

PERCEPTION ON THE PROPOSED RESTORATION OF THE PHILIPPINE CONSTABULARY

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ABSTRACT

The study aimed to determine the perception of the respondents on the proposed restoration of the Philippine Constabulary (PC), this Academic Year 2021-2022. This study used the descriptive method of research with historical research utilizing questionnaires as its primary tool of gathering data and attempts to systematically recapture the complex nuances, the people, meanings, events, and even ideas of the past that have influenced and shaped the present. The gathered data was treated statistically using percentage computation, weighted mean and chi-square test. The restoration of the Philippine Constabulary is in line with the government's thrust to amplify and augment existing security forces of the government. The Philippine Constabulary is aimed to focus on urban terrorism which is now present and imminent in our country. The amplification and augmentation of security forces creates a feeling of safety and security among community members. Hence, it is recommended that the Government should conduct public consultation after a massive information dissemination on the purpose of the restoration of the Philippine Constabulary. Further, the Government should formalize the restoration of the Philippine Constabulary through a law and specify its mandate and functions.

Keywords: constabulary, restoration, civilian, security forces

INTRODUCTION

The notion of the revival of the Philippine Constabulary (PC) under the command of the military points on the need to combat urban terrorism, the President was apparently referring to the old set-up in the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), when the PC was a major service command of the military along with the Philippine Army, Philippine Air Force, and the Philippine Navy. The PC began as a police force of the American colonial government in 1901, and was eventually subsumed under the military. As part of the military, the PC took care of peace and order concerns while the other services fought national rebel movements. The PC, for instance, took the lead in the implementation of martial law in 1972 through the arrest of activists, the takeover of key private establishments, traffic control, and even garbage collection (Ranada, 2016). However the 1987 Constitution that was crafted after the EDSA People Power Revolution, however, called for the creation of a national police force that is civilian in character. The sense was that the Philippines should do away with a "militarized police." Congress enacted a law to implement this constitutional mandate, giving birth in 1991 to the Philippine National Police – a merger of the PC with the Integrated National Police, the police force for cities and large towns (Ranada, 2016). The breakdown of discipline within the Philippine National Police (PNP) welcomes the revival of the defunct Philippine Constabulary (PC) which was a military organization under the Armed Forces of the Philippines. The defunct PC was a much, much more disciplined group than the PNP. Many citizens were happy over the news that the Philippine president wanted to revive the

PC which had a long history of law enforcement. The PNP would be disbanded and some of its members, should they opt to, assigned to the ~~pl~~ departments of the different cities and towns. Those who choose to be members of the revived PC might be taken in provided they have no pending cases involving abuse of authority. Some members of the PC might be recruited from the Armed Forces of the Philippines. The officers of the revived PC might now come from the Philippine Constabulary Academy which would replace the Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA). The PNPA has produced a lot of inefficient, corrupt and abusive graduates (Tulfo, 2017). The President's intent to revive the Philippine Constabulary had to be taken into utmost consideration. The Philippine Constabulary is a law enforcement force that become, however, notorious for human rights abuses during the martial law years. The revival draws various sentiments from all the sectors of the community considering that the PC becomes infamous due to its rampant abuses of human rights and arrests of individual critical to the late dictator Francisco (2016). Merez (2017) reported that the idea of reviving the PC to augment the manpower of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, which now leads the Duterte administration's war on drugs. It was assume that the Philippine Constabulary as an added feature to what is existing is actually a cure that the President would like to inject on the present system. The Philippine Constabulary was a gendarmerie-type police force of the Philippines from 1901 to 1991. It was created by the American colonial government to replace the Spanish colonial Guardia Civil. It was the first of the four service commands of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. On January 29, 1991, it was merged with the Integrated National Police to form the Philippine National Police. It is for this purpose that the researcher wanted to determine the perception of the respondents on the proposed activation of the Philippine Constabulary, this academic year 2021-2022.

This study is primarily anchored on Section 4, Article II of the Philippine Constitution (1987) which provides that the prime duty of the Government is to serve and protect the people. The Government may call upon the people to defend the State and, in the fulfillment thereof, all citizens may be required, under conditions provided by law, to render personal, military or civil service. In line with the proposed activation of the Philippine Constabulary, it is the initiative of the government to the same to address growing insurgent in urban areas as well as the proliferation of narcotics problem in the country. The PC aimed to supplement PDEA and the PNP in its mission to curve down incidence of insurgency as well as drugs menace (Tuvera and Mallari, 2017). Historically, Mihara (2007) pointed out that from 1899 to 1902, a combined force of Regular Army and volunteer regiments fought against Filipino nationalists, religious sects, warlords, clans, and bandits. By the spring of 1900, the resistance to U.S. occupation assumed the form of regionalized guerrilla warfare it would retain until the final pacification campaign ended with the battle at Bud Bagsak on Jolo Island in 1913. Initially, the Army high command did not recognize that the composition of their enemy had changed from marching battalions into a mixture of guerrilla bands, banditry, and sects. It only coincidentally adjusted to the nationalists' new approach by dispersing its forces into small semi-autonomous garrisons.

Linn (2000) as cited by Mihara,(2007) continued that Major General Elwell S. Otis, the senior Army commander in the Philippines, divided his command to promote the benefits of good government under American authority to the Filipinos. Otis had come to recognize the existence of the insurgency and taken measures to combat it, but he continued to underestimate the intensity and pervasiveness of the guerrilla campaign as he relinquished command to Major General Arthur MacArthur in May 1900. Otis believed that a deliberate program of civil affairs, government, and localized patrols would be sufficient to defeat the unconventional threat by winning over the majority of the population. MacArthur recognized the need to bolster security efforts but did little except offer amnesty to the

guerrillas and sanction approaches already being taken by regional commanders. The most successful officers developed counterinsurgency measures that reflected the unique conditions in each town or district. Filipino auxiliaries became an increasingly important instrument for these leaders as U.S. volunteer regiments departed the Philippines. Mihara (2007) stressed that the Commission established the Philippine Constabulary on 18 July 1901 through the passage of Act No. 175, and Army Captain Henry T. Allen was appointed to the position of Chief of Constabulary. Further, The Army was responsible for governance and pacification of the Philippines until the establishment of the Philippine Commission in 1901. The Army's Philippines Division retained authority in areas declared under martial law. The Constabulary held authority over all areas not under martial law. The design of the Constabulary lent itself more toward local police duties than campaigning, assuming that constables could subordinate personal allegiances to their police duties. Hernandez (2005) asserted that from its establishment in 1936, the military mission has included external and internal defense, as well as peace and order. When it was reorganized in 1950 in response to the Huk insurgency, the Philippine Constabulary (PC) which was the country's national police force was integrated into the armed forces in order to enable the PC to access U.S. military assistance that was by agreement restricted to the military. The military became the partner of Marcos in ruling the country; officers replaced politicians as dispensers of political patronage, at the same time assumed an expanded role in society and politics, including the management of sequestered companies. The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) included the PC as a major service command with the PC Chief being also the Director General of the Integrated National Police (INP). By this act, Marcos put all the uniformed services, through the AFP Chief of Staff, under his control. And because the oversight institutions were destroyed, civilian control was exercised through the person of Marcos as commander-in-chief of the armed forces. The study aimed to determine the perception of respondents on the proposed restoration of the Philippine Constabulary (PC), this Academic Year 2021-2022. Specifically, this study sought answers to the following: (1) the profile of the respondents of this study in terms of age, sex and educational attainment; (2) the perception of the respondents on the restoration of Philippine Constabulary; and (3) the significant difference between the profile of the respondents and perception of the respondents on the restoration of Philippine Constabulary.

RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

The descriptive method of research was used in this study. Questionnaires were fielded out to respondents purposely to get their profile and perception on the activation of Philippine Constabulary. The gathering of data was conducted during the Academic Year 2021-2022. Historical research was also used in attempting to systematically recapture the complex nuances, the people, meanings, events, and even ideas of the past that have influenced and shaped the present (Berg & Lure, 2012). This study was conducted in Dipolog City, an urbanized city experiencing threats from communist and other insurgent groups. Likewise, there is a need to augment the security force of the city considering the present security problems. The respondents of the study were the 120 purposively selected respondents. Purposive sampling when they want to access a particular subset of people, as all participants of a survey are selected because they fit a particular profile (<https://www.alchemer.com/resources/blog/purposive-sampling-101/>, 2022). These respondents are the PNP, the Army and the academe. Percentage computation was used to determine the profile of the respondents. Weighted Mean was used to determine the perception of the respondents on the restoration of Philippine Constabulary. Chi – Square

Test was used to determine the test of difference between the profile of the respondents and the perception of the respondents on the restoration of Philippine Constabulary.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Problem No. 1. What is the profile of the respondents of this study in terms of age, sex and educational attainment?

Age

Table 1 shows the respondents’ profile in terms of age. The data pointed out that most of the respondents were within the age range of 39 – 48 years old as compared to those respondents within the age range of 59 – 68 years old. The findings stressed that most of the respondents were within the age range of 39 – 48 years old which implies that most of residents of Dipolog City were adult.

Table 1. Respondent’s Profile in Terms of Age

Age Bracket	f	%
19 – 28 years old	4	4.44 %
29 – 38 years old	23	25.6 %
39 – 48 years old	34	37.8 %
49 – 58 years old	27	30 %
59 – 68 years old	2	2.22 %
Total	90	100%

Sex

Table 2 shows the respondents profile in terms of sex. The data pointed out that most of the respondents were male as compared to females which implies that majority of the residents in Dipolog City were males.

Table 2. Respondent’s Profile in Terms of Sex

Sex	f	%
Male	75	83.3 %
Female	15	16.7 %
Total	90	100%

Educational Attainment

Table 3 shows the respondents’ profile in terms of educational attainment. The data pointed out that most of the respondents were bachelor’s degree holder as compared to those individual who were high school level/graduate. The findings stressed that most of the respondents were bachelor’s degree holder which implies that most of the respondents were educated.

Table 3. Respondent’s Profile in Terms of Educational Attainment

Educational Attainment	f	%
High School Level/Graduate	3	3.33 %
Post-Secondary Level/graduate	4	4.44 %

College Level	20	22.2 %
Bachelor’s Degree Holder	45	50 %
Masterand/Master’s Degree	18	20 5
Total	90	100%

Problem No. 2. What is the perception of the respondents on the restoration of Philippine Constabulary?

Table 4. Perception of the Respondents on the Restoration of Philippine Constabulary

Perception of the Respondents on the Restoration of Philippine Constabulary	Mean	Interpretation
1. Creates a feeling of relief and Comfort.	3.33	Agreeable
2. Feels anxious and disgust.	2.87	Agreeable
3. Produces fear.	2.73	Agreeable
4. Feels secure.	3.02	Agreeable
5. Experiences annoyance.	2.91	Agreeable
6. Instills inspiration.	2.91	Agreeable
7. Involves a feeling of disbelief.	2.70	Agreeable
8. Believes it is illegal and had no basis.	2.69	Agreeable
9. Does not apply in the present situation.	3.01	Agreeable
10. Benefits the many and not for the few community members.	3.02	Agreeable
Average Weighted Mean	2.92	Agreeable

Table 4 shows the perception of the respondents on the restoration of Philippine Constabulary. The data pointed out that most of the respondents favored creates a feeling of relief and comfort having a mean of 3.33 which can be verbally interpreted as “Agreeable” followed by both feeling secure and done for the benefit of the many and not for the few community members both having a mean of 3.02 which can be verbally interpreted as “Agreeable” as compared to illegal and had no basis having a mean of 2.69 which can be verbally interpreted as “Agreeable”. The average weighted mean on this aspect is 2.92 which can be verbally interpreted as “Agreeable”. The findings stressed that most of the respondents favored creates a feeling of relief and comfort which implies that most of the respondents viewed the restoration of Philippine Constabulary as it creates a feeling of relief and comfort. The findings was supported by Penner (2005) pointing on the fact that military cooperation often resulted to most productive during conflict and post-conflict operations. Considering that the revival of the Philippine Constabulary aimed for urban warfare which led to productive relationship between the local community and military. Hence, it can be construed that it creates feeling of relief and comfort.

Problem No. 3. Is there a significant difference between the profile of the respondents and perception of the respondents on the restoration of Philippine Constabulary?

Table 5. Test of Difference between the Profile of the Respondents and the Perception of the Respondents on the Restoration of Philippine Constabulary in Terms of Age

Factors Compared	Respondent's Age					
	α	df	tv	χ^2	Interpretation	Action/Decision
Perception of the Respondents on the Restoration of Philippine Constabulary	0.05	4.00	9.488	1.926	No Significant Difference	H_0 was accepted

Table 5 shows the test of difference between the profile of the respondents and the perception of the respondents on the restoration of Philippine Constabulary in terms of age. Applying chi-square test, it yielded a computed chi-value lesser than the tabular chi-value which implies acceptance of the hypothesis which states that there is no significant difference between the profile of the respondents and the perception of the respondents on the restoration of Philippine Constabulary in terms of age. Hence, age cannot be used to predict difference in perception of the respondents on the restoration of Philippine Constabulary. Further, the effect of restoring the Philippine Constabulary points to all individual regardless of their socio-economic demography. The findings was supported by Devlin (2015) asserting that deploying police officers, known as School Resource Officers (SROs), in schools has become a popular strategy to prevent and reduce school crime. The existing literature mostly examines the presence of SROs and their effects on crime outcomes. Hence, it could be construed that deployment of law enforcement connotes reduction of criminal activity and it affects person from all walks of life regardless of age, gender, educational attainment and political affiliation.

Table 6. Test of Difference between the Profile of the Respondents and the Perception of the Respondents on the Restoration of Philippine Constabulary in Terms of Sex

Factors Compared	Respondent's Sex					
	α	df	tv	χ^2	Interpretation	Action/Decision
Perception of the Respondents on the Restoration of Philippine Constabulary	0.05	1.00	3.841	8.075	Significant Difference	H_0 was rejected

Table 6 shows the test of difference between the profile of the respondents and the perception of the respondents on the restoration of Philippine Constabulary in terms of sex. Applying chi-square test, it yielded a computed chi-value greater than the tabular chi-value which implies acceptance of the hypothesis which states that there is significant difference between the profile of the respondents and the perception of the respondents on the restoration of Philippine Constabulary in terms of sex. Hence, sex can be used to predict difference in perception of the respondents on the restoration of Philippine Constabulary. Further, the sex or sexual preference of the individual had nothing to do with the affairs of the state particularly on the aspect of augmenting its security. Furthermore, the effect of augmentation of security forces affect all individuals regardless of walk of life. The findings was contradicted by Devlin (2015) pointing out that deployment of law enforcement connotes reduction of criminal activity and it affects person from all walks of life regardless of age, gender, educational attainment and political affiliation.

Table 7. Test of Difference between the Profile of the Respondents and the Perception of the Respondents on the Restoration of Philippine Constabulary in Terms of Educational Attainment

Factors Compared	Respondent’s Educational Attainment					
	α	df	tv	χ^2	Interpretation	Action/ Decision
Perception of the Respondents on the Restoration of Philippine Constabulary	0.05	4.00	9.488	8.075	No Significant Difference	H_0 was accepted

Table 7 shows the test of difference between the profile of the respondents and the perception of the respondents on the restoration of Philippine Constabulary in terms of educational attainment. Applying chi-square test, it yielded a computed chi-value lesser than the tabular chi-value which implies acceptance of the hypothesis which states that there is no significant difference between the profile of the respondents and the perception of the respondents on the restoration of Philippine Constabulary in terms of educational attainment. Hence, educational attainment cannot be used to predict difference in perception of the respondents on the restoration of Philippine Constabulary. Further, the effect of the restoration of the Philippine Constabulary connotes increase of security which makes our community safer and secured. Further, the end recipient of a secured and safe community are all the individual dwelling in it regardless of their walks of life. The findings was supported by Devlin (2015) pointing out that deployment of law enforcement connotes reduction of criminal activity and it affects person from all walks of life regardless of age, gender, educational attainment and political affiliation.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusions

Based on the summary of findings, the following conclusions were drawn:

The restoration of the Philippine Constabulary is in line with the government’s thrust to amplify and augment existing security forces of the government. The Philippine Constabulary is aimed to focus on urban terrorism which is now present and imminent in our country. The restoration of the Philippine Constabulary to combat urban terrorism creates a feeling of relief and comfort among Filipinos regardless of age, sex and educational attainment. However, such restoration must be within the framework of the law and its mandate shall be specific in order not to encroach other law enforcement agency.

Recommendations

Based on the conclusions drawn, the following recommendations were offered:

1. The Government should conduct public consultation after a massive information dissemination on the purpose of the restoration of the Philippine Constabulary.
2. The Government should formalize the restoration of the Philippine Constabulary through a law and specify its mandate and functions.

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