



17th AWARD
BEST PRACTICE
IN CITIZEN
PARTICIPATION

Application Form

CATEGORIES IN WHICH YOU WANT TO APPLY THE EXPERIENCE

1: TYPE OF EXPERIENCE: *choose the most important element (choose only one element which you consider the most outstanding of your practice).*

A) Deliberation Citizen assembly / deliberation workshop / lottery / legislative theater / participatory planning	
B) Decision Participatory budget / referendum / consultation / participatory process with vote	
C) Citizenship Citizenship / community action / permanent council / civic education / associationism / other initiatives to reinforce local democracy	X

2: TYPE OF GOVERNMENT: *choose one only.*

A) Up to 50,000 inhabitants (towns, small cities, rural areas).	
B) Cities between 50,000 and 250,000 inhabitants.	X
C) Cities between 250,000 and 1,000,000 inhabitants.	
D) Large cities or urban areas of more than 1,500,000 inhabitants.	
E) Supralocal, regional, provincial governments	

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Experience data: *complete the information below in a clear and concise manner.*

Title of the experience: Institutionalizing People's Participation in Governance
Name of the City or Region: City of Naga, Cebu

Inhabitants of the City or Territory: Nagahanons		
Country: Philippines		
Institution presenting the candidacy: City Government of Naga, Cebu		
Website of the experience or institution: www.cityofnagacebu.gov.ph		
Profiles in social networks of the experience or institution: City Government of Naga Facebook Page		
Start date of the experience: September 17, 2017		
End date of the experience: Ongoing		
Budget of the experience: See Annex 1: Financial History		
Type of candidacy <i>(mark with X in the right column)</i>	New experience	
	Innovation on an existing experience	X
	Continuity of an experience	X
Type of experience <i>(mark with an X in the right column, you may choose more than one)</i>	Participatory budgeting	
	Participatory planning	X
	Standing council	
	E-government / Open government/ Digital platforms	
	Citizen initiative	
	Other (specify: People/ Citizen participation in governance)	X
Objective of the experience <i>(mark with an X in the right column, you may choose more than one)</i>	To achieve higher level of equality in terms of participation	X
	Including diversity as a criterion for inclusion	
	Community empowerment	X
	To empowerment non-organized citizen	X
	To increase citizen's right in terms of political participation	X
	To connect different tools of participation within a participatory democracy "ecosystem"	
	To improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the mechanisms of participatory democracy	X
	To improve the quality of public decision-making through the mechanisms of participatory democracy	X
	To improve the evaluation and accountability of the mechanisms of participatory democracy	X



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	To improve any public through the active participation of the public	X
Territorial are <i>(mark with an X in the right column, you may choose more than one)</i>	All the Territory	X
	Local	
	Regional	
Thematic area <i>(mark with an X in the right column, you may choose more than one)</i>	District	
	Neighborhood	X
	Governance	X
	Education	X
	Transport	
	Urban management	
	Health	X
	Security	X
	Environment/ Climate change and/ or urban agriculture	X
	Civic associations, grassroots and new social movements	
	Culture	X
	Housing	
	Job creation	
	Decentralization	
	Local Development	X
	Training/ learning	X
	Economy and /or Finances	
Legal regulations		
Social inclusion	X	
All		
Other (write the topic)		
Sustainable Development Goals	SDG 1 - No poverty	

(SDG) associated with the practice (mark with an X in the right column, more than option can be chosen, you can also add the specific target)	SDG 2 - Zero hunger	
	SDG 3 - Good health and well-being	X
	SDG 4 - Quality education	X
	SDG 5 – Gender equality	X
	SDG 6 – Clean water and sanitation	X

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	SDG 7 – Affordable and clean energy	X
	SDG 8 – Decent work and economic growth	
	SDG 9 – Industry, innovation and infrastructure	
	SDG 10 – Reduce inequality	X
	SDG 11 – Sustainable cities and communities	X
	SDG 12 – Responsible consumption and production	
	SDG 13 – Climate action	
	SDG 14 – Life below water	
	SDG 15 – life on land	
	SDG 16 – Peace, justice and strong institution	X
	SDG 17 – Partnership for the goals	X

PART 2: DESCRIPTION OF THE EXPERIENCE

Context:

In early times, the place now known as NAGA was abundant with trees locally called “*Narra*”. The first settlers named the place as Narra (derived from the Narra trees) and named it in later years to what is now – NAGA.

Considered as one of the oldest settlements in the Province of Cebu, Naga became a municipality on June 12, 1829 and underwent a series of reclassifications simultaneous with its healthy economic development. The tranquil farming and fishing villages of the natives altered when the Spaniards arrived and explored the coal mining in upland barangays. Coal then became the first export product of the town, as the Spaniards mined and sent them to Spain.

Second to coal was cement product.

The mining industry undeniably triggered the successful industrial development of Naga. As the years progressed, quite a number of manufacturing companies and other industries flourished in the place and eventually made Naga as one of the industrialized localities in the Province of Cebu at present.

The City of Naga is a third-class component city in the Province of Cebu, located on the Island of Visayas. It has a total land area of 10, 498.68 ha and is divided into 28 barangays, of which, 13 are rural and 15 are urban. Rural barangays in the city include Barangays Alpaco, Bairan, Balirong, Cabungahan, Cogon, Jaguimit, Lanas, Lutac, Mainit, Mayana, Naalad, Patag, and Tagjaguimit. Meanwhile, Barangays Cantao-an, Central Poblacion, Colon, East Poblacion,



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Inayagan, Inoburan, Langtad, North Poblacion, Pangdan, South Poblacion, Tangke, Tina-an, Tuyan, Uling, and West Poblacion are classified as urban.

In 2020, the City of Naga had a total population of 133,184 based on the census conducted by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA). Barangay Tuyan had the most population with 13,444 residents. On the other hand, Barangay East Poblacion had the least number, with 406 residents. Of the total population, the household population comprised 99.25% or 132,836 persons.

The City of Naga derives its funds from various sources. In 2022, the city had a forecasted total resource amount of ₱1.275 billion with ₱ 850M of it coming from the increased National Tax Allotment (NTA). The projected local revenue was pegged at ₱425M. The total proposed budget for FY2022 was spent on development administration services, social development services, economic development services including the operations of the city's local economic enterprises, and infrastructure development including the 20% development fund.

The City of Naga envision to be:

“A city of energy in the region, cradled in a clean, peaceful, and balanced environment, propelled by a progressive economy and wholesome people supported by sustainable infrastructure, steered by dynamic local leadership and pro-active people participation”

The vision statement reflects the goals and aspirations of Nagahanons. It also serves as the anchor for the overall development of the city. The vision incorporated the five development sectors, which are environmental, social, economic, infrastructure and institutional sectors.

The City of Naga aspires to be the City of Energy in the Central Visayas Region.

Precedents:

A purok (English: district or zone) is an informal division within a barangay in the Philippines. While not officially considered a local government unit (LGU), a purok often serves as a unit for delivering services and administration within a barangay (village).

For so many years, the Purok System has been an existing or continuing experience in the Province of Cebu or the country in general. However, the City of Naga's experience dwells on the innovations and best practices of the city in sustaining the Purok System that proves to be an effective venue that enables people participation in governance.

With the passage of Executive Order No. 14, series of 2016, the City of Naga, Cebu established and strengthened the puroks, defined its duties and functions and created the City Purok Task Force for such purpose. The implementation of the Purok System in the city was further strengthened through the passage of City Ordinance 2017 – 017, “Institutionalizing People's Participation in Governance by Recognizing and Strengthening the Purok System in all Barangays in the City of Naga, Cebu”. Hence, the puroks are now guided by legislative measures and implementing rules and regulations so they can better participate in city development.

In institutionalizing the Purok System, strategies include the provision of rules and guidelines to enables the purok centers to carry out its powers and functions, forging and facilitating constant partnership with the City and Barangay Local Government Units, and creating a team from the



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City Government in carrying out centers' day-to-day activities. The strategies are supported through the identification and establishment of purok mentors to promote and educate LGUs on the purok system, capacitation and strengthening of Barangay Purok Federation Presidents and Coordinators, adoption of a participatory planning process, establishment of Purok models, and installation of the Naga Atong Garbo (Naga Our Pride) Awards and Incentives System.

Objective of the experience:

The most important objective for the City of Naga is community empowerment.

The establishment of the Purok System is found essential as a community service unit to:

- empower communities so they become potent partners of the government in progress and development;
- strengthen the participation of people's organizations (PQs) in local governance and in promoting public interest;
- facilitate the civil society initiative as an adequate consultation mechanism with identifiable leadership, membership and structures;
- help in the delivery of the LGU's programs, projects, and activities utilizing local talents, skills, and resources;
- establish a venue for the pursuit of volunteerism with the goal of achieving community development in a democratic framework in coordination with local officials;
- generate participation and the promotion of ownership and sense of pride and belongingness among Nagahanons as a competitive advantage; and
- develop self-sufficiency

Methodology:

Installing the Purok System entailed the following phases:

Social Preparation Phase - the piloting of the Purok System took place in 5 barangays in 2014 and the passage of Executive Order No. 14 Series of 2016, "Establishing and Strengthening the Puroks in the City of Naga, Cebu and Defining its Duties and Functions and Creating a City Task Force for Such Purpose" in July 2016.

Under this phase, the Purok Task Force lobbied for community buy-in and support where purok champions at the city and barangay levels emerged. To promote and educate the Barangay LGUs on the Purok System and track purok progress on a day-to-day basis, the City Government deployed the Purok Mentors to the 28 barangays in the city.

Undergoing this phase was supported with the following strategies: capacitation and strengthening of Barangay Purok Federation Presidents and Purok Coordinators, adoption of a participatory planning process, establishment of Purok Models, and installation of the Naga Atong Garbo (Naga Our Pride) Awards and Incentives System to maintain the enthusiasm and motivation of the puroks and recognize them for their efforts and performance.

The Institutionalization Phase - In September 2017, City Ordinance No. 2017 – 017 was passed, An Ordinance Institutionalizing People's Participation in Governance by Recognizing and



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Strengthening the Purok System in All Barangays in the City of Naga, Cebu. The Purok Data and Information System was installed which stores all the information about each purok and its members. The data and information system also became the basis for the issuance of Purok Certificates as prerequisites for the processing of residence certificates and business permits.

The puroks had also drawn the support of private companies as partners in the conduct of their activities.

The Sustainability Phase - the ongoing phase entails the capacitation and strengthening of the City of Naga Purok Federation (CNPFF) composed of the Barangay Purok Federation Presidents, participation in Purok Evaluation conducted by the Purok Task Force, and in turn, evaluate the Purok Centers within the barangay. Under this phase the programs, projects and activities of the CNPFF are integrated in the Annual Investment Plan of the City Government.

Innovation:

The social transformation process entails the shifting of paradigms and change of negative attitudes, behaviours and practices of the communities. It takes at least five (5) years for social transformation to take place, including the implementation of sustainability mechanisms.

While the Purok System has been a continuing experience in the Province of Cebu or the country in general for so many years now, the best practice that the City of Naga has employed in implementing the system is the installation of Purok Mentors (Community Development Workers) in the twenty-eight (28) barangays to facilitate the social transformation process on a day-to-day basis.

A very laudable result of the change of people's behavior is their participation in data gathering. They played a role in the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) that involved getting relevant information on family profiles. They were responsible in the conduct of household survey in its particular area.

Inclusion:

The passage of both Executive Order No.14, series of 2016 and City Ordinance No. 2017-17 has enabled the establishment and strengthening of puroks and institutionalizing people's participation in governance.

These legislative measures provide for every citizen in the City of Naga to be a purok member wherein a basic requirement is that his/her place of official residence is located within the area of jurisdiction of an established and recognized purok; and his/her name shall be posted in a book kept for the purpose and accounted for easy delivery of basic services.

The Purok System has enabled and strengthened the participation of all the residents in local governance and promoting public interest. It facilitates an adequate consultation mechanism with identifiable leadership, membership and structures. It helps in the delivery of the City Government's programs, projects, and activities utilizing local talents, skills, and resources. Through the Purok System, a venue for the pursuit of volunteerism with the goal of achieving community development in a democratic framework in coordination with local officials is



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established. Its competitive advantage is the generation of participation and the promotion of ownership and sense of pride and belongingness of all Nagahanons.

Communication:

Plans for innovation and adaptation are for information and communication technology (ICT) and database management. At present, however, puroks have utilized social media for information dissemination and news gathering through the use of private cellphones and computers. However, there are also those who capitalize the facilities of the Barangay LGUs particularly in computer use.

As an active participant in governance, puroks enjoin in barangay assemblies, a regular activity of the BLGU, and in public hearing organized by the CLGU and purok regular monthly meetings. Puroks' contribution have significantly improved processes and delivery of existing LGU services.

Articulation with other actors:

Through the Purok System, people's participations in program planning, implementation, and evaluation is ensured. This is through the technical assistance of Purok Mentors and Green Marshals especially in the areas of information, education, and communication (IEC). The puroks have recipients of training programs for empowerment such as risk reduction and management (DRRM) capability building, livelihood, anti-illegal drug awareness, solid waste management, and others. These activities have generated participation and promoted ownership among purok members. The technical assistance provided by Purok Mentors and Green Marshals have guided the various puroks in conducting development interventions, thus making them participate in community development opportunities. Certain purok members also participate in the Local School Board, Local Health Board, Solid Waste Management Board, Nutrition Council, and Anti Drug Abuse Council.

Moreover, they influence decision-making particularly in the inclusion of marginalized and vulnerable individuals such as PWDs, senior citizens, single parents, families in crisis situation, and in crime mitigation/ solution. There has been incidence where the CLGU is held accountable for purok activities or actions. But in the event of such incidence, the mechanism in place is through the BLGU. Since farmers and fishers are also members of the purok, they have relationship with farming and fishing POs. The Bayanihan spirit in the purok has been kept alive.

The purok System has been found to be an effective strategy because it draws out participation from ordinary Nagahanons. The barangay officials, purok officers and members have worked hard to make their communities functional. The number of conflicts reported to the Barangay LGU has greatly reduced since many of such cases are solved at the purok level.

Evaluation:

The Naga Atong Garbo (Naga Our Pride) or NAGa Awards is a recognition and awards facility where the City Government acknowledges and recognizes the LGU offices, barangays, puroks and public secondary and elementary schools who show ingenuity and outstanding performance in program implementation. The facility intends to inspire and motivate the implementing units to take the bold step towards being an active partner of the City Government in the city development process.

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Starting 2015, the NAGa Awards has four (4) categories, namely: Outstanding Barangay, Best NAGa Highway, Best NAGa Secondary School and Best NaGa Elementary School. Special Awards is also provided for Green Champion and Culture and Heritage Model Awards. It was in 2018 that the City Government embarked on the Search for Outstanding Puroks, now an integral part of the NAGa Awards.

The evaluation process is conducted by the NAGa Evaluation Team established by the City Government by virtue of an Executive Order. It consists of department and section heads of the City Government who have stake in the governance areas within the performance scorecard.

Evaluation of the five hundred six (506) puroks in the city is conducted twice each cycle/year where the average rating of the total number of puroks in the barangay becomes the basis for the awarding of the Outstanding Barangay. Hence, in the process, the evaluation results is the basis for determining the winners for two categories, i.e. Outstanding Barangay and Outstanding Purok. First, second and third place awardees receive plaques and cash incentives. Awardees are expected to utilize the cash incentives to implement programs and projects according to the performance scorecard so as to sustain program gains. First place awardees also receive Banners of Excellence.

A copy of the Performance Scorecard for Search for Outstanding Purok is attached as Annex 2.

Impacts and results

The Purok System is the beginning of change that starts at the grassroots level and transcends beyond personalities and politics. One of the changes that have happened is the increase of household income, from an annual average of P180, 000 in 2015 to P360, 000 in 2020. The poverty level has greatly reduced from 49.16% based on the 2015 Community Based Monitoring System (CBMS) to 15.3% in 2018 as reported by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA). Increased family income has given households more purchasing power especially in the provision of nutritious food for the family members and improved educational achievement of children.

In terms of the crime index, it decreased from 12.39% in 2021 to 11.34% in 2022. Of the 28 barangays, 11 have been declared as drug-cleared while 3 are awaiting the deliberation by the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA).

A very laudable result is the change of people's behavior by participating in data gathering. The five hundred six (506) Purok Centers played a role in the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) that involved getting relevant information on family profiles. They were responsible in the conduct of the household survey in its particular area.

The purok centers have formed various functional committees to wit:

- Committee on Peace, Order, and Safety (to assist the CLGU and BLGU in anti-drug prevention, disaster risk reduction and management, fire prevention and control, and maintenance of peace and order.
- Committee on Cleanliness, Sanitation and Health (health, sanitation, or hygiene in the community; solid waste management, waste segregation, and/or proper waste disposal; and local government programs on beautification and cleanliness)

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- Committee on Greening and Protection of the Environment (environmental protection and rehabilitation; community tree growing and nurturance; matters related to governmental protection and development; and agriculture production.
- Committee on Culture, Tourism and Women (matters related to tourism development; promotion and nurturance of culture arts; and women protection)
- Committee on Skills and Livelihood (skills and livelihood training activities; and access to economic and livelihood opportunities for women)

These purok committees have enabled the residents from across sectors to converge and participate in governance.

Further, the Purok Centers have been responsible for issuing purok certificates for residence and business purposes, as requirements in getting barangay certificates. Partnerships with industries were also established. A total 11 companies were mobilized to benefit/supplement purok activities particularly in environmental protection programs such as adopt a river, tree growing and nurturing (indigenous trees, mangroves and Narra), health and sanitation; improved agricultural production; and backyard gardening.

Introduction

In early times, the place now known as NAGA was abundant with trees locally called “Narra”. The first settlers named the place as Narra (derived from the Narra trees) and named it in later years to what is now – NAGA.

Considered as one of the oldest settlements in the Province of Cebu, Naga became a municipality on June 12, 1829 and underwent a series of reclassifications simultaneous with its healthy economic development. The tranquil farming and fishing villages of the natives altered when the Spaniards arrived and explored the coal mining in upland barangays. Coal then became the first export product of the town, as the Spaniards mined and sent them to Spain. Second to coal was cement product.

The mining industry undeniably triggered the successful industrial development of Naga. As the years progressed, quite a number of manufacturing companies and other industries flourished in the place and eventually made Naga as one of the industrialized localities in the Province of Cebu at present.

The City of Naga is a third-class component city in the Province of Cebu, located on the Island of Visayas. It has a total land area of 10, 498.68 ha and is divided into 28 barangays, of which, 13 are rural and 15 are urban.

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Rational

The City of Naga envisions “A city of energy in the region, cradled in a clean, peaceful, and balanced environment, propelled by a progressive economy and wholesome people supported by sustainable infrastructure, steered by dynamic local leadership and pro-active people participation”.

The vision statement reflects the goals and aspirations of Nagahanons. It also serves as the anchor for the overall development of the city. The vision incorporated the five development sectors, which are environmental, social, economic, infrastructure and institutional sectors.

The City of Naga aspires to be the City of Energy in the Central Visayas Region. Dynamic leadership is essential to achieving the city's aspirations. Dynamic leadership means properly managed financial resources, improved human resources, and an improvement in the ability of the City Government offices to provide Nagahanons with basic services. Moreover, enhanced cooperation among barangays and puroks in terms of plan and program implementation, as well as having residents who are highly compliant with various laws, policies, ordinances, and resolutions are good indicators of achieving sustainable development in the city.

A purok (English: district or zone) is an informal division within a barangay in the Philippines. While not officially considered a local government unit (LGU), a purok often serves as a unit for delivering services and administration within a barangay (village).

For so many years, the Purok System has been an existing or continuing experience in the Province of Cebu or the country as a whole. However, the City of Naga's experience dwells on the best practices of the city in sustaining the Purok System that prove to be an effective venue that enables people participation in governance.

Discussion of the Experience

With the passage of Executive Order No. 14, series of 2016, the City of Naga, Cebu established and strengthened the puroks, defined its duties and functions and created the City Purok Task Force for such purpose. The implementation of the Purok System in the city was further strengthened through the passage of City Ordinance 2017 – 017, “Institutionalizing People's Participation in Governance by Recognizing and Strengthening the Purok System in all Barangays in the City of Naga, Cebu”. Hence, the puroks are now guided by legislative measures and implementing rules and regulations so they can better participate in city development.

The most important objective for the Purok System is community empowerment. The establishment of the Purok System is found essential as a community service unit to:

- h. empower communities so they become potent partners of the government in progress and development;

- i. strengthen the participation of people's organizations (PQs) in local governance and in promoting public interest;
- j. facilitate the civil society initiative as an adequate consultation mechanism with identifiable leadership, membership and structures;
- k. help in the delivery of the LGU's programs, projects, and activities utilizing local talents, skills, and resources;
- l. establish a venue for the pursuit of volunteerism with the goal of achieving community development in a democratic framework in coordination with local officials; and m. generate participation and the promotion of ownership and sense of pride and belongingness among Nagahanons as a competitive advantage.

Through the Purok System, issues related to solid waste management, peace and order, disaster and natural calamity, livelihood and entrepreneurship, health and sanitation, gender, and other concerns for the general welfare of the people as embodied in the 1987 Philippine Constitution can be responded to. By institutionalizing people's participation in governance, communities become more self-reliant and less dependent of LGU services. Thus, the concept of self sufficiency is also the main objective of the purok system with the vision for sustainable development as a civil society organization (CSO), not as a government entity. Installing the Purok System entailed the following phases:

Social Preparation Phase - the piloting of the Purok System took place in 5 barangays in 2014 and the passage of Executive Order No. 14 Series of 2016, "Establishing and Strengthening the Puroks in the City of Naga, Cebu and Defining its Duties and Functions and Creating a City Task Force for Such Purpose" in July 2016.

Under this phase, the Purok Task Force lobbied for community buy-in and support where purok champions at the city and barangay levels emerged. To promote and educate the Barangay LGUs on the Purok System and track purok progress on a day-to-day basis, the City Government deployed the Purok Mentors to the 28 barangays in the city.

Undergoing this phase was supported with the following strategies: capacitation and strengthening of Barangay Purok Federation Presidents and Purok Coordinators, adoption of a participatory planning process, establishment of Purok Models, and installation of the Naga Atong Garbo (Naga Our Pride) Awards and Incentives System to maintain the enthusiasm and motivation of the puroks and recognize them for their efforts and performance.

The Institutionalization Phase - In September 2017, City Ordinance No. 2017 – 017 was passed, An Ordinance Institutionalizing People's Participation in Governance by Recognizing and Strengthening the Purok System in All Barangays in the City of Naga, Cebu. The Purok Data and Information System was installed which stores all the information about each purok and its members. The data and information system also became the basis for the issuance of Purok Certificates as prerequisites for the processing of residence certificates and business permits. The puroks had also drawn the support of private companies as partners in the conduct of their activities.

In this phase, the puroks were ready to engage in program implementation and evaluation activities of the City Government and the Barangay Local Government Unit such as Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Campaign (for major advocacies of the City Government, e.g. anti-illegal drug abuse, COVID-19, vaccination and solid waste management), disaster risk reduction and management, livelihood programs and weekly general clean-up drives.

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The Sustainability Phase - the ongoing phase entails the capacitation and strengthening of the City of Naga Purok Federation (CNPF) composed of the Barangay Purok Federation Presidents, participation in Purok Evaluation conducted by the Purok Task Force, and in turn, evaluate the Purok Centers within the barangay. Under this phase the programs, projects and activities of the CNPF are integrated in the Annual Investment Plan of the City Government.

The social transformation process entails the shifting of paradigms and change of negative attitudes, behaviours and practices of the communities. It takes at least five (5) years for social transformation to take place, including the implementation of sustainability mechanisms.

While the Purok System has been a continuing experience in the Province of Cebu or the country in general for so many years now, the innovation that the City of Naga has employed in implementing the system is the installation of Purok Mentors (Community Development Workers) in the twenty-eight (28) barangays to facilitate the social transformation process on a day-to-day basis.

A very laudable result of the change of people's behavior is their participation in data gathering. They played a role in the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) that involved getting relevant information on family profiles. They were responsible for the conduct of the household survey in its particular area.

The passage of Executive Order No. 14, series of 2016 and City Ordinance 2017-17 has enabled the establishment and strengthening of puroks and institutionalizing people's participation in governance.

These legislative measures provide for every citizen in the City of Naga to be a purok member wherein a basic requirement is that his/her place of official residence is located within the area of jurisdiction of an established and recognized purok; and his/her name shall be posted in a book kept for the purpose and accounted for easy delivery of basic services.

The Purok System has enabled and strengthened the participation of all the residents in local governance and promoting public interest. It facilitates an adequate consultation mechanism with identifiable leadership, membership and structures. It helps in the delivery of the City Government's programs, projects, and activities utilizing local talents, skills, and resources. Through the System, a venue for the pursuit of volunteerism with the goal of achieving community development in a democratic framework in coordination with local officials is established. Its competitive advantage is the generation of participation and the promotion of ownership and sense of pride and belongingness of all Nagahanons.

Plans for innovation and adaptation are for information and communication technology (ICT) and database management. At present, however, puroks have utilized social media for information dissemination and news gathering through the use of private cellphones and computers. However, there are also those who would capitalize the facilities of the Barangay LGUs particularly in computer use.

As an active participant in governance, puroks enjoin in barangay assemblies, a regular activity of the BLGU, and in public hearings organized by the City LGU and purok regular monthly meetings. Puroks' contribution have significantly improved processes and delivery of existing LGU services. To ensure people's participation and empowerment, inclusively of every purok

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members such as senior citizens, single parents, PWDs, farmers/ fishers, IPs, LGBTQ+, and others has been a factor. In fact, data gathering of the aforementioned individuals were seen to be faster and more reliable. The puroks also participated in validating and confirming information provided by Barangay LGUs.

Further, people's participation in program planning, implementation, and evaluation is ensured. This is through the technical assistance of Purok Mentors and Green Marshals especially in the areas of information, education, and communication (IEC). The puroks have been recipients of training programs for empowerment such risk reduction and management (DRRM) capability building, livelihood, anti-illegal drug awareness, solid waste management, and others. These activities have generated participation and promoted ownership among purok members. The technical assistance provided by Purok Mentors and Green Marshals have guided the various puroks in conducting development interventions, thus making them participate in community development opportunities. Certain purok members also participate in the Local School Board, Local Health Board, Solid Waste Management Board, Nutrition Council, and Anti-Drug Abuse Council.

Moreover, they influence decision-making particularly in the inclusion of marginalized and vulnerable individuals such PWDs, senior citizens, single parents, families in crisis situation, and in crime mitigation/ solution. There has been incidence where the City LGU is held accountable for purok activities or actions. But in the event of such incidence, the mechanism in place is through the BLGU. Partnership with the private sector such as industries is discussed in Part 4. Since farmers and fishers are also members of the purok, they have relationship with farming and fishing POs. The Bayanihan spirit in the purok has been kept alive.

The Purok System has been found to be an effective strategy because it draws out participation from ordinary Nagahanons. The barangay officials, purok officers and members have worked hard to make their communities functional. The number of conflicts reported to the Barangay LGU has greatly reduced since many of such cases are solved at the purok level.

A very laudable result is the change of people's behavior by participating in data gathering. The five hundred six (506) Purok Centers played a role in the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) that involved getting relevant information on family profiles such as demographic, migration, education and literacy, community and political affiliation, economic, entrepreneurial and household sustenance, agriculture and fishery, family income, food consumption expenditure, financial inclusion, health, climate change and disaster risk management, commerce and digital economy, crime, social protection, water, sanitation, and hygiene, and housing. They were responsible in the conduct of the household survey in its particular area.

The purok centers have formed various functional committees to wit:

- Committee on Peace, Order, and Safety (to assist the CLGU and BLGU in anti-drug prevention, disaster risk reduction and management, fire prevention and control, and maintenance of peace and order.
- Committee on Cleanliness, Sanitation and Health (health, sanitation, or hygiene in the community; solid waste management, waste segregation, and/or proper waste disposal; and local government programs on beautification and cleanliness)
- Committee on Greening and Protection of the Environment (environmental protection and rehabilitation; community tree growing and nurturance; matters related to governmental protection and development; and agriculture production.

Application Form

- Committee on Culture, Tourism and Women (matters related to tourism development; promotion and nurturance of culture arts; and women protection)
- Committee on Skills and Livelihood (skills and livelihood training activities; and access to economic and livelihood opportunities for women).

These purok committees have enabled the residents from across sectors to converge and participate in governance.

The Naga Atong Garbo (Naga Our Pride) or NAGa Awards is a recognition and awards facility where the City Government acknowledges and recognizes the LGU offices, barangays, puroks and public secondary and elementary schools who show ingenuity and outstanding performance in program implementation. The facility intends to inspire and motivate the implementing units to take the bold step towards being an active partner of the City Government in the city development process.

Starting 2015, the NAGa Awards has four (4) categories, namely: Outstanding Barangay, Best NAGa Highway, Best NAGa Secondary School and Best NaGa Elementary School. Special Awards is also provided for Green Champion and Culture and Heritage Model Awards. It was in 2018 that the City Government embarked on the Search for Outstanding Puroks, now an integral part of the NAGa Awards.

The evaluation process is conducted by the NAGa Evaluation Team established by the City Government by virtue of an Executive Order. It consists of department and section heads of the City Government who have stake in the governance areas within the performance scorecard.

Evaluation of the five hundred six (506) puroks in the city is conducted twice each cycle/year where the average rating of the total number of puroks in the barangay becomes the basis for the awarding of the Outstanding Barangay. Hence, in the process, the evaluation results is the basis for determining the winners for two categories, i.e. Outstanding Barangay and Outstanding Purok. First, second and third place awardees receive plaques and cash incentives. Awardees are expected to utilize the cash incentives to implement programs and projects according to the performance scorecard so as to sustain program gains. First place awardees also receive Banners of Excellence.

A video presentation is attached to their application.