

People Participation in Local Governance: The Naga City People's Council Experience

ABSTRACT

The Naga City People's Council has been successful in bringing the voice of the people in the local governance of Naga City. It has ability to represent almost all of the sectors in the local community through formal and informal organizations and associations. However, the path to the current status that the council enjoys was not an easy journey. As early as conceptualization stage, various forms of roadblocks had come along the way until it reaches the adulthood stage where it matures to become bolder and wiser as they claim. The council was not also spared from the criticisms regarding its credibility in representing the voice of the people at the same time from issues surrounding the group from their own people. Thus, they have been able to develop several tools locally to make themselves and their member CSOs more effective partners of local governance.

This case study aims to document the journey of NCPC in the City of Naga in the province of Camarines Sur. It seeks to determine how this local council was able to develop and use their social accountability tools that aided them to be more effective people's voice in local governance. Further, this paper wish to serve as an encouragement for other Civil Society Organizations that people participation can work on local governance.

The study was conducted using secondary data collection of published materials, articles, and records found in the internet and printed materials. Sufficient information was also gathered by way of an interview with some key personalities who have been involved and part of the NCPC.

Keywords: people's council, participation, empowerment, local tools