "Oplan Tokhang" [3]. The contentment of police efforts in the Campaign against Illegal Drugs is highly effective, based on the positive feedback from the citizens and the community. The positive impact of the community is highly effective, based on the increase of the number of surrenderers. On Success of Six Months is highly effective, based on the continuous conduct of "Oplan Tokhang", house visitation, dialogue among the barangay officials, adopted projects of the Local Government Units and the active community partnership by the personnel of Rosario Police Station.

The drug situation and its corresponding data in the above-premises became the basis for the conceptualization of this study. It assessed the level of implementation of the PNP anti-illegal drugs campaign plan project tokhang Medina, Misamis Oriental.

## **2. METHOD AND MATERIAL**

### *2.1. Research Design*

The study is descriptive research. It assessed the implementation of the PNP Anti-Illegal Drugs Campaign Plan-Project: Double Barrel in the Province of Misamis Oriental.

### *2.2. Research Instrument*

The data gathering tools were the survey questionnaire and the interview guide

questions. The researcher patterned and modified the format of the questionnaire from [16].

The survey questionnaire has two parts; Part One covering the personal information of the participants, and Part Two containing the specific statements on the level of implementation of the PNP anti-illegal drugs campaign plan-project tokhang.

### *2.3. Data Gathering Procedure*

The letter was sent to the Chief of Police (COP) of Medina, Misamis Oriental to seek permission in administering the test questionnaire. The questionnaire for the level of implementation of the PNP Double Barrel Project was adopted from the study of 10. Elandag (2008) [16] with slight modification to fit the current respondents. The questionnaire about the level of implementation of the PNP Project Tokhang Project was administered in the first period simultaneously. The adviser was asked to administer and retrieved the questionnaires.

### *2.4. Validation and Reliability of the Instrument*

The survey questionnaire was administered and reviewed by the adviser and panellists. Then, three experts or practitioners in the field validated the instrument as to its comprehensibility and understanding. The revised questionnaire that incorporated the observations and suggestions of the experts was subjected to a reliability test to determine its appropriateness involving 30 participants who are from the five (5) Municipal Police Station (MPS) of Misamis Oriental. The reliability test

<i>Scale of Qualitative</i>	<i>Intervals Description</i>	<i>Qualifying Statement</i>
4.50 - 5.00	Very Well Implemented	All PNP personnel complied with all the requirements of the Project <i>Tokhang</i>
3.50 - 4.49	Well Implemented	Most of PNP personnel complied with all the requirements of the Project <i>Tokhang</i> .
2.50 - 3.49	Implemented	Some PNP personnel Complied with all the requirements of the Project <i>Tokhang</i> .
1.50-2.49	Fairly Implemented	Few of PNP has complied with all the requirements of the Project <i>Tokhang</i> .
1.00-1.49	Poorly Implemented	Very Few of PNP personnel complied with all the requirements of the Project <i>Tokhang</i>

generated a Cronbach Alpha of 0.95. Therefore, the questionnaire was reliable.

### 2.5. Scoring Procedure

The researcher utilized the scale of intervals for the level of implementation. The following are the qualitative descriptions and its corresponding qualifying statements (table1).

### 2.6. Treatment of the Data

The study utilized descriptive statistics tools namely: weighted mean, standard deviation, and frequency. In Problem 1, the weighted mean and standard deviations were used to treat the data. Problem 2 employed the frequency count.

## 2. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Level of Implementation of PNP Anti-Illegal Drugs Campaign Plan-Project: Double Barrel in Terms of Project Tokhang (table 2).

Table 1 summarizes the level of implementation of project "tokhang". On the level of implementation of PNP Anti-Illegal Drugs Campaign Plan-Project Tokhang, the table reveals a well-implemented level. It describes that most of PNP police stations in Medina Mis or followed the stages of project tokhang as

provided in CMC No. 16-2016. The PNP implemented all the procedures under the direction of President Rodrigo.

The first stage shows a well-implemented level. The project tokhang launched synchronized activities nationwide conducted during in the first week of the first month of the President's term [12, 17].

The second stage, coordination, shows also a well-implemented rating. PNP command declares that the coordination stage was conducted with the involvement of government agencies, stakeholders, and non-government organizations. The PNP exerts effort in implementing this stage to make the activity a successful one [18].

The third stage is the house to house visitation. Its rating is well-implemented. On this stage, an actual house to house visitation of the suspected drug personalities was conducted by PNP personnel with utmost sincerity and obedience to the entire memorandum directed by the higher office. It also shows that the operation section in every police station is up to date in submitting a report and generating figures on how houses visited each day.

The fourth stage, the processing, and documentation, also got a rating of well implemented. The Voluntary Surrender Form (VSF) served as evidence that a surrendered submitted himself as drug victim, or user, pusher, manufacturer, runner, and any other category. But, there were situations where the police personnel visited the suspected drug personalities (BADAC watch list) in their residences to surrender voluntarily to avoid further sanctions [19-20].

The monitoring and evaluation stage is the last stage of project tokhang which got a rating of well-implemented. The procedure pertains to monitoring of drug surrenders and initiating coordination with BADAC and filing of appropriate charges against liable persons. The PNP continues to closely monitor suspected drug personalities and undeclared drug-free barangays. All stages supported public safety and security for ensuring safety to surrenders and citizens' welfare. The stages which were conducted as stakeholders' contribution to the PNP PATROL Plan Roadmap of 2030 signify the elements in the community involvement. The resource management, learning and growth, process and excellence, and community,

provides safer place to live, invest and do business in the province of Misamis Oriental. The execution of elements leads to honor, service and efficient service. It resulted in making the team highly capable, effective and credible police service [21].

The project tokhang as first approach has been executed three years from the launching of the project. Most of the barangays are still under on-going monitoring and evaluation of the drug watch list and surrenders for the declaration of the barangays as drug-free. There are still problems that need to solve like the participation of surrenders and BADAC which are requirements for the declaration of the barangay as drug-free [22]. The City and Municipal TWG are working together to comply with the requirements for the pronouncement of drug-free barangay under the guidelines of PDEA Board Regulations No. 2 Series of 2016 and Board Regulations No. 3 Series of 2017 [13-14].

The implementation of project tokhang contributed to the public safety, security, and law enforcement [9]. It provides to the welfare of the people, recognizes the rights of individual,

**Table 2. The Level of Implementation of PNP Anti-Illegal Drugs Campaign Plan-Project: Double Barrel in Terms of Project Tokhang**

Procedure	Mean	SD	Qualitative Description
1. Collection and Validation of Information	4.09	0.06	Well Implemented
2. Coordination	4.01	0.12	Well Implemented
3. House to House Visitation	4.04	0.10	Well Implemented
4. Processing and Documentation	4.06	0.08	Well Implemented
5. Monitoring and Evaluation	4.20	0.44	Well Implemented
Average Rating	4.08	0.16	Well Implemented

and enjoyed the freedom.

### 3. CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of the study, the following are the conclusions:

- a. Most of PNP complied with all the stages in the implementation of the project tokhang. They implemented the protocols with minimal technical lapses. Therefore, many drug personalities surrendered and were arrested in their operation.
- b. Problems on the implementation of project tokhang did not affect the performance of the PNP personnel. Therefore, it is the conclusion of the researcher that PNP operatives find ways and means to sustain the program in compliance with the mandates to avoid administrative sanctions.

### 4. RECOMMENDATION

The following recommendations are presented based on the findings and conclusions of the study.

- a) The PNP personnel may religiously continue to monitor and conduct the project tokhang of drug surrenders and BADAC watch list to those who did not yet graduate from CBRP to declare the barangay as drug-free.
- b) The PNP police stations may maintain a strong relationship with the LGUs and C/M/BADAC to continue the logistic and financial support in the implementation of project tokhang.
- c) The PNP in coordination with the Technical Working Group (TWG) may motivate the

surrenders and BADAC to participate the activities in CBRP.

- d) The PNP may truthfully present the genuine evidence and paraphernalia of arrested drug personalities.

### 5. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

NA

### 6. SOURCE/S OF FUNDING

No source of funding

### 7. REFERENCES

1. December (2013): PNP Operational Manual 2013, Section 24 [http://www.pnp.gov.ph/images/transparency\\_seal/2016/manuals/PNPOperationsManual.pdf](http://www.pnp.gov.ph/images/transparency_seal/2016/manuals/PNPOperationsManual.pdf)
2. Arcellaz, P. C. (2018). *The Problems Caused by Lack of Information Systems Integration*.
3. Pajarillo, M. N. (2016). PNP Project "Double Barrel" in the Municipality of Rosario, La Union, Philippines. Unpublished Case Study.
4. Ignacio, A. C. (2014). PNP General Order Number DPL-14-14. Activation of Unit. National Headquarters, Philippine National Police. Camp Crame, Quezon City.
5. Bianca, A. (2016). *Employee Attitude Vs. Job Performance. The Role of Human Resource Management Officer Vs. Job Performance*.
6. Philippine National Police Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force, Revised PNP Manual On anti-illegal drugs operations and investigation, Camp Crame, Quezon City, Philippines, 2014.

7. Philippine National Police Manual on Pre-Charge Evaluation and Summary Hearing Guide (PNP Internal Discipline Mechanism) 2011. Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management. 2nd Flr., NHQ Bldg., Camp Crame, Quezon City
8. June (2002): An act instituting the comprehensive dangerous drugs act of 2002, repealing republic act no. 6425, otherwise known as the dangerous drugs act of 1972, as amended, providing funds therefor, and for other purposes. Retrieved from:  
[https://www.lawphil.net/statutes/repacts/ra2002/ra\\_9165\\_2002.html](https://www.lawphil.net/statutes/repacts/ra2002/ra_9165_2002.html)
9. Patoza, S. Q. (2018). PNP: Crime prevention is everyone's shared responsibility.
10. Jameson, et al. (2017). Chapter 12 Public Safety Element. Durham City-County Planning Department.
11. Duterte, R. R. (2017). Ensuring Security, Public Order, and Safety. Public Investment Program
12. Dela Rosa, R. M. (2016). PNP Command Memorandum Circular No. 16-2016. PNP Anti-Illegal Drugs Campaign Plan-Project: "Double Barrel". National Headquarters, Office of the Chief, Philippine National Police, Camp Crame, Quezon City.
13. Lapeña, I. S. (2017). PDEA Memorandum Circular No. 2017-018. Designation of Authorized Representatives of the dangerous Drugs Board in the City/Municipal Level.
14. Reyes, B P. (2017). PDEA Board Regulation No. 3 Series of 2017. Strengthening the Implementation of Barangay Drug Clearing Program.
15. Davide, H. P. (2016). ADMU-UNDP on Anti-Drug Campaigns: What Works and What Doesn't Work. Microtel Hotel, Quezon City.
16. Elandag, R. L. (2008). Local Government Support to PNP Operations and its Relation to the Effectiveness of Police Officers in the Province of Surigao del Sur. Unpublished master' thesis. Bukidnon State University, City of Malaybalay
17. Marquez (2016). PNP Investigative Directive Number 2016-14. Guidelines Relating to the Takings of Statements of Persons Who Voluntarily Surrender under Project Double Barrel. National Headquarters, Philippine National Police. Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management.
18. Roxas (2015). Memorandum Circular Number 2015-63 "Revitalization of the Barangay Anti-Drug Abuse Council (BADAC) and their Role in Drug Clearing Operations". Department of the Interior and Local Government, NAPOLCOM Center, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.
19. Ramos, F. V. (2018). National Security Strategy 2018. On Empowering the Filipino People.
20. Duterte, R. R. (2017). Ensuring Security, Public Order, and Safety. Public Investment Program.
21. Arroyo, G. M. (2002). Executive Order 218. Strengthening the Support Mechanism for the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency
22. Bartolome, N. A. (2012). LOI 16/2012 Kontra Droga Charlie (Plan for a Revitalized Campaign against Illegal Drugs). National Headquarters, Philippine National Police. Camp Crame, Quezon City.