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Abstract: This study assessed the implementation of the Fire Safety Inspection Program if it is in accordance with the provisions of PD 1185, commonly known as the Fire Code of the Philippines, which was promulgated to minimize, and if possible, totally prevent death and injury to persons and loss of or damage to property by fire. Such occurrences have greatly undermined economic and social gains of government programs.

The Bureau of Fire Protection is mandated by law to enforce the Fire Safety Inspection Program and manned by fire marshals and fire safety inspectors. Capability building programs were instituted to provide the force not only with the appropriate knowledge and skills but more importantly with the highest degree of professionalism and competence in the performance of their duties, this investigation sought to determine how well the Fire Safety Inspection Program is being implemented by the municipal fire marshals and fire safety inspectors in Region I and in the implementation of the program is affected by level of commitment, organizational climate and some profile variables of the fire safety inspectors.

Methodology

The study is descriptive research utilizing ex-post facto survey technique. The data were analyzed using descriptive statistics, like mean, standard deviation, percentage and ranks. Inferential tests of hypotheses made use of Pearson’s product-moment correlation technique, analysis of variance, simple regression analysis and test of concordance.

Findings

The survey revealed that the Fire Safety Inspection Program was enforces as a matter of regulatory routine with regard to all the seven provisions on the issuance of permits, i.e., occupancy permit (x=3.42), certificate of electrical installation (x=3.37), building permit (x=3.37), annual inspection (x=3.28), business
permit (x=3.27), when there is a complaint (x=3.25), and change of occupancy (x=3.20). All with an F-value of 2.218268 that is not statistically significant (p > .05).

Moreover, the seven specific requirements which must be secured from different government agencies before the issuance of clearances and permits were not strictly complied with as shown by their means ranging from 2.73 to 3.35, except with regard to the provision of fire safety construction and/or protective warning system present or installed (x=4.45). Based on the actual experiences of the fire marshals and fire safety inspectors of Region I, there has been a glaring laxity in the compliance with the specific requirements. Although the Bureau of Fire Protection required strict and full compliance with the installation of protective warning system which is considered to be the most practical and efficient measure of mitigating fire hazard, there are still existing deficiencies in the physical structures inspected.

The perceived level of commitment (x=4.155) of the fire marshals’ and fire safety inspectors’ commitment to the implementation of the Fire Safety Inspection Program was commendable but the respondents lacked tenacity in actual practice (r=0.436) such that the implementation of the program needs improvement (R²=33%).

The organizational climate revealed the workplace to have a stimulating environment as manifested by the respondents’ sense of pride in being a part and parcel of the institution where they belong. Such a feeling played a significant role in the successful attainment of their goals and objectives (R²=37%). Nevertheless, the lack of the state-of-the-art firefighting facilities and equipment to work with is deplored and must be paid with more attention.

Inherent qualities of the respondents, like professional preparation (educational attainment, r=0.266), professional status (eligibility, r=0.226), as well as years of experience, (r=0.1990) have a positive influence on the implementation of the Fire Safety Inspection Program.

**Conclusions**

Extent of implementation of the Fire Safety Inspection Program along terms of the seven provisions of PD 1185 has been found wanting in providing the people of the community with the needed security from the dangers of fire. All of the seven provisions have been implemented with the same level of complacency.
The requirements that need to be complied with before the issuance of permits have not been fully adhered to as the Bureau is hounded by constraints that are seemingly beyond their control.

Level of commitment of the fire marshals and fire safety inspectors is commendable, but it is still below the desired dedication and devotion, considering the fact that the security of the people rests on their wholehearted sacrifice and responsiveness to the call of duty. While the respondents’ commitment has been found to have significant causal influence program implementation, the rate of its contribution still needs improvement to meet the expectations of society.

The organizational climate in the Bureau is likewise found commendable although there is much to be desired if wholesome relationship among the members is to be attained. The perceived prioritization of concerns contributed to a pleasant working environment although its administrative and facilitative concerns are still wanting.

Organizational climate has been strongly influential in program implementation although there is so much room for improvement to be more successful in the attainment of goals and objectives of PD 1185.

The professional profile variables, educational attainment and eligibility, as well as years of experience, were found influential in promoting the services of the Fire Safety and Fire Prevention Program.

**Recommendations**

Based on the findings of the study and the conclusions drawn, it was recommended that there should be better coordination among the different divisions of the Bureau, a more strict adherence to the rules in the issuance of clearances and a more active information drive. The policies on recruitment, evaluation and promotion of personnel should be strictly implemented. Personnel should be actively involved in the planning and implementation of programs; communication channels should be improved; an effective incentive system should be adopted; and necessary equipment and supplies shall be provided.